

# STREET SCENE

The Observer & Eccentric® Newspapers

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O&E Monday, October 14, 1991

## IN CONCERT

- **WISHING FIELD**  
Monday, Oct. 14 — Wishing Field will perform at Rick's Cafe, 611 Church, Ann Arbor. For information, call 996-2747.
- **PARADISE VALLEY JAZZ BAND**  
Monday, Oct. 14 — Paradise Valley Jazz Jam Session, featuring Gary Farrow, will take place at Alvin's, 5756 Cass, across from Wayne State University, Detroit. For information, call 832-2355.
- **KINKY FRIEDMAN**  
Monday, Oct. 14 — Kinky Friedman will perform at Sully's, 4758 Greenfield, north of Michigan Avenue, Dearborn. For information, call 846-1920.
- **DAS DAMEN**  
Tuesday, Oct. 15 — Das Damen will perform at Club Heidelberg, 215 N. Main, Ann Arbor. For information, call 991-2552.
- **VINS AND THE BARKING FEET**  
Tuesday, Oct. 15 — Vins and the Barking Feet will perform two shows, 7:30 and 9:30 p.m. at The Ark, 637 S. Main, Ann Arbor. Tickets are \$10.50 in advance. For information, call 999-MUSIC.
- **THE DIFFERENCE**  
Tuesday, Oct. 15 — The Difference will perform at Rick's Cafe, 611 Church, Ann Arbor. For information, call 996-2747.
- **CHISEL BROS.**  
Tuesday, Oct. 15 — Chisel Brothers will perform at Alvin's, 5756 Cass, across from Wayne State University, Detroit. For information, call 833-2355.
- **MICHELLE SHOCKED**  
Wednesday, Oct. 16 — Michelle Shocked will perform at the Power Center, 121 Fletcher, Ann Arbor. Reserved seats are \$17.50. For information, call 999-MUSIC.
- **THE EXPLOITED**  
Wednesday, Oct. 16 — The Exploited will perform with guests, Bio Hazard and Type O Negative, at St. Andrew's Hall, 431 E. Congress, Detroit. For information, call 961-ME17.
- **ELLEN JAMES SOCIETY**  
Wednesday, Oct. 16 — Ellen James Society will perform at the Blind Pig, 208 S. First, Ann Arbor. For information, call 996-8555.
- **THE ATTIC**  
Wednesday, Oct. 16 — The Attic will perform at Rick's Cafe, 611 Church, Ann Arbor. For information, call 996-2747.
- **TRINIDAD TRIPOLI STEEL BAND**  
Thursday, Oct. 17 — Trinidad Tripoli Steel Band will perform at Rick's Cafe, 611 Church, Ann Arbor. For information, call 996-2747.
- **KEVIN MCCORD**  
Thursday through Sunday, Oct. 17-20 — Kevin McCord will perform at Baker's Keyboard Lounge, Livernois and Eight Mile, Detroit. For information, call 864-1200 or 864-1201.
- **ASSEMBLY REQUIRED**  
Thursday, Oct. 17 — Assembly Required will perform at the Blind Pig, 208 S. First, Ann Arbor. For information, call 996-8555.
- **BPOC EXPRESS BAND**  
Thursday, Oct. 17 — BPOC Express Band will perform at The Stonehouse Blues Cafe, 19033 Halston, between Seven Mile and Eight Mile roads, Detroit. For information, call 892-3255.
- **BOB MOULD**  
Thursday, Oct. 17 — Bob Mould will perform at Alvin's, 5756 Cass, Detroit. Tickets are \$12.50 in advance. For information, call 99-MUSIC.
- **BBY ANIMALS**  
Thursday, Oct. 17 — Baby Animals will perform at The Blitz, 12550 Prazno, 10 1/2 Mile and Grotto, Roseville. For information, call 778-8150.
- **NEOPHYTE NATION**  
Thursday, Oct. 17 — Neophyte Nation will perform with guests, Brothers from Another Planet and Sometimes Way, at Psyche, 3232 Canfield, Hamtramck. For information, call 874-0254.
- **HOOPSNAKES**  
Friday, Oct. 18 — Hoopsnakes will perform at Sully's, 4758 Greenfield, north of Michigan Avenue, Dearborn. For information, call 846-1920.
- **FRANK ALLISON AND THE ODD SOX**  
Friday, Oct. 18 — Frank Allison and the Odd Sox will perform with guests, Wally Piteasani, at Lili's, 21, 2930 Jacob, Hamtramck. For information, call 875-8555.
- **HAPPY AS CLAMS**  
Friday, Oct. 18 — Happy as Clams will perform with The Splitters at the Hamtramck Pub, 2048 Canfield, off I-75.
- **BLIND DOG BLUES BAND**  
Friday, Oct. 18 — Blind Dog Blues Band will perform at Moby Dick's, 5452 Schaefer, Dearborn. For information, call 581-3650.
- **TOWER OF POWER**  
Friday, Oct. 18 — Tower of Power will perform at Alvin's, 5756 Cass, across from Wayne State University, Detroit. For information, call 832-2355.
- **HOODOO GURUS**  
Friday, Oct. 18 — Hoodoo Gurus will perform with guests, Crossed Wire and The Odds, at Todd's, 8159 E. Seven Mile, east of Van Dyke, Detroit. For information, call 366-8533.
- **OROBOROS**  
Friday, Oct. 18 — Oroboros will perform at Rick's Cafe, 611 Church, Ann Arbor. For information, call 996-2747.
- **ALIEN IN THE LAND OF OUR BIRTH**  
Friday, Oct. 18 — Alien in the Land of Our Birth will perform with guests, magicians Steve DeCramer and Sealstar, at Finney's Pub, 3985 Woodward, Detroit. For information, call 831-8070.



