

MONDAY, APRIL 19, 1993

Pickin' hits: Readers get to air views

Everybody has an opinion, be it sports, politics, movies or music... especially music.

There are those who enamored with opera and classic music; there are those who hate it. There are those who believe music began with rock'n'roll and those who are convinced it ended there.

And it's even hard to get an agreement on rock'n'roll considering it's so varied a category that it has almost as many subgroups as fingers on a pair of hands. There's rap, alternative, pop rock, R&B. Don't forget grunge rock, top 40, heavy metal, rockabilly and industrial/techno dance.

Which brings us to the point of all this: Having an opinion about a style is one thing, having a place to express it is another. That's why Street Scene is introducing a new feature, Reader's Choice, that's as easy as picking a telephone number... and there's no 900 number charges involved.

It's a simple process. Just buy a new release and listen to it. Then dial 953-2030 and tell us what you think.

Of course, we'll need a bit more information than just your opinion. We're looking for three-four sentences (50 words or less) about the release and time is limited—just 45 seconds for your review.

For those too shy to do it by phone, reviews can be mailed in. Just clip the accompanying coupon, attach it to your short review and send it to Street Scene, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150.

The reviews will begin appearing in Street Scene in May and will include the reviewer's name and city where he or she lives. All calls and letters will be verified before publication, so forget the wild pseudonym. And, please, no profanity.



NAME: _____ AGE: _____
ADDRESS: _____
CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____
TELEPHONE: _____
NAME OF RELEASE: _____
 ALBUM
 CD
 TAPE
ARTIST: _____
RECORD LABEL: _____
REVIEW: Please print or type your review (50 words or less) on a separate sheet of paper, attach this coupon and mail to: Street Scene, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150

LIVE REVIEW

Yes he showed up April 13, yes it was before midnight (10:10 p.m. to be exact), and yes he used Tele-promoters to remind him of the lyrics.

W. Axl Rose and his cohorts Guns 'N' Roses finally played The Palace of Auburn Hills after canceling two shows within the last year. The Jan. 17-18, 1992, shows were rescheduled after Rose cut his hand in Dayton, Ohio. Rose skipped out on the April 13-14, 1992, gigs to avoid being arrested for misdemeanor battery charges against a biker who had provoked Rose during a previous St. Louis show.

Guns 'N' Roses, who is notorious for arriving late for shows, played The Palace this time and didn't appear sorry for past mistakes.

"Didn't we play here with Soundgarden?" Axl cracked about one of the ill-fated shows.

Detroit wasn't his only target for the night. He announced that he was no longer friends with Metallica, who on his latest videotape talks about Rose's spoiled behavior while on tour with the group.

Well, OK, he did show a little sentiment toward Detroit. Rose sang a line from "Patience" ("Shed a tear 'cause I'm missing you") while pointing to his MG T-shirt.

Guns 'N' Roses fans who had the patience to wait exactly a year for the band to come to The Palace were well treated to an almost three-hour show. The energetic Rose, also clad in a bandana and Guns 'N' Roses shorts (no kilts), shimmied across the stage in his usual MTV video manner.

The band, which also included an extra percussionist/keyboard player, welcomed the crowd with "Welcome to the Jungle" and continued with other hits such as "November Rain," "Sweet Child O' Mine" and "Yesterday."

— Christina Fuoco

He puts the mix in mixed drinks

■ He does more spins than a Waring blender and twirls and whirls like a dervish... all for the sake of a mixed drink. Dan Kotwicki's show easily explains why he's rated the best bartender in the metro area.

BY CHRISTINA FUOCO
STAFF WRITER



Dan Kotwicki always wanted to be in a hard core rock band. When he couldn't realize that dream, he did the next best thing.

He became a bartender.

Unless you've seen Kotwicki at work at Industry in Pontiac or the Shelter below St. Andrew's Hall in Detroit, you probably wouldn't see the correlation. He leans over the steel bartops screaming, yelling, jumping or twirling around, pointing at people—and of course sticking out his tongue. He's always obnoxious—in a fun way—but never rude.

"It's a loud, angry, aggressive thing," Kotwicki said comparing his job to his former passion. I can't play any instruments, but I scream and yell and tell kid stories of what goes on in my head."

Besides screaming, he also tells his stories through his newsletter, "Big Hard News." All copies are personally signed and numbered. In his one-page production, he sometimes gives away prizes and urges readers not to "accept imitations."

He started "Big Hard News" to let his fans know a little bit more about his energetic self.

"I could only spend so much time with each customer; I was getting away from the zannies," he said. "I was bartending more than the performing thing. I wanted to let people know why I act the way I do and include a little about myself."

Copies of his newsletter have become collector's items. Soon, copies may be even more scarce. He's cutting down the number of copies and distributing them at clubs and his favorite record store, Play It Again Records in Royal Oak.

"Only the really close followers will get one. If you have one, hopefully, you enjoyed it and lucked out."

But don't worry, he always keeps a few on hand for those who miss an issue.



WILLIAM HANSEN

Quick flip: The metro area's favorite bartender, Dan Kotwicki, flips a drinking glass as he holds court at Industry in Pontiac.

"I always keep 10 for myself or for people who are bummed out who don't have one. People say, 'I have every single copy but I don't have the last one. Do you have the last one?' I think, 'Whoa, that's cool.'"

STREET BEATS

■ All this recently garnered Kotwicki the Detroit's Best Bartender award as voted by readers of the Metro Times. Although he cam-

paigned for the spot through his newsletter, Kotwicki said he didn't expect to win and doesn't really care if he repeats the title.

