

STREET SCENE

The Observer & Eccentric® Newspapers

(#4B)*3B

Monday, December 30, 1991 O&E

In 1991, success came in patches

In too many ways, 1991 was like any other year. Local bands continued to release professional, high quality products and toll the circuit with an unlimited infusion of inspiration and perspiration, performing to audiences that remain largely indifferent.

That's hardly news. What sustains this local music community, though, are the small blurs chronicling brief patches of success. We had a few of those in 1991. Like the Junk Monkeys having a cut off their "Metal Blade" release featured in the soundtrack in the latest "Nightmare on Elm Street" film or Livonia expatriate Kory Clarke returning with his band, Warrior Soul, to open for Queensryche at The Palace.

Then, of course, are the perennial noise and news makers on the scene — Goobar & the Peas. Last year, it was opening for Bob Dylan at the Fox Theatre.

This year, the cowpokers managed to receive a front-page write up in the New York Times Arts & Leisure section and humbly with John Wesley Harding who is producing their next release.

Such are the little things we cling to waiting for bigger things to happen.

But the fact this area's most prominent and hopeful musical export is a bunch of guys in cowboy hats kicking straw and mangling Hank Williams Jr. songs speaks volumes to what all the musical industry as a whole. Substance takes a back seat to frivolity and is perhaps more of indictment of audience tastes than a lack of musical talent.

TRUST US, the talent is there. Majesty Crush emerged as one of the newest and brightest on the alterna live front, gushing with energy and evoking divergent images of danger and healing.

More than likely, though, the band



Livonia native Kory Clarke (above, second from the left) brought his band Warrior Soul into The Palace in October to open for Queensryche, while fellow Livonian Warren DeFever (at right) and His Name is Alive performed selected gigs and releasing their second LP, "Home is in Your Head."

will need to seek new audiences outside of Detroit to be truly appreciated as in the cases of His Name is Alive, Inside Out, Big Chief and Mol Triffid.

Apparently, people around here want to be entertained more than challenged. Which, perhaps, partly explains the enduring popularity of popmesters See Dick Run and skanksters Gangster Fun.

Really, this year in particular was bountiful with new releases. While sterling debuts were put forth by the likes of Blasphemous, Happy Accidents and Park the Karma, the bulk of this year's local music were follow-up efforts.

Cuppa Joe, the Difference, Hannibal, Civilians, the Generals, Park the Karma, Missionary Stew and His Name is Alive all manage to refine their vision with exceptional form and provide solid evidence to the musical dexterity of this area as a whole.

YET 1991 leaves us with the usual questions.

Like, for instance, how can Frank Allison & the Odd Sox still burrow away and do all the things a band is supposed to do — write indelible songs, put out two superlative releases, "Monkey Business" and "Hoksey Smoke," draw large crowds to their shows and perform burning sets — and remain unsigned? Go figure.

You scratch your head and learn to just live for the special moments. Personally, there were several of those. Strange Bedfellows dominating a crowd in a sweaty gig at the Cross Street Station, His Name is Alive's mesmerizing full-length set complete with audio visuals at the Majestic Theatre and Majesty Crush's daring and alluring show at Peppermints in Windsor.

Also, the local musical community leaves us with sadness, losing two of its most passionate performers and believers with the deaths of MCS vocalist Rob Tyner and Generals bassist, Flip Cherven.

Gone with Tyner was a living leg-



Warren DeFever (above, second from the left) brought his band Warrior Soul into The Palace in October to open for Queensryche, while fellow Livonian Warren DeFever (at right) and His Name is Alive performed selected gigs and releasing their second LP, "Home is in Your Head."

— Larry O'Connor

STREET SENSE

'Dr. Jeckyl' was really 'Mr. Hyde'

Dear Readers,

These are more of an outpouring of letters from women who put themselves in danger of abuse. Some expose their deepest fears for the first time in their lives.

Once all of these letters have been published, I will print my personal reactions and yours.

