

DETROIT DISC: Amino Acids' unearthly sound connects

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What is it that makes America so attractive to aliens? And what sort of alien, map of the cosmos in hand, chooses Detroit as a destination?

Judging by their music, these four self-proclaimed extraterrestrials broke down in Detroit on their way from Laguna Beach to Akron and never left. Disguised as a local instrumental rock combo called the Amino Acids, their Dick Dale-meets-Devo sensibilities have proven well-suited to the brutal amplification indigenous to this area.

The result is like incidental music for spaghetti sci-fi slasher films, which people in these parts can never get enough of. One wishes that a band cool enough to employ the no-need-to-touch-it electronic instrument known as the theremin would make better use of it, though the semi-scratching on "Mars Needs Women" suggests new territory: theremin scratch, a sound sure to bring Earth girls a-runnin'.

(A small fashion suggestion for these strangers from space: If your intention is to infiltrate, back off on the albino pantyhose look. Somebody's gotta tell you -- you're the whitest band in Detroit!) **By Ben Edmonds,**

Free Press special writer

The Amino Acids play Nov. 19 at Ye Old Tap Room, 14915 Charlevoix, Detroit. 313-824-1030. With the Jollys and Troubleman!

On Nov. 26, the band will be at the Belmont, 10215 Jos. Campau, Hamtramck. 313-871-1966. With Brainsaw.

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