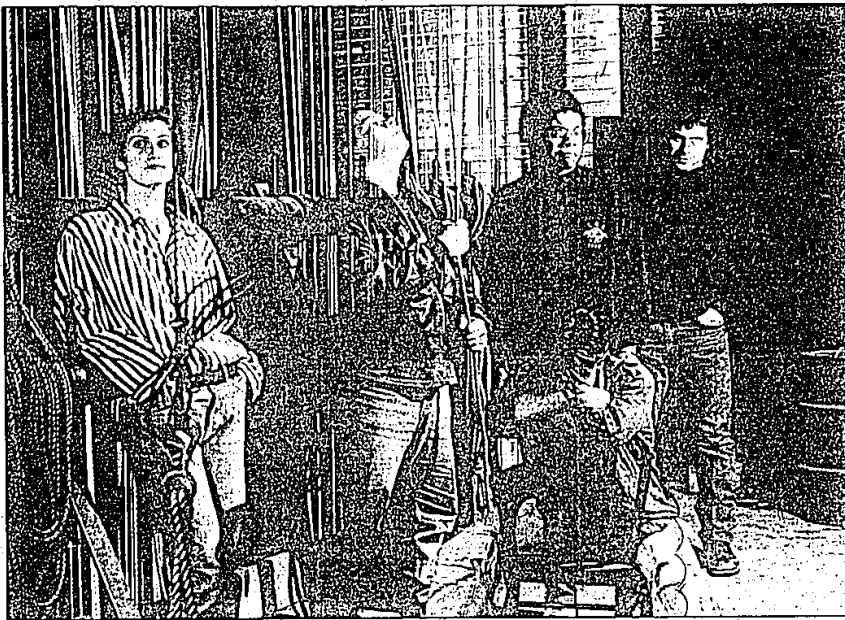


# STREET SCENE

The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

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Monday, April 13, 1992 OLE



The Bushmasters, a Detroit area group, find the right musical blend on "The Original Woodshed Sessions."

## Band leaves fans wanting more

With a mere four songs, the Bushmasters obviously want to leave listeners wanting more on "The Original Woodshed Sessions." The desired effect is achieved.

Whether it's the band's story-telling ability showcased on "A Dead Man's Ballad" or musical dexterity revealed with multi-layers of electric and acoustic guitar on "All I Want," this release is a gem with its off-harmonica driven swagger.

Tim Pak's vocals do more than spill words; he creates a hypnotic sway with an alluring deadpanned delivery in "All I Want," which is touched up by some gorgeous Spanish style acoustic guitar. His storyteller tone in the grim tale of suburban crime, "A Dead Man's Ballad," sounds like it's being recited amid a dust storm in some wayward western tavern.

Pak may be given credit for creating the mood here, but the rest of the outfit, Airick, guitars, Lori B, keyboards and vocals; Dave Koran, bass; and Ewoll, drums and vocals sell the package with remarkable blend of musical tightness.

To this end the easy-to-please full throttle rocker, "This Ain't Goodbye," could be the typical local band number often performed at 1:35 a.m. to shake the dust from atop the cigarette machine in one of a number of venues. The Bushmasters put it off with particular aplomb, casting an indelible, judiciously orchestrated rock number with none of the sloppiness.



Larry O'Connor

The jaunty, harmonica-injected instrumental, "Meet Joe Black," closes out this short-lived (14 minutes) Bushmaster encounter, which if anything speaks more to the confidence of this outfit as artists. (Greenlight Records, 20210 Plainview, Detroit 48219)

"Foxybase Alpha," Saint Etienne. The languid, techno-keyboard rendition of Neil Young's "Only Love Can Break Your Heart" serves as an enticing piece of fruit to this British outfit's dance-pop release.

On the ensuing numbers on "Foxybase Alpha," Saint Etienne attempts to present itself as something a little more than a cast of '60s-'70s revisionists out on a merry pillage of the tunes of the era. There's an array of uptempo dance numbers, sampling and dialogue interspersed between numbers — all designed to create a carefree exodus from reality.

The opening from a French soccer program and verbiage between an aunt and her nephew ("C'mon Auntie, we'll miss the bus") cut in be-

tween is seemingly intended to provide a childlike retreat.

Perhaps a carefree feeling would be achieved if it weren't for the vocals of Sarah Cracknell, who's apparently a pupil of the I-Sound-Like-Everyone-I've-Heard School of Singing.