Barbara

Dear Barbara Schiff,

I read your article in The Observer about "What's luck got to do with abuse?" I felt I wanted to write you because I am in a verbally and mentally abusive relationship and I think if I lived with him, he would also become physical.

I am "trapped" in my mind, not because of luck, but because of my lack of control over my own life. I think that boils down to low self-esteem and personality traits. I think so much of what you said is 100 percent correct. The only luck in it is if you were lucky enough to grow up in an environment that taught you to believe in yourself.

I am an attractive 29-year-old woman with two children, 11 and 5. I have all my life had a hard time learning. I always felt dumb compared to others. I tried a few times going to classes and I got so upset, it doesn't feel worth it to me. I have lived my whole life trying to hide that I'm not smart, that I'm actually good at it.

I was married and at home for 11 years. Then the divorce came. I had been doing office cleaning two nights a week. Because of my divorce, I had to work more. I don't type or use computers, so I just did more office cleaning.

I clean for a doctor. I would ask him questions, which got us talking. He was the most sincere, kind, concerned person I had ever met. He was intelligent and always had the right answers to my problems. (See, I'm looking to someone else for answers.)

I did not have an affair with him. We talked at work or on the phone for about a year. He was married but did not live with his wife (I knew this for sure), so I felt it was all right. I went very slowly with this. The more I was with him, the more I wanted him.

I really think that the desire to be with him was what you said, "a lack of control for my own welfare." I don't feel like I can take care of myself and the two children. I counted on his help. He always saw me without my children (he has no children). He enjoyed his time with me and wanted me. He always talked about marriage.

Then, after about two years, he decided he should get divorced. They lived separate, but he paid the bills. As soon as his divorce started, the abuse to me started. He blamed me for having to pay the large monthly settlement, etc.

I have been with him for two years (not living together). He never has a day or night with me that he doesn't bring up my ex-husband and children. He insults my children constantly. He's never around them. He



Barbara Schiff

always bugs me to give up custody and marry him.

He is the opposite of everything he was when I met him. He lies, constant put-downs. He is a degrading man.

Here I am, 29 years old and can't support myself. I care more about my children than myself, so I put up with it. If I was to leave him, he would punish me violently. He always reminds me of what he gave up to be with me, so if I left him, I would pay.

The point I am trying to make is this: If I was a woman who felt confident and could take care of my family, I wouldn't have looked at him as a help in my life. He is someone who looks for someone he can control and manipulate.

There I was two years ago with two small children, no family support, alone, and he was there for me. These men know that they are so good at being kind. Once they know they got you, that's when everything changes — when it's too late to get out.

I work seven days or nights a week. I don't know how I'm supposed to get out of this mess. The funny thing is I do love him. I feel like he is the only one who cared about me to help me. But then I think he cared about me to be able to control me.

Yes, I do think there are personality characteristics in women who stay; you feel like you have no power over yourself so you let someone else have it. At first, it's a wonderful thing, then you're trapped because it's not so wonderful, but there's nowhere else to go.

You are so right when you ended with "None of us should accept complete lack of control for our own welfare." Well, I did and I'm paying for it. It begins at home and what you teach your children. This man is never in my children's lives. I don't ever want that to happen.

I was an innocent young woman and my husband decided he had had enough of the married life, so he left. Now the way I look at my "new life" is that this man gets good sex, no responsibilities, gets to take out his anger on me. Doesn't sound like a new life, sounds like the oldest job in the book.

Joyce

IN CONCERT

Monday Dec. 30

- **Cracker Box**
Blind Pig, 208 S. First, Ann Arbor.
996-8555
- **Prodigals**
Rick's Cafe, 611 Church, Ann Arbor.
996-2747
- **Black Market**
With Skeleton Crew at Industry, 15 S. Saginaw, Pontiac. Admission is \$5.
334-1999

Tuesday Dec. 31

- **Robert Penn**
Other End Lounge, 5855 Monroe, Taylor.
278-5340
- **Flyin' Saucers**
Lili's 21, 2930 Jacob, Hamtramck.
875-6555
- **Frank Allison and the Odd Sox**
Blind Pig, 208 S. First, Ann Arbor.
996-8555
- **Regular Boys**
Sully's, 4758 Greenfield, between Michigan Avenue and Ford Road, Dearborn.
846-1020



Missy Gibson will join her fellow Destruction Ride members at the Blind Pig, 208 S. First, Ann Arbor, 996-8555.

