STREET SCENE

Detroit's Blush sets pop rock to its own electro-beat

As each member of Blush strolls into bassist Carey Gustafson's Ferndale apartment – which she affectionately dubs 'headquarters' – four unmistakable personalities converge. The band's newest member, drummer Carey Weaver, shows up first sporting his shiny new UZ concert T-shirt and a quiet smile, Singer and keyboardist Amy Anselm makes herself comfortable on a green chair and guitarist Phil Skarich pops in, fresh from the Spacehog show in Detroit. Around them, posters depicting such film icons as Eduard Scissphrhands and the Trainspotting out mingle with original artwork by Gustafson's youngest sister,

Now the winter

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Emily. Autographed photos of bands like Travis share space with Weezer album covers. The Goldenstate of the Colorism of the

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SHIEBE(PG) SHORDESH (IE) CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTENCE AND THE

"When I was three years old, I used to listen to Bachman Turner Overdrive on my dad's stereo sys-tem," said Skarich, a Royal Oak

resident. He remembered singing along to Taking Care of Business but he thought the words were raking care of biscuits. "I still love it to this day." Skarich's father played guitar. One day he picked up the instruent and has never put it down. "It was cooler than trombone or piano," he said. "Chicks were a factor." Skarich tosses out names like Keith Richards and Howlin' Wolfs Hubert Sumlin as influences.

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SWORDFISH (B) Laua Croft: Tomb Raider (PG13)

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Carey

For Gustafson, making music all started in fourth grade with one piano man — Billy Jool. "My friend and I got to sing It's Still Rock n' Roll To Me on stage." The rest of her class swayed behind them, wearing sunglasses. But sho OBSERVER & BCCESTRIC

ARTSKUL INTELUÇDICE (PG13) SWORDEN/ID

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J. S. S.

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wouldn't take to playing bass until years later. She began dating a musician who always seemed to have guitars lying around. "Guitar seemed to ecary," she said. Bass was it. Gustafson counts The Beatles, ELO and Jim Henson among her musical favorites but easily takes style and haircut cues from Sting in his days with The Police.

Amy
Ansolm started playing piane
when she was just 5, and she
hated it. "I wasn't exposed to the
stuff I was supposed to be exposed
to, according to these guys," she
said flashing a playful smirk
across the room. Roised on classiacross the room. Raised on classical music, rather than rock, Anselm didn't really love playing music until college, Once enrolled at Michigan State University, she started to play for herself. Gone were the days of her harsh piano teacher rapping her little knuckles with a ruler. Anselm's first concert? Linda Ronstadt when she was 12. Today her musical tastes sawied between extremes, from Tori Amos to Chopin.

Carey Weaver's story starts with country music - "old country music, none of this Garth Brooks stuff," he muts it.

as he puts it.
"I grew up in
a church a church household,

a church household, said Weaver, dsolf-taught drummer who began playing at his church. Rock n' Holl wan't part of his musical past. That all changed when he heard U2's New Year's Day playing at a friend's house. 'I listened to that tape over and over, 'he said. Weaver still considers Stewart Copeland a 'god' and admits he's a big fan of Pennsylvania's rock forerome, Live. He joined Blush just months ago, and doesn't appear on the seon-to-be released Out Of My Had. The CD was recorded between Pebruary and March at Perndale's Tempermill Studio with Tony Hamern.
The songs sound energized, that mix of sweet pop and sheer rock attitude you resist. Between songs,

Blush is

Amv

Anselm and (not

in this photo) Carey Weaver, Gustafson has a knack for banter-ing back and forth with fans. Anselm's soft, breathy vocals sim-ply draw you in. Blush's songs, start with Anselm and reveal 2, personal side. She confesses that; relationships often inspire her to-write.

write.
Completed by the band in full, the songs transform into the contemplative beauty of Evolution, the aching honesty in Break Your, Fall and the litting melodies that make the signature ballad Every Now and Then, a crowd favorite already. La Deda sends Ansolm walking down the street singing a little song, her voice ringing clear through the notes of Skarrich's guitar, which itself sounds evokes images of falling rain. Blending, the atmosphere of '80s synth-pop' with modern electronic loops and a detectable advaration for rock music in traditional instrumentation, Blush redefines retro. At the same time comfortably familiar in song structure and engaging, this band deserves the attention its gamered so far.
Yot, it so my the beginning for a band called Blush. Completed by the band in full,

Catch Blush in the act

- Skate along with Blush and W-Vibe, 10:30 p.m. -12:30 a.m. Saturday, July 14, Ambassador Skating Center, 14 Mile in Clawson, Admission \$7 includes skate rental, Call (248) 435-
- and talk about reminiscing, catch Blush open for Night Ranger and Survivor Thursday, July 26 at the Royal Oak Music Theatre in Royal Oak Get your tickets at the CD release party.

Will you skate with me?

Carey Gustafson. (left), Phil Skarich,

- See Blush with The Nico Device and DJ Aaron Warshaw, 9 p.m. Wednesday, July 25, Magic Stick, Detroit. \$5. Call (313) 833-9700.
- For more, check the Web at www. blushgirls. homestead. com/ blush. html

Make you 'blush': a quiz

- 1. Who is addicted to cable access television in particular, programming that includes tap dancing?
- 2. Who is most likely to wear non-matching socks in public?
- 3. Who can milk a goat?
- 4. Which two members of Blush dated back in seventh
- 5. Who was once voted run-ner-up in a Mr. "Punyverse" contest?

1. Gustafson; 2. Anselm; 3. Skarich; 4. Gustafson and Weaver; 5. Weaver

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WHAT'S THE WOST THAT COULD

Almost one year since the electro-pop quartet got its start, Detroithaaed Blush is ready to celebrate the release of its first CD, Out Of My
Head, in unparalleled retro fashion.

Pull your tube seeks up to your knees, dig the leg warmers out of your
closet. Can anyone any "parachute pants?" Blush is throwing a skating
OD release party for Out Of My Head.

"We thought it would be cool to have it on the rink and it came to be,"
said Caroy Cuntafaen, bassist. "I wanted The Ambassador in Clavason)
because I grow up there. I lived there. I used to wrap my roller-skates
arms my head and ride my bite down there every weekend and skate."

Blush plans to set up on the rink and perform, while fans and friends
skate up to and around them. Wilke will open the show. "I wanna get
every hipster in town on wheels and see what happens," she added.

The idea has gotten people talking. It's a throwbnek to the days when
"Shoot The Duck" really meant something and getting the right boy or
girl to skate with you hand-in-hand could make or break your secial life.
Drummer Carey Weaver said he used to head to Ambassador Skating
Rink and he wore his favorite hooded sweatshirt every time. "I had my
own skates," he shares proudly. "Sears skates."

— By Slephanie A. Casola

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