Book overcomes techno label

Want well-written, clever lines? Go to the library. The dance floor is usually the last place to go. Until now that is. Book of Love, a four-member group out of New York, appears to bucking the sameness of today's dance floor music with its own brand of thoughful songs. How many dance bands today include liner notes?

otes? Well, Book of Loves does, And for

Well, Book of Loves unes. Ann Low good reason.

"I think they're witty in a way that few people tend not io notice," said lead singer Susan Ottaviano, who shares the songwriting duties with Ted Ottaviano (they are not related).

Wilty, perhaps, but synthesizer for synthesizer, Book of Love certainly matches any of their European con-temporarles. For one, they're multi-dimensional whereas many dance hands are renetitive.

dimensional whereas many dance bands are repetitive. Along with better-than-average lyries, Book of Love features the seductive vocals of Susan Ottaviano. On many of the songs featured on "Lullaby," the group's latest release on Sire, Susan Ottaviano breathes life into each note. Tiffany and Debble Gibson could hold her microphone cord.

ALSO, MONTHS of touring has Book of Love's stage show functioning at its best. The band has ditched pas exquences, preferring to do everage to the stage of the stage stage of the stage of



Romance 'tunes in' on success

Book of Love, formed from the remains of Head Philadelphia College of Art, has earned its fair Cheese, a group that came together at the share of kudos for providing a hypnotic beat.

This time out on "Luitaby," a followup to their self-titted debut LP, Book of Love was treamed up with producer Flood (1/2 and Enzure). For the creative folds of the group while keeping the hythms quite danceable.

Nontehless, Book of Love faces the problem of being segregated interesting the control of the creative folds of the group with the control of the contr

"We didn't start out to be a synthesizer band," Susan Ottaviano said, "We happened to meet and more of us played keyboards and none of us played guitars. We were looking for a guitar player at first.
"So we get lumped into the catego-ry, I'd rather be considered an alter-

By Larry O'Connor staff writer

Romance: A musical tange in the night, a lyrical lialison of extraordinary proportion.?

Maybe.

But thar's kind of tough to show case when you're constantly asked to play "Wild Thing." Tomance is a five-member band whose problem is

native band than a throwaway dance band."

THAT PRESENTS problems as well. Although their music is highly regarded for originality, radio play has been tough to come by.

The story is a familiar one: Too commercial for alternative radio and too alternative for commercial radio. "Which makes you angry," she said.

Too bad. "Lullaby" features some rather interesting cuts, including a

Too bad. "Lullaby" features some rather interesting cuts, including a cover of Mike Oldfield's "Tubular Bells" that was used in the film "The Exoreist." Book of Love made the somewhat ecrie tune compatible for the dance floor.

Applies pumpler of interest is

Minchella, Reyboard player and sing-For more than six years, Romance has been quitle successful as a Top 40 entity. That time has allowed them to hone their craft to a fine art, pick-ing their spots carefully to insert their material. On the surface, survival as a nightcub act for six years is as-tounding. Then talking to the rather articulate members of the band, it's obvious why that's no fluke.

"I THINK a lot of it has to do with THINK a lot of it has to do with the way we laid out our goals," Holevar said. "When we started the group, we didn't learn a bunch of songs and just go out and start play-

ing. We sat down and said, These are the things we want to achieve and this is the way we have to do it. We've stuck to the plan as much as

we could."

The focus for Romance is develop-ing more of their own material, which already shows considerable promise. The band has the luxury of

"We did it in sort of a positive way," she sald. "It's an issue we feel strongly about. Living in New York, the Issue is something that has touched us. We wanted to do some-thing to show we care."

The song we care.

The song brings awareness to a problem, but also flies in the face of what has become rather desensitized music. Ottaviano agrees.

"I think I've had it with house and the rest of the throwaway stuff," she said. "Maybe there's one or two songs I might like. But for the most part, I don't like what I'm hearing."

somewhat ecrie tune compatible for the dance floor.

