



11
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Volume I
Number 3

MSU's alternative
and truly
independent
voice

WHAT'S UP:



**BRUCE WILLIS
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Who's No.1? MSU, U-M claim superiority

By TRESA BALDAS
uR-I Correspondent

ANN ARBOR — "If you can't get into college, go to ..."
Stop any student on the streets of Ann Arbor, and they'll complete the sentence for you.
"Michigan State," they'll tell ya. Or to put it in "their" terms, "MOO 'U' — home of the no-status, non-intellectual, Busch-beer guzzling farmboys with grade points *too low* to get into the *Ivy League* school of the Midwest. (U-M, of course.)
Sound a bit stereotypical?
Maybe. But stop a Spartan on the streets of East Lansing and ask their opinion of the University of Michigan. You'll get an earful of stereotypes.
"Snobs ... BMW-driving, rich brats ... so concerned with maintaining that 4.0 they have no social lives ... throwbacks from the sixties ... radical liberals ..." and the list goes on.
Rivalry between these two Big Ten universities has always existed. No one can deny that, especially when it comes to sports. However, the rivalry extends beyond athletics. Who's better than who depends on more than just "who goes to the Rose Bowl."
So where do these stereotypes come from?
The university Reporter-Intelligencer decided to take a closer look at the familiar stereotypes of MSU and U-M students. The uR-I visited Ann Arbor and surveyed about 30 students from all walks of U-M on how they really feel about MSU. The same study was conducted in East Lansing with the same number of students.
Questions from the survey included:
•What is your opinion of MSU in terms of educational excellence? of

U-M?
•If you were offered a free ride to MSU/U-M, would you attend the university?
•In your opinion, what is the biggest difference between U-M and MSU?
In reviewing the surveys and talking with several students on both the MSU and U-M campuses, the uR-I found that both sides have a different idea about what distinct characteristic makes the two schools so different.
For U-M students, the difference is in the *quality of education*. In the eyes of the MSU students, it's all a matter of *attitude*.
"I think the attitude is what makes the difference," says Kathy Mehling, an MSU graduate student who transferred to MSU this fall from California State University-Bakersfield. "(U-M students) put themselves on a pedestal looking down on other people. They all have the same kind of 'we're better than you' attitude."
Having done her undergraduate work in California, Mehling compared the MSU-U-M rivalry to the clash between UCLA and USC. She said the students of MSU, like those of UCLA, are "more down to earth," unlike the "snobbish ... superiority complex" attitudes of the students from USC and U-M.
Having noticed these differences between U-M and MSU, Mehling said she knew where it was that she wanted to pursue her graduate work in public relations.
"I was on the U-M campus for one day and everyone was so cold," she said. "Within one day, there was no doubt in my mind where I wanted to be."
"Here (at MSU), everybody has a good balance of having a good time and academics," she said. "They can make it to their classes and still have fun."

MSU communication junior Doug Coats agrees.
"They chose to go there and study ... and we chose to come here and have fun and study."
But U-M students believe that at MSU, the students have too much fun, and studying doesn't get done.
"(MSU) is a good school ... but I think it's generally thought of as a party school as compared to U-M," said U-M student Scott Beckerman, a 19-year-old engineer major from Livonia. "It's a great place to go to party, but I don't think I could go through it every night."
And when it comes to the overall quality of education, Beckerman believes MSU doesn't quite match up to U-M's standards.
"(MSU) is in a different class from Michigan ... class 'B' as opposed to class 'A.'"
U-M freshman Erik Elie agrees.
"I think (MSU) is more of a party

school," Elie said. "(U-M) is much more respected in the nation and I think you'll get a better education (here). It has a higher standard of curriculum than MSU."
But U-M communication senior Beverly Day does not want MSU students to think that all U-M students think alike.
"I think it's very rare for a state to have two very reputable universities," Day said. "Michigan State has some excellent departments and vice versa. It just depends on what you're looking for in an education."
"Seriously speaking, I think that in a lot of areas, Michigan State University has proven itself to be a leader," said Walter Harrison, executive director of university relations at U-M.
However, Harrison said he

See MSU, U-M DEBATE, p.2

The uR-I conducted an informal survey recently to find out just what MSU and U-M students really think about each other. Approximately 30 students from each school were polled. Here is a sampling of the questions asked, and the results:

•In terms of educational excellence among Big Ten schools, how would you rank MSU? In the top three? Average? Lowest?

24 U-M students ranked MSU "average."

4 U-M students placed MSU in the "Top Three" category.

1 U-M student rated it "lowest."

16 MSU students ranked MSU in the "Top Three" category.

14 MSU students considered MSU an "average" school.

2 MSU students placed MSU in the "lowest" category.

•In terms of educational excellence among Big Ten schools, how would you

rank U-M? The categories are the same.

All U-M students ranked their school in the "Top Three" category.

27 MSU students placed U-M in the "Top Three" category.

3 said U-M is an "average" school.

1 MSU student said U-M belongs in the "lowest" category.

•U-M students. Did you ever consider attending MSU?

19 U-M students said yes.

12 said no.

•MSU students. Did you ever consider attending U-M?

15 MSU students said yes.

17 said no.

•U-M students, if you were offered a free ride to MSU, would you take it?

19 Wolverines said no.

11 said yes, they would attend MSU.

1 U-M student said maybe.

•MSU students, if you were offered a free ride to U-M, would you take it?

20 Spartans said yes.

12 said no, they would not attend U-M.

However, Harrison said he believes that overall, the University of Michigan still surpasses MSU in terms of academic excellence.

"I think that the University of Michigan and Michigan State compete nationally with the best ... it may be that we compete just a tad higher," Harrison said, adding U-M has become the Ivy League school of the Midwest.

However, it's comments like Elie's and Beckerman's that stick with MSU students and set them off on tangents, despite the compliments of Day and Harrison.

"They think they're so much better than us," said MSU sophomore Jodi Hassen, who gets annoyed at the saying, "Oh, so you weren't good enough to go to U-M," when she tells people she is from MSU.

"I think they're more stuck up than we are."

And MSU sophomore Pam Marko says she has her own personal opinion of U-M students.

"They look like they're all throwbacks from the sixties," Marko said. "They seem more serious and everyone here seems so laid back."

MSU business management sophomore Mark Melling says U-M students may study more, but they're clueless as to what is happening in the real world.

"They all have their heads buried in their books instead of looking out and seeing what's happening in the world," Melling said. "I think I'd rather be a 3.0 and have fun instead of a 4.0 and no social life."



uR-I editors show they are willing to sell out objectivity for a slam on the slimy Wolverines with this illustration. If you gotta problem with this, we cordially invite you to eat chain. Go State!

uR-I NETWORK JACK WHEATLEY

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Page Three

The Second Front Page

Coming Out Day offers a chance to express repressed feelings

by JULIE M. KAMINSKI
UR-I Correspondent

Today marks "Coming Out Day" for MSU's gay and lesbian community, a day in which many students will take the first step toward being honest with feelings many have ignored or denied for a lifetime.