The Civilians are evolving musically as is evident by their new release, "Detonate to Explode," a seven-song effort touching on all the universal themes of those times — love, money and loneliness.

## Civilians make music as a team

By Larry O'Connor  
Staff writer

Can't smell any liniment. No crumpled balls of sticky athletic tape adorn the floor.

So why does this informal gathering of civilian members seem like the Pittsburgh Steelers' before the gridiron equivalent of Armageddon?

Maybe it's Jim Hebler's proclamation that he's "linebacker on acid" on stage. Or perhaps it's all the little buzz phrases and football analogies

punted about... like "well-oiled machine" and "this is a team" — a team prayer could be in order, but nudging by-the-ones-particular-four-letter word constantly spewing from Hebler in his gleeful description of the band, Billy Graham won't be showing up.

"We're self-critical," said lead singer Hebler, hardly taking his eye off the cartoons on the TV in his living room. "You can't bull-tit yourself."

The Civilians have a new release out, "Detonate to Explode" on Mang Records. Seven songs here, touching on all the universal themes of these dire times — love, money and loneliness.

Sorry, but since post-game clichés are the M.O. here, "The band comes to play and gives 110 percent."

More to the point, the Civilians are evolving musically. At least compared to their hastily put-together first release, "Living on the Edge," which could be classified as a pedestrian effort.

THE CIVILIANS further enhance their reputation as an outfit on the upward spiral, fastening the divergent rhythms of rock, funk and soul into a whirlwind mix of musical expression.

Lyrics scrape the depths of the subconscious and bring forth all its residue of desperation, isolation and outright paranoia.

"We try to tackle human, people issues, things that affect everyone and look at things with a creative lens," said Hebler, a freelance writer

cr. "We're a running talk radio show with a powerful hand behind us."

The Civilians lineup has been through a process of addition and subtraction in their four years together. Along with Hebler, the band features bassist Sid Henderson, guitarist Dave Galens, harmonica player Dino Petracci and newly added drummer Tommy Berlin, who is from Dusseldorf, Germany.

Each member contributes, leading to the seemingly improvisational nature of the music.

"You're going to limit your appeal pop-wise," said guitarist Dave Galens—a former member of the local outfit Babylon Hotel. "But if you get a core audience who appreciate

what you're doing... that's what it's all about."

In four years of existence, the Civilians have more than a smattering of followers at their beck and call. Passionate, driving live performances have earned the band a reputation as one of top local outfits.