Another number of interest is Prieday, March 3, at Saint An-Pretty Boys and Pretty Glits," owner's Indi, 430 E. Congress, Dewhich deals with love and the fear of troit. For information, call 961-MIDS.

Already, the group has cut some tracks that will be featured on an up-coming compact disc, "Metro Masters," along with RH Factor, Teen Angels and Flash. At this point, the band knows what it wants to achieve in terms of song writing. "We want to make music with guts to it," Minchella sald.

THE ENGAGEMENT was a month-long one at this club, a testament to Romance's drawing power. The real challenge of playing the same club every night is staying freeh.

IN CONCERT

TANJENT IMAGE
 Tangent Image with personal on Monday, Feb. 27, at Blied Pig. 208 S. First. Ann Arbor. For information, call 996-8555.

MARS NEEDS WOMEN

Mars Needs Women will perform on Monday, Feb. 27, at the Rick's Cafe, 611 Church, Ann Arbor. For Information, call 995-2747.

• ARGOSY
Argosy will perform on Monday and
Tuesday, Feb. 27-28, at the Studio
Lounge, 6921 N. Wayne, south of Warren
Road, Westland. For information, call
729-2510.

• IDYLL ROOMERS

Idyll Roomers will perform on Tuesday, Feb. 28, at Rick's Cafe, 611 Church, Ann Arbor. For information, call 996-2747.

RHONE
 Rhone and the Freedom Band will perform on Tuesday, Feb. 28, at Blind Pig, 208 S. Pirst, Ann Arbor. For Information, call 996-8555.

MAP OF THE WORLD
 Map of the World will perform on Wednesday, March 1, at Blind Pig. 208 S. First St., Ann Arbor. For information, call 996-8555.

BOBBY EAST
 Bobby East will perform at 11:30 p.m.
 Wednesday, March 1, at New York New York, 24:30 Hoover, Warren. For Information, call 758-6140.

BOCIAL DISEASE
 Social Disease will perform on Thursday, March 2, at Bloodle's, 21139 W. Seven Mile, Detroit. For information, call 535-8108.

DOG SOLDIER
 Dog Soldler will perform on Thursday,
March 2, at the Blind Pig, 208 S. First St.,
Ann Arbor. For information, call 9968555.

PRETTY ROTTEN

Pretty Rotten will perform with spe-cial guests, The Weeds, on Thursday, March 2, at Paycheck's Lounge, 2932 Canlif, Hamtramck. For Information, call 672-8934.

WALK THE DOGMA
 Walk the Dogma will perform on Friday, March 3, at Lill's 21, 2930 Jacob, off Jos Campau, Haintrainek. For information, call 875-8555.

ROBB ROY
 Robb Roy will perform with special
guests, Amber Slayte, on Friday, March
3, at Hamtramek Pub, 2046 Canlif, off 175. For information, call 365-8760.

BOOK OF LOVE
 Book of Love will perform Friday,
March 3, at Saint Andrew's Hall, 430 E.
Congress, Detroit. For information, call
961-MELT.

BOOTSEY X
 Bootsey X will perform on Friday and Saturday, March 3-4, at Jameson's, 1812
 N. Main, near 12 Mile Road, Royal Oak. For information, call 547-6470.

COLLEGE

Here are the top 10 albums receiving airplay on WAYN-AM, campus station of Wayne State University.

1. "Disgraceland," Elvis Hitler. 2. "Tender Prey," Nick Cave and the Bad

2. "Tender Prey," Nick Cave and the Bad Seeds.
3. "Test Kit," Radon Ardd.
4. "Wivid," Living Golour.
5. "Kick Out the Selly," Jamah Monkeys.
5. "Kick Out the Selly," Merphy 'Law.
7. "Green," IE-Sh.
8. "Under the Covers," Vertical Pillows.
9. "Idemo taply," Inside Out.
10. "Idemo taply," Inside June

The real challenge of playing the same club every night is staying fresh.

