



Second City: Hopefuls worked in pairs during recent auditions for the new Detroit troupe.

## Second City finds Detroit does improv

BY BOB SADLER  
SPECIAL WRITER

They say that a prospective employer can look at a resume and know in less than a minute whether a candidate has the right stuff to do the job. Sometimes, it can take only 10 seconds.

Those hardy souls who handled the recent auditions for the Detroit cast of the Second City at the Fox Theatre certainly had to be that efficient. After all, about 700 starchy-eyed folks showed up for two days worth of tryouts, aspiring to be a part of the eight-or-so-person sketch and improv comedy ensemble that will make its Detroit debut late this summer.

"I'd love to find the whole cast here (Detroit),"

### COMEDY

said Atanas Ilitch, co-executive producer of The Second City-Detroit and part of the family building a home for the troupe in the revitalized theater district.

See IMPROV, 9A



ALBUM: What's It to You

ARTIST: Screaming Trees

REVIEW: "I can't believe they can even try to sell this album."

BY: Clark Smithers of Novi

Short and to the point. That's Clark Smithers' opinion of the Screaming Trees' release. It's the first of our Reader's Choice reviews and how accurate depends on your feelings about the group.

Smithers had an opinion and we're sure others do, too. So why not let us know. Reader's Choice is for you, the reader. No high brow critic telling you what to think; just you expressing your opinion about today's music.

It's an easy process. Listen to a newly released album, tape or CD - and then let us know what you think - by calling 953-2030, by mailing it to Street Scene, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150, or by faxing it to 691-7279.

Of course, we need a bit of information like your name, address, phone number, title of the release, the band or individual, record label and whether it's a CD, album or tape. We've even included a handy coupon inside Street Scene to help you organize your thoughts.

As for the opinion, three or four sentences (about 50 words) will do. And hey, we're even interested in reviews of concerts. Just tell us who performed and where.

Reviews will appear in Street Scene on an ongoing basis. All calls and letters will be verified, so please, no wild pseudonyms... or profanity. Don't delay. You could be our next Reader's Choice.

## Goldtones ride a musical wave

■ There won't be a call of "Surf's up," and there won't be any rides on wild waves. But Sunday the surfing sound will be the mainstay for The Goldtones' second annual Beach Rave at Industry in Pontiac.

BY KYLE GREEN  
SPECIAL WRITER



A number of summer traditions have become a staple in the Detroit area, including the Taste Fest in the New Center Area, Concert in the Alley in Greek town and Freedom Festival fireworks over the Detroit River.

The Detroit based group The Goldtones hopes to edge itself onto this list Sunday with the band's second annual Beach Rave at Industry in Pontiac.

The three-member band plans to kick off the summer with a beach party complete with their own brand of instrumental rock sound, which has come to be known as "surf music." Last year the club was packed with beachgoers and the band foresees even more excitement this year.

"It'll be better than last year," said bassist Joseph Zito. "Last year was great for what we did, but we tested the waters and (felt) everything out to see how we'll do it if we have a next time."

"Last year was the first one so we have to top it off," drummer Chad Evert Lewis said.

To complete the beach party motif, 100 beach balls with gift certificates from area businesses attached will drop from Industry's ceiling, as a token of the band's appreciation.

Besides celebrating the beginning of summer, the Beach Rave also kicks off the release of The Goldtones' first full-length compact disc, "Atmosphere."

"This is what we have been looking for over the last two years; we've just been saving all of our money up to buy recording time and equipment to get the CD out," said Joseph's brother Dominic Zito who plays Fender Jaguar guitar.

The CD was recorded at area recording studios with the help of local producers. Making "Atmosphere" a local venture between the band, studios and other musical talent was the intention.

The release took almost a year to record with the sole purpose of capturing the band's high energy, live performance onto immortal plastic, accomplished through one-takes or all playing at once. The members feel it's the best way to represent them.

"The main ones we got down in one take are some of the first songs we ever wrote," Lewis said. "Since we've been playing them we have changed them, but as long as we, have been playing they have been part of our blood. I guess we just started jamming and we ripped right through it."

"I always hated getting an album from a band then go see them live and because they did so many tracks or what ever - played around in the studio, their live performance didn't stand up," Dominic added. "I was kind of disappointed when I saw them live."

### STREET BEATS

"I don't want people to be disappointed when they see us. I want us to be better than the studio recording."

Prior to "Atmosphere," the band had a five-song release on Icon Records, a local independent record label, which has brought the band acclaim from around the nation and as far away as the United Kingdom.

The band has acquired a number of local followers of the instrumental music. Fans recognize the song "Lolly Vegas" as the theme song of the "Homeboy Show" on CIMX (89X) FM.

