

# STREET BEATS

## Ann Be Davis can be funny

By Larry O'Connor  
staff writer

Music man or Mexican jumping bean? David Harris of Ann Be Davis is something of both.

On stage at the Blind Pig in Ann Arbor, Harris has the face of a dour paperboy on collection day. As band mate Julian Go hits the first chord, though, the lead singer kicks into action with a slew of jittery reactions that look to be the result of shock therapy.

Harris' moves are not those perfected at the Julliard School of Dance and Michael Jackson is certainly not his tutor.

Otherwise, Harris wouldn't have landed flat on his rear during a spirited rendition of the band's "Ride a Bus," which led him out onto the dance floor. A small puddle of water on the floor (that was the result of Harris kicking over a cup moments earlier) proved to be his downfall.

Without a shade of embarrassment, though, Harris flopped back onstage where he finished the number.

"It has a lot to do with nervousness," said Harris later in a telephone conversation. "I'm a high-strung person. My stage presence has developed out of the feeling that rock'n'roll lacks a sense of humor. I feel more like a cartoon character."

GUMBY OR Fred Flintstone, though, couldn't match the sound this four-man outfit lays down. Ann Be Davis is a high-strung guitar fest. The movement provided by Harris doesn't hinder what is certainly a fresh, biting sound.

For three years, Ann Be Davis has been around. They have had their times at Psyche's in Hamtramck,

Saint Andrew's Hall in Detroit and the Blind Pig in Ann Arbor. But who are these guys anyway?

Well, aside from Harris, there is Julian Go on lead guitar, Sandy S on drums and Ray Echlin on bass. They appear to be an earnest bunch, not catering to any particular audience or aspirations to become rock stars.

They simply walk onstage, Harris introduces a song and they are off. The act is definitely light.

"Oh, we've gone through our stages," Harris said. "Every band has been accused of being an R.E.M. rip-off band. We got caught up in that. After a show, people would come up to me and say, 'You guys sound like R.E.M.' Like I want to hear that."

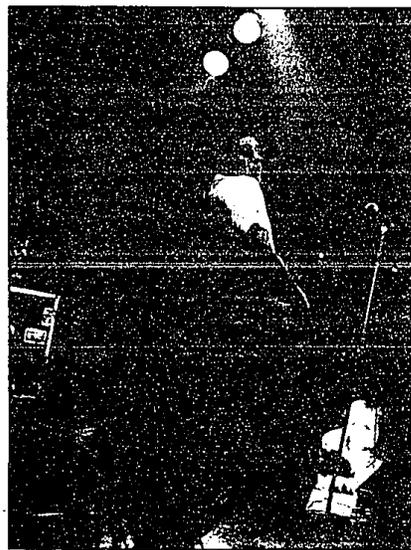
"We've come to grips of who we are and we're comfortable with that. We've come to grips that we don't know who we are."

To facilitate that, the band has relocated in the Ann Arbor area. Three of the four members are from Grosse Pointe. But Harris said the Detroit area clubs didn't seem as appreciative to the group's music.

HE FEELS crowds in Ann Arbor are more responsive. Before launching into "Holden's Gene," Harris talks to the crowd about the plight of the dolphins. Though they're not a preachy band, Harris feels strongly enough about the subject to talk about it anyway.

The crowd at the Blind Pig, except for one snicker from a well-dressed customer, listened. A day later, Harris has a chance to assess the audience.

"I didn't feel the crowd was into 100 percent," he said. "But got into a big argument before the show. That always happens. We're a band of bosses. I was a little more active



David Harris of Ann Be Davis shakes, rattles and rolls onstage.

than usual. Maybe that's why.

"Every show is different. I've played shows where I didn't move at all. I show performers, including myself, get caught up in this thing that the audience is against you. As a result, you might not be motivated, if you think the crowd hates you."

Most would find the deadpan humor of Harris hard to resist, the kind of stuff if repeated draws the re-

frain, "Oh you had to be there." As a singer/songwriter, Harris is quite skilled as well. His songs include rather innocuous titles such as "Ride a Bus," "The Whole Thing" and "Holden's Gene." The book "Catcher in the Rye" was the inspiration for the latter.

"It was one of those books you were forced to read in school," he said. "Now I've read it over and over again."

## The Knaves rock with guitar sound

By Larry O'Connor  
staff writer

At first glance, The Knaves neither stun or infuriate. Just four guys nattily dressed in sportcoats looking as if they were waiting for the dance at the yacht club to begin.

Then Mark Traflet reaches for his blue Nashville guitar. From the first strike of the strings, Traflet burns the clean rock'n'roll sound in your ears. His crisp guitar work harks back to the days of Buddy Holly, Eddie Cochran and Gene Vincent.