Phil Duran, co-president of the campus Lesbian/Gay Council, said the event is intended to help people feel better about themselves and to publicly express their sexual orientation.

It's a personal challenge.

"We're breaking the silence of the stereotype," Duran said. "Everyone is fearful, and we just want them to know that we want to be their friend."

Duran said it's hard to tell just how many people will "come out" today since it is such an intensely personal decision.

The trauma of the experience depends on the environment a person was brought up in, Duran said.

"If you were brought up in a conservative environment where people didn't talk a lot it can be difficult," Duran said. "Some people in different living situations like fraterni-

ties or strange floors in dorms have a hard time being open, too.

"Yet it's easy for others," Duran continued. "The council is a place where people can come and make contact, and know it's a place where they can be themselves."

The council has offices in Room 442 in the Union.

Anti-gay sentiment, which has surfaced in past years at MSU in the form of counter-demonstrations and last year in the strangely coincidental burning of a homosexual Holden Hall resident's room, does not seem to deter people from "coming out," he said.

"The university said (the fire) was a coincidence," Duran said. "From that we chose not to look at it only as a negative, but we used it as an opportunity to establish a dialogue with the administration. We're really making progress."

"I think what we have seen is that incident tended to do is bring the community together by strengthening us, and making people angry."

Program coordinators will distribute balloons and buttons to publicize today's event.

Duran said it is important for

lesbians and gays to realize their true feelings. The group sponsors rap sessions throughout the year so people can discuss feelings that otherwise would be trapped inside of them.

"We will probably have a dance or party that night, besides talking to one-to-one with people, on an individual basis," Duran said.

"Coming Out Day" was inspired by the gay rights march in Washington D.C. in October of 1987. Over 600,000 people attended that event, making it the largest gay rights demonstration ever, and the largest march since the famous civil rights march that concluded with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s "I Have A Dream" speech.

"Coming Out Day" has been celebrated across the country annually for the last three years.

"We are always well received," Duran said. "Now that we have managed to open a positive dialogue with the MSU faculty, it looks like this year everything will go over more positively."

The council sponsors a rap session every Sunday night at 6:15 in the Union's Purdue Other events during the week include:

•Gay support groups Monday and Tuesday nights at 7.

•A bisexual support group for men and women Wednesday nights at 7.

The council, which will celebrate its 20th anniversary at MSU this April, has approximately 100 active members. The council is an activity branch of the ASMSU Funding Board, and receives a portion of the student government's \$4.50 per term student tax.

WHITE MAKES RIGHT?

We certainly don't think so. That's why the UR-I is encouraging minority students to help us white-bread folk put out a product sensitive and representative of MSU's diverse community.

So if you're black, yellow, purple or orange, call us to get on board.

Well, maybe not the purple guys...

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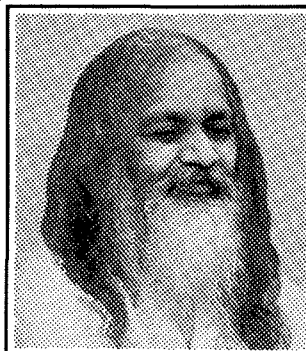
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Op:

This legislation drives us crazy

Lawmakers going wrong way on this one-way street

A three-bill package now being considered on the floor of the Michigan House of Representatives would prohibit most 16- and 17-year-old high school dropouts from having a drivers license.

Easily one of the most ludicrous pieces of legislation we've ever heard of.

The bills, introduced by Reps. Gerald Law, Michael Nye and Phillip Hoffman, are yet another example of an issue the uR-I loves to harp on — personal freedom.

We don't need to have our noses rubbed in the fact that the rising dropout rate is detrimental not only to the individual but to society as well.

Obviously, it benefits a society to have an educated populace — but at what cost?

The price of personal freedoms, especially for the financially strapped?

Phooey. State laws stipulate that:

A. You have to go to school until you're 16, and...

B. When you turn 16, you can legally drive.

What's it going to be, folks? Can they or can't they?

Unfortunately many teenagers are forced to drop out of school to get a job at 16 or 17 because their family endures economic hardship.

As Rep. Nelson Saunders said last week in an Education Committee hearing on the subject, "If they drop out there's the possibility they may want to be engaged in legal employment and that legal employment may not be found near their home."

Punishing dropouts by revoking or withholding their drivers license is not going to coerce them to return to school. A student dropping out may not even have access to a car, so that course of action may be worthless.

This legislative package is a waste of valuable time for representatives and senators who could instead be focusing on legitimate proposals to improve this state's educational system.

Between drinking coffee and dozing off in the newly-modeled state house, they might even find some time left for thinking about how

to keep tuition down or improve the faltering K-12 system!

And besides being a detriment to individual freedom, the new law would be ineffective.

Although supporters cite West Virginia statistics indicating that a similar law was effective in reducing the state's dropout rate by almost one-third, we can't believe that the threat of losing a license would be capable of changing someone's mind over something as important as dropping out of school.

And who's to say it would work here? This ain't West Virginia as anyone who's heard the dialect could tell you. And while Michigan is largely a rural state, it still is a more urbanized state with mass transit systems capable of transporting dropouts to the inner-city jobs they usually forsake school for.

Lest we forget the lesson of the school finance proposals, — a study in lawmakers passing the buck to voters to avoid getting the blame for

raising the state sales tax — observers indicate lawmakers won't be willing to put their necks on the line to educate today's students. By putting two proposals on the ballot, they've created an air of confusion that ensures the defeat of both and leaves us in the same pickle barrel we started in.

The people of this state might not foot the bill on their own initiative. It's time for the legislature to stop playing political football and take some decisive action.

Action that would help students stay in school to get their diploma.

Action that would help, not hinder financially-strapped individuals.

Action that would make a difference.

Taking the driving privilege away is not such an action.

Read Op every week
uR-I



uR-I artwork/JESSE PICKERILL

GREEDHEADS!

Stones offer no satisfaction

While we realize Mick and the boys are getting into their old age (except for Bill Wyman who's getting into some young age at home) and need a nest egg, we are disgusted that in the course of gathering moss the British quintet would gouge their fains in a stadium tour at \$35 a crack. THEN, they go and get a corporate sponsor — Budsewer — to help foot the bill! Some where along the way the fans got screwed big-time.

The Stones could have kept ticket prices down or skipped the Eric Clapton/Steve Winwood-style sell-out as a classy farewell to fans.

Instead they decided to line their silk pockets once again.

What do they knead all that dough for, anyway?

Bail money for Jerry Hall? Malarkey.

the University Reporter-Intelligencer

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The Reporter-Intelligencer is published weekly and distributed without charge to the MSU community and environs. So there.

LETTERS: you got 'em and we want 'em

But we have a few conditions, first:

The uR-I encourages all of its readers to participate in the dissemination of information and knowledge across campus. We are accepting viewpoints, letters to the editor or other commentary for publication on this page. Only with your ideas will the uR-I truly be able to serve as the springboard for intelligent, creative and otherwise stimulating discourse.

Please send letters typed and double-spaced (or on a macintosh disk) to our offices at 142 Gunson the Friday before publication.

