

# STREET SCENE

The Observer & Eccentric® Newspapers

Monday, December 2, 1991 O&E

★ 58

## IN CONCERT

### Monday

Dec. 2

- **MOJO DIRT DOGS**  
Cross Street Station, 511 W. Cross, Ypsilanti.  
485-5050
- **PARADISE VALLEY JAZZ JAM**  
Alvin's, 5756 Cass, across from Wayne State University, Detroit.  
832-2355
- **ERJ**  
Rick's Cafe, 611 Church, Ann Arbor.  
996-2747

### Tuesday

Dec. 3

- **MATERIAL ISSUE**  
Industry, 15 S. Saginaw, Pontiac. Admission is \$5.  
334-1999
- **CHISEL BROTHERS JAM**  
Alvin's, 5756 Cass, across from Wayne State University, Detroit.  
832-2355
- **M.O.D.**  
Rick's Cafe, 611 Church, Ann Arbor.  
996-2747

### Wednesday

Dec. 4

- **UNCLE TUPELO**  
Blind Pig, 208 S. First, Ann Arbor.  
996-8555
- **READ M' FEED**  
Poetry benefit for Casa Corridor homeless at Alvin's, 5756 Cass, across from Wayne State University, Detroit.  
832-2355

### Thursday

Dec. 5

- **JOHNNY WITH AN EYE**  
Rick's Cafe, 611 Church, Ann Arbor.  
996-2747
- **COP SHOOT COP**  
Old Miami, 3930 Cass, one block south of Warren Road, Detroit.  
831-3829
- **STRANGE BEDFELLOWS**  
With Fatbeaters at Blind Pig, 208 S. First, Ann Arbor.  
996-8555
- **IMMUNITY**  
Cross Street Station, 511 W. Cross, Ypsilanti.  
485-5050
- **BLUE DOGS**  
Alvin's, 5756 Cass, across from Wayne State University, Detroit.  
832-2355
- **SOUTHDOWN ZAK**  
Rick's Cafe, 611 Church, Ann Arbor.  
996-2747

### Friday

Dec. 6

- **BLACK ROCK COALITION**  
J.J. Jumpers, Royal Pain, Sinister Dane, Brothers from Another Planet and Culture Shock perform at Majestic Theatre, 4140 Woodward, five blocks south of the DIA, Detroit.  
832-9700
- **IMITATION OF LIFE**  
With Pedestrians at Lil's 21, 2930 Jacob, Hamtramck. 875-4555
- **BOUXIE AND THE BANSHIES**  
With My Life with Thrill Kill Kult at Clublaid at the State Theatre.  
961-MELT
- **LOVE KINGS**  
With Spitters at Finney's Pub, 3965 Woodward, near Alexandrine, Detroit.  
831-8070
- **DEAD LETTER OFFICE**  
With the Yrs Men at Hamtramck Pub, 2044 Caniff, off I-75.  
365-3839



Otis Rush headlines the Third Annual Blues Benefit for the Homeless Saturday, Dec. 7, at the Majestic Theatre in Detroit.

- **BIG DAVE & THE ULTRASONICS**  
Blind Pig, 208 S. First, Ann Arbor.  
996-8555
- **WEATHER VANES**  
Cross Street Station, 511 W. Cross, Ypsilanti.  
485-5050
- **ROOMFUL OF BLUES**  
Sully's, 4758 Greenfield, between Michigan Avenue and Ford Road, Dearborn.  
846-1920
- **ASSEMBLY REQUIRED**  
Alvin's, 5756 Cass, across from Wayne State University, Detroit.  
832-2355
- **BORN NAKED**  
With Attie at Rick's Cafe, 611 Church, Ann Arbor.  
996-2747

### Saturday

Dec. 7

- **BLUES BENEFIT FOR THE HOMELESS**  
Otis Rush, Little Sonny & The Detroit Rhythm Group, Big Daddy Romance and the Hedgesrimmers, Chicago Pele and the Detroiters and The Windsor Dukes with Johnny "Yard Dog" Jones at Majestic Theatre, 4140 Woodward, five blocks south of the DIA, Detroit. Tickets \$12.50 advance, \$15 at the door.  
832-9700
- **GENERALS**  
Lil's 21, 2930 Jacob, Hamtramck.  
875-4555
- **MISSED IN DIARY**  
Finney's Pub, 3965 Woodward, near Alexandrine, Detroit.  
831-8070
- **WEBLEY & THE FLYING SEX GODS**  
With Chutes & Ladders at Hamtramck Pub, 2044 Caniff, off I-75.  
365-3829
- **INCURABLES**  
Reiter's, Wayne and Palmer roads, Westland.  
721-1622
- **TRINIDAD TRIPOLI STEEL BAND**  
Blind Pig, 208 S. First, Ann Arbor.  
996-8555
- **URBATIONS**  
Cross Street Station, 511 W. Cross, Ypsilanti.  
485-5050
- **PARK THE KARMA**  
With 17 Reasons Why at Alvin's, 5756 Cass, across from Wayne State University, Detroit.  
832-2355
- **LARRY MCCRAY**  
Sully's, 4758 Greenfield, between Michigan Avenue and Ford Road, Dearborn.  
846-1920
- **LITTLE ED AND THE BLUES IMPERIALS**  
Rick's Cafe, 611 Church, Ann Arbor.  
996-2747

### Sunday

Dec. 8

- **RAPA HOUSE JAZZ BAND**  
Max & Erma's, 31305 Orchard Lake Road, Farmington Hills.  
855-0991
- **GARY DETLEF'S BAD ATTITUDE ARTS ENSEMBLE**  
Blind Pig, 208 S. First, Ann Arbor.  
996-8555

## Rocked from another planet

### Band seeks outer limits on stage

By Larry O'Connor  
staff writer

Maybe it's the bats or the exaggerated dance steps. One might wonder if Brothers from Another Planet maybe, in fact, from another planet.

