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CHEAP EATS

BY LISA RUDY
SPECIAL WRITER

The Allen Park Bar, at Allen Road and the Southfield Freeways, may look like your average beer and burger joint from the outside, but to anyone who's been there before, this little hole-in-the-wall eating and drinking establishment is anything but average.

As far as the outside appearances go, there's not much to comment about. It's...uh...brown. But inside, this place is jumping. During the day the clientele is made up mostly of business lunches and locals. At night, sports fanatics crowd in for a burger or sandwich and a beer and mainly just kind of hang out.

The long and narrow interior sports five TVs, a few pinball machines, a pool table that converts into a dining room table during peak times and an electric dart game. (Watch it! It's right by the front door.)

As far as entertainment goes, no pastime in this place could hold a candle to the magical and eventful moment when "fast timers" are presented with their food order. It's a whole lot of fun to watch someone innocently order a Reuben sandwich. As a matter of fact, try to sit next to someone who does when the waitress gets to the table with the order.

The Reuben sandwich is big...uh...huge...colossal...unbelievably awesome. It's what sandwich lovers would call a major "samwich," the kind that should be eaten over the kitchen sink.

Close to two pounds of corned beef (maybe more if the grill person has an audience), cheese, Russian dressing, sauerkraut and about six inches of puny-perked bread make up this monstrous masterpiece. And somewhere next to it is a tasty kosher girl pickle.

So there you are, seated behind a 12-inch high Reuben. Your only ammunition — the ever increasing questionable size of your stomach, a stack of paper napkins and plastic fork and knife.

Hee, hee I dare you...and so does everyone else! Go ahead, call home and tell 'em you're going to be a little late. This is going to take you awhile. One of your first instincts might be to try and order something else. Don't bother. Everything the Allen Park Bar makes is big. Half-pound hamburgers are topped with cheddar, bacon, amounts of ham and onion, and the "Fat City" burger is smothered in chili, cheddar cheese and fresh cut veggies.

The Macho Nacho is offered on the menu with the warning "large portion" next to it. Take heed. The Italian Stallion is a foot-long Italian sausage smothered with sautéed onions, green peppers and tomato, and the giant stacked sandwich is a major feast for a mere \$5.50. (Rumor has it that anyone who can eat three of these in a 45-minute time frame gets \$1,000.)

Consider the benefits of some well-spent time at the Allen Park Bar — nothing on the menu

Fair-ly nice



Kris Kross: Chris "Daddy Mac" Smith (left) and Chris "Mac Daddy" Kelly.



Bim Skala Bim: Vinnie Nobile, Mark Ferranti, Dan Vitale, Jim Arhelger, Rick Barry and Jim Jones.

State Fair has star-studded lineup



If you're looking for stars, the place to be is the Michigan State Fair. The Ramones will be the opening act, a great lead-off for the likes of Kris Kross, Bim Skala Bim and plenty of other music-makers.

BY CHRISTINA FUOCO
STAFF WRITER

The Ramones have played in many situations but gigging at this year's Michigan State Fair has Joey Ramone especially anxious to play. "I'm especially looking forward to the livestock area," he said from his New York home.

Although being facetious, Ramone enjoys playing fairs and has done plenty of them in the past. "I know in the past we've done Summerfest in Milwaukee; we've done state fairs from time to time," said Ramone who plays on Aug. 27. "We've done all kinds of situations. We just played four festivals in four separate countries in four days."

The fair will also give the Ramones a chance to play songs from their forthcoming album, "Acid Eaters," which includes covers of old '60s psychedelic tunes.

On it, the band courts special guests like Pete Townshend, who sings with Ramone on "Substitute," and Skid Row's Sebastian Bach on the Stones' "Out of Time." Labelmate Traci Lords harmonizes with the band on Jefferson Airplane's "Somebody to Love."

Playing with Townshend was exciting for him.

"I've always been a big Who fan." Joining the Ramones on the State Fair bandshell stage this year as headliners are Laughing Hyenas on Aug. 28, Bim Skala Bim on Sept. 3, Chako Khan on Sept. 4, Kris Kross on Sept. 5, and Lorie Morgan on Sept. 6.