Letters may be edited for clarity and become property of the uR-I. They will not be returned.

So get cracking.

Elrick on wrong FOX scent

Dear uR-I,

Your paper is, like, awesome. But hey, dude, in response to your "Gothic rockers fulfill expectations at Fox engagement" (27 Sept) article that ragged on the FOX, you are magnificently out of line. GET A CLUE: The FOX has it's faults — A) it's commercial and B) it still plays Michael Jackson — but it's the closest thing to a progressive music station there is for Metro-Detroit. Maybe the true shitterbrains was the "cheering" author sitting behind "shitterbrains;" besides, not everybody wants to be a conform-

ist-geek "from suburbia in white faces, black leather..." BONUS!

— Concerned James Madison

That's right, we Vlad

Who the hell are you, Dave Weier? Instead of pissing and moaning about how you don't like WDBM, get a job. Great technique. Get people to listen to you (because if you want it, it's obviously important for the world to hear) by setting yourself above them and alienating everyone else. Sorry for not having your taste. I might as well off myself now because I can never be like you. You make me sick.

The article next to your column was titled "Ted White's Ego Overshadow's His Talent." I am surprised that his ego can find space on the same page as yours, or that you would let it. That's big of you to acknowledge that the sports and news people are competent. They must be doing cartwheels.

As for the rest of the uR-I. You must be very proud of yourselves for getting front page scoops like abortions being controversial or students not liking tuition hikes. What's next? Khaddafy is a little odd? Perles is overweight? Or some other real shocker.

Go out and find where Johnnie D. is vacationing and see how much it costs or some other abuse of university funds and tell people about it. Don't just whine.

Keep cranking out the papers every Wednesday, your buddy,

— Vlad the Impaler

(Ed Note: Sounds like

we got some kind of love/hate relationship here, haven't we Vlad, you sly dog. Thanks for the suggestions, but now take one from us. If you think you're so bad (you do call yourself the Impaler), why not use your real name? Otherwise, we have a date set up with you and Sgt. Mac the Meathead.)

uR-I's the same old shit

This is an alternative to *The State News*? It's just the same old liberal shit. Very disappointed.

I can't wait for a real alternate newspaper.

— Scott Goolsby

Every day? No way!

Okay, Okay, you are on the right track! I look forward to your paper every Wednesday. I only wish it was a daily. But, I'm sure you need all week to get those excellent views out on black and white (grey?). I read your paper front and back, not like that other paper! What's the name? I can't place it. Oh well. I support Elricks's view on abortion. Right on!!! Lash helps me sort through Bush's lies. Keep up the Intelligencer!!

Watch your step, uR-I

Dear uR-I:

The idea of starting a truly alternative and independent newspaper on campus is a great idea. However I hope your paper won't fall into the same category as that other campus paper as being liberal or left-wing.

At the same time I'm not saying your paper should be conservative or right wing like say, the *Dartmouth Review*. A good idea would be to have an alternative newspaper that would take neither a left or right wing stance. Present a wide variety of ideas and opinions, a libertarian paper, per se. Cover different stories other than ones that the newspaper writes about every day (I.E. Abortion, racism on campus, etc.) I'm by no means saying these issues are unimportant, but there are many stories out there that are left

uncovered. (I.e. White House prostitution ring, election fixing, Ron Paul and other third party candidates etc.)

Things I like about uR-I are that you encourage letters, your entertainment page (especially Dave Weier's "DBM Stand for Dumb" article), Geek of the Week and your up-and-coming "Out and About" section. Thanks for your time, good luck and please respond if you find the time.

— Jeff Hanert

From LASH, p.7

idea of getting a good general education in my first two years so I could specialize later and not be just another technically-trained, semi-literate nerd the rest of my life!" he howls.

"MSU's been noted, nationwide, for its general ed program," I says proudly.

"Yeah," he grumbles sourly. "And your pals in the administration have been gutting general ed ever since I got up here. They've already torpedoed humanities and nat sci, Lash! How long's it going to be before ATL's head is on the chopping block? On top of that, they stick anywhere from 300 all the way to 600 of us in a big lecture hall and have the gall to call that 'education!'"

"Hold it right there, Wardo!" I barks. "You go making a charge like that, you oughta have your facts straight. It wasn't too long ago I read a statement by the chairman of the trustees where he said: 'Michigan State has always been proud of the ratio of professors to students on our campus.'"

"Doesn't that tell you MSU's interested in providing you attendees with a quality education? What do you have to say to that?"

"I'd say he's been so busy helping the administration Ann Arborize the 'U,' he answers, "he's out of touch with what's going on in our classrooms."

HEY KIDS!

It's a neat-o reader response card!

So are we headed in the right track?

Please let us know, send this card to our offices at 142 Gunson St. with any criticisms, comments or suggestions or other things you believe will enhance our ability to serve the MSU community. Remember, this is your paper, too.

Fumbled opportunity? No, loose ball lands in MSU end zone



M.L. Elrick

Those were the days.
Grand days indeed, in which a young lad sat, glued to the TV.
Adults and Altes beer all around.
Michigan in the big game.
Uncles and other older-type males:
...Watching...
...Waiting...
...Praying.
But, hand-off or pass: it never mattered.
Minnesota or USC: it never mattered.
Big Ten title or Rose Bowl: it never mattered.
Michigan would choke.
Everytime.
No exceptions.
Charles White fumbles on the One! Touchdown? Arrgh!
Screams and disappointment all around.

Hot Damn!
Yes, back then I was a Michigan fan.
True Blue.
Go Bo.
Neat helmets.
I was a young and impressionable lad in my early teens.
And Michigan was an old and proven national powerhouse a century old.
Tradition.
Prestige.
Power.
Brilliant players and big plays from the option.
Leach.
Huckleby.
Phooey.
Where was the Department of Social Services to take me away from my evil parents — the ones who allowed me to grow up in this putrid environment where a young Michigan fan might not be encouraged to root for the Maize and Blue, but was left alone to rot his mind?
Just where the hell were the social workers?
Just where the hell was the understanding child psychologist?
Just where the hell was Muddy Waters when I needed him?
I remember now, it was the U-M-MSU game!
Michigan Stadium: packed.

Bob Ufer: Inflaming the eardrums.
Halftime: less than two minutes away.
Somewhere in that sea of Maize and Blue a young boy marvels: "It's almost the half and Harlan Huckleby hasn't fumbled yet!"
Hand-off: off the middle.
Huckleby: ball loose.
Fans: seeing blood.
Somewhere in that sea of Maize and Blue the crowd:
...Jeered...
...Scorned...
...Hated.
Hated a young boy seating directly to the right of another young boy.
A young boy who moments before had hexed the revered HH.
A young boy who watched as his friend was accused of a sin he himself had committed.
A young boy who wasn't about to fess up and began to see the Green and White in a different light.
Years: pass.
Choices: made.
Young lad: Michigan State.
Since coming to East Lansing the lad has, at times, questioned his decision.
But a brief chat with any one of the 35,000 pretentious, self-serving, egotistical Wolverines absolves all doubt. Those fans learned narrow-

minded nate at their alma mater, along with other wonderful traits.
What are you guys up to there in Ann Arbor?
"Greatness!"
Where do you want to go when you graduate?
"Where the beautiful people are!"
What do you want to do with your life?
"Be rich!"
What does this last meandering have to do with a young, misguided fan and Michigan football?
What else; a funky analogy.
Game: life.
Field position: turning point.
Final score: MSU 1, U-M 0.
It's been said before, but bears repeating: When all is said and done, Blue and Yellow make Green.