Friday Jan. 3

- **Warren Zevon**
With the Odds at Majestic Theatre, 4140 Woodward, Detroit.
832-9700
- **Weatherwax**
With Holy Cows at Lili's, 2930 Jacob, Hamtramck.
875-6555
- **Exceptions**
With the Gear and Trust Fund at Paychecks, 2932 Canfield, Hamtramck.
874-0254
- **Conquerors**
Blind Pig, 208 S. First, Ann Arbor.
996-8555
- **Sunzophun**
R-106, 16350 Harper, Detroit.
831-7625
- **Huntuna**
Rick's Cafe, 611 Church, Ann Arbor.
996-2747
- **Mushroom Head**
With Mental Landscape at Finney's Pub, 3965 Woodward, Detroit.

Wednesday Jan. 1

- **Vudu Hippies**
Rick's Cafe, 611 Church, Ann Arbor.
996-2747
- **Destruction Ride**
With Restroom Poets at the Blind Pig, 208 S. First, Ann Arbor.
996-8555
- **Reunion of Wild Kingdom**
Rick's Cafe, 611 Church, Ann Arbor.
996-2747

Thursday Jan. 2

- **Destruction Ride**
With Restroom Poets at the Blind Pig, 208 S. First, Ann Arbor.
996-8555
- **Reunion of Wild Kingdom**
Rick's Cafe, 611 Church, Ann Arbor.
996-2747

Friday Jan. 3

- **Motor City Blues Project**
Sully's, 4758 Greenfield, north of Michigan Avenue, Dearborn.
846-1920
- **John D. Lamb and Wild Blue**
New Detroit Bar, 655 Beaubien, at Fox Street, Detroit.
962-3355

Saturday Jan. 4

- **Generals**
With Mother Superior at Paychecks, 2932 Canfield, Hamtramck.
874-0254
- **George Badard and the Kingpins**
Blind Pig, 208 S. First, Ann Arbor.
996-8555
- **3-D Invisibles**
With Kass Killee at Lili's 21, 2930 Jacob, Hamtramck.
875-6555
- **O.C. Drive**
1-Rock, 16350 Harper, Detroit.
881-7625

Derby Community Bingo

1279 UNIVERSITY AVE. W. WINDSOR, ONT., CANADA (519) 253-1475

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK
SATURDAYS & SUNDAYS
\$12,900 Prizeboard
Five \$1,150 Jackpots

SATURDAY SESSIONS
1:30, 3:00, 7:30, 9:00, 10:30

SUNDAY SESSIONS
2:30, 4:00, 6:00, 7:30, 9:00

PLAY U.S. WIN U.S.

Free Parking

UNIVERSITY PARK ST. WYANDOTTE STREET

\$\$\$ WIN \$\$\$ WIN \$\$\$ WIN \$\$\$

Do you need legal help, but don't know where to turn?

Join the more than 2 million people who have chosen Hyatt Legal Services to help them with their legal matters.

For just \$20, a Hyatt Legal Services attorney will analyze your situation, explain your rights, point out your options and recommend a course of action. Often times, an initial consultation will be all you need to solve your problem. And for cases like divorce, bankruptcy, accidents or wills, we'll give you a written statement up front, so you'll know exactly what the fee will be.

Personal attention. Reasonable fees. Neighborhood locations. Evening and Saturday hours. Hyatt Legal Services. A good idea that just keeps getting better. You have my word on it!

Call us for an appointment today

LIVONIA 18778 Middlebelt 471-5300
WESTLAND 6066 N. Wayne Rd 595-1915

Joeylin T. Starks Partner Philip J. Leary Partner

HYATT LEGAL SERVICES