"Yeh, Gene Vincent," he said. "He was one of the best."

Without much flashiness, The Knaves are able to entertain the small gathering at Rick's American Cafe in Ann Arbor. Their set is a heavy dose of covers, sprinkled with a few original songs.

For that, band members make no apologies. "We used to be an all-original band," said John Paul Traflet, who is the lead singer of group. "Then we realized bands who play originals hanging around Hamtramck don't make any money. So we learned a lot of covers in a hurry."

But if it's possible to perform covers with integrity, The Knaves do so. The group avoids the drivel of Top 40 and doesn't take a nostalgia trip

as some oldies outfits.

THE KNAVES' play list includes tunes from The Beatles, The Byrds and the Stray Cats to modern bands such as The Cult and U2. All have one common thread — they are guitar classic hits.

Included in their guitar arsenal is a 1964 Nashville-made 1957 Fender Rickenbacker. Mark Traflet displays them with the same pride a hunter would show off a silver-plated Winchester.

The guitar work of the band (John Paul Traflet also plays a mean Rickenbacker) comes into focus when The Knaves light a fire with their own material. Songs such as "1959" and "Lucy" all have that classic feel.

Except, with their appearance, The Knaves look more like a British Invasion group than an American pioneer rock 'n' roll band. The neat haircuts and black coats sort of fly in the face of the music they play.

"We had some (outfits) along the order of Dickens," said Mark with a chuckle. "We were wearing suits and ties. Maybe we will be wearing bowling shirts soon." "Customized," added Bill Ustich, who is the drummer.

While the wardrobe is still being milled out, the focus of the band is very clear. The Knaves want to become established on the Michigan college circuit — East Lansing, Kal-

amazoo, Mount Pleasant and, of course, Ann Arbor.

Already, The Knaves have entrenched themselves in East Lansing area. The group is also a regular at the Woodbridge Tavern in Detroit.

"COLLEGE PEOPLE are much younger," said John Paul Traflet, explaining "The Knaves" marketing strategy. "People who are 25 already read their record collection set."

Added Ulrich, sounding like the recent law school graduate that he is: "Because the fundamental elements of our music are ageless, our music is accessible to older people as well."

While other groups talk of having records in the works and aspirations for record deals, The Knaves have different priorities. There is talk of putting a demo tape in the store, but that's the extent of it.

"A lot of bands in Detroit are getting signed," John Paul Traflet said, "but I don't see where they are going."

The clubs are where The Knaves will play, and the clubs are where they will stay — at least for the time being. Band members quickly deny they are becoming lounge liars. "We're lounge salamanders," said Mark Traflet jokingly.



The Knaves are influenced by guitar masters such as Eddie Cochran and Gene Vincent.

## IN CONCERT

For information, call 334-7651.

● **OPPOSUMS**  
Opposums will perform on Monday, June 5, at the Blind Pig, 208 First St., Ann Arbor. For information, call 996-8355.

● **TROPICAL CONNECTION**  
Tropical Connection will perform on Tuesday, June 6, at the Blind Pig, 208 First St., Ann Arbor. For information, call 994-8555.

● **JAKI THUNDER**  
Jaki Thunder will perform along with special guests, Wicked Ways and Sky Boys, on Wednesday, June 7, at Blondies, Seven Mile Road, east of Telegraph, Detroit. For information, call 535-8105.

● **FLASHBACK**  
Flash Back will perform on Wednesday, June 7, at the Blind Pig, 208 First St., Ann Arbor. For information, call 996-8355.

● **MY BLOODY VALENTINE**  
My Bloody Valentine will perform with special guests, The Blood Band, on Thursday, June 8, at Saint Andrew's Hall, 431 E. Congress, Detroit. For information, call 961-MELT.

● **J.D. LAMB**  
J.D. Lamb will perform on Thursday, June 8, at the Rock 'n' Bowl, 410 Woodward, between Orchestra Hall and the Detroit Institute of Arts. For information, call 535-9250.

● **PRIVATE DRIVE**  
Private Drive will perform on Thursday, June 8, at the Blind Pig, 208 S. First St., Ann Arbor. For information, call 996-8355.

● **VIGILANTE**  
Vigilante will perform along with Eclipse and Loudilla on Thursday, June 8, at Blondies, Seven Mile Road, east of Telegraph, Detroit. For information, call 535-8105.

● **ARISTOBRATE**  
The Aristobrats will perform on Friday, June 9, at Saint Andrew's Hall, 431 E. Congress, Detroit. For information, call 961-MELT.

● **ABUSE**  
Abuse will perform along with Sinister and Destruction on Friday, June 9, at Blondies, Seven Mile Road, east of Telegraph. For information, call 535-8105.