The focus of the band's sound is modeled after the 1960s guitar/instrumental bands and members feel they must defend their "surf music" title.



Back again: The Goldtones — Dominic Zito (left), Joseph Zito and Chad Evert Lewis — are riding the wave to success as a surf music band.

## Billy Sunday: What's in a sound? Plenty



Billy Sunday: Has established a name for itself with its unique style of rock meets funk and slams into soul and rhythm and blues.

BY KYLE GREEN  
SPECIAL WRITER

Performing in empty bars, cheated out of pay, watching fights break out in the audience during sets and playing dingy venues are some of the dues groups have to endure.

The band Billy Sunday has, but its five-members know they have more to pay.

"It's silly to whine about it, but this is what we decided to do," keyboardist and lead vocalist Steve Guthrie said. "If everybody had a choice we would all be doing it because we all love to play," explains bassist William Pope.

Billy Sunday has established a name for itself with its unique style of rock meets funk and slams into soul and rhythm and blues. With their style spear-heading them, the members are now ready to give their all and plow their way into the recording industry.

"I don't think it's just getting a record contract... getting a good record deal is the idea," said guitarist Mike Boutwell. "I feel real comfortable. It's on the way; it's just that ev-

erything takes time and developing our own patience."

The band has no choice but to refine their endurance because dealing with the recording industry is nothing new. A year ago the band was ready to sign a deal and quit their day jobs when their dream contract never materialized.

Named after the turn-of-the-century baseball player turned evangelist William Sunday, who is noted for his flamboyant manners, the band lives up to the same characteristics which they feel will assist them in the industry.

Nevertheless, in the musical world of titles and subtitles, the band realized their sound needed a description, something that would capture the essence and character of their sound which today is simply known as... groovacious.

"Some people label us as a funk-rock band and we don't want that label at all," explained guitarist Torrence Carey.

See SUNDAY, 10A

### IN CONCERT

Monday, May 24

PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS  
With the Happy Accidents at Industry, 15 S. Saginaw, Pontiac. (alternative rock)  
334-1999

Tuesday, May 25

MYX RISE AND MARY MCQUIRE  
Mr. B's Farm, Novi. (acoustic rock)  
349-7038

DETROIT  
With Mean Dog at Blind Pig, 206-208 S. First St., Ann Arbor.  
996-8555

LONGHORN PO' BOY AND THE TRUE INTENTIONS  
Atlix Bar, 11687 Jos. Campau, Hamtramck. (blues)  
365-4194

WARREN ZEVO/Royal Oak Music Theatre,  
318 W. Fourth St., Royal Oak. (alternative rock)  
546-7610

Wednesday, May 26

THE JES GRU  
Alvin's, 5756 Cass, Detroit. (alternative rock/funk)  
932-2355

KANDA BONGO MAN  
The Ark, 537 1/2 S. Main St., Ann Arbor.  
99-5012

THE HOLY COWS  
With Dad Blasted at Blind Pig, 206-208 S. First St., Ann Arbor.  
996-8555

SMOKIN' JOE ACOFF AND HIS BLUE BAND  
Atlix Bar, 11687 Jos. Campau, Hamtramck. (blues)  
334-1194

Thursday, May 27

FULL MOON RISING  
Griff's Grill, 49 N. Saginaw, Pontiac.  
334-9292

DON'T LOOK NOW JAZZ BAND  
Alvin's, 5756 Cass, Detroit. (eclectic/funk)  
932-2355

MARY MCQUIRE AND MYX RISE  
Hoot's, Auburn Hills. (acoustic rock)  
373-4744

VU DU HIPPIES  
With Red C at Blind Pig, 206-208 S. First St., Ann Arbor.  
996-8555

13 ENGINES  
With The Swirlies and Godmachine at Industry, 15 S. Saginaw, Pontiac.  
334-1999

BREACH  
Featuring Missy Gibson of Strange Bedfellows and Thomas Trimble of Weeping Rachel at Stry Dog Cafe (Skipper's)  
964-7917

TRUCK BLUE  
Atlix Bar, 11687 Jos. Campau, Hamtramck. (blues)  
365-4194

UNPLUGGED BLUES JAM FEATURING ROBERT MOLL AND SPECIAL GUESTS  
Q Club, 29 S. Saginaw St., Pontiac.  
334-7411

THE KILLING FLOOR  
With Cheap Thrills at the Studio Lounge, 6921 N. Wayne Road, Westland. (rock)  
729-2540

AUTREY  
With Incantation, Vital Remains and Morgue, at the Marquee, Detroit.  
366-8833

See IN CONCERT, 10A