Promise:

if Screw-M wins this Saturday, the uR-I will — on these hallowed pages — say we're sorry (that they're such dorks, that is).
OK?

If you want to talk about waste, this is the place, holmes



David Stearns

Let's talk about a university that consistently raises tuition.
Let's talk about wasted money.
Let's talk about MSU.
Two weeks ago, I went to the

Instructional Media Center to rent a 35mm camera for a photojournalism class this term.
The camera (actually in good condition) cost \$21.80 to rent for the term.
But I only had \$22.00 on me.
Realizing the financial straights the university is in, and being a charitable sort of fellow, old moneybags told the receptionist or clerk or whatever to keep the \$0.20 change.
What a Vanderbilt! What a Rockefeller! What a... Trump!
A week went by.
Early one morning, I went to the mailbox to garner the morning's Reporter-Intelligencer hate mail, bills and assorted charge card advertisements.
But there was one envelope that just didn't look right. It was white, on MSU stationery and had two small bumps protruding from the middle.

"What?" I stammered. "Did I already default on another student loan?"
I quickly ripped open the envelope. I couldn't believe what I saw.
No letter. No nuttin'. Just two dimes taped to a small piece of paper. The change from my Nikkor-mat.
The "letter" cost the university \$0.25 to mail.
What honesty!
What a waste.
Sure, I appreciate the gesture. But students are out there getting hassled over minute amounts of short term loan money that was maybe a week late, and they're sending back dimes?
If every student gave the university an extra \$0.20 in change, it'd add a whopping \$8000 or more to the coffers. Enough to buy the football team a few more steak dinners or to

wash a few more university cars.
That's not even mentioning the money spent on the envelope, tape and labor.
That would be enough to pay for...my tuition for a year or two.
Yeah, that's it.
Next time, do me a favor.
Keep the change.

FED UP?

WELL, QUIT PISSING AND MOANING — WRITE US! SEE THE READER RESPONSE CARD ON P.5.
HAVE AT IT!!!



Geek of the Week

Sorry Jim, you shifty bastard, but you've been selected as the uR-I's Geek of the Week. It's money-grubbing opportunists like you that inspired this spot — and to weeping, sniveling, snot-eating cockroaches like you we dedicate this space.

Your testimony last week was an example to us all — don't do the crime if you can't do the time.

Apologies to Baretta.

Heritage USA won't be the same without you, but in your honor, we suggest they create a new-boy-in-the-joint-takes-a-shower ride. Should be something like bumper cars, if you know what I mean Jimbo.

Well, it looks like you're finally going to get it in the end (pardon us). AMEN!

Lash Larrowe

Ann Arborizing the 'U'

I'm pushing my cart up to the checkout at the supermarket, this hungry-looking beggar's looking longingly at the stuff I've got piled in there: my usual delmonicos, South African lobster tails, Polish hams, jumbo shrimp and, now the U.S. and the Russkies are pals, a dozen jars of Black Sea caviar.

"Gee, Lash," he says admiringly. "You're sure living high on the hog these days, now you're retired. The 'U' was really good to you, wasn't it?"

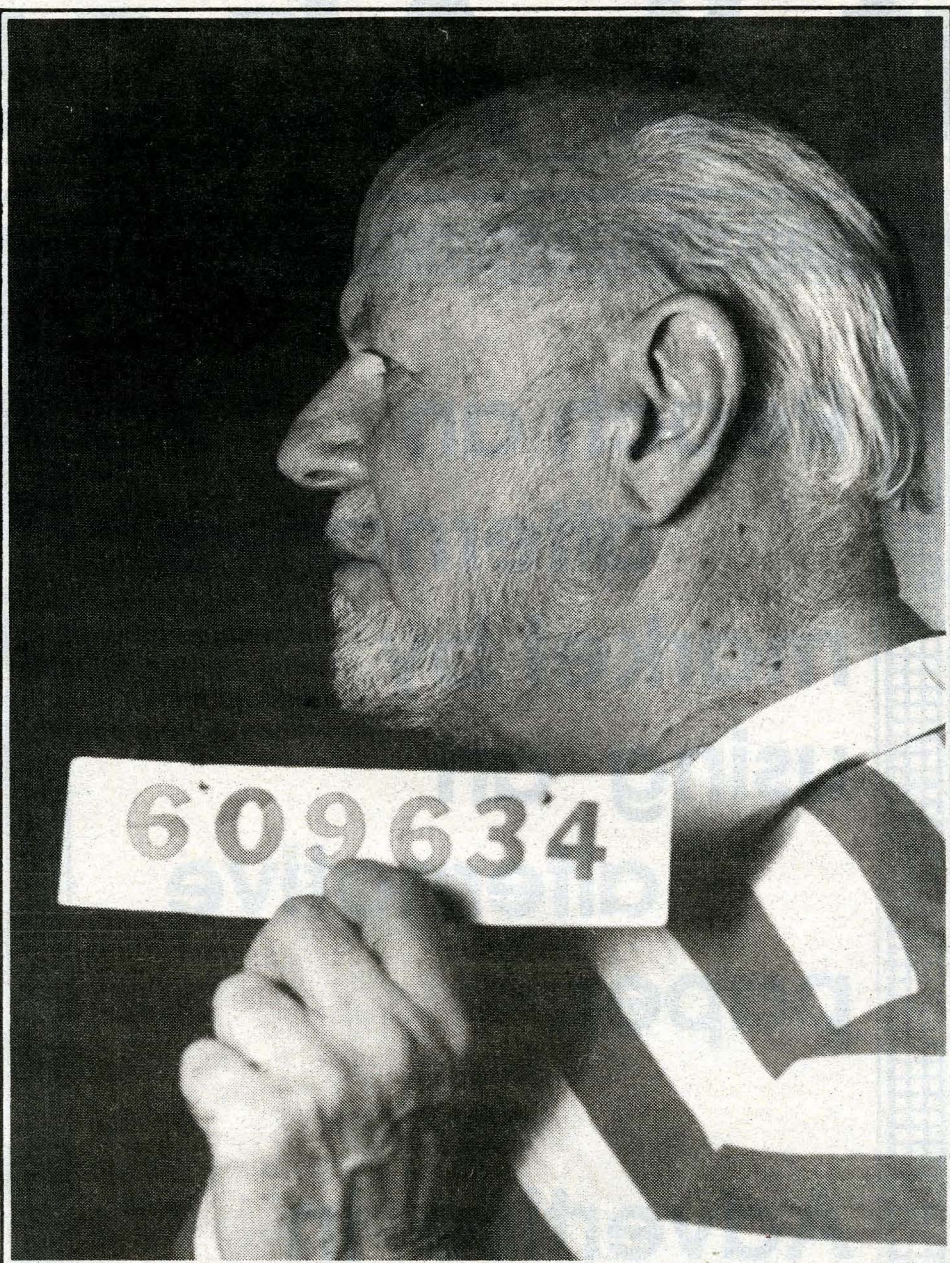
"I hate to criticize," he adds, "but you really shouldn't park in the handicappers' space, even if you're driving a Rolls."

