Band from pageE1

for Midtgard – who was playing with the Carfield Blues Band and Johnny "Yarddog" Jones – and "Gorgeous" George Friend, then of the R&B group the Sun Mes-

of the R&B group the Sun Messengers.

"I was doing pick-up blues gigs all around town playing the upright until the Tarantulas finally got to a point where we knew we were see-worthy We've been full time almost two years," Midtgard said.

Five drummers later, Alex "The Thrilla From Manila" Trajuno, formerly of the avant jazz troupe Blue Dog, is on skins.

"Alex is a wesome. Alex is the find," Midtgard explained.
Midtgard realizes that one day he, too, may leave.

"Musicians do come and go. That's the nature of musicians.

"Musicians do come and go. That's the nature of musicians. They do a certain bag long enough then they get tired of it. Me, I have my own thing that I do. There will always be a Twistin' Tarantulas, but I think

the only main stay is going to be me. Other guys are going to come and go. That's just something that you learn to accept after awhile.

Maracus player Fredorick ("Ready Freddy") Spencer made an unexpected exit from the Twistin Tarantulas Friday, Nov. 1, 1996. A captain in the armed services, Spencer was shining his shoes and brass buckles and buttons on the cloth wheel on a bench grinder. Police believe that his tie got caught, yanked him down and snapped his neck.

"I wrote a song about what I learned from that experience. It was a strange thing because I had this song in mind earlier. One time I was thinking about spectator sports and thinking about how spectators get so involved in this thing, but they're not in the arona. I've never been able to understand that personally." Midtgard explained.

"I was thinking about people who love to sit back and criticize

Was tinking about people who love to sit back and criticize the people that are in the arena doing the battle. They're not trying anything.

The chrous, he said, encourages people to make the most of their lives.

There might not be a tomorrow, Midgard sang. There's not much left of today. So live your life in the arena and lave, don't sit in the stands and fade away.

Prior to Spencer's death, Midtgard struggled with the song's verses. Afterward, the words flowed.

"It was real simple then. It

flowed.
"It was real simple then. It

"It was real simple then. It was the last time he taught me a lesson - that you should live and leve and love to live because you never know your fate."
"The Arena" will be on the Twistin 'Tarantulas' follow-up to "Attack of the Twistin 'Tarantulas', its debut CD released in the fall 1996. Midtgard is planning to record soon and release a new CD this summer.
Also included on the CD will be 'Lighthouses'."
"Lighthouse' is about different

people in my past that when I was wandering with no direction, these people were beacons. They were lighthouses when I was wandering too far away from where I should be."

After a pause, Midtgard said, "Oh, I have to sing the chorus for you."

"In my darkest moments when I felt so alone At times when I'd wander so far from home You lit a candle while I cursed the dark/ You're a lighthouse in a foggy world."

world. Quickly, he sat up and admitted that he got the lighthouse/foggy world connection from the Frank Capra film 'Meet John Doe.'
"I'm writing songs with a little bit more serious subject matter. The first CD has a lot of those songs that I wrote when I first started playing rockabilly. My feeling about rockabilly at that time was that it had to be all fulf. You don't want to say anything too deep because it's just fin, happy happy, joy jew music."
There's a couple songs on it

that have odd twists to them like Snake in the Grass. I'm sitting there telling this girl she's got to get away from this guy because he's treating her toadly) and by the way. I'm available. That was the only song I was lyrically proud of on that record.

A shuffle, a stroll and Latin and bessa nova beats have become atandard fare for the Twistin Thrantulas shows.

We try to educate. There's real big dance seene that's evolving. For the longest time, all these so-called dancers all they could dance to was one groove, which is fast swing. All they know how to do is spin each other around and dance really fast. If you don't play fast swing, they wouldn't dance.

Finally, Midigard tossed out a

Finally, Midtgard tossed out a

Finally, Midtgard tossed out a threat.

