

SECTION C FRIDAY, JULY 8, 2005

'Kick Out the Jams'



The MC5 — from left, late guitarist Fred "Sonic" Smith, drummer Dennis "Machine Gun" Thompson, late singer Rob Tyner, guitarist Wayne Kramer, and bassist Michael Davis — were the most influential of the bands in Detroit's late '60s rock 'n' roll scene.

Photo courtesy of Leni Sinclair

Book, DVD focus on MC5 and the music of Detroit's Grande Ballroom era

By Joe Ballor

Daily Tribune Associate Editor

OAK PARK — Detroit has a well-known musical heritage, including John Lee Hooker and the other blues musicians of the Hastings Street era, rhythm & blues artists who recorded on Fortune Records, and, of course, the Motown sound that propelled soul music to the top of the charts.

Two new separate releases, both by Berkley High School graduates, take a look at the Motor City's rock 'n' roll era of the late 1960s and early 1970s that unleashed local artists like the MC5, Iggy and The Stooges, Bob Seger, the Amboy Dukes (with Ted Nugent), Alice Cooper, and many others.

It was hard-rocking, psychedelic music that not only influenced future punk rockers such as The Ramones, The Clash and The Sex Pistols, but also made a significant cultural and political impact on the nation.

David Carson, a 1967 Berkley High graduate, celebrates the release of his new book, "Grit, Noise, and Revolution: The Birth of Detroit Rock 'N' Roll," with a book signing and seminar at 7 p.m. tonight at Book Beat.

Cary Loren, a 1973 Berkley High grad who is co-owner of Book Beat, celebrates the release of his music video, "MC5 — Kick Out the Jams," on Tuesday and a free screening party is scheduled for Monday at the Magic Stick.

Carson's book also touches on

Rock and revolution

- **WHAT:** Separate releases by writer David A. Carson ("Grit, Noise and Revolution: The Birth of Detroit Rock 'N' Roll") and filmmakers Cary Loren and Leni Sinclair ("MC5 — Kick Out the Jams").
- **WHEN:** The release of Carson's book will be celebrated with a book signing and seminar at 7 p.m. tonight at the Book Beat. There will be an audio presentation with a musical collage of sounds from the late 1960's Detroit era, followed by a Q&A with Carson and Detroit musicians Dennis Thompson (MC5), Johnny "Bee" Badanjek (drummer with Mitch Ryder and the Detroit Wheels and The Rockets), Gary Quackenbush (guitarist with The Fugitives and Scott Richard Case), and Jem Targal (bassist and lead singer of Third Power). Carson will also attend a book signing at 2 p.m. Saturday at the Barnes and Noble Booksellers at 19221 Mack in Grosse Pointe (313-884-5220). "MC5 — Kick Out the Jams," the film by Loren and Sinclair, will be shown at a free screening party Monday at the Magic Stick. Loren will also show his seven-minute MC5 video short "Black to Comm," as well as a 2003 interview with poet, counter-culture activist and former MC5 manager John Sinclair. Loren and Leni Sinclair will be on hand for a Q&A following the screening. The event will be hosted by WABX "Air Ace" Jerry Lubin and Brian J. Bowe of Creem magazine.
- **WHERE:** Book Beat is at 26010 Greenfield Road in Oak Park. The Magic Stick is at 4120 Woodward Ave. in Detroit.
- **ADMISSION:** Free.
- **INFORMATION:** Call Book Beat at 248-968-1190. Call the Magic Stick at 313-833-9700 or click www.majesticdetroit.com.

Detroit's black musical heritage, but both releases concentrate on Detroit's rock scene of the "Grande Ballroom era" from 1965-1972. It was a short period of time that continues to have a lasting influence on music, popular culture and politics.

"You had to envision the times," Carson said. "There was the anti-Vietnam War movement and the struggle for civil rights. Kids were looking for things to protest against. Rock 'n' roll and

all that came together."

According to Carson, several factors coalesced to produce a dynamic musical scene.

"The whole era began with teen clubs like the Hideout, the Chatterbox and the Crow's Nest (in Madison Heights)," said Carson, who lives in Nashville with his wife and 16-year-old daughter. "There was a new demand for live music and kids all over were forming bands.

"By 1966-'67, local bands were



Wallace M. Chrouh/Daily Tribune

Filmmakers Leni Sinclair and Cary Loren debut their new DVD "MC5 — Kick Out the Jams" with a free screening party Monday at the Magic Stick in Detroit.

able to make money and the best of those bands moved on to the Grande Ballroom."

Local record labels enabled artists like Bob Seger and bands like the MC5 and The Frost to become regional stars. The performers may have been unknown outside Southeastern Michigan at that time, but to local fans they

were stars and they headlined sellout festivals that didn't require a national headliner.

The bands received exposure in magazines like Creem, and airplay on Detroit radio stations such as WABX-FM and WKNR-AM.

"Detroit bands made their reputations on stage," Carson said.

See MC5 on PAGE 6

DIVERSIONS

DAILY TRIBUNE

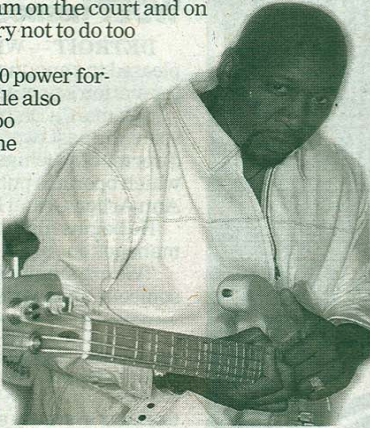
DIVERSIONS

JULY 8, 2005
FRIDAY

Love is music

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WAYMAN TISDALE

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music lesson.