"If I'm bartending another year and I don't get bartender of the year, it's no big deal," he said. "I know what I do is kind of unique and anyone else is just a copy. (If I) slack off and have someone sort of surpass it then I'll feel bad. That's why I don't want to slack."

He doesn't appear to be cutting anyone short. Soon after winning the award, the Wayne State University student was given his own night at Industry. At the "Insane

■ I had a dumb chemistry set in my basement when I was like 8 years old. I wanted to blow up stuff, but I never had the right chemicals.'

Dan Kotwicki bartender of the year

Asylum," he uses some of the specialties that he created when he managed the VIP bar at The Love Club, Saturdays in The Shelter. That includes sing-alongs to older rock tunes like "Angel Is a Centerfold" by J.Gellis, or serving drinks with remote control cars.

He offers an often-changing menu of goodies, all concocted by on his own time, such as spiked pudding and Jell-O, and his special Formula 44-D and Gray Matter.

Concocting things isn't new to Kotwicki. He's been messing around with "recipes" since he was growing up in Macomb County.

"I had a dumb chemistry set in my basement when I was like 8 years old. I wanted to blow up stuff, but I never had the right chemicals," he said with a laugh.

The modest Kotwicki doesn't take all the credit for his success. He gets some of his ideas from customers and is thankful that the two clubs allowed him to create his show. Whether he likes it or not, Kotwicki and his protruding goatee have become a cult figure in the area.

"It's like crazy because it's almost too big. I never wanted it to get that big... It started out as a joke. A joke I thought would be cool for some people to enjoy."

Dan Kotwicki bartends at The Shelter below St. Andrew's Hall, 431 E. Congress, Detroit, on Wednesdays and Fridays; and in the Sanki Room at Industry, 15 S. Saginaw, Pontiac, on Thursdays. For more information, call 961-MELT or 334-1999.

Local bands sound off to help homeless



Mr. Know It All: Bandmates include Mike Conception (from left), guitar, Randy, vocalist, Eric Michaels, drums, and Dave Hartman, bass.

BY JOSEPH HOFFMAN
SPECIAL WRITER

Chip Peplone is well aware that the U.S. spends millions every year for famine relief and military aid to countries around the globe. That's great, but he also knows that there are needs right here, right now, in his own community.

As a result, Peplone has organized several concerts to help the homeless in the area.

All proceeds of these benefit concerts go to the Wayne Metropolitan Community Service Agency in Westland. The agency has a department to aid the homeless in obtaining food, shelter, and some job skill training.

"I first became interested in helping the homeless when one of my friends needed help," he said. "Then I noticed there was a need to help community services raise funds to provide opportunities to these local people in need."

But there was a bit more to it.

"I also love working with local bands and this provides me the opportunity to do that," he said. "For the bands, it gives them more exposure."

Peplone has been contacting several bands in the area and booking dates at local bars around town to benefit the homeless in metro Detroit. At one charity concert, two bands—Never Say Never and Mr. Know It All—rocked the Studio Lounge in Westland.

"We were excited to do the show and were pretty contacted about it," said Trina Manning, the rousing fast-fingered guitarist of Never Say Never. "We recently banded together and we were looking to get some more exposure."

On stage, these two bands cast forth some high-energy performances, both having their own personal flair.

Never Say Never is an explosive

Wednesday, April 21

DISABLED FLAGGERS With Grove Garden at Industry, 15 S. Saginaw, Pontiac. (funk, jazz) 334-1999

HALLSWEAD With Bog Blast and Rocochee at St. Andrew's Hall, 431 E. Congress, Detroit. (alternative rock) 961-MELT

HOUSE BAND The Ark, 637 1/2 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. (traditional African music) 761-1451

DETROIT MUSICIANS ALLIANCE Discusses "What Are Detroit-Area Radio Stations Listening To?" with guest Steve Black from Z-Rock at Ann's, 5756 Cass, Detroit. 432-3355

RED C With Greg Appegate at Blind Pig, 206-208

IN CONCERT

S. First St., Ann Arbor. 996-6555

ERESOURCE Giff's Grill, 49 N. Saginaw, Pontiac. 334-9292

SHONKIN JOE ACOFF AND HIS BLUEZ BAND Atix Bar, 11667 Joe, Campus, Hamtramck. (blues) 363-4194

CHRIS DIARRIE Sully's, 4756 Greenfield Road, Dearborn. (blues) 846-1820 or 846-5377

Thursday, April 22

THE IRING With Whizlart at 3-0, 1815 N. Main, Royal Oak. (hardy alternative rock)

589-3344

INDIGO BEALS Fox Theatre, 2211 Woodward, Detroit. (acoustic rock) 336-7600

LYVING COLOUR With Bad Brains at State Theatre, 2115 Woodward Ave., Detroit. (rock) 961-5450

TONY REED The Ark, 637 1/2 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. (traditional African music) 761-1451

THE HEAD BAND Ann's, 5756 Cass, Detroit. 432-3355

BLACK BALL Blind Pig, 206-208 S. First St., Ann Arbor.

(funk) 996-6555

KADAKA JAMA Giff's Grill, 49 N. Saginaw, Pontiac. 334-9292

MARY MCCURRY AND MYE EISE Hoop's, 29461 John R, Madison Heights. (acoustic rock) 973-4744

TRICK BLUE Atix Bar, 11667 Joe, Campus, Hamtramck. (blues) 365-1194

BLUES LAM BESSON Moby Dick's, 5452 Schaefer, Dearborn. (blues) 581-3630

SAVOR SOUL With Gantwonen Callers at Perchick's Lounge, 2332 Canfield, Hamtramck. (blues) 581-3630

See IN CONCERT, 7B