

STREET SCENE

The Observer & Eccentric® Newspapers

6A***(F-4B)(4B*)

O&E Monday, November 25, 1991

IN CONCERT

Monday

Nov. 25

- **DREAM WARRIORS**
Industry, 13 S. Saginaw, Pontiac. Admission is \$5.
334-1999.
- **SPRIGGANS**
Cross Street Station, 511 W. Cross, Ypsilanti.
485-5050.
- **DWIGHT ADAMS & THE PARADISE VALLEY JAZZ JAM**
Alvin's, 5756 Casa, across from Wayne State University, Detroit.
832-3355.
- **WISHING FIELD**
Rick's Cafe, 611 Church, Ann Arbor.
996-2747.

Tuesday

Nov. 26

- **Y.M.L.**
Rick's Cafe, 611 Church, Ann Arbor.
996-2747.
- **LOUDHOUSE**
Blind Pig, 208 S. First, Ann Arbor.
996-5555.
- **BILLY BRAGO & THE RED STARS**
With guests, Disposable Heroes of Hiphopity and Barry Crimmins, at Michigan Theater, 603 E. Liberty, Ann Arbor. Reserved seats are \$12.50 and \$15.
99-MUSIC.
- **CHISEL BROTHERS**
Alvin's, 5756 Casa, across from Wayne State University, Detroit.
832-3355.
- **JETHRO TULL**
Fox Theatre, Woodward Ave., Detroit. Tickets are \$25.
567-6000.

Wednesday

Nov. 27

- **ROMANTICS**
With guests, Trash Brats, at The Ritz, 17580 Prasho, 10 1/2 Mile and Gratiot, Roseville.
778-8150.
- **BIG DAVE AND THE ULTRASONICS**
Rick's Cafe, 611 Church, Ann Arbor.
996-2747.
- **J.R. WALKER & THE ALL STARS**
Alvin's, 5756 Casa, across from Wayne State University, Detroit. Tickets are \$12.50 in advance.
99-MUSIC.
- **SUN MESSENGERS**
Blind Pig, 208 S. First, Ann Arbor.
996-5555.
- **KAREN MONSTER AND THE MAIN VEINS**
Lili's 21, 2930 Jacob, Hamtramck.
875-5555.
- **SALLY ROGERS**
With guest, Robert Jones, as part of "Peace Through Music" benefit 7:30 p.m. at Northwest Unitarian Church, 23925 Northwestern Highway, at Mt. Vernon (9 1/2 Mile Road). Tickets are \$10 in advance; \$15 at the door. Proceeds will benefit Michigan Sane/Freeze.
- **GOOBER AND THE PEAB**
With guests, Majesty Crush, at St. Andrew's Hall, 431 E. Congress, Detroit.
961-MELT.

Thursday

Nov. 28

- **FRANK ALLISON AND THE ODD SOX**
Rick's Cafe, 611 Church, Ann Arbor.
996-2747.
- **POP (HARVEY)**
With guests, The Swinging Richards, at the Majestic Theatre, 4140 Woodward, Detroit. Tickets are \$10.
832-9700.

Friday

Nov. 29

- **MATRICES**
Cross Street Station, 511 W. Cross, Ypsilanti.
485-5050.
- **NATION OF ULYSSES**
With guests, Nikhil Kili, at the Majestic Theatre, 4140 Woodward Ave., Detroit.
832-9700.

Saturday

Nov. 30

- **THE SKOUNDELS**
With guests, Trauma Kamp, at Finney's Pub, 3965 Woodward, Detroit.
831-8070.
- **KINSEY REPORT WITH BIG DADDY KINSEY**
Sully's, 4758 Greenfield, between Michigan Avenue and Ford Road, Dearborn.
846-1920.
- **URBATIONS**
Rick's Cafe, 611 Church, Ann Arbor.
996-2747.
- **DILRODS**
Cross Street Station, 511 W. Cross, Ypsilanti. For information, call 485-5050.
875-5555.
- **SEE DICK RUN**
Lili's 21, 2930 Jacob, Hamtramck.
875-5555.
- **HOPE ORCHESTRA**
With guests, Broken Yoyo, at Alvin's, 5756 Casa, across from Wayne State University, Detroit.
832-2355.
- **STEVE NARDELLA**
Blind Pig, 208 S. First, Ann Arbor.
996-5555.
- **CROSSED WIRE**
With guests, The Hannabals, at St. Andrew's Hall, 431 E. Congress, Detroit.
961-MELT.
- **CHISEL BROTHERS**
Moby Dick's, 4552 Schaefer, between Ford Road and Michigan Avenue, Dearborn.
561-3650.
- **PIXIES**
With guests, Pere Ubu, at the Royal Oak Music Theatre, 318 W. Fourth, off of Oak Street. Tickets are \$19.50.
99-MUSIC.