"Sometimes you can feel yourself getting into a rut," said Steve Perkins. "When we find ourselves doing that we pull out of it quick by doing something different."

Romance believes it has the difference to make it big.

"There's a tremendous void in missic right now," Holevar said.
"There's this homogenized style. There's this bomogenized style. There's this tremendous remake market where everyone is remaking hits from the past.

"One day, someone is going walt in the void it would be real nice if it was us."

For information on Romance, call 528-1550.

O HIPPODROME
Hippodrome will purform with special
guests, Plastras Bat, on Friday, March 3,
at Paycheck's Lounge, 2932 Canntt, off
Jos Campau, Hantramek. For information, call 672-6936.

SHOK PARIS
Shok Paris will perform along with special guests, Hades and Harlet, on Friday, March 3, at Blondle's, 21139 W. Seven Mile, Detroit. For information, call 535-8108.

GEORGE BEDARD
 George Bedard and the Bonnevilles
 will perform on Friday, March 3, at Blind
 Fig. 208 S. First St., Ann Arbor. For in formation, call 998-8555.

INDOOR BLUEB FESTIVAL
 More than 30 blues artists will perform from 4 p.m. to 2 a.m. Saturday through Monday, March 4-6, at Saint Andrews' Hall, 430 E. Congress, Detroit Tickets are available through TicketMaster outlets. For information, call 423-6566.

SEE DICK RUN
 See Dick Run will perform on Saturday, March 4, at Paycheck's Lounge, 2932 Canlif, Hamtramck. For Information, call 872-8934.

. VICTIMS OF CIRCUMSTANCE

DRANGE ROUGHIES
 The Orange Roughles will perform on
Saturday, March 4, at Lili's 21, 2930
Jacob, of Jos Campau, Hamtramek. For
information, call 875-6555.

DEAD MILKMEN
 Dead Milkmen will perform at 10 p.m.
Monday, March 6, at the Nectarine Hallroom, 510 E. Liberty, Ann Arbor, Tickets
are \$10.50 in advance. For information,
call 99-MUSIC.

REPLACEMENTS
 The Replacements will perform at 8 p.m. Friday, March 10, at the Michigan Theatre, 603 E. Liberty, Ann Arbor. Reserved tickets are \$16.50 in advance. For information, call 99-MUSIC.

MICHELLE SHOCKED
Michelle Shocked will perform on Sunday, March 12, at Saint Andrew's Hall, 431 E. Congress, Detroit. Tickets are \$12.50 in advance. For information, call 59-MUSIC.

VIOLENT FEMMES
 Violent Femmes will perform at 8 p.m.
Saturday, March 18, at Hill Auditorium
in Ann Arbor. Tickels are \$16.50. For information, call 99-MUSIC.

BRUCE COCKBURN
 Bruce Cockburn and His Band will perform at 7.30 p.m. Sunday, March 19, at the Power Center in Ann Arbor. Tickets are \$18.50 in advance. For information, call 99-MUSIC.

R.E.M. will perform at 8 p.m. Wednesday, April 5, at Cobo Arena in Detroit.
 Reserved seats are \$18.50. For information, call 99-MUSIC.

CLASSICAL

Here are the top 10 classical selections on Dick Wallace's midday program on WQRS-FM.

"Light Cavalry Overture," Soppe.
2. "Symphony In C.," Bizet.
3. "Now weglan Dances." Greig.
4. "Radeo," Copland.
5. "Winter Concertio," Vivald.
6. "Epapan," Chabrier.
7. "Symphony 22", Mozart.
8. "Unlinished Symphony," Schaber.
9. "Une World Symphony," Drorak.
10. "Mirstssippi Sulte," Grefe.

REVIEWS

Romance forges shead with pop rock sensibilities,

garnished with

a few tunes of their own.