But lead singer James Page is no alien when it comes to the music scene here.

"I'm going to give you my opinion of Detroit music," said Page, taking a break from a rehearsal in a Royal Oak basement. "You can get four bands in Detroit and you'll have 60. They imitate other bands 15 times over."

"Club owners and radio go for that (stuff) and I don't know why." Tell us about it, Page.

Instead of grousing about the duplicity permeating this musical galaxy of ours, Brothers from Another Planet have sought to rectify the situation.

There is a splashy, noisy and boisterous journey through hard rock and reggae with a smidgen of funk. The band is in its third incarnation, featuring a veteran core of area musicians.

Scott Schroen of Royal Oak on guitar, Gordon Spencer of Oak Park on bass and Bob Dotto of Troy on drums are led by Page, who dons a multitude of zany chapeaus and outfits on stage.

Spencer and Page were formerly of Enemy Squad while Dotto was drummer for Ayn Rand devotees Figure 4. Schoen was a guitarist with a number of outfits, including one who had an Elvis impersonator sing Van Halen tunes. Combined, there is considerable musical aptitude.

A gold star for stage savvy undoubtedly goes to Page who can whip up a frenzy on his own. In the recent *Mural of Reality* show at Industry, the lead vocalist who works in fashion design by day wore a shiny, polka dot evening jacket with a red, yellow and green top hat.

PAST SHOWS have featured the agile front man in full Indian head-

### WELD

— Neil Young & Crazy Horse

For the most part, live albums are the fillers for the artist, record labels and in your collection. Sure there are exceptions. Bob Seger's "Live Bullet" and the Rolling Stones' "Get Yer Ya-Ya's Out!" quickly come to mind.

And, yes, Neil Young & Crazy Horse's 1980 release "Live Rust," an album wrought with symbolic poetry bludgeoned home with snarling, buzzsaw guitar and an uncompromising stance.

So why has Young and Crazy Horse sought to duplicate that very effort 10 years later with "Weld"? Good question.

NUMBERS LIKE "Hey Hey, My My (Into the Black)" and "Cinnamon Girl" sound the same as they did on "Live Rust." But that's hardly the point.

Rather the remarkable nature of this LP stems to the juxtaposition of his more recent material off "Freedom" and "Ragged Glory" with those standards and how socially relevant they are today.

And in these times when rock 'n' roll has sadly become synonymous with the inconsequential utterings of Axl Rose and Jon Bon Jovi's hair, we need this hippie to reaffirm our belief in the genre.

"Crime in the City" is a six-minute plus epic, painting the fine line between crime fighter and law breaker. "Love to Burn" is nine minutes of pure ache as it explores the bitter realities of relationships. Both guitar grinding numbers touch on contemporary themes and slide right into the fray, bearing out Young's continual belief in the sanctity of the power chord and the truth through contradiction.

— Larry O'Connor



Singer James Page and bassist Gordon Spencer lead Brothers from Another Planet through a visual and musical explosion recently at Industry.

dress with a 20-foot train and a navigator's hat fit for a Napoleonic conquest. He spends idle time scouring musty racks at resale shops, trying to find the ultimate costume no one else would dare wear.

A friend of his makes the head gear, but Page furnishes the unbridled energy spinning underneath such garish outfits.

"We don't think about anything we do," Page said. "When I used to go to clubs, one of my biggest problems was that the band was boring. . . . We're just to express the music we play."

The music? Brothers from Another Planet go full throttle with a hard rock beat and indelible groove. Immediately, some are quick to label the group as the second coming of

Living Colour only because two members are black. Before such comparisons were endless when all four members were black, Page said.

"You get so tired of the stereotypes," said Spencer, shaking his head.

Certainly, there is a groove in Brothers from Another Planet's music but funk is not the dominate element. The band does dominate the stage.

"We shock people into listening to us," Dotto said. "We're a hard band to ignore."

Brothers from Another Planet was formed with artistic freedom in mind. More important, though, was the need to have a good time.

Band members say they're not im-

mune from inner-strife affecting other groups of their ilk. Too much energy, perhaps. No hard feelings spill over into the live shows, which are a visual explosion burning from beginning to end.

All of them have been around the block, enough to make them wise if not a little bit jaded. One thing they have learned is to keep the music simple but entertaining.

"The ear is real stupid when it comes to music," James said. "It only remembers simple melodies."

Brothers from Another Planet will perform as part of The Black Coalition of Rock showcase Friday, Dec. 6, at the Majestic Theatre, Woodward Avenue, north Alexandrine, Detroit. For information, call 832-9700.

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