

INSIDE

FRIDAY

★
Iris Slattery, lead guitarist for Mother Warned You, runs a tight audition. Four heavy-metal songs, full blast, with little small talk in between.

Around 9:30 on a recent evening, assorted vehicles roll up to the curb in front of Slattery's red house in Silver Spring. Drummer Lorrie Loch, arrives from Reston; bassist Ellen Lloyd, from Rockville. Cathy Zebron, who hopes to sing and play rhythm guitar for Mother Warned You, has driven down from Baltimore County.

The band members have been looking for a singer since April. Zebron answered their ad in Maryland Musician. Slattery sent her a tape with four songs, which Zebron played repeatedly in preparation for this session.

Now the women are set to rock, jammed into a tiny bedroom with poster-plastered walls. An open bottle of Zima stands on an amp behind Zebron, who seizes the microphone stand as the first song roars to life.

"Mother warned, don't be like sister," Zebron sings.

"Cut your hair, and grow up, mister."

Judging strictly by appearance, the singer seems hand-picked for Mother Warned You: black leather jacket over denim jacket over black shirt; skintight jeans tucked into shiny black boots. Perfect teeth. Her brown hair is long and straight, like Slattery's and Loch's, and Zebron makes it fly all over when she sings, as they do when they play. Gripping the mike stand with two hands, she thrusts her head forward to deliver the lyrics, pressing her lips flush against the microphone.

When the first song ends, the players look around at each other and laugh.

"How was that?" Zebron asks. "Was that all right?"

The unanimous answer is yes. Zebron swigs some Zima and looks over a sheet of lyrics. The next song is "Chew You Up and Spit You Out."

"I'd like to send this one out to my dog," she announces

sweetly. "Seems like something he would do."

Next morning, Slattery tells me by phone, "I was really impressed. I think it went well." Mother Warned You, she says, will discuss Zebron the next time they get together.

Weekend

So You Want
To Be a
Rock Star?



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