Cracknell's vocals bear an undeniable resemblance to Sade in the sweetly seductive "Carni Sleep" and steers dangerously close to a Diana Ross impersonation in "Spring." The end result, though, has St. Etienne coming off sounding like a 60s-'70s eliche dressed up in a '90s belt.

Make no mistake, St. Etienne is a trip — but it is a mindless one. (Warner Bros. Records, 75 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, NY 10019)

"Fear," Toad the Wet Sprocket. This weighs in heavy, tackling the subject of violence against women. ("Hold Her Down") encapsulating all the rage and horror in a poignant manner within the confines of one rock'n'roll song.

"Hold Her Down" is merely one of

**Bushmaster Tim Pak's vocals do more than spill words. He creates a hypnotic sway with an alluring deadpan delivery.**

12 powerful, evocative numbers from this Santa Barbara, Calif., four-piece. Blipped by an uncompromising, folk-inspired rock'n'roll sound, each number on Toad the Wet Sprocket's "Fear" is a gem of emotional sentiment in their release while surreptitiously cleansing the soul.

They do this by the most natural musical means — ripping through numbers such as "Stories I Tell" with breathtaking fury while settling into a nice toe-tapping groove as in "Nightmare Song" in others.

This stirring is more the result of a willingness to cut close to personal conflicts, displaying all the foibles and trepidations this may involve. "I fear my day is done/there are armies moving on/be quick my love" sings Glen Phillips in the last, almost claustrophobic number "Pray Your Gods."

Toad the Wet Sprocket is undoubtedly a band well ahead of its years. (Columbia Records, 666 FVth, New York, NY 10100)

## STREET SENSE

### Man learns from childhood trauma

Dear Barbara,

I am a 35-year-old father of a 16-year-old child. I am married for the second time. After reading the article in The Observer on Monday, March 9, I decided to write.

While taking a class which explores childhood last year, I began becoming quite agitated and unable to answer the questions. The woman teaching the class took me aside and into another room. I broke down and cried harder than I had in years. In the midst of this, a childhood incident which was lost in memory for more than 25 years surfaced. I had been attacked by two young men in a field and sexually molested. They also threatened that if I ever told anyone, they would get me.

After recalling this incident, nearly every time it was told, I felt an incredible relief and peace. I have also recalled nightmares that I frequently got as a child around this period. I would go down in my basement near the cellar or in the laundry rooms and skeletons would lunge out at me, scaring me to death and waking me in a panic.

I am certain these nightmares were the result of the attack in the field. I've read many books on the subject and have learned quite a bit. I've been helped by the woman who taught the class on childhood and in her courses on self discovery, but I feel I need someone who specializes in this area.

I also have had traumatic physical and emotional attacks since the one in early childhood. I was attacked by a young man when I was 23 for no apparent reason. He came up from behind and struck me in the face, shattering my left cheekbone and collapsing my left sinus passageway, requiring two separate surgeries.

I had another traumatic incident which is known as TMJ due to miscommunication with a young dentist, which also was quite traumatic. (This has been corrected as much as possible.)

I've been through more than 60 jobs in my life, but have learned this characteristic of people who experience these kinds of shocks. I recently read about post-traumatic shock disorder and certainly can relate to it.

I know I need additional specialized help. It angers and frustrates me that having been the victim of serious crimes that I should have to pay for expensive and possibly lengthy sessions. When I heard about the Royal Oak Post Office tragedy on the radio, I turned to my boss and said I would bet that this guy was himself at one time a victim that never got help. Several hours later this was brought out.

Many victims of serious crimes are now in prison or dead because victims become victimizers. Many of the homeless are the same way. I recently read that Mike Tyson raped when he was 12 years old. This does not surprise me. It was obvious he needed help before he committed this last crime of rape.

I am sorry and ashamed to admit that this victim has become a victimizer. Lately, I have had so much



Barbara Schiff

anger and frustration that I've been hitting my wife's new puppy more than I ought to. It started out as a snack here and there for pooping or peeing in the house. This is quite sick, but in the beginning it felt good to reprimand her in this way. I never really learned to express anger properly. Most of my life I denied my anger and now I don't want to deny it any more, but am overreacting. I love that little puppy, but I need help to overcome my hate and frustration, and she is not a proper channel.

Can you recommend anyone in this area who specializes in problems similar to mine?

Dear R,

Thank you for having the courage to write me and thus allow other readers to learn from your experience. Since you needed treatment immediately, I sent you a letter with the names and telephone numbers of therapists to contact for help with your problem. I hope you are already in treatment and getting the help that will relieve you of such disturbing feelings.