Sunday

Dec. 1

- **BLIND DOG BLUES BAND**
Moby Dick's, 4552 Schaefer, between Ford Road and Michigan Avenue, Dearborn.
561-3650.
- **LITA FORD**
With guests, Tuff, at The Ritz, 17580 Prasho, 10 1/2 Mile and Gratiot, Roseville.
778-8150.
- **MAJESTY CRUSH**
With guests, Tyrone's Power Wheel, at Finney's Pub, 3965 Woodward, Detroit.
831-8070.
- **SUN MESSENGERS**
Alvin's, 5756 Casa, across from Wayne State University, Detroit.
832-3355.
- **ALLMAN BROTHERS**
With guests, Little Feat, at The Palace, 2 Chalmers Dr., off I-75, Auburn Hills. Tickets are \$12.50.
377-0100.
- **MISSIONARY STEW**
Lili's 21, 2930 Jacob, Hamtramck. For information, call 875-5555.
- **TRINIDAD TRIPOLI STEEL BAND**
Rick's Cafe, 611 Church, Ann Arbor.
996-2747.
- **THE PRODIGALS**
With guests, Mr. Picasso Head, at the Blind Pig, 208 S. First, Ann Arbor.
996-5555.
- **PRIMO**
With guests, Bullet Lavolta and Correlation of Conformity, at St. Andrew's Hall, 431 E. Congress, Detroit.
961-MELT.
- **PAUL VORNHAGEN QUARTET**
Blind Pig, 208 S. First, Ann Arbor. The band also performs Saturday.
996-5555.

Majestic music? Not quite Crush

By Larry O'Connor
staff writer



Dream Warriors

This was a sensory overload. Here, Majesty Crush is set to perform on an alternative night at a Windsor club, a night spot bedecked with a shiny dance floor, flashing neon lights and clean restrooms.

On a given night, expected are well-dressed people seeking to rile passions in their otherwise placid lives, eyeing members of the opposite sex, slugging down domestic beer with no reprieve and generally being well-behaved in this controlled environment.

What better a place to have the meaning of alternative to be truly defined? May Majesty Crush be in the dictionary.

"And turn off these Christmas tree lights," demands lead vocalist David Stroughter pointing to the small white lights on the stairs leading to the stage. He was successful in getting overhead strobes off the dance floor and wanted the atmosphere to be complete.

Then the lithe singer orders the majority of the audience sitting comfortably at tables to come to the front. Only a few daring souls heed the call.

This only further infuriates Stroughter, who spews out a few invectives designed to elicit some response out of the dour looking bunch. "What do you think this is? Chl Chl's and you're waiting for your chips?" Stroughter screams.

NONE OF this is mild salsa. Stroughter's anger is as real as a mouthful of jalapeno peppers, which might describe Majesty Crush as a whole. "We're horrible actors," bassist Hobey Echlin said later.

The band launches into a nearly hourlong set that was splendid and yet daunting at the same time.

Which is what rock'n'roll is supposed to be about, isn't it? Somewhat confusing, brimming with sexuality, teetering on self-destruction, confrontational and, overall, a blissful retreat from mundane life?

Sure it is. Unfortunately, such traditions have been left to only a handful of bands to uphold in this area under the vague auspices of alternative.

Along with Stroughter, the band features fellow Southfield High School grads drummer Odell Nails and guitarist Michael Segal.

Echlin mans the bass. Majesty Crush has gained a core following with its dissonant, groove-based symphony of nirvanic music. The band has a 7-inch single featuring sexual yearnings of "Sunny Pie" with a stirring tribute to Italian porn star/politico "Ciccolina" on the flipside.

"SEX OR a lack of sex probably has to do with my preoccupation with it," Stroughter said. Also, opening for the likes of Mazy Star, Jesus Jones, Julian Cope and Laughing Hyenas hasn't hurt the band's reputation either.