Opposite to the Ramones, Kris Kross's U.S. tour is comprised mostly of fairs and state fairs because of their family appeal. Part of that is the reason the rappers were hired to be Sprite spokesmen.

A boy of few words, the 14-year-old Chris "Mac Daddy" Kelly has a keen business sense about all this. "We try to do all we can to get as much exposure as possible," Kelly said. The duo — which also includes Chris "Daddy Mac" Smith — is touring to promote its latest album, "Da Bomb." Although they are tutored every day 9 a.m.-noon, the duo is quite happy with their early teen lifestyle.

STREET BEATS

"What kid wouldn't be happy," Smith said. "Have your own tutor and just do interviews everyday and look at people and do shows and then have money, wouldn't you be happy?"

Somewhat older but also happy is the ska band Bim Skala Bim who headline the Ska Fest '93. Like Kris Kross, Bim has never played a state fair.

"I like the idea of the atmosphere at a fair," drummer Jim Arhelger. Plus, he said, their addictive music is also family fare.

"I think we can get their attention. We have fun on stage and I think if they're (audience) in the right mood, they can hopefully pick up on that...especially the loud trombone that sort of sounds like fan fare.

"We're danceable to people in any mood."

Bim captured the essence of their live shows with the album "Live At The Paradise," which is due in stores on Aug. 31. It includes live hits as well as several rare and unreleased cuts. While they're in town, the group is doing three other shows: Sept. 1 at Rick's Cafe in Ann Arbor, Sept. 2 at Rick's Cafe in East Lansing and Sept. 4 at Rick's Cafe in Kalamazoo.

Percussionist Rick Barry explained why his band's live shows are legendary in their hometown of Boston.

"Most bands go at their live shows song by song," he said. "We start with a lot of pumped-up energy and squeeze several short songs out in quick succession. We try to create an ebb and flow that brings the crowd up and down, without ever stopping the music."



The Ramones: Perform Friday, Aug. 27, at the bandshell.

Where they'll be

Concerts scheduled for the 1993 Michigan States Fair include:

- Bandshell
- Friday, Aug. 27 — 9 p.m., The Ramones (rock)
- Saturday, Aug. 28 — 3:15 p.m., Detroit Muscle concert (alternative rock) begins with Painted Glass, 4 p.m. Coup D'Etat, 4:45 p.m. Hot Feet, 5:45 p.m. The Exceptions, 6:55 p.m. Gangster Fun, 8:10 p.m. Bim Skala Bim.
- Saturday, Sept. 4 — 8 p.m. Chako Khan (adult contemporary).
- Sunday, Sept. 5 — 6 p.m. Kris Kross (rap)
- Monday, Sept. 6 — 8 p.m. Lorie Morgan (country).
- "Show In the Groove"
- All shows at 8 p.m. (except where noted) in the Coliseum Grove.
- Friday, Aug. 27 — Frank Allison and the Odd Sox ('60s-inspired rock).
- Saturday, Aug. 28 — Country line dancing.
- Sunday, Aug. 29 — Rhythm Corps (alternative rock).
- Monday, Aug. 30 — Tim Cunningham and Four of a Kind.
- Tuesday, Aug. 31 — The Hannibals (silly/jangle rock).
- Wednesday, Sept. 1 — BOP (harvey) (reggae).
- Thursday, Sept. 2 — Bugs Bedow (blues).
- Friday, Sept. 3 — Comedy to Go (comedy), 6 p.m. Kristin Sayer (rock & roll).
- Saturday, Sept. 4 — Butler Twins (blues).
- Sunday, Sept. 5 — New Bethel Baptist Church (inspirational).
- Monday, Sept. 6 — Detroit Blues Band (blues).

ALLEN PARK BAR
5955 Allen Rd. at Southfield, Allen Park
928-8729
Hours: 8:30 a.m. to 2 a.m. Monday through Saturday, noon to 2 a.m. Sunday.

