

STREET SCENE

The Observer & Eccentric® Newspapers

(8A*)#7B

Monday, December 16, 1991 O&E

IN CONCERT

Monday Dec. 16

- **Springgans**
Cross Street Station, 511 W. Cross, Ypsilanti.
485-5050
- **Paradise Valley Jazz Jam**
Alvin's, 5756 Cass, across from Wayne State University, Detroit.
832-2353

Tuesday Dec. 17

- **Culture Shock**
Blind Pig, 208 S. First, Ann Arbor.
996-4555
- **The Maltrials**
Rick's Cafe, 611 Church, Ann Arbor.
996-2747
- **The Chisel Bros.**
Alvin's, 5756 Cass, across from Wayne State University, Detroit.
832-2353

Wednesday Dec. 18

- **Weather Vanes**
Blind Pig, 208 S. First, Ann Arbor.
996-4555
- **Y.M.I.**
Rick's Cafe, 611 Church, Ann Arbor.
996-2747
- **Brave World**
Doug's Body Shop, 22061 Woodward, between Eight Mile and Nine Mile, Ferndale.
398-1940

Thursday Dec. 19

- **Mr. Picasso Head**
With Brothers from Another Planet at Blind Pig, 208 S. First, Ann Arbor.
996-4555
- **Wite Flight**
Cross Street Station, 511 W. Cross, Ypsilanti.
485-5050
- **See Dick Run**



Jeff Bodnax and Jimi Hazel are half of 24-7 Spyz which will be at The Ritz in Roseville Dec. 20.

- With Soul Station at 3-D, 1815 N. Main, Royal Oak.
583-3344
- **Jerry and the Juveniles**
Rick's Cafe, 611 Church, Ann Arbor.
996-2747
- **Love Hammer**
With The Jammers and Iona Escort at Paycheck's Lounge, 2932 Canfield, Hamtramck.
874-0254

Friday Dec. 20

- **24-7 Spyz**
The Ritz, 17580 Frazee Road, 10 1/2 Mile and Gratiot, Roseville.
778-6404
- **Sleepy LaBeef**
Blind Pig, 208 S. First, Ann Arbor.
996-4555
- **Knaves**
Lili's 21, 2930 Jacob, Hamtramck.
875-6555

- **Regular Boys**
Sully's, 4753 Greenfield, between Michigan Avenue and Ford Road, Dearborn.
846-1920
- **Madhouse**
Blondies, 21139 W. Seven Mile, between Telegraph and Southfield roads, Detroit.
355-8708

- **Pigface**
Todd's, 8139 E. Seven Mile, Detroit.
366-7000
- **Growler Hotel**
Cross Street Station, 511 W. Cross, Ypsilanti.
485-5050

- **Big Dave and the Ultrasonics**
Rick's Cafe, 611 Church, Ann Arbor.
996-2747
- **Falcons**
Alvin's, 5756 Cass, across from Wayne State University, Detroit.
832-2353

- **The Hepcats**
East Detroit Bar & Grill, 655 Beaubien, at East Fort, Detroit.
963-3353
- **Crossed Wire**
With Forehead Slew at Paycheck's, 2932 Canfield, Hamtramck.
874-0254

Saturday Dec. 21

- **D.C. Drive**
The Ritz, 17580 Frazee Road, 10 1/2 Mile and Gratiot, Roseville.
778-6404
- **Stewart Francke Band**
Lili's 21, 2930 Jacob, Hamtramck.
875-6555

- **Flyin' Saucers**
With Frampton Brothers at Finney's Pub, 3965 Woodward, near Alexandrine, Detroit.
831-8070
- **The Rationals**
Todd's, 8139 E. Seven Mile, one block east of Van Dyke Road, Detroit.
366-8833

- **Assembly Required**
Blind Pig, 208 S. First, Ann Arbor.
996-4555
- **Falthealers**
Cross Street Station, 511 W. Cross, Ypsilanti.
485-5050

- **Regular Boys**
Sully's, 4753 Greenfield, between Michigan Avenue and Ford Road, Dearborn.
846-1920

Pigface changes face of music

By Larry O'Connor
staff writer

Earlier this year, if a bomb accidentally fell on a certain pub in Lewistown, alternative music as we know it would have been evaporated.