● **REGULAR BOYS**  
The Regular Boys will perform on Friday, June 9, on the Boblo moonlight cruise. General admission is \$10.00 (\$9.50 for groups 10 or more with advance registration). The cruise departs at 11 p.m. from the Detroit dock, which is at the foot of Clark Avenue. For information, call 815-0700.

● **IODINE RAINCOATS**  
Iodine Raincoats will perform on Friday, June 9, at the Blind Pig, 208 S. First, Ann Arbor. For information, call 996-8355.

● **THE BOWEY**  
The Bowey will perform on Friday, June 9, at Skylights, 49 N. Saginaw, Pontiac. For information, call 996-8355.

## COLLEGE

Here are the top 10 songs selected by Mattie Brown, a disc jockey at the University of Michigan campus radio station WCBN-FM 80.3.

1. "Life Exile After Adulation," Mares Tucker.
2. "Rotting Corpse a Go-Go," Velvet Monkey.
3. "Can't Pray a Lie," Laughing Hyenas.
4. "Oral Coercion," X.
5. "All Parks Tours," All Parks Tours.
6. "Die Dancer Gettin'," Flips Cheekam.
7. "Different Train," Steve Right.
8. "Guitar Music of Ireland," various artists.
9. "Swordsmen," Jaki Masi Jawara.
10. "Just Like Ed," Dinosaur Junior.

For information, call 334-7651.

● **ROBERT NOLL**  
Robert Noll Elmas Minton will perform Friday, June 9, at the Soup Kitchen Saloon, 1545 Franklin, Detroit. For information, call 259-1374.

● **DISCIPLINE**  
Discipline will perform on Friday, June 9, at the Hamtramck Pub, 2048 Canfield, off I-75. For information, call 365-9760.

● **BUTLER TWINS**  
The Butler Twins will perform on Friday, June 9, at Moby Dick's, 6452 Schaefer, Dearborn. For information, call 581-3650.

● **BROKEN VOYU**  
Broken Voyu will perform on Saturday, June 10, on the Boblo moonlight cruise. General admission is \$10.00 (\$9.50 for groups 10 or more with advance registration). The cruise departs at 11 p.m. from the Detroit dock, which is at the foot of Clark Avenue. For information, call 815-0700.

● **SCREAMING SAVAGE**  
Screaming Savage and the Carvenem will perform along with The Covingtons on Saturday, June 10, at the Hamtramck Pub, 2048 Canfield, off I-75. For information, call 365-9760.

● **THE SHY**  
The Shy will perform on Saturday, June 10, at Skylights, 49 N. Saginaw, Pontiac. For information, call 334-7651.

● **HEREBY**  
Hereby will perform along with Felsty Cadavers and S.B.I.C. on Saturday, June 10, at Blondies, Seven Mile Road, east of Telegraph Road. For information, call 535-8105.

● **THE ALLIGATORS**  
The Alligators will perform on Saturday, June 10, at Moby Dick's, 6452 Schaefer, Detroit. For information, call 581-3650.

● **URGE OVERKILL**  
Urge Overkill will perform on Saturday, June 10, at Stanley's, 450 Riverdale Drive, Windsor. For information, call (519) 252-3118.

● **TRONDAD TRIPOLI**  
Trondad Tripoli Steel Band will perform on Saturday, June 10, at the Blind Pig, 208 First St., Ann Arbor. For information, call 996-8355.

● **WALK THE DOGMA**  
Walk the Dogma will perform on Friday, June 10, at Lili's, 2925 Jackson, Hamtramck. For information, call 873-4533.

● **ROBYN HITCHCOCK**  
Robyn Hitchcock will perform on Wednesday, June 12, at Saint Andrew's Hall, 431 E. Congress, Detroit. For information, call 961-MELT.

● **CLARENCE FONTAINE**  
Clarence Fontaine and the Five Girls Boys of Alabama will perform on Saturday, July 1, at Alvin's, 3785 Cass, Detroit. For information, call 98-MUSIC.

## COUNTRY

Here are the top 10 songs are WWW-FM 107.7.

1. "If I Had You," Alabama.
2. "Don't Turn Us Away," Patsy Loveless.
3. "Love Love The Judge."
4. "Like Father Like Son," Lonestar Cartwright.
5. "Where Did I Go Wrong," Steve Warber.
6. "After All This Time," Bobby Crowell.
7. "Love Out Loud," Earl Thomas Casley.
8. "Better Man," Chet Baker.
9. "Which Way Do I Go (Now That I'm Gone)," Wayne Jennings.
10. "In a Letter to You," Eddy Raven.