...exceeds \$5.25, unbelievable amounts of great food, some unique entertainment and a shot at winning \$1,000 for packing away six pounds of Virginia smoked ham.

If you're tired of the trendy restaurant/bar scene and find yourself hankering for a road trip, Waltz, Mich., is just the place to head for.

Waltz — population 600 (and that's pushing it) — offers one of the most quaint, down-home restaurants around. You can call for directions and when you do, you're liable to get something to the tune of "take 275 south, seven to your right, scoot along, dip and then you're here, The Waltz Inn."

Located on Waltz Road (where else), the inn looks like a Cape Cod retreat. The outside features a large front porch, perfect for stargazing or lazing around in the afternoon.

Inside is a full service bar, plenty of booths and several old-fashioned wooden tables to accommodate families as well as a few romantic tables for two.

Homemade soups are offered daily for both lunch and dinner. Fried jumbo mushrooms the size of baseballs are also featured — right along side caecogot. Helen's Homemade Clam Chowder is served every Friday.

Daily specials include real down-home cooking — chicken ala King with fresh homemade biscuits, seafood in one form or another, steaks, chicken. It's always a surprise and it's always good. For a small town place, the Waltz Inn offers big town variety.

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THE WALTZ INN
28080 Waltz Rd., Waltz
654-9040
Hours: 11 a.m.-9 p.m. Wednesday through Thursday, 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Friday through Saturday, 8 a.m.-noon (breakfast) and noon-9 p.m. Sunday. Closed Monday and Tuesday

IN CONCERT

Monday, Aug. 23
NILEY MCNEIL
Beckett Station, Keego Harbor, (acoustic)
682-1119

Tonyi Iohi Toshi
With Jo Industry, 15 S. Saginaw, Pontiac.
(rhythm and blues) CANCELED
334-1999

Tuesday, Aug. 24
EMERY ROBERTSON
Pine Knob Music Theatre, I-75 and Sashabaw
Road, Clarkston, (rhythm and blues)
377-0100

Harvelly
With Jaka at Blind Pig, 206-208 S. First St., Ann Arbor.
996-8555

IRILIANA'S FROM MARTH
The Grand Cafe, 33316 Grand River, Farming-

ton, (rock)
615-9181

NIGHTS OF MERCY VIDEO APPRECIATION
3:30, 1815 N. Main St., Royal Oak, (gothic alternative rock)
589-3344

Wednesday, Aug. 25
DEEP PURPLE REUNION TOUR
Pine Knob Music Theatre, I-75 and Sashabaw
Road, Clarkston, CANCELED
377-0100

NOVA OWENS
Alvin's, 5758 Cass, Detroit.
832-2355

DIA
Blind Pig, 206-208 S. First St., Ann Arbor.
996-8555

Gayle's Chocolates, Royal Oak.
398-0001

ROSEANNA VITRO
With Gary Schunk Trio at Magic Bag Theatre
Cafe, 2282 Woodward Ave., Ferndale, (jazzy
vocalist)
544-3030

JEFF STROMBER
With Bill Hickey at Rabbie's, 22010 Harper,
between Eight and
Nine Mile roads, St. Clair Shores.
778-0707

THE FALL
St. Andrew's Hall, 431 E. Congress, Detroit,
(alternative rock)
961-MELT

FRANK ALLISON
Shadowbox Cafe, Hamtramck, (acoustic)
873-2233

Thursday, Aug. 26
THE MELLA
Gry's Grid, 49 N. Saginaw, Pontiac.
334-9292

CHRIS ISRAEL
Pine Knob Music Theatre, I-75 and Sashabaw
Road, Clarkston, (pop)
377-0100

SHOCKHOUSE
With Laura Shaven at Alvin's, 5758 Cass, De-
troit, (alternative rock)
832-2355

FOUR HANDS
Hosts Open Mic night at Gotham City Cafe,
22848 Woodward, Ferndale, (acoustic)
358-7430

See IN CONCERT, 10A