"It was the only space anywhere near the door," I tells him huffily. "The closest other spot was at least a hundred feet away. Anyway, how come you're working here for minimum wage? You told me you come from a middle-class family, right?"

"The 'U's been raising tuition every year since I've been up here," he answers. "my family can't afford my schooling anymore unless I work part-time to pay for at least some of my way."

"In fact," he goes on, "I may have to drop out for a year, save every cent I earn so I can come back and finish up. I sure won't be eating what you've got in that cart, either, Lash. It's gonna be hamburger and day-old bread for me."

"There's no free lunch, sonny," I says unfeelingly. "Do you remember what our new president told the board of turkeys when they hired him? He promised 'em he's gonna make



Michigan State a world-class university, OK?

"That costs big bucks," I adds. "Where's the 'U' gonna get it? Blanchard says he wants to be the education governor, sure, but he's like Bush, he ain't comin' up with the coin, either, so if the 'U's gonna get the cash, it's gotta come from you atten-

dees."

"I can understand that," he says. "But does the 'U' have to raise tuition twice as much as the increase in the cost of living year after year? What's the 'U' need all that money for, anyway?"

"Faculty salaries and equipment," I explains. "If the 'U's really going to

make it into the big time, research-wise, it's gotta hire itself some superstars. That means top dollar, OK? Then, they gotta get 'em research equipment and a light teaching load so's they can spend their time in the lab."

"Where do we students come in, Lash?" he asks. "Are these superstars going to teach, so students can benefit from their being at State?"

"A big-time school don't ask superstars to teach," I tells him. "Oh, maybe a graduate seminar now and then, where a few advanced grad students get to listen to what the prof's working on at the moment, sure."

"I wouldn't plan on getting no course from no superstar, though, if I was you," I says. "Their time's too valuable to waste it teaching undergraduates."

"I'm beginning to think I've been had by the 'U'," he says ruefully as he puts the groceries in the Rolls, taking care not to scratch anything. "I was admitted at Ann Arbor, too, but I came here because Michigan State had the reputation of being a user-friendly school, where you could get courses from real profs."

"My older brother went to Michigan, and he told me he hardly ever saw a professor in all the time he was an undergraduate," he goes on. "The profs were too busy with their research and their consulting. Practically all his courses were taught by grad students."

"The way they treat undergraduates at Ann Arbor's a scandal," I murmurs piously.

"The way MSU's going, Lash," he yelps, "it'll be 'Ann Arbor West' in a few years!"

"I came here because I liked the

See LASH, p. 5

Where does all this crap come from!

lovely village?

Gauche to the max, Muffy.

Speaking of good breeding like they have in Birmingham, we were sad to hear about the death of our favorite horse since Mr. Ed, **Secretariat**. But did it merit front page coverage in every newspaper in the country? Oat-breath got more than his five minute's of fame and all he ever did was run around on a dirt track somewhere! What a life.

"Secretariat leaves an innumerable amount of fillies and mares that he sired after being put out to stud. Funeral ceremonies were closed to the public and held at an Alpo factory somewhere in Eastern Pennsylvania. We'll miss ya, Sec."

On the subjects of purpose, we can find no good one for the **University of Michigan student body** — but we can find a good reason for them to be summarily forced to wear green-and-white (or any) underwear for a year.

A recent *Michigan Daily* piece (you figure out of what) captioned an AP photo of students standing in line at Student Bull Shit (your one-stop book price-rape center) saying MSU students buying books might get out of line in time for classes, and subsequently asked 'Since when could MSU students read?' or some such rot.

Well, after someone read this blasphemy to the Provoc, we had

them read to us the writing on the wall. Apparently, after being freed from the family attic after all those years, the Wolverines Weenies finally found a sense of humor!

Now if only they'd get their heads out of those gearhead books and rectal passages they'd see that MSU really are a institution of highered learning.

'Nuf said?

Hey, you read the *Lansing State Journal* lately? Great rag, er, ahem, paper.

Front page article says something to the effect of MSU valuing quality of education over quality of athletics.

The Provoc was glad to see this, since it gives us a chance to blast some grape shot in the direction of Doug "The Grinch Who Stole Soccer" or "Jacob Marley, Esq." Weaver, John "I'm Late for My Flight" DiBiaggio, and George "Hey Sally-brudder, where's my tan jacket" Perles.

Seems they expect us to believe that crap! The only parallel is that football tickets went up this year, as did tuition.

Let's face it, when was the last time a world-class professor offered big bucks and a contract extension to stay on at MSU?

If only George Will, Eric Fromm or a host of others been offered a better gig in Green Bay!



The Provocateur

El nino is back, letting fly yet another gob of spit in your general direction. He's got good aim, so if you know what's good for you, you'll play the 1950's air defense game and duck and cover. Here's the first chunky tidbit...

Number one on the Provoc's hit list this week are the new awnings outside of Espresso Royale, Rick's American Cafe and Beggar's Banquet. Who chose those putrid colors, and where can we find him? What's this; the Birmingham-ization of downtown E.L.? Will Tally Hall soon invade our

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shots at anyone
he thinks he can
outrun (or who
has an injury).
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you...
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Hey, MSU!
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in the ass...
only in the
ur-ll!

Out & About

Each week the uR-I features a section called "Out and About" (look at the top of the page if you doubt us, mush-face).

In this section you, the valued reader, will find a listing of local and other happenings ranging from bands playing in nightclubs to plays on and off campus to art exhibits.

We will also strive to include concert updates for venues in the East Lansing, Detroit and Ann Arbor areas.

But, as we are relatively unhip in some areas, please give us the skinny on any other hoppin' places, up-coming events, etc.... We want to include them in this fresh section, dig?

So if you know of a groovin' joint, spread the wealth and let us know, holmes. Contact our Gunson Street offices (on a 3x5 card or neatly written on lined paper) by Thursday of the week prior to publication.

House parties are fair game, too. We talked about ours here in the first issue and got 200 people! Last week's 208 Bailey/Laughing Hyenas bash packed em in, too. But, hey, don't tell us if you gots brew and how much it will cost, 'cause we'll print it and the uninvited John Law will show up.

Got it? Good. Let us have at it...

EAST LANSING area:

Boars Head Theatre

Oct. 12-14: *Educating Rita*. \$12-14 admission, depending on show date. MSU students with ID can purchase up to 2 \$5 rush tickets.

Connxtions Comedy Club

Oct. 11-14: T.C. Hatter. \$7-\$9 admission, depending on show date.
Oct. 17-21: John Pinney
Oct. 24-28: John Rathbone.
Oct. 31-Nov. 4: Leo DuFour.