"Personally, our goal and my goal was to make music that had nothing to do with the city as to the legacy of music that's been here," Segal said. "Not necessarily Motown and Iggy and the Stooges and MCs, which I like. I'm talking about the bar bands, the horrible Hamtramck bands that have existed forever who can't get out and are content to play there."

"Our goal was to make music about us as a people that had no preconceptions. I don't think we sound like any other band in the city and I am proud of that."

Unlike many groups, Majesty Crush's virulent sound underscores an urban tension that pervades this area as a whole.

This is partly due to Segal's guitar-erected visceral wall for Stroughter to compose his poetry with Echlin's bass lines providing the swirling strokes and Nails' syncopated drumming furnishing the punctuation.

ECHLIN ALSO credits influences of everything from speed metal to hip-hop for part of the lateness. Segal offers another reason.

"I think as people that might be in the tension," Segal said. "There is tension among us as people. We are very different."

Different, perhaps, but all share a common musical vision of anything goes. Echlin and Nails performed with Spahn Ranch and the drummer was classmates with Stroughter.

After auditioning several guitarists, Stroughter and Nails went to Play It Again Records and asked



Members of Majesty Crush include Hobey Echlin on bass, David Stroughter as lead singer, Odell Nails on drums and Michael Segal on guitar.

Segal if he wanted to join. Initially, Segal was reluctant. He had never played in a band and worried about his lack of technique. Also, of his two guitars, one only had three strings. Too lazy to add new ones, Segal said.

As things turned out, the three-string guitar became something of a symbol of Majesty Crush's divergent sound.

UNDOUBTEDLY, the most recognizable feature of Majesty Crush on stage is its lead singer.

While Segal strales tranquility on guitar and Echlin provides an urgent pulse with his netter-world bass play, Stroughter is the immediate fo-

cal point. His voice can vary from sincere pleading to an outright shriek. For good measure, he'll shove a microphone into an amp for unsettling feedback.

Stroughter's orbs make direct eye contact with an audience, almost seemingly to challenge them. The constant struggle between making beautiful/disturbing music leaves Stroughter in the middle. He contorts his body spasmodic urges to the disparate rhythms, somehow remaining in sync.

"That's not contrived. He's always been that way," Nails said. "He invented a few new dance moves in high school."

Off-stage, Stroughter echoes "on

overall attitude of Majesty Crush: One that will not compromise for anything less than ultimate success on their terms.

"This is it for me," Stroughter said. "I make it or I die."

"That sounds quotable," Segal added with a laugh.

Majesty Crush will perform with *Conbury* and the *Peas* on Wednesday, Nov. 27, at St. Andrew's Hall, 431 E. Congress, Detroit. For information, call 961-MELT. The band also performs Friday, Nov. 29, at Finney's Pub, Woodward and Alexandrine, Detroit. For information, call 831-8070.

DISCOVER STARS ON ICE

Bringing the BEST of WISH FOUNDATION

STARRING OLYMPIC & WORLD CHAMPIONS

Olympic Gold Medalist
SCOTT HAMILTON

Olympic Silver Medalist
BRIAN ORSER

Olympic Silver Medalist
ROSALYNN SUMMERS

Olympic Bronze Medalist
DEBI THOMAS

Olympic Gold Medalist
EKATERINA GORDEEVA & SERGEI GRINKOV

Olympic Silver Medalist
SUSAN WYNN & JOSEPH DUAR

U.S. National Dance Champions
SUSAN WYNN & JOSEPH DUAR

U.S. Olympians
LEA ANN MILLER & BILL FAUVER

Saturday, January 18, 1992
Joe Louis Arena
7:30 p.m.

TICKETS: \$25.00 & \$18.00 Limited Gold Circle Seats Available
Great seats now available at the Joe Louis Arena Box Office and

All **TICKETMASTER** Centers or Charge by Phone (313) 645-6666

Use your Discover® Card at the Joe Louis Arena Box Office or by calling (313) 567-6000 and receive preferred seating \$1 per ticket will be donated to the Make-A-Wish Foundation® of Michigan.

For general ticket information, call (313) 567-6000
For group rate information, call (313) 567-7474

An Equal Opportunity Employer

Observer & Eccentric