

# television guide and entertainment supplement

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## Gunhill Road Returns

All the young musical dudes out there, longing for that one hit single to kick off their careers, would do well to heed the experience of Gunhill Road. Three young New York City musicians, Gunhill Road burst onto the national music scene with "Back When My Hair Was Short", a Top 40 smash by the group's prodigious writer and lead singer Glenn Leopold. With its rocking beat and nostalgic references, the song was taken by young fans as an indication of the sort of music Gunhill Road generally does.

Steve Goldrich, pianist and vocals, shakes his head. "You can't imagine what it's like when we go into a club and play. Our songs are very melodic and full of tight harmony. We don't even have a drum. (Paul Reisch, the third member of the group, plays electric bass.) So the people come up afterwards and say, 'Man, that was great, but I thought you guys were an oldies rock 'n roll group'."

True, it's a tribute to Leopold's songwriting, how effectively he captured the spirit of those times. And for several thousand reasons, most of them financial, a hit single doesn't exactly hurt. But "Back When My Hair Was Short" in no way indicates the musical fullness and charm of Gunhill Road.

"I guess if there is any one group that you could say we relate to, it's the early Hollies," says Leopold. "We are working to become a top-rate vocal group, where harmony and melody as well as the meaning of the words are the main considerations."

A listen to their first Kama Sutra album, Gunhill Road, shows the measure of real success they have achieved. "Clean, earthy vocals and instantly likeable melodies," was Creem's response. "Their harmonies are delightful," added the New York Daily News. And so it goes, as local papers across the land are saying: "This is one group that has a great future."

Gunhill Road really begins



with Glenn Leopold. Leopold was born in Manhattan on July 26, 1948, and grew up in Quincy, Mass. and Pleasantville, N.Y. He majored in Journalism at the University of Missouri, then transferred back to NYU as an English major. He started writing songs and playing guitar in high school, as well as combing the 42nd Street music bins looking for songs. While still in college his songwriting brought him to the attention of Neil Diamond with whose production company he was offered a contract. That proved to be a false start; and it wasn't until Christmas Eve, 1968, when on the recommendation of Chip Taylor he auditioned at the Bitter End, that the wheels started turning. Before long the BE's owner, Paul

Colby, was managing him and the decision was made to form a group.

Steve Goldrich (if you think 'Goodyear/Goodrich' is confusing, talk to this young man about his name...even his record company doesn't always get it right), knew Glenn in high school where they played together at local dances. The two young musicians later performed at the Bitter End hootenannies, where they used Glenn's original songs. With the further encouragement of friend David Ackles, they decide to add harmony and Gunhill Road was on its way. Goldrich was born in NYC on December 29, 1950, and holds a BS in Sociology. He played drums as a kid. "Gene Krupa was my idol."

The newest member of

Gunhill Road is Paul Reisch, born in Connecticut on October 25, 1948. He went to school in the New York area with Ian Lloyd, the lead singer of Stories, and played guitar in 'rival' bands. About two years ago he started playing bass guitar seriously and left school to pursue a musical career. It was through a mutual friend at the Bitter End that Reisch connected with Gunhill Road.

In addition to a love of harmony, the Hollies, a hectic schedule of concerts and occasional TV appearances, the three Gunhill Roaders share a passion for Science Fiction. When asked "How are you?" by friends and acquaintances Glen Leopold smiles a knowing smile and replies, "Cosmic, thank you." Cosmic harmonies...the musical spirit of Gunhill Road.

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