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g to the L.A. area won't be an ordeal for
wife, Regina, and their four children. The
familiar with relocation since they spent
iding in the cities where he played basket-
ldest daughter, Danielle, 21, also is a
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s 14 and, at 6-foot-1, plays basketball.)
any musicians and some athletes who
ed into acting, Tisdale may find time to
e craft.

ever know," he said coyly.

dale and Angela Winbush perform at 7:30 p.m.
at Chene Park, 2600 E. Atwater, one mile east of
ance Center, in Detroit. Tickets are \$10-\$15. Call
66.

ok is a staff writer with The Macomb Daily.

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n, urban renewal, racism, community
ry all play a part in what may be Cooder's
achievement.

l in spots, seductive throughout, "Chavez
s a magical mystery tour to a time and
gone but still alive in stories, memories
in song — in both Spanish and English.
ez Ravine" grabs you on the first listen
s whispering for you to listen again and
realizing itself slowly over time but forever
g out of reach.

— Scott Bauer, AP Writer

MC5

Continued from PAGE 1

"Before you had hit records, you had stage reputations. That's really an important point. You had to prove yourselves because Detroit audiences were very rough and demanding.

"There was some of that attitude that Detroit gets a bad rap, but one thing we can do is play great rock 'n' roll. It was very competitive like that.

Bands wanted to compete with each other. Out-of-town groups would appear and the Detroit bands were determined to blow them off the stage.

That's what happened. There was a synergy between the Detroit bands and their fans."

A 2003 interview with counter-culture activist and former MC5 manager John Sinclair included an extra on the "Kick Out the Jams" DVD recalls one of those confrontations, when the MC5 laid down a musical challenge that Eric Clapton and his group Cream were unable to equal. Sinclair also disputed the notion of his being a "Svengali" to the MC5, noting that their political ideas and exuberant stage manners were already formed before he became involved with the band.

But, according to Loren, it was the formation of the Detroit Artists Workshop by Sinclair, his first wife Leni, and several others in 1964 that laid the foundation for the Detroit and Ann Arbor scenes, calling it the "big bang" of Detroit's psychedelic culture.

"Most kids relate to the cultural and political MC5," said Loren, a conceptual artist and co-founder of the avant-garde 1970s "anti-rock" band Destroy All Monsters. "It was a real genius overlapping of cultural and political factors connecting and meeting each other. That never happened before in rock 'n' roll. It only happened before in folk music and a little bit with jazz and black artists. This was the first time it hit suburban white kids."

Loren created "Kick Out the Jams" in 1999, combining vintage Super 8 and 16 mm silent films shot by Leni Sinclair with music gleaned from bootleg recordings

of live MC5 shows.

"It doesn't say anything, it's not a documentary," Loren said. "It's a total music video and allows you to see this band be themselves. It's a way to explain our roots and to know where we're coming from."

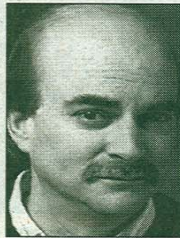
According to Carson, Detroit's sneering rock 'n' roll attitude harkens back to Hazel Park's Jack Scott and his mix of country, rock and rockabilly music.

"Jack Scott was really the first national rock star out of Detroit," Carson said. "He had a string of hit records in the late '50s and early '60s and he was the originator of the Detroit attitude. He looked like a tough guy and he had a stoic stage presence.

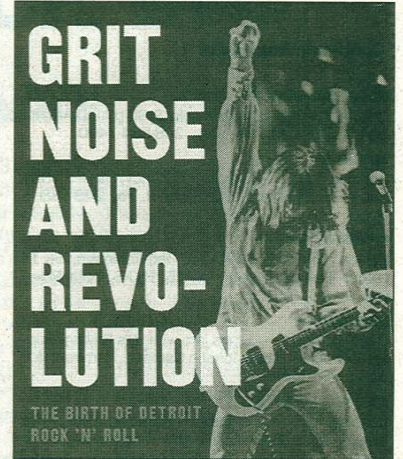
"Mitch Ryder told me a story about him and the band hitchhiking across town to see Jack Scott, but they weren't going to see him sing. They were going because he was supposed to fight a guy."

It's a musical attitude that has survived for decades.

"A lot of new groups, like The White Stripes, feel they have a legacy to live up to," Carson said. "It's interesting, that whenever an article somewhere in the world mentions one of these acts, invariably it has a paragraph referring to the late '60s era: "From



CARSON



The cover of David Carson's new book, "Grit, Noise and Revolution: The Birth of Detroit Rock 'N' Roll," features a photo of late MC5 guitarist Fred "Sonic" Smith.

the town that gave the world Bob Seger, the MC5 and the Amboy Dukes ..."

"You can cast the lineage to all of these (modern) groups," Loren said. "The rebellion has always been there in rock 'n' roll. The punk bands from this area seem to have more of an edge, and are more passionate about expressing that rebellion."

Associate Editor Joe Ballor can be reached at 248-591-2579 or via e-mail at joe.ballor@dailytribune.com.

7-9 CRYPTOQUIP

Y M F Q , E P S D F V Y U M F C I
H Y O N J O S V Z L A F V S W I Y L I
F O L Z H O W C A F L Q S F E W .
F S ' O Y N Y F U D Z J O W C Z V .

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: ON THE SET OF "I LOVE LUCY," ONE COULD SAFELY SAY THAT EVERYBODY INVOLVED HAD A BALL.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: N equals J

CRYPTOQUIP BOOK 2! Send \$4.50 (check/m.o.) to
CryptoClassics Book 2, PO Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853

The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

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