

STREET BEATS

Monday Jan. 6

Friday Jan. 10

- **Paradise Valley Jazz Jam Session**
Alvina, 5756 Cass, across from Wayne State University, Detroit.
823-2355
- **Wishing Fields**
Ricks Cafe, 811 Church, Ann Arbor.
996-2747
- **Confuse a Cat**
Cross Street Station, 511 W. Cross, Ypsilanti.
485-5050

- **Ugly Blkck**
With Destruction Ride at Finney's Pub, 3955 Woodward, Detroit.
821-8070
- **No Mercy**
Ritz, 17383 Frazer, 10 1/2 Mile and Grotto, Roseville.
774-8150
- **Big Dave and the Ultrasonics**
With Urbatons at Alvina, 5756 Cass, across from Wayne State University, Detroit.
823-2355

Tuesday Jan. 7

- **Chisel Bros. featuring Thornetta Davis**
Alvina, 5756 Cass, across from Wayne State University, Detroit.
823-2355
- **Yudu Hipples**
Blind Pig, 208 S. First, Ann Arbor.
996-8355
- **Johnny With an Eye**
Ricks Cafe, 811 Church, Ann Arbor.
996-2747

- **Detroit Blues Band**
Noby Dick, 3452 Schaefer, Dearborn.
581-5050
- **Civilians**
With Thunderbop Choir at Lili's 21, 2930 Jacob, at Jos. Campau, Hamtramck.
874-6355
- **The New Duncan Imperials**
Blind Pig, 208 S. First, Ann Arbor.
996-8355
- **Chisel Brothers**
Ted's Pub, 38 S. Main, Clawson.
435-4753
- **Eddie Clearwater**
Sully's, 4756 Greenfield, between Michigan Avenue and Ford Road, Dearborn.
846-1820
- **Psychodots**
With M.O.D. at Ricks Cafe, 811 Church, Ann Arbor.
996-2747
- **Strange Bedfellows**
With Weeping Rachel and Claim 2 Fame at Psychecks, 2931 Caniff, Hamtramck.
874-6254
- **Rainbirds**
Cross Street Station, 511 W. Cross, Ypsilanti.
485-5050

Wednesday Jan. 8

- **The Allie**
With Sunrise Highway at Blind Pig, 208 S. First, Ann Arbor.
996-8355
- **Big Dave and the Ultrasonics**
Ricks Cafe, 811 Church, Ann Arbor.
996-2747

- **Beer on the Penguin**
With Lucy's Alibi at 3-D, 1815 N. Main, Royal Oak.
589-3344
- **Luba**
Alvina, 5756 Cass, across from Wayne State University, Detroit.
823-2355
- **Southgoing Zak**
Blind Pig, 208 S. First, Ann Arbor.
996-8355
- **Dead Band**
Ricks Cafe, 811 Church, Ann Arbor.
996-2747
- **Angry Youth**
With Sheer Madness and Deceptor at Psychecks Lounge, 2932 Caniff, Hamtramck.
874-6254
- **Wild Kingdom**
Cross Street Station, 511 W. Cross, Ypsilanti.
485-5050

Thursday Jan. 9

- **Assembly Required**
Alvina, 5756 Cass, across from Wayne State University, Detroit.
823-2355
- **Trash Brats**
With Elan Bane at Lili's 21, 2930 Jacob, at Jos. Campau, Hamtramck.
874-6355
- **Missionary Stew**
With the Hamaballs and Middle March at Psychecks Lounge, 2932 Caniff, Hamtramck.
874-6254
- **Mike Rise and Mary McGuire**
Backseat Saloon, Keego Harbor.
682-1119
- **Frank Allison & the Odd Sox**
Blind Pig, 208 S. First, Ann Arbor.
996-8355

Saturday Jan. 11

- **Ugly Blkck**
With Destruction Ride at Finney's Pub, 3955 Woodward, Detroit.
821-8070
- **No Mercy**
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774-8150
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Straw hats and tacky tuxedos aside, the trio of Pigtail Dick, Skipper and Goodtime as the New Duncan Imperials make loud, raucous seminal punk songs.

Imperials put their spin on music

By Larry O'Connor
staff writer

"It's just doing it our way, just how we feel and whatever comes to mind at the time."

— Goodtime

In times when novelty is nouveau, kitsch is killer and extremely exemplary in the music business, The New Duncan Imperials' musical and 'visual assault may be purported as rather harmless fun.

Especially compared to the likes of a recent press release from David Geffen Co., touting the fact that Nymphs' Inger Lorrer opened her mouth to reveal no less than two dozen noxious miggots dancing on her tongue in the band's debut video.

Then what are The New Duncan Imperials' major offenses against the senses?

The loony trio of, Pigtail Dick, Skipper and Goodtime 'make loud, raucous seminal punk songs, for one. Secondly, they dress in duds that make them look like they are fallout from a "De-liverance" wedding party.

And, during intervals, Goodtime often steps out from behind his drum kit to distribute various gifts such as marshmallows, raw meat and cereal and milk along with puzzles and other trinkets of appreciation to the audience.

"Perversely construed rock'n'roll insurance?" "Geez, I don't know about rebellion," said Goodtime, 31, a native of Paducah, Ky., who lives in Chicago. "It's just doing it our way, just how we feel and whatever comes to mind at the time."

"WE LIKE to poke a little fun and steal from

bands or sounds we like or don't like, except Skipper, 27, the band's bassist. "We're either laughing with it (music industry) or at it."

The genesis for The New Duncan Imperials warped and warbly skewed music is a meld of 1970s kitsch culture with scratchy 1980s punk frivolity. This leads to socially relevant song titles as "Mystery Date," "White Trash Boogie" and "465 an Hour" on the band's latest release, "The Hymns of Bucksnot," on Chicago-based Pravda Records.

Unmistakably, though, the nadir of the The New Duncan Imperials' experience is achieved in live performance.

The band burns through its sets with unbridled passion. But the performances become unhinged, seemingly parodying the exchange between artist and audience in a club setting.

Past performances have included the band entering the stage against the performance anthem of Ethel Merman's "There's No Business Like Show Business."

Their set usually includes gaudy artifacts from the '70s, such as a Twister board, cultivated on countless expeditions into the darkest domains of white trash.

NEW DUNCAN Imperials find their most receptive listeners in college area venues although their appeal transcends the dockside and I-Zod shirt crowd to punks, young children and older adults.

"We're a party band," said Goodtime, "but not a first band."

The distinction is important to the outfit, which formed in 1989 and quickly made an impression on Chicagoland area audiences. The band released its first album, "Hanky Panky Parley Voo" on Pravda, spawning a local radio hit "I'm Schizophrenic (No I'm Not)."

Each band member seems to be well-skilled in the art of parody. Skipper, perhaps, reached the pinnacle of spoof, performing "two years and four days" with an Elvis tribute act.

Other icons set their creative minds in motion.

"It's wonderful to hear Wayne Newton sing 'Danke Schoen' when he was 15 years old and Jim Nabors singing 'You Light Up My Life,'" Skipper said. "That's what inspires us to write songs. It makes you feel good inside."

The New Duncan Imperials perform Friday, Jan. 10, at the Blind Pig, 208 First, Ann Arbor. For information, call 996-8355.



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