A SOUL

DON'T TELL - The Replacements

And there are some nuggets to savor here. The rhythmic quality of opening songs such as "Tolent Show" and "Back to Back and the same he said for "They're Blind," a stunning bit of guilar work and vocals by lead singer and songwriting serçant Paul Westerberg, Brief flashes of the band's past rambunctiousness can be heard in the guitar-guited "Anywhere's Better Than Here." Perhaps the Prince influence is rubbing off on the Twin City group, as "Asking Me" certainly has a funky feel to it.
What The Replacements have done is taken away the mask of the runk-inspined craniness and barred their soul. They have a lot to show for it.

FIGURES ON A BEACH

promise. The pand me having its own studio.

 Figures On A Beach



zynski sounds strained and characteriess, although I suspect they got Roger Rabbit in for their version of the B.T.O. song "You Ain't Seen Nothing Yet."

Their sonus are

Seen Nothing Yet."
Their songs are well-constructed, but it seems as though producer, Ivan Ivan, has borrowed from any successful band in this vela, Frankie Goes To Huntington Woods, Simple Minds and the aforementioned Drone Drone, in his presentation of Figures.

Drone Drone, in his presence—
Figures.
Unfortunately, in this case the results are very linear with pothing outstanding to grab your attention.
With all this said, everyone knows they deserve more attention than the likes of the Escape Club or Information Society who are operating with a lot less in reserve.

— Cormac Wright

THE WHITEY ALBUM

- Ciccone Youth

That is, of course, only if you've been locked away since 1958 when the Fab Four released their great LP. Other than that, Ciccone Youth's "Whitey Album" is what one might come to expect from a group formed in the inspiration of pop idol Madonna horsel".

in the Inspiration of pop idol Madonna herself.

A little history might be in order,
Ciccooe Yould is the alter-go of the
famed underground outfit Sonic
Youth along with Firebouse member
Mike Watt. Band members profess
to be intrigued by this Madonna
character, who is relatively the
same age and emerged out of the
same age and emerged out of the
same late 70s/early 20s New York
scene they did. So, hence the name.
But if someone were to make the
mistake of purchasing this disc with
any hopes, aspirations or longings to
hear any faint sounds resembling the

The Whitey Album

Ciccone Youth's "Whitey Album" is the most stunning musical statement since the Beaules "White Album."

That is, of course, only if you've "Burnin" into the Groovety? and "Burnin" and the Groovety? and "Burnin" into the Groovety? two reasons. Inose incluse the back-handed tributes to Madona hersell "lito the Groovely" and "Burnin" lip." Then there is the allow moving cover "Addicted to Love." Indeed part of the property of the super source. The singer source is a superior of the superior of the

- Larry O'Connor

How dare they.

But to those who listened to the Minneapolis band's last album, "Pleased to Meet Me" (Sire), this shouldn't really come as a surprise. That dise featured the unbridled fury the Replacaments possessed musically. In some of the finer moments, "Pleased to Meet Me" also displayed a group whose members weren't hall bad songeriters to boot. The Replacements have sought to capitalize on that talent this time. For the most part, they succeed. "Don't Tell a Soul" is the group's most accessible album to date.

How dare they.



Dichard Replacements fans are screaming. Their favorite band has left them in the cold with this latest album.

A band, who has the image of being loose, loud, arrogant and child-lish, has sought to deviate from that by being — egads — mature. "Don't Tell" A Soul' (Sire) reflects a band that has come of age.

— Larry O'Connor

Here we have the second major label from Detroit ex-patriots and now Boston-based Figures On A Beach.

I would think that this LP is particularly make-or-break for the band as their debut for Site didn't exactly make them a household name, despite containing the particularly radio suitable single, "No Stars."

I think a large order of the blame for that may be laid at the record to be much of a publicity campaign put behind them.

But enough of II, Figures On A Beach are their own worst enemics. They deliberately aim their music to a dance club-oriented audience, while seconomously fickle in its choice of this year's model. To add further to Figures' problems is that their basic sound is that of a Duran Duran when even Duran Duran is well on Buran when

follow me so far? Throughout every song, Tony Kac-