The Green Door

Oct. 11-14: Toys. No cover.

The Landshark

Oct. 13: The Chisel Brothers, with Girl Thornetta. \$2.
Oct. 20: The Wayouts. \$2.

The Silver Dollar Saloon

Oct. 11-15: Krueleez. \$3.

Wharton Center

Great Hall

Oct. 14: MSU Symphony Orchestra. No admission.

Festival Stage

Oct. 14 and 15, 20 and 21: *Richard III*. \$7.

metro DETROIT area:

Detroit Institute of Arts

October: Ansel Adams exhibit

Detroit Historical Museum

Oct. 13 through the end of the year (open Wednesday through Sunday): *From Outpost to Industry: Detroit the early years, 1701-1901*. Voluntary donation.

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Fox Theatre

Oct. 11: Gordon Lightfoot. \$20.
Oct. 14: George Benson and the Yellow Jackets. \$22.50.

St. Andrew's Hall

Oct. 12: Jimmy Cliff. \$14.50 in advance, \$17 at the door.
Oct. 13: Picasso Trigger. \$5.
Oct. 14: Butthole Surfers. \$11.50 in advance, \$14 at the door.
Oct. 17: King Swamp.
Oct. 18: Texas
Oct. 20: Nancy Griffin
Oct. 25: Crazyhead
Oct. 27: Front Line Assembly

Soup Kitchen

Oct. 13 and 14: Charles Wilson
Oct. 20: Sean Phillips
Oct. 21: Blue Front Persuaders

ANN ARBOR:

Bird of Paradise

Oct. 13 and 14: Gail Barker and the Cat's Meow, 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. No cover.
Oct. 13 and 14: Patty O'Connor, 9:30 p.m. \$5.

Blind Pig

Oct. 13 and 14: Otis Rush. \$8.
Oct. 20: Tracey Lee and the Leonards. \$4.
Oct. 21: The Blasters. \$10.

Hill Auditorium

Oct. 13 and 14: *A Live Mind*. \$6.
Oct. 20 and 21: *Ode of Toad* Hall. \$4 and \$6.

Michigan Theatre

Oct. 13: Red Hot Chili Peppers

Rick's American Cafe (the other one, dude)

Oct. 13 and 14: Duke Tumatoo. \$4.
Oct. 20 and 21: The Regular Boys. \$4.

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line the
bottom of my
lizard's cage
with that
other paper!"
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your
lizard
happy,
read
the
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See Dick stuck with that BeeGees record set...
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BIG BABY

BY C. BURNS
© 1988

...SO SAM AND TONY BUILT THIS REALLY NEAT NEW FORT AND THEY THOUGHT IT WOULD BE REALLY NEAT TO SPEND THE NIGHT IN IT! NEAT, HUH?

THAT NIGHT IN SAM AND TONY'S FORT...

COME ON, TONY! NO MORE SCARY STORIES... I'M GETTING SPOOKED!

LET ME FINISH! I'M JUST GETTING TO THE GOOD PART!



...SO ANYWAY, HE'S TRAPPED DOWN IN THE CAVE AND HE'S JUST FOUND HIS FRIEND... DEAD!



THE BATTERIES IN HIS FLASHLIGHT ARE GETTING WEAK SO HE CAN BARELY SEE, BUT IT LOOKS LIKE HIS FRIEND HAS BEEN CLAWED TO DEATH!



CLAWED BY WHAT? JUST THEN HE HEARS THIS FUNNY SOUND... LIKE SCRATCHING OR SOMETHING... AND GETTING CLOSER... CLOSER!



HE TRIES TO SEE WHAT IT IS, BUT ALL OF A SUDDEN HIS FLASHLIGHT GOES DEAD! IT'S BLACK! PITCH BLACK! AND THE SCRATCHING SOUND IS GETTING CLOSER... CLOSER!



UH... TONY? ARE YOU MAKING THAT SOUND?

SCRATCH SCRATCH



NEXT: DOGGY DEEDS!

REVIEWS . . .

Stay home from *In Country*

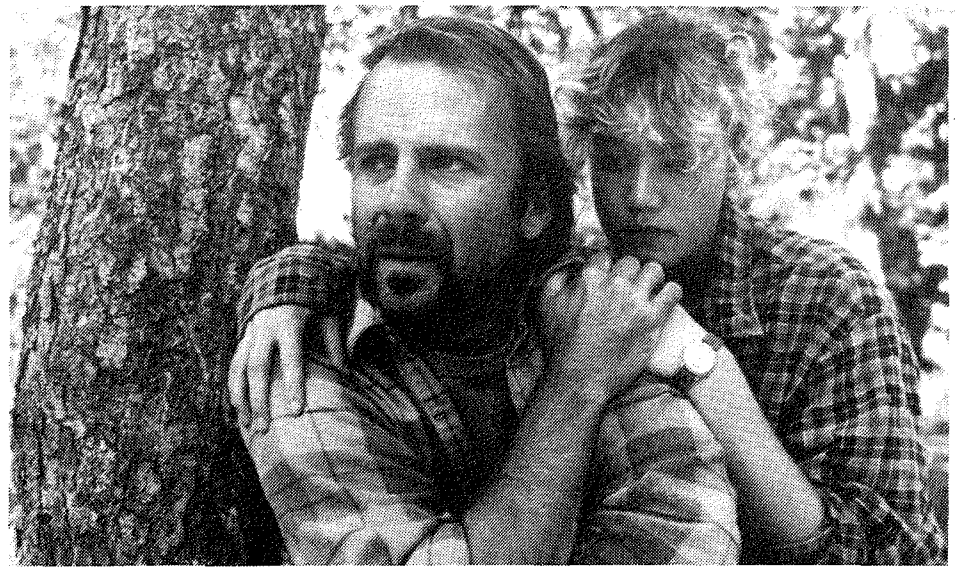
Vietnam stunk.

Everything this film is telling us we already know. It would seem the only person who doesn't know is the central character of "In Country," an unnecessary film from director Norman Jewison.

What we have here is a plotless character sketch that doesn't seem to know which character to sketch. Isn't it natural to assume the film's major focus would be placed on the top-billed star, Bruce Willis? After all, his smiling face does grace the latest issue of *Us* magazine. Perhaps in a very confused way the film's main

focus is on Willis.

"In Country" is about Samantha, a young girl who becomes obsessed to gain an understanding of the Vietnam War upon discovering a box of letters written by her father, who died in Vietnam shortly before her birth. Willis plays Samantha's uncle and guardian, Emmet Smith. Emmet is a chain-smoking, unemployed and very troubled Vietnam veteran. His war-related problems (headaches, flashbacks and a rash which may be the result of Agent Orange) serve to fuel Samantha's quest for understanding whereas his disclosure of the Vietnam experience serves as a means of



Frank Zappa look-alike Bruce Willis (shown here with Emily Lloyd), turns in another shoddy performance in *In Country* discovery.

So, although Willis' character is important, he acts as a support for change within Samantha.

"Keep that word 'support' away from Willis,"

someone from the Warner Brothers publicity department must have said. "I wanna see block-buster super star in front of his name." It just doesn't work here.

