



BY LISA RUDY
SPECIAL WRITER

When you first reach the Stage, you'll probably find yourself inwardly moaning, "Oh, no." (I know I did.) But if you can get past the dumpy, out-of-date looking outside appearances of this eat-in/takeout restaurant and deli, you just might be pleasantly surprised.

Not that the inside is any more aesthetically pleasing, but imagine yourself being able to accept the fact that when this place was new (a mere 35 years ago) when yellow Formica tables and orange vinyl-covered chairs and booths were en vogue. My guess is, however, that even in 1958, more than a few pair of legs stuck to those seats on a hot summer day.

The Stage's menu features a large and interesting enough selection, so prepare yourself for a good read before ordering. Although this place is considered to be a Jewish deli, hot spicy chili is offered right along side cold borscht, and if your leery of sinking your tooth into marinated herring in sour cream, you can always order a "Swankee Frankee," an innocent-looking hot dog, filled with cheese and wrapped in bacon.

Homemade soups are a hot ticket on the menu, and if you happen to order the matzo ball soup, you're in for good laugh. Don't get me wrong — the soup's great. It's just that this particular matzo ball is one of the biggest I've seen and you're liable to draw a crowd around your bowl.

The Stage also offers a unique selection of salads — colorful fruit salads, tangy salads with herring and Greek olives, and a real scary salad called the Charlie Manos Salad Bowl that consists of crisp lettuce topped with Julianne TONGUE (gee, how else would you slice it?), turkey and anchovies. You, of course, get to pick the dressing. Under the heading of "Never Too Late," turkey omelettes, eggs with minced lox and onion, silver dollar pancakes and kippers and onions are available well throughout the dinner hour.

Huge can't-get-your-mouth-around-them sandwiches and the best Roumanian Pastrami you'll ever have will be the things that will bring you back to the stage for an encore. And the meats used in these sandwiches are lean — you honestly won't have to tear your sandwich apart to find the "good" parts. Tasty potato salad or a huge plate of fried onion rings go well with any sandwich selection.

And that rice pudding is fantastic. Cheesecake, apple strudel, and yech, even Jell-O are listed among the sweets. The guys behind the deli counter will even whip you up a milk or an ice cream sundae, if you wish.

It seemed as though the Stage had enough of a stash in their pantry to make anything. What's more, the staff was more than accommodating. So relax, pull up a vinyl-covered chair. And don't worry about your legs sticking to the seat; they've put in air conditioning since 1958.

Stage Delicatessen & Restaurant

13821 W. Nine Mile Road,
Oak Park
548-1111
11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday - Saturday

There's just something truly spontaneous about The Great Northern that leaves you on the edge of your seat. At first glance, this place seems to harbor all the makings of an up-north lodge with a southwestern flair. But once you're seated and are able to look around, you begin to get the feeling that you've stumbled on to one of the most distinctive, unusual restaurants around.

Surprises are everywhere in this open air, three-room establishment; and the Great Northern's interior beckons you to investigate every nook and cranny. The place is kind of like a museum. Or is it a gymnasium? An Indian reservation? Maybe a hunting lodge? It might just be a Greek coliseum. Who knows.

It's hard to tell, because you'll be sitting next to what appears to be a tree trunk and as your eyes wander upward, you'll spot a beautiful Greek column at the top. Fun. While you're admiring the beautiful Navajo tapestries, lining many of the booths and and doorways, don't be surprised if you hear the sounds of a nearby basketball game. The Great Northern houses an enclosed mini basketball court for patrons interested in perfecting their wish-shots (no one-on-one allowed).

Copper Bald Eagle chandeliers hang from the A-frame ceiling in the main dining area; varied, original birdhouses poke out of several different corners; and snowshoes, birch bark kayaks, sailboats and a larger than life hunting license make up many of the features that make this place a constant visual treat.

See EATS, 10C

The Great Northern
6199 Orchard Lake Road,
West Bloomfield
539-3290
11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Tuesday - Thursday
11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Friday-Saturday
1-9 p.m. Sunday



Harmony:
Sometimes
Why — Dave
Dean, Kenneth
Karasek,
John Tamin-
ski and Jeff
Pelione —
honed the
skill at
blending
their melody
and harmony
with the
groove on
stage at an
early age.

Sometimes Why has the answer



With influences like The Alarm, U2, the Red Hot Chili Peppers, The Beatles and Led Zeppelin, you might wonder what kind of music Sometimes Why performs. Simple, say band members, who blend melody and harmony with the groove.

BY KYLE GREEN
SPECIAL WRITER

There is no looking back for the four-member band Sometimes Why, even though today the members laugh about their past.

"We played a lot of shows with our parents in the audience only because (club owners) wouldn't let us play otherwise," said John Taminiski, remembering when he and fellow bandmates were too young to perform. "It gave us a stage presence. It was kind of a live rehearsal."

Today with the average age of the members at 20, the band uses its past as a foundation to construct what they hope will be a career. In preparation for recording its first release, band members hope their alternative rock sound will appeal to radio listeners, their main goal.

"It's hard for local bands, not say-

ing we are any thing great because we do have a contract, because I do realize that many local bands have contracts with local labels and not so local labels, but I think with a label behind your stuff and a producer and studio behind your stuff, it might be easier to get on the radio," Taminiski said.

STREET BEATS

Each member contributes musical ideas, influenced by such groups as The Alarm, U2 and the Red Hot Chili Peppers. Nevertheless, the members say they examine their musical roots which include The Beatles and Led Zeppelin for inspiration.

"From the time I can remember this was the stuff my dad listened to," said drummer Kenneth Karasek, a Troy resident. "When Dave (Dean) and I got together we

looked at our dad's record collections and there were a lot of harmony groups like Simon and Garfunkle.