## REVIEWS

### LET'S GET LOST (BREAD, BUTTER AND CHAMPAGNE) — Chet Baker



Let me say right up front that I'm no jazz aficionado. While I may enjoy an odd Duke Ellington record, most jazz is too eclectic or self-indulgent for my tastes. This record on BMG/RCA is a wonderful breath of fresh air, blowing away the cobwebs from my stale jazz ears.

This is a soundtrack record issued to accompany the Academy Award-nominated documentary about the life of Chet Baker. If the fabulous photographs on the album cover and inner sleeves are anything to go by, it could be well worth seeing.

The sleeve notes by Herbie Hancock explain to this jazz-ignorant that Chet Baker has been recording since the '30s and at one time was considered a viable threat to the Miles Davis throne. This is easily understood when you hear the sweet and seductive trumpet that oozes cool all over this record.

Besides playing some genuinely moving trumpet melodies, Baker opens his mouth to sing and just can't be ignored. His honey-smooth,

smoky vocals gently creep inside your head and he could be reading a grocery list and you wouldn't care.

The crystal clear production makes it sound as though Baker is sitting about one inch from the microphone and is chewing each phrase as it exits his mouth.

The songs of plain covered here range from "Everytime We Say Goodbye" by Cole Porter, through "Daydream" by Duke Ellington to "Almost Blue" by Elvis Costello. I'm sure that, on this occasion, Elvis is not object in the least as he did with Linda Ronstadt's version of "Allison."

Each song features the marvelous accompaniment of Frank Strazzeri on piano, John Leftwich on bass, Nicola Siliou on guitar and Ralph Penland on drums.

Go now and look for The Smith's-style album cover, buy some wine, invite your favorite romantic interest over, dim the lights and let Chet take over.

— Cormac Wright

### LOVE AND ROCKETS — Love and Rockets

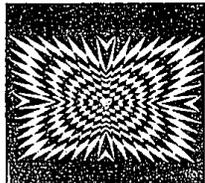
Love and Rockets appears to have landed in a place where no band of their ilk has previous gone before — AOR radio.

While most would yell sellout, this British group appears to have done it without compromising their integrity. "Love and Rockets," their latest release on RCA records, is a testament to that.

The drone and the mean that have become the hallmarks of the Love and Rockets sound are still here. This album takes a natural progression, which the most avant-garde listener is featured upfront. Then with each successive song, builds into a plethora of delectable tunes.

Numbers like "Motorcycle," complete with engine sound effects, on side one offer a hint of what lies ahead. Most of the material on side one takes a few listens to get used to. The surreal nature of side one reveals a band grappling with their craft.

Side two consists of a set of songs with an uncanny amount of hooks.



The murkiness is there, but is molded into some rather delectable tunes.

At the forefront of this batch of songs is "I'm Alive." Haunting vocals with a Caribbean synthesizer beat mark this number. This is not the sludge that Goth rock tends to. This song has made it on the play list of several commercial radio stations, no small feat.

The guitar work provided by Daniel Ash is nothing less than stunning, crackling with life. The vocals of Ash, especially on the whispery "No Words No More," are first rate as well.

To their credit, Love and Rockets are able to bring a new dimension to techno music. This album has something for everybody, something even those narrow-minded AOR folks can't pass up.

— Larry O'Connor

### NAKED MOVIE STAR — Cindy Lee Berryhill

In the re-emergence of the female artist in music circles, it was only a matter of time before someone would come along to offer an alternative to the arty offerings of Suzanne Vega, the pain and woe of Tracy Chapman and the drawl scrawl of Michelle Shocked.

Most Cindy Lee Berryhill, whose irreverent brand of music can be only classified as folk punk.

"Naked Movie Star" (Rhino) is a rather enjoyably disjointed music offering. There are battle hymn beats, jazzy piano lines and beatnik rhythms. And, heck, that is only in one number.

The music itself, though, pales compare to the lyrical wit presented by Berryhill, who writes all the songs on this effort. She draws sketches instead of writing songs, complete with a cast of characters.

For instance in "Old Trombone Routine" we meet Jack and Darlene who bear no resemblance to John Cougar's Jack and Diane. The couple



she sings about are performers in a small town cafe.

After telling a whimsical story about Fannie's fries and Otto's goo-goo eyes, Berryhill concludes: "Here's the last I heard of Jack and Darlene; she took a knife to his banjo strings/cut him low 'til low as he could go/wound up at a swap meet in El Centro where I hear his track to the one-man show."

While others might guess what goes on behind close doors, in "12 Dollar Motel" Berryhill describes the room itself that includes the cracked mirror, the brooms in the corner and "crembling freelo at the card room table."

What starts out as an unrelenting album grows into lyrical fascination. Berryhill's voice certainly packs wallop when she chooses to keep it loose. After a few listens, this album has appeal.

— Larry O'Connor