"I started saying to them, 'Look man. If you're really dancers then you should know how to do a shuffle and a stroll and a mambo and a bossonova. If you're really going to get out here and wear the clothes, and wear the two-tone shoes and the pin-striped suits, you folks should learn how to dance to all these different steps, not just 'Sing, Sing, Sing,' Nevermind the threats, the

rowds keep pouring in to clubs like Fifth Avenue Billiards every Sunday night. Midtgard knows full well that his band is all about its live performances.

about its live performances.

"We're a fun band to watch," Mitdgard soid confidently while crossing his arms. "It's not because we put on some big dog and pony show. We enjoy what we do. That comes acrose. I love the music that I play, It comes from the bottom of my heart. I try to look nice, keep my hair combed."

"We try to mix it up. It's all in a very similar vein. We play American roots music. We don't do one bag, We have a nice full bag of tricks. We can do swing. We can do blues swing. We can do straight-ahead rock 'n' roll. We can do rockabilly I all has a common denominator to it. It's always the three of us playing."

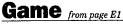
MICHIGAN'S FINEST DEC. 26-27-28 SUPER DEALS ON AMMO NDGUNS * MIFLES * ADMIN - STOCK INVES * MILITARY SURPLUS * HUNTIF IING SUPPLIES * SAFES AND MUCH FRIDAY IS SETUP DAY. COME CARLY FOR YOUR BEST DEALS! Not All Dealors Participate On Fridays. TRADE CENTER, INC. FRIDAY ADMISSION TO THE TRADE CENTER





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town-themed restaurants, players are given entogories like Reusons to press STOP on your VCR, "Famous Blond Actors," or "Movice with One Name." You must come up with se many answors as possible while an electronic timer (with a "Mission Impossible" style suspenseful tune) gives the game tension.

Monopoly Special Editions "You've probably lost the shee and the few \$500 bills that remain are looking pretty dogered.

the few \$500 bills that remain are looking pretty dogeared. Still, even if you do buy the "Deluxe Edition," it won't prevent your opponents from hitting Beardwalk before you do. And in a twist on the "Your City Here" versions of the game produced in bergs nationwide, Monopoly's "Star Wars Classic Trilogy Edition" mixes Chewbacca and Community Chest, Here Lewister to the pewter tokens now resemble X-wing fighters as you develop cities and spaceports throughout the galaxy.

etties and spaceports throughout the galaxy.

Channel Surfing - The favorite pastime of couch potates worldwide is now a popular (and socially acceptable) parlor game. Using the remote control on your cable television (not included), you must search for such items as "Tacky Outfits," Fruit," or "Somethings That Makes You Gag," all explained for you on game cards. In a clever twist, a "Ring" could be a search for you on game cards. In a clever twist, a "Ring" could be a modeling ring but it could has be

a sound.

If Tom Clancy's Politika – For those of you frustrated by the world political situation, here's a strategy game that allows you to centrel the fate of modern Russian. The premise here is that the Russian President has died, leaving the country in the hands of the Russian mafia. Unlike the books, where you're at the mercy of the Mr. Clancy's literary whims, here you call the shots.

Act One – Another game where knowledge of Hollywood helps, this time with 1,400 lines or other clues from the most memorable moments in TV and movie history. Draw a card, act out a scene, and then your partners have to guess what it is, based on your performance and their familiarity with classics such as "I Love Lucy." Star Wors, "The X-Files," and "The Godfather."

If Compatibility – A game like this can either lead to holiday

wars, "Ine A-Pites," and "The Godfather."

■ Compatibility - A game like this can either lead to holiday fun or some serious family disharmony. Here you and your partner choose a subject that both of you have some strong, feelings about and then pick from a stack of pictured cards with related images. The "Marriage" category might prompt a cuddly Teddy bear, but there are also cards of prison cells. Rank these pictures in order of person al importance and watch the sparks fly.

Sip from page E1 sturgeon (beluga, essetra or sevruga) and the sea from which they are taken (generally Caspi-an or Black). Other caviars are described as granular, pressed, flavored or pasteurized. It is most important to purchase fresh caviar. Beluga is the most

fresh eaviar. Beluga is the most expensive.
Fish departments of upscalo greery markets in the orea regularly earry cavins during the holidays. Ordering caviar by telephone from a reputable importer and having it shipped overnight is a snap. We've used Caviarteria, Park Avenue, New York (800) 4-CAVIAR or for American caviars, Carolyn Collins Caviar Company, Chicago (800) 226-0342.
Become a style maven on New

Gollins Caviar Company, Chicago (800) 226-0342.