THE BAND'S fortunes have been buoyed by high-profile gigs such as opening up for Eric Burdon at Hart Plaza and a showcase at CBGB's in New York. Also, keeping consistent with their politics, the Civilians are involved in the annual Old Newsboy Goodfellows Rock Benefit.

Behind the Civilians' tough, aggressive management, Mang Productions, more precisely Don Mac-

Leod, is promoting the band with unfettered zeal. Unlike band managers who can be pushy and damn right rule, MacLeod is rather polite about it.

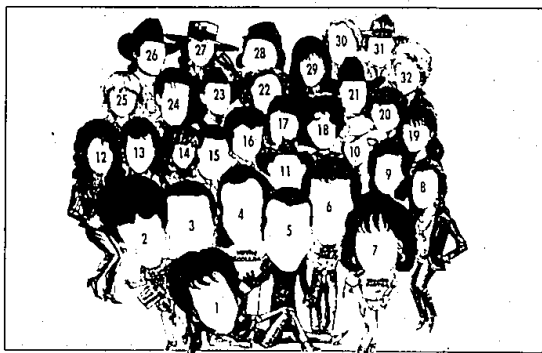
And, yes, securing a record deal is at the top of his agenda.

Things look promising. The Civilians have planned an extensive tour of the East Coast and Midwest and have European distribution in places like Poland and Czechoslovakia.

But all the business management and distribution isn't worth a ruble unless there's a key ingredient involved. Hebler said that is already there:

"Whether you love us or hate us, you're going to react to us."

## WHO ARE THESE PEOPLE?



Just a few of Today's Hottest Country Music Stars... and during Country Music Month in October W4 COUNTRY at 106.7 FM isn't the only place they can be found.

Visit any of the Detroit-area Harmony House, Frank's Nursery and Crafts, or Farmer Jack Supermarket locations to discover their identities.

You could WIN one of these dream concert trips for two in W4 COUNTRY's "Fabulous Four Flyaway" Contest:

- ALABAMA "June Jam" Fort Payne, Alabama
- REBA McENTIRE Houston Rodeo
- RANDY TRAVIS Bally's Casino & Resort Las Vegas
- GEORGE STRAIT Las Vegas Hilton

Listen to W4 COUNTRY at 106.7 FM for Back-to-Back Country Favorites and complete contest details.



No purchase is necessary. Entry deadline is November 8, 1991. Entrants must be 18 years of age or older.



The Ellen James Society will be making a stop in Ann Arbor for a performance at the Blind Pig Wednesday, Oct. 16.

## REVIEWS

### THE THUNDERING HERD — THE BEST OF THE GOLDEN PALOMINOS — The Golden Palominos

The Golden Palominos are more a band of rotating top-notch musicians than a band — personnel tend to vary from cut to cut, with only founder and drummer Anton Fier omnipresent.

But the fact the band's sound varies from song to song is a plus, because, almost without exception, the songs — and, needless to say, the performances — are 24 karat.

While it may seem a bit premature for a band with only four albums under its belt to release a greatest hits package — and a double one at that — one must take into consideration the LPs came out over a period of nine years.

Add the fact that musicians include such artists of the highest caliber like REM's Michael Stipe, Fred Frith, Jody Harris, last of the Baybeats, one of the best surf bands of modern times, Top-popster Chris

Stamey, Jack Bruce, T-Bone Burnett and Peter Dinklage.

And the thing is, the list goes on and on. Carla Bley adds her eclectic jazziness, while Syd Siraw's vocals are nothing short of incredible, whatever the genre the band happens to be playing in at the time.

Straw is the most visible member of the band, appearing on more cuts than anyone but Fier. In my mind, the group is at its best when it falls into the pop mode which is, thankfully, where they're most often found.

Stipe's hard-hitting vocals open the double retrospective on "Clustering Train," one of the hardest-rocking cuts on the release. Other highlights include an incredible version of the Moby Grape classic, "Omaha," "Strong, Simple and Silent" with Burnett on lead vocals, "Faithless Heart," which was co-



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— Steve O'Leary