From TAFT, p.12

group of MSU theatre students, led by Jay O'berski, a sophomore from Troy who said the idea came while writing a song in high school with several buddies.

"The band (called the Clam Diggers) was writing songs and one we called Taft," O'berski said. "We just turned it into a musical."

O'berski wrote the musical with five of his friends, including band

members Curtis Eller and Steve Robinson.

It's impossible to nail down a theme in any element of the production, be it costuming, music or dialogue. Politics definitely isn't one of them, O'berski said.

"I'm trying to be pretty apolitical," he said. "There's a lot of cut-throat stuff going on."

O'berski described the rock-opera aspect of the show, comparing it to the usual *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Rocky Horror Picture Show* and *Hair*.

Loaded fits those, and then again it doesn't. The 17 musical numbers in the play range in style from 50's rock to ballads to the Velvet Underground to George Clinton-style funk to a tango dance involving Taft and his Philippine-lover, Marquita Dos Huevos.

The song, titled "Rendezvous With Marquita," ends with some sort of passionate exchange involving jelly donuts. No cops here.

The costuming, conceived by MSU student Mardi Hurbis, is a cross between clothes worn in 1908 and 1969. A minimalist set includes this country's latest taboo — stomped on American flags.

"I hope Jesse Helms writes us," O'berski said.

The storyline portrays Taft as an unwilling participant in a campaign for

the presidency against the "villainous Democratic opponent," William Jennings Bryan.

"He's more or less pushed along, and while there's a lot of comedy, it's a terrible thing," O'berski said. "He's really naive. He doesn't want to be president, but he's pushed by factors out of his control."

The play authors actually didn't know much about Taft when they began writing a script. But as it turned out, their fictional account was surprisingly accurate. For example, their script included a bitchy wife named Helen — his real wife also was a crab, but was named Doris.

Their original script called for Taft making trips all over the place as he tries to stay out of the White House. In reality, Taft played more golf than any other president (except maybe Gerald Ford).

O'berski wasn't entirely sure why they were writing a song about him in the first place.

"It was always an inside joke," he said. "All we really knew about him was that he weighed 350 lbs. and got stuck in the bathtub once. In writing a musical, we tried to pick the most absurd person we could."

Taft is being played by MSU student Richard Earles, a 135-pounder who will be beefed, or shall we say, stuffed up for the production.

Sagina Varghese will portray the sultry Marquita. She called the musical bizarre.

"The people in it aren't the usual type," Varghese said. "Sometimes people are really kind of nervous to try something new. These guys are willing to take more risks. It's experimental."

The black comedy pushes Taft

through a dynamic transformation. He becomes as hardened and cynical as the people around him.

"He starts off so utterly naive and childish," O'berski said. "The ending is very tragic."

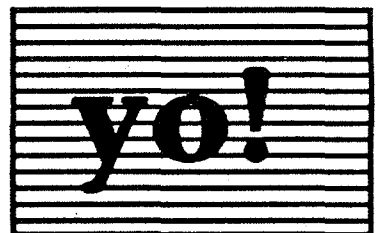
Loaded Down With Calm: The Saga of Taft opens Nov. 1 at the New Arena Theatre in the Fairchild Auditorium. The musical continues through Nov. 4.

O'berski said the musical is aimed at students and encourages all to attend. Currently they are awaiting funding from ASMSU's Funding Board.

"They would be madmen to turn us down," he said. "There's nothing like this in fine arts going on around here."

"The whole show is pretty bizarre and accessible, but people aren't going to wander out wondering what just happened," he said. "Sorority and fraternity people might even enjoy it, but it'll be weird enough for the eclectics."

And that's an absurdity in itself.



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Laugh if you want; Hyenas rock E.L. hard

by BETH CARTER
uR-I Music Correspondent

According to some maroon named Webster, a hyena is a carnivorous mammal living in Africa and Asia whose cry resembles a laugh.

It's fitting, then, that the **Laughing Hyenas**, a raw, hard carnivorous rock band from Ann Arbor, have a sound resembling a mad cat drinking Drano.

Friday night brought these madmen to East Lansing, where they ripped-out ear drums in a screaming, sweaty two-hour show on Bailey Street with local yokels **Just Say No** opening.

Lead vocalist John Brannon's "I-just-got-my-tonsils-out-and-haven't-recovered" crooning made the crowd thrash like a sweaty mass of spawning salmon.

"We started out in 1985," Brannon said. "Originally we're from Detroit, but we moved to Ann Arbor because our equipment kept getting stolen in Detroit. We lived on Cass Ave., you know, the gutter of Detroit."

The Laughing Hyenas are perhaps one of the only bands around influenced by plain-and-simple Darwinian logic.

"We're influenced by anyone that can survive, man, that's about the basic thing that we stand for, because it's so damn hard to keep going," Brannon said. "We like bands like **Howlin' Wolf**, **Muddy Waters**, and **John Lee Hooker**, like a lot of the ghetto blues bands. I'd rather listen to shit like that than a lot of what's happening today."



John Brannon

And just what does Brannon think is going on nowadays?

"Well, I just don't think we really fit in, we're just not 'today'," he said.

Following their Bailey Street gig the Hyenas moved on to a Saturday night show in Chicago with **Killdozer** and the **Didgits**.

A tour of Europe is on deck. The Hyenas will be playing in Germany, Belgium, Amsterdam and Vienna.

It's their first tour of Europe.

"Yeah, we're playing 21 shows in 24 days," Brannon said. "We're freakin'."

uR-I photo/BETH CARTER



Electric Rain falls in Faruk

uR-I photo/BETH CARTER

Talented Rain a psychedelic treat

by BARBRA CHEIMAN
uR-I Music Correspondent

A bolt of musical fusion sparked the audience with **Electric Rain's** performance at the Faruk Art Gallery last Saturday.

The group blended diverse

musical talents with rock, blues, jazz, funk and psychedelic influences. This eclectic combination sets **Electric Rain** apart from other East Lansing bands.

"Talent makes us sound different from the rest of the bands in town," said bassist Dave Gantenbein. "Ha. We're not your typical college band. Don't do Cure, Smiths and REM kinda stuff."

And that amounts to commercial suicide in this music-depraved town.

"We can't get into Rick's because we don't play REM!" said drummer Eric Walker.

In other words, if you don't fit the Rick's mold or are nonconformist in the slightest respect, forget it. It's about time for East Lansing's once cutting-edge live music outlet to shape up and feature bands with talent.



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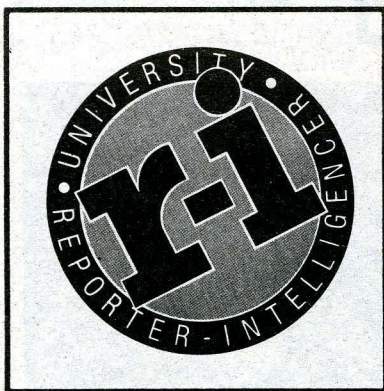
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Entertainment

Elvis Hitler: the middle four letters say it all

by ANGIE CAROZZO
and BARBRA CHEIMAN
uR-I Music Correspondents

FLINT — This Detroit-based band doesn't fit the stereotype of Neo-Nazi skinheads in their music or their attitudes. **Elvis Hitler** is the bastard son of a marriage between speed metal and rockabilly.