Become a style maven on New
Year's Evel Imitate James Bond.
Go to a New Year's Eve showing
of "Tomorrow Never Dies," the
latest James Bond film. Watch
Pierce Brosnan as Agent 007
drink the 1989 Champagne
Bollinger Grande Année \$70.
This is the 19th Bond film and
the eighth in which Agent 007
drinks his favorite champagne.
You'll get thirsty, so have you'r
bottle chilled and imitate the
Bond style when you get home!
It's also great with caviar.
You just want to stay home?
Fine, rent the video of one or all
seven other Bond films in which

seven other Bond films in which Agent 007 drinks Bollinger

Champagne - "Live and Let Die," "Moonraker," Octopussy," "A View to a Kill," "The Living Daylights," "License to Kill," "Golden Eye" and "Tomorrow Never Dies." Bollinger Special Cuvée runs about \$30 if the Grande Année seems a tad pricey. No kidding, it's really good with fresh pop-com!

corn!
Prepare a simple, romantic dinner with wine. Chardonnay remains America's most favorite white wine. 1996 Alderbrook Chardonnay \$13 is most appeal-

Chardonnay \$13 is most appealing.

Or you could order pizza.
Drink good but cheap red wine
with your pizza. The fellowing
are \$10 or leas.
1995 Napa Ridge Cabernet
Sauvignon; 1995 Georges
Duboeuf Cabernet Sauvignon;
1995 Lindemans Bin 45 Cabernet Sauvignon; 1996 Walnut
Creat Merlot; 1996 Sutter Home
Merlot; 1995 Lindemans Bin 40
Merlot; or 1995 Fetzer Eagle
Peak Merlot.

Video from page E1

BOffbeat Romance — Before you rent "Sleepless in Scattle' again, try a charming little again, try a charming little romance called 'Before Sunrise,' from Richard Linklater, the director of 'Dazed and Confused' and "Slacker." Here Ethan Hawke and Julio Delpy play young Bohemians who meet on the train in Europe and decide, on the spot, to spend one memorable night together in Vienna.

Better in Black and White — The holidays are almost over, but there's still time to catch "Shop Around the Corner" (1940) a Jimmy Stewart movie directed by Ernst Lubitsch that gives "It's a Wonderful Life' arun for its money. Here the stimmering one plays head clerk at a Budapeat gift shop who doesn't realize that the co-worker he constantly argues with (Margaret Sullavan) is the same woman he has been wooing through a personals ad.

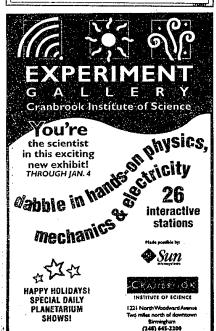
woman he has been wooing through a personals ad.

Ming Kong Action – With the Hong Kong influence making itself more and more known through the American success of Jackie Chan, John Woo and hopefully soon Chow Yun Fat (liss new movie opens in February). It's time to catch up with the Asian invasion on video. Now thut you've seen Woo's FaccOlo, check out his "Hard Bolled," whose high-octane shootout in big city hospital includes some of the most heart-pounding action ever put on film. ever put on film

88 New York, New York - If you can't be in New York this holiday, you can see it in its glory in 'On the Town' (1949), for my money the most exuberant MGM musical ever made. Here sailer beys Gene Kelly, Frank Sinatra and Jules Munchin spend such a memorable 24 hours in Manhattan (it was filmed on location) that you'll be planning your next trip.

that you'll be planning your next trip.

If Pre-"Scream" Screams - Now that you know both 'Screams' practically by heart, check out the offbeat movies Wes Craven made before he became a household name, though preferably these without If or Ill after the titles. "Last House on the Left," "The Hills Have Eyes," and "Deadly Friend" won't disappoint.





O CHENOLOGY