Seated and swilling drinks were no less than Ogre Nivek of Skinny Puppy, Paul Raven of Killing Joke, Trent Reznor of Nine Inch Nails, Chris Connelly of Ministry and Revolting Cocks and Martin Atkins of PIL and Killing Joke fame. Wonder who picked up the tab?

But this is Pigface, partly the creation of the ever excitable, somewhat daft Atkins. Before the question can be asked whether a shoebox was needed to fit that many egos under one roof, Atkins sets the record straight.

"I said to somebody the egos have been suppressed, but I thought later that's not really fair," said Atkins. In a telephone interview from the offices of Javali Records in Chicago. "There's no ego. Sure, there's some ego. Every one has an ego, but not in the traditional rock'n'roll sense.

"If someone said, 'I demand this . . . we'd kick them right off the bus.'"

SOUNDS A bit harsh, huh? That's nothing, just listen to the conglomeration's live release. "Welcome to Mexico . . ." or be summoned to one of their musical free-for-all shows.

Every thing from Belly Dancers, sitars and

bag pipers and rappers have turned up, not to mention guest performers, such as En Esch of KMFDM, Mary Byker of Gaye Bykers on Acid and Andy Maguire of Dogzilla.

In a self-constructed carnival, Pigface saves itself from degenerating into a freak show. Disturbing, grungy, noisy and alluring music lends legitimacy to the project.

So, too, does Atkins' endless enthusiasm for Pigface, which comes in torrents. He believes this is how music should be formed, in an environment free from fear of disintegration and the shackles of corporate recorddom.

Obviously, with the pedigree of the performers involved with Pigface, his zeal rubs off.

"It's a complete recharging of the batteries, a recycling of why we're all doing this in the first place," Atkins said. "And we can hang out with our friends and make relevant music — make music the way it was supposed to be made and have fun doing it."

"AFTER ONE of our shows . . . we were just laughing our a-- off for an hour. We were saying, 'Wow, this is great.'"

Pigface is not a secret society. Some have become honorary members, such as couple of Thrill Kill Kult brethren, by simply sharing a beer or two in the studio or on the bus.

Restlessness led Atkins and drummer Bill Rieflin to concoct such an outfit. Both were drumming with Ministry on the band's "The

Mind is a Terrible Thing to Taste" tour. Things had grown a bit stale.

With the technical assistance of Steve Albini (Big Black, Rapeman) Pigface's first album, "Guh," was released earlier this year on an unsupportive audience. The tag-team effort produced a record of extremities, a take it or leave it proposition.

The tag-team, free-form nature of music is the ultimate attraction to Pigface members and listeners alike.

"MOST BANDS, they can hate each other. They can have awful diarrhea and fever and the songs sound the same because they're playing something they have learned," Atkins said.

Not so with Pigface, who can have an off night and it can still be a "groovy thing."

If anything, Pigface is making a statement about alternative music — an increasingly bloated genre dominated by the major labels that has fallen victim to the single-video-album-tour monotony.

"I think alternative music is floundering," Atkins said. "It reminds me of 1975 and '76 in England when everything became stagnant and patrid. There's this blandness and mediocrity."

"I'm excited to be excited by this project."

Pigface will perform with guests, Jesus Litard, Friday, Dec. 20, at Todd's, 8139 E. Seven Mile, one block east of Van Dyke, Detroit. For information, call 366-TODD.



Joining Pigface at Todd's Friday will Orge Nivek of Skinny Puppy, En Esch of KMFDM, Chris Connelly of Revolting Cocks, Paul Raven, Mary Byker, William Tucker and Martin Atkins.