"Speed is important," Elvis Hitler said. "Speed represents the energy and the urgency. I like to cut away the fat and get down to the brass tacks."

The energy of Elvis Hitler's music shocked the audience at Flint's Hot Rock Cafe on Wednesday, Oct. 4. They kicked it off with their traditional opening song, "The Elvis Ripoff Theme."

The rhythm section captured the audience with their hypnotic beat. By the end of the first song Elvis Hitler rose to power and maintained it throughout the 45 minute show.

The Hot Rock Cafe audience consisted of about 50 swaying and slam-dancing their way on and around the stage. Most of them seemed like hardcore Elvis Hitler fans — dedicated enough to come to a show in the middle of the week.

"It's a Long Way From Berlin to Memphis" exemplifies their first album. The drummer, Damian Lang of Allen Park, delivers a hard-hitting beat and bassist Warren Dafever follows suit with his fingers screaming up and down the neck of the bass.

Hitler's vocals lend to the southern, rockabilly aspect of the song. As for the guitars, they provide the raunchy garage sound that the band's

first record is known for.

The best song in the set was "Ghouls." John Dafever of Livonia, playing feedback guitar, adds to the ominous sound that is established on their latest release, *Helbilly*.

Helbilly, on Restless Records, will be available in stores this week. It's a more collaborative effort than their last effort, *Disgraceland*, which was raw.

"The thrash-rockabilly lyrics," said Hitler, "are still takin' jabs at society in general, pokin' fun at stereotypical hillbillies."

"The album has a darker, mean spirit," John Dafever said. "It's gross, aggressive and violent. It represents the band."

While their new album shows their progress, their video for the song "Showdown" is typical of a hard-rock band.

"The video has a conceptual western theme filled with girls, bikes and guns," Elvis said. "It was designed for MTV."

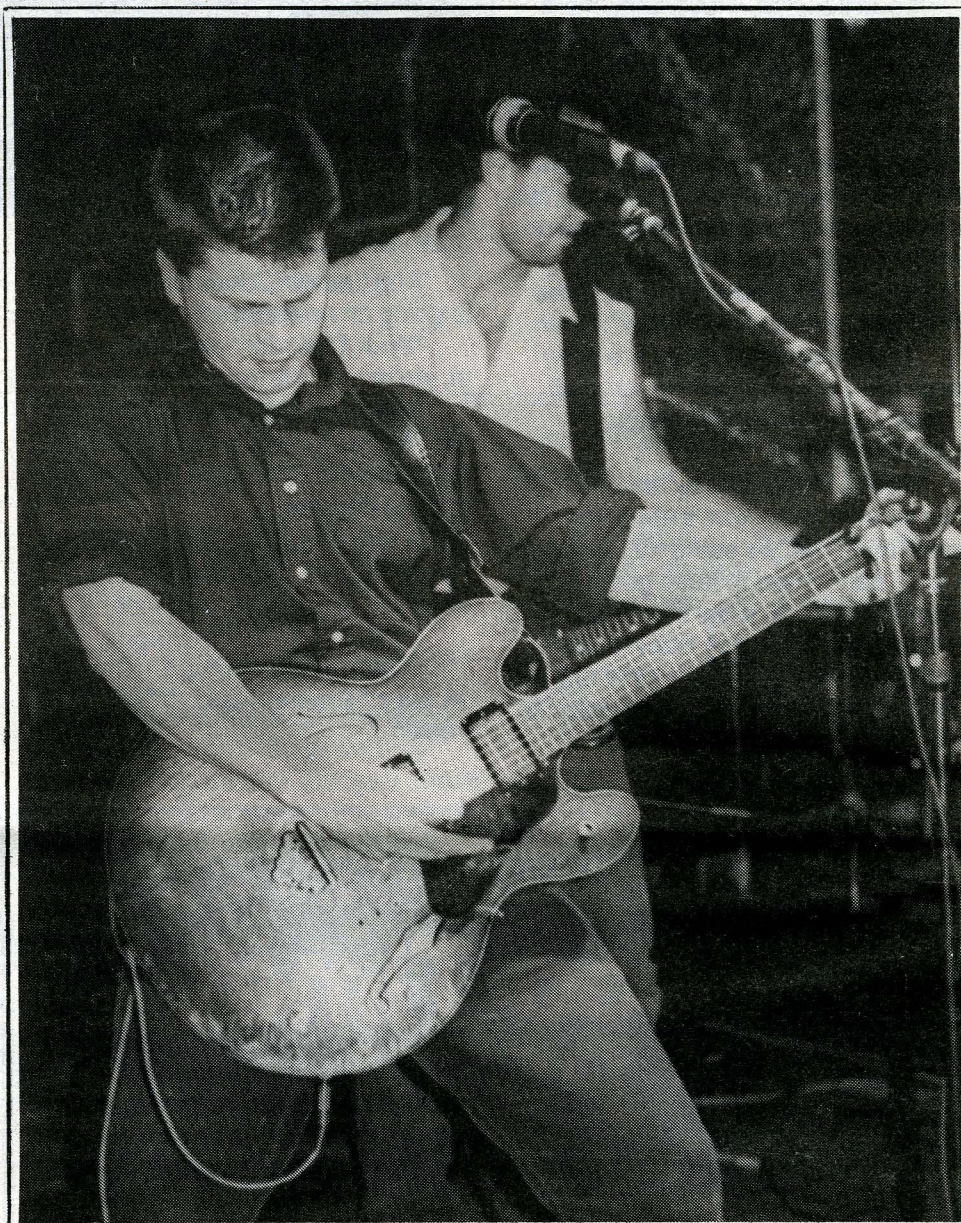
"You can't tell who's in there, there's so many people," drummer Lang said. "The band plays a small role. They show my nose, though."

But what everyone wants to know about Elvis Hitler is this: How did they get their name?

Hitler said the name is a dichotomy, representing love and hate. Actually, southerners who think the band is using Elvis' name in vain caused more controversy than using Hitler as a surname.

But Warren Dafever put it all in perspective.

"Well ya know," he said. "The middle four letters spell shit."



Elvis Hitler rises again in Flint

uR-I photo/Barbra Cheiman

Black comedy takes aim at chubby No. 27

by DAVID STEARNS
uR-I Theatre Correspondent

Absurd.

That's the only way to describe MSU's latest student-run production; a culty, musical rock-opera called *Loaded Down With Calm: The Saga of Taft*.

The two-act show is being produced by a completely independent student theatre group calling itself the **Rude Mechanical Underground**. It's introduced by Woodie Guthrie as a documentary based on meticulous research into the life of this country's 27th president and most rotund leader, William Howard Taft.

That they introduce it as such is almost as absurd as the concept of a musical about President Taft in the first place.

The musical was written by a

See TAFT, p.10

Cast members tango their way through a rehearsal.
uR-I/Lewis Geyer II

