

Michigan band on the run

Looking at The Look and its 'power pop' music

By NICK CHARLES
Five hundred people were crammed into the Recreation and Organization Center at the University of Michigan-

Dearborn, where the popular package of Michigan band The Look and Mitch Ryder appeared again recently.
An interview with The Look followed their hour-long show.

Q: I want to know who writes. I know you have all kinds of original stuff.
Randy: Sammy, Rick and John also write but the majority of the songs we do are mine and Dave's.

Q: Who wrote the ever-popular "We're Gonna Rock"?
Randy: "We're Gonna Rock" is a jam pretty much me, Dave and John wrote, and Rick and Sam, everybody! We were down in the basement, jamming out one day.

Q: Who wrote the title?
Randy: Dave wrote the title. He had words all ready and he had words that the band wasn't really grooving on. We just took it over. He had a different song called "We're Gonna Rock." The only thing that's the same is the key. No offense to Dave, he writes great material, but this one just didn't seem

to fit us. Between me and Sammy, we changed it.
Q: Dave, do you write any music?
Dave: Yes, I write a lot of music.

Q: Music and lyrics?
Dave: I've written a few songs like that. "Do You Want Me To" is one of mine.

Q: Do you play any instruments?
Dave: Yes, guitar and piano.

Q: Did you have formal training?
Dave: No, not really, my mother showed me how to play the piano. She showed me notes.

Q: Any influences you want to mention?
Randy: I'd say the Beatles, the Rolling Stones, the whole English blues rock and roll pop artists. Basically English. The band, even though we are a Michigan band, don't sound like Ted Nugent or Bob Seger, which is what most out-of-state people expect from a Detroit band. We definitely sound more pop, more rock and roll, like a British band.

Q: So, if you were going to give the group a name of music, like power pop, new wave, rock and roll, whatever, it would be...
Randy: I'd say power pop, no wave, see we're more mainstream. We're stylized so the power pop crowd would like us, the middle of the road crowd would like us, so the punk crowd would like us.

Q: Rick, we're just trying to start our own style. We don't want people to name what we're doing. We're just doing what we do, and if people classify us as something new it would be great. We don't want to be classified as new wave or mainstream or punk rock.

Randy: It's already old saying we're '80s rock and roll. I hope we can appeal to all kinds of crowds.

Q: What about some background on who played with who and why and where?
Randy: Dave used to play in a band called Tantrum. John was in a band called Zoostar and Rick was in a band called Curtis High Flash. This is my first band. Sammy was in a band called The Rockets.

Q: I thought I heard of them before. Are they still together?
Randy: Oh, yeah, they're still together, but he played with them in their early years.

Q: So you guys have been together how long?
Randy: Two years.

John: A lot.

Randy: We've been talking to Epic, Arista, Swansong, a whole bunch of action. We're looking for the most feasible contract for us so we can put out some things that we're really proud of.

Q: What do you think it's taking a long time to get something together?
John: We've come a long way in a short time.

Randy: Not really, because as a band it's real early. But we've all been playing for around 10 years. You can't expect too much too soon so I'd say we're going pretty good.

Q: What were you all doing during the time you were playing clubs? Did you go to college or other jobs?
Randy: I went to college for six months.

Affirmative action debate is planned

A debate, "Racial preferences: affirmative action or reverse discrimination," will be held at the Birmingham Temple, 28611 Twelve Mile, Farmington Hills beginning at 8:30 p.m. on March 10.
Debating will be Michael Fontham and Michael Gottesman, the two lawyers who argued the precedent-setting "Weber Case" before the U.S. Supreme Court.

Tickets to the debate may be obtained by sending a self-addressed stamped envelope to: Birmingham Temple, 28611 Twelve Mile, Farmington Hills 48018.

Admission is \$5 per person. Tickets purchased in blocks of 10 or more will be sold for \$4 each.

The attorneys will debate whether quotas are justified to eliminate the racial imbalance of an almost exclusively white job category.

The "Weber Case" is named for Brian Weber, an employee of Kaiser Aluminum and a member of the United Steel Workers of America.

The Supreme Court decision was presented on June 27, 1979 and reversed a lower court decision in an historic pronouncement. The court ruled that the intent and goal of the Civil Rights Act was the integration of blacks into the mainstream of society.

The ruling explained that white workers could be denied positions in industrial training programs in order to reserve half of the available openings for black workers.

Kaiser Aluminum and the United Steel Workers had entered into a collective bargaining agreement which set black craft hiring goals for each of their plants to equal the percentage of blacks in the local labor force.

The agreement established training programs designed to teach unskilled production workers the skills necessary to become craft workers.

In one Louisiana plant, several white workers with greater seniority were denied acceptance into this program in order to allow black trainees to be selected.

Brian Weber complained that this procedure discriminated against him and violated the Civil Rights Act which prohibited discrimination against both blacks and whites.

Jewish Congress hosts Doug Ross

State Sen. Doug Ross, D-Oak Park, will address an open board meeting of the American Jewish Congress on Feb. 26, at 8 p.m. at the home of Neal Grossman, 4331 Compton Way, Bloomfield Hills.

He will discuss what's happening in Lansing and give a review of legislation.

Reservations are requested by calling 557-2766.

Ross represents Southfield, Farmington and Farmington Hills among other cities.

Refresher courses offered at Madonna

Two basic refresher emergency medical technology courses will be offered at Madonna College in February and March.

The course, designed for those presently employed as emergency medical technicians, will reinforce basic skills. Persons desiring a better understanding of the role of emergency medical technician in the community are also invited to enroll.

The course conforms with the Michigan Department of Public Health guidelines, and is offered in two sessions. The fee for the course is \$75.

Enrollment is limited, and pre-registration is required. To register, contact the Madonna College EMT department at 591-5190 Monday through Friday.

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