This is a topic that is coming to increasingly greater local and national attention. Childhood abuse has become a common topic on TV talk shows. In just the last month, I received two brochures advertising lectures and workshops for professionals interested in learning more about the treatment of adults who had been abused as children.

Personally, I hope that the heightened societal awareness we are experiencing will lead to less victimization of children, and less cover-up when the abuse occurs.

I wonder if you and others abused as children feel that early psychological intervention would have protected you from the unhappy existence you describe as adults. We are always interested in hearing from other readers on this topic.

Again, thanks for writing and good luck.

Barbara

If you have a question or a comment for Barbara Schiff, a trained therapist and experienced counselor, send it to Street Sense at 36291 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150.

## IN CONCERT

Monday, April 13

- **Harry Reasoners**  
Crosby Street Station, 511 W. Cross, Vp. 511-1111.  
465-5050
- **Vudu Hippies**  
Rick's Cafe, 611 Church, Ann Arbor.  
996-2747
- **Paradise Valley Jazz Jam**  
Alvin's, 5758 Cass, across from Wayne State University, Detroit.  
832-2355

Tuesday, April 14

- **Helious Creed**  
Blind Pig, 206-S First, Ann Arbor.  
996-4555
- **The Filtrations**  
The Ark, 637-S Main, Ann Arbor.  
781-1451
- **Jerry Sprague with the Juveniles**  
Rick's Cafe, 611 Church, Ann Arbor.  
996-2747
- **Chibiel Bros. with Thornetta Davis**  
Alvin's, 5758 Cass, across from Wayne State University, Detroit.  
832-2355

Wednesday, April 15

- **Buckwheat Zydeco**  
Sully's, 4758 Greenfield, north of Mich-

igan Avenue, Dearborn

- **Little Village**  
State Theatre, 2115 Woodward, Detroit. Advance tickets are \$35 main floor, \$20 reserved.  
961-5450
- **Johnny With an Eye**  
Rick's Cafe, 611 Church, Ann Arbor.  
996-2747
- **Rain Forest Action Movement Benefit**  
With Eubier Way and Patsy Dies at Blind Pig, 206-S First, Ann Arbor.  
996-4555
- **The Filtrations**  
The Ark, 637-S Main, Ann Arbor.  
781-1451

Thursday, April 16

- **Unfly Boots**  
Crosby Street Station, 511 W. Cross, Vp. 511-1111.  
465-5050
- **BB King**  
With Buddy Guy at Hill Auditorium, 825-N. University, Ann Arbor. Reserved seats are \$17.50 and \$20.  
99-MUSIC
- **Distrife**  
With Wally Pleasant at Alvin's, 5758 Cass, across from Wayne State University, Detroit.  
832-2355

● **Big Dave and the UltraSonics**

- Rick's Cafe, 611 Church, Ann Arbor.  
996-2747
- **Sit**  
With Tool at Blind Pig, 206-S First, Ann Arbor.  
996-4555

Friday, April 17

- **Mr. Picasso Head**  
Crosby Street Station, 511 W. Cross, Vp. 511-1111.  
465-5050
- **The Regulator Boys**  
Murdoch's, 2088 Crooks Road, Rochester Hills.  
852-0550
- **Rail Drivers**  
With Jameson at Hamtramck Pub, 2018 Caniff, off I-75.  
363-2129
- **Rolling Band**  
St. Andrew's Hall, 451 E. Congress, Detroit. Tickets are \$7.50 in advance.  
961-MET.7
- **Ziggy Marley**  
State Theatre, 2115 Woodward, Detroit. Tickets are \$8.50 in advance.  
961-MET.7
- **Mushroom Head**  
With Poltergeist at Lili's 21, 2930 Jacob, Hamtramck.  
875-6555

● **Black Planet**

- With Calhoun at Finney's Pub, 595 Woodward, Detroit.  
831-9370
- **Blues Traveler**  
With Kindred Spirits at State Theatre, 2115 Woodward, Detroit. Tickets are \$15.50.  
99-MUSIC
- **Mule**  
Alvin's, 5758 Cass, across from Wayne State University, Detroit.  
832-2355
- **Clive Gregson and Christine Coulter**  
The Ark, 637-S Main, Ann Arbor.  
781-1451
- **Hannaballs**  
Rick's Cafe, 611 Church, Ann Arbor.  
996-2747
- **New Duncan Imperials**  
With Matriarch at Blind Pig, 206-S First, Ann Arbor.  
996-4555
- **Holy Cows**  
Crosby Street Station, 511 W