"I guess what we are trying to do right now is blend our melody and harmony with the groove and the riff and that's what you would call classic alternative."

"I don't want you to get the idea that because we are into these classic groups that we are some classic rock band," Dean added. "It all comes out of us differently and obviously it's modern coming out of us."

However, it comes out, the band discovered that the best way to write is to simply play together and feed off their energy, therefore developing up to 60 songs.

"What I find is that when we jam and come up with something it seems to be the most energetic stuff; the stuff with the biggest groove to it," Dean said.

"To me, I haven't heard one that I dislike," Karasek added. "We are just getting better and better and song ideas keep coming faster and especially now we've been learning a lot of songs and as you can imagine it appears everyone on."

The guitar-based songs contain subject matter obtained from a broad spectrum which the band hopes will find mass appeal.

"In the beginning it was a lot of social, political ideas," Karasek said. "After hanging around Dave for about a year..."

"I've cheapened him," interjected Dean with a laugh.

"He was writing cheap love songs, and I loved it," Karasek said about Dean's work. "My first love of music was The Beatles and it reminded us, so much of that and I was getting off onto U2-Fresh Bessing, so lately I've been writing love songs. Dave, I don't know what he's writing about... not-so-cheap love."

Sometimes Why will perform with Verve Pipe, Groovespoon, Majestic Crush, The Charn Farm, Rhythm Corp, BOP (harvey) and Black Market at Summer Jam '93 near Cafe Max in Waterford, 11 a.m. to midnight Saturday, June 5. A portion of the proceeds will benefit the Midwest AIDS Prevention Project. For more information, call 666-2030.

Wallflowers don't shy from stagelights

BY CHRISTINA FUOCO
STAFF WRITER

Wallflowers lead singer Jakob

Dylan has learned how to teach journalists that he's not into discussing his famous lineage.

The
Wallflowers:
Members include Rami Jaffe (from left), Peter Yanowitz, Jakob Dylan (sitting forward) and Tobi Miller.



"I don't answer incredibly well," Dylan said with a snicker about his father Bob Dylan. "I don't give up too much."

Dylan and the rest of The Wallflowers — Greg Richling, Rami Jaffe, Peter Yanowitz and Tobi Miller — will play St. Andrew's Hall in Detroit Tuesday, June 2, with special guests the Vudu Hippies. The tour is in support of the band's self-titled debut album which was released in August.

The album has a rather dark and moody feeling which reflects the band's early style, Dylan said.

"I like to think that it's a snapshot of what the band was doing at the time," he said.

The new album, which the group will begin recording after this tour, will have a different feeling, although Dylan wasn't specific about the new sound.

Although the unpretentious roots

rock album has received a favorable response from the likes of "Rolling Stone" and "Musical" magazines, Dylan is still apprehensive about his headlining tour.

"We're playing St. Andrew's Hall this time; that's a big place, right? I hope there's not a lot of echo," he said.

As the group tours, Dylan, 23, is seeing the fan base picking up. To get that far, The Wallflowers landed opening spots for the Spin Doctors, 10,000 Maniacs and Virgin Records label mates Creaker.

"It's paying off a little more. We get our name out there and we start getting the rewards," said Dylan.

The Wallflowers, with special guests the Vudu Hippies, will perform Wednesday, June 2, at St. Andrew's Hall, 431 E. Congress, Detroit. Tickets are \$5.50. Call 991-MELT for more information.

Monday, May 31

BLACKWHEAT ZYDECO
With Clarence Gatemouth Brown, Chisel Bros. and Motor City Blues Project at Phoenix Plaza Amphitheatre, Pontiac.
334-1999

Tuesday, June 1

DANNI YANKEES
Pine Knob Music Theatre, I-75 and Sashabaw Road, Clarkston. (rock)
274-0000

AMERICAN MUSIC CLUB
AMC's, 5758 Cass Ave., Detroit. (alternative rock)
92-MUSIC

PARTY OF THREE
The Ark, 637 1/2 S. Main St., Ann Arbor.
761-1451

IN CONCERT

Wednesday, June 2

TOMMY SANDS
The Ark, 637 1/2 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. (folk)
761-1451

DISCIPLINE
The Ritz, 1015 and Gratiot, Roseville. Part of live broadcast on 89X.
274-0000

THE WALLFLOWERS
With Vudu Hippies at St. Andrew's Hall, 431 E. Congress, Detroit.
991-MELT

Thursday, June 3

KIDZPEET
With Bob McGrath, Sam Wright, Roy, Frank Cappelli and the Chipmunks at Pine Knob

Musio Theatre, I-75 and Sashabaw Road, Clarkston.
377-0100

ROBIN AND LINDA WILLIAMS
The Ark, 637 1/2 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. (folk)
761-1451

STEEL POLE BATH TUB
With Ethyl Meat Plo at St. Andrew's Hall, 431 E. Congress, Detroit.
991-MELT

THREASOLD
With Waterbury Down at Griff's Grill, Saginaw, Pontiac.
334-9292

TRAIL MIX
New dance night with DJs Greg Scott and

Bleebob at the Majestic, 4140 Woodward, Detroit.
833-9700

THE GRAY HAWKS
With Painted Glass at 3-D, 1818 N. Main St., Royal Oak. (alternative rock)
699-3344

I MOTHER EARTH
Industry, 15 S. Segnaw, Pontiac. (alternative rock)
334-1999

ACME SOUL
With Heavy Pink and Mockingbird at Psych's Lounge, 2932 Canfield, Hamtramck. (alternative rock)
874-0500

Friday, June 4

CAROLINE KING
Pine Knob Music Theatre, I-75 and Sashabaw Road, Clarkston.

See IN CONCERT, 11C