(F-5B) (0)5B

## Pickin' hits: Readers get to air views

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

There are those who enamoured with opera and classic music; there are those who hat 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 lingers 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 the telephone.

... and there's no 900 number charges involved. It's a simple process. Just buy a new release and listen to it. Then dial 953-2000 and tell us what you think.

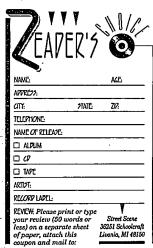
Of course, we'll need a bit more information.

listen to it. Then dial 953-2030 and tell us what you think.

Of course, we'll need a bit more information then just your opinion. Information like your name, age, address, city, telephone number, title of the release, the band or individual featured, record label and whether it's a CD, cassette tape or album.

To make it easier, take a few minutes to compose your thoughts. We're looking for three-four entences (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 Seene, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150.

The reviews will begin appearing in Street Seene 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.



### **LIVE REVIEW**

36251 School Livonia, MI 48150

Yes he showed up April 13, yes it was before midnight (10:10 p.m. to be exact), and yes he used Tele-prompters to remind him of the lyrics. W. Azi Rose and his cohort Guns Nn Roses finally played The Palace of Auburn Hills after canciling two shows within the last year. The Jan. 17-18, 1952, shows were rescheduled after Rose cut his hand in Dayton, Ohio. Rose skipped out on the April 13-14, 1952, gigs to avoid being arrested for misdemeanor battery charges against a blake who had provoked Rose during a previous St. Louis show.

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?" Azi
cracked abdut one of the ill-fated shows.
Detroit want his only target for the night. He
announced that he was no longer friends with Metailics, who on its latest videotape talks about
Rose's spoiled behavior while on tour with the
group.

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 Mc6 T-shirt.

a tear cashed in missing your years pointing in McG-T-aliri.

Guns 'N Roses from who had the patience to wait exactly a for the hand to come to The Palaco were well treated to an almost three-hour abov. The North Rose, also clad in a bandana and Guns 'N trace shorts (no killat), shimmled across the stage in his usual MTV video manner, across the stage in his usual MTV video manner, which also lockled an extra percusional Arborat player, welcomed the crowd with "Welcome to the Jungle" and continued with the hits such as "November Rain," "Sweet Child O' Mine" and "Yesterday." — Christina Floco.

# 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

BY CHRISTINA FUOCO



By Christina Fuoco

Bray Waite

Dan Kotwicki always wanted to be in a hard core pock in a hard core pock in a hard core pock that dream, he did the next beat 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 obnozious — 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, so 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 radders not to "accept imitations." He started "Big Hard News," to let his fans know a little bit more about his energetic self.

"Usundo al internation of the proper way from the zaniness," he said. "I was battending more than the performing thing, I wanted to let people know why let ct the way I do and include a little about myself."

Copies of his newsletter have become collector's items. Soon, copies

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

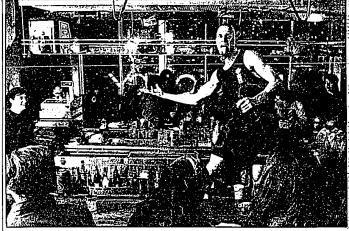
"Only the really close followers will get one. If you have one, hopefully, you enjoyed it and lucked out."
But don't worry, he always keeps a few on hand for those who miss an

MAINTENAD
With Bog Blast and Ricochet at St. Andrew's Host, 431 E. Congress, Detroit, (attenuative mock)
961-MELT

HOUSE BARD The Ark, 637½ S. Main St., Ann Arbor, (traditional European music) 761-1451

COL-1451
DETROIT BEUSICIANS ALLIANCE
Discusses "What Are Detroit-Area Radio
Stations Listening To?" with guest Steve
Black from Z-Rock at Alvin's, \$755 Cass,
Detroit,
832-2355

RED C With Greg Applegate at Blind Pig. 206-208



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

#### STREET BEATS

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 sold. "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 attudent 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 spec-tacles that he created when he manned the VIP bar at The Love Club, Saturdays in The Shelter. That includes sing-alongs to older rock tunes like "Angel is a Center-fold" by J.Gells, or serving drinks with remote courts less.

fold" by J.Geils, 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-Q, and his special Formula 44-D and Gray Matter.

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

"I had a dumb chemistry set in wy basement when I was like 8

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 geta some of his ideas from customers and is thankful that the two clubs

and is thankful that the two clubs allowed him to create his show. Whether he likes it or not, Kotwick! and his protruding gastes have become a cult figure in the area. "It's like crazy because it's almost too hig. I never wanted it to get that hig... 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 Wednes-days and Fridoys; and in the Saroki Room at Industry, 155. Saginaw, Pantiac, on Thursdays. For more in-formation, 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,

Chip Pepitone 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.

own community.

As a result, Pepitone has organized several concerts to help the homeless

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.

"If 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 op-portunity to do that," he said. "For the bands, it gives them more expo-

the bands, it gives them more exposure."

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

were looking to get some mere sure."

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

Never Say Never is an explosive

See HOMELESS, 6B

### IN CONCERT

Wednesday, April 21
DIAMER PLANTS
With Groove Garden at Industry, 15 S. Sagnaw, Pontible. (funky, jazzy rep)
334-1999 S. First St., Ann Arbor, 996-8555

EXESCUTION GHT's Gril, 49 N. Saginaw, Pontiac, 334-9292

(blues) 365-4194

CHRIS DUARTE Suby's, 4756 Greenfi (08/85) 846-1920 or 846-5377

Thursday, April 22
THE HIRD
With Whiptell at 3-D, 1815 N. Main, Royal
Oak, (earthy alternative rock)

2211 Woodward, Detroit.

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

MADAKA JAMA Griffs Griff, 49 N. Saginaw, Pol 334-9292

THICK BLUE Attic Bar, 1 (blues) 365-4194

Moby Dick (blues) 581-3650

See IN CONCERT. 78