A guide to meeting SO's parents

You and your Significant Other (SO) are getting along quite nicely, thank you. You don't fight about money or sex and you've even managed to divide up your closet space without using profanity.

However, the toughest test may lay ahead. You still have to survive the biggest test to a relationship — the dreaded Visit to Your Loved One's Parents' House.

The Visit has felled many fine relationships before — one minute you're practically engaged and the next, you're stocking up on frozen dinners for one.

But this needn't happen to you. With a little pre-planning, you can not only survive the Visit, you may even sort of enjoy it.

The key is planning and knowing what to expect. So here's a little primer on visiting your could-be future-in-law's home.

Conversational Tips: The parents may interpret your visit to their home as tantamount to a formal announcement of marriage. So, conversation with them will be a bit like a job interview — an interview in which you're applying to become a member of their family.

All of the same rules apply. Look the parents directly in the eye, don't mumble, sit up straight, and for gosh sake, comb that hair out of your eyes. Act like your current job at the Burger Hut is part of a well-calculated career plan.

Don't bring up any volatile subjects like religion, politics or the eth-

left of center
Jill Hamilton



ics of wearing fur. Even though it may be obvious to you that John Sununu is a jerk, the parents may not agree.

Your best bet for conversation is the main (and possibly only) thing you have in common — their child. Ask to see old pictures. The parents will likely have several color-coded volumes of photos. Looking at the photos will give you several hours of stress-free time with the parents because your comments can be limited to short, non-controversial phrases like "How cute!" and "When was this, taken?"

Plus, as an added bonus, you may get to see some old pictures of SO with former dates. Refrain from commenting on these former dates' humorous hairstyles.

The Pet: During your visit, you will probably be expected to befriend someone named something like Fluffkins. Fluffkins is an annoying, fluffy black poodle who is fond of leaping three feet in the air and wearing red bows in her hair.

Many parents who are suffering the empty nest syndrome have a Fluffkins. Fluffkins is both a substi-

tute child and an alter ego for the parents, so it's very crucial that you befriend the pet.

Often parents will use Fluffkins as a mouthpiece for their own thoughts. Obviously, the parents are very tuned in to Fluffkins' every thought and desire because they often voice what Fluffkins is unable to say — as in, "Fluffkins really wishes you would come home more often" or "Fluffkins would really like it if you lived closer to us." To interpret these statements, mentally substitute the phrase "Your mother and I" for Fluffkins.

When conversation lags (which can be pretty much the entire visit), talking about Fluffkins provides an interesting diversion. Instead of everyone sitting there staring blankly at each other, you can comment on the progress that Fluffkins is making on chewing up her rubber pork chop. Here's how it usually goes: (Uncomfortable silence)

Mr. Parent: Look at her go.

SO: She's ripping that pork chop apart.

Mrs. Parent: She's chewed up every toy we've given her.

You: Really? Wow.

Mr. Parent: She's quite a chewer. You (brightly) Yes.

(All nod in agreement that, indeed, Fluffkins certainly can chew.)

This exchange, with minor variations, can be repeated at intervals throughout the night.

Your Sleeping Arrangements: Even though you and SO have been living together for almost three years, you will be given separate bedrooms during the visit. You see, the parents like to believe that, regardless of your living arrangements, you and SO are still somewhere around the hand-holding stage.

You will be given the room of one of SO's brothers or sisters. The room will be exactly as it was when the child finally left home. This means you will be sharing a bed with "smiley face" stuffed animals or sleeping under a poster of Farrah Fawcett, circa the 1970s. Don't make fun.

Try to avoid visiting SO's room because you will be disappointed at the sight of your normally quiet adult loved one sleeping in a "race car" or "princess" style bed. And, be forewarned, parents have an amazing ability to bear their child's honor being violated.

Leaving: Thank the parents warmly, hug it if it seems to be the thing to do, and don't forget to give Fluffkins a farewell pat on the head.

On the ride home, do not under any circumstances consider that the saying that children eventually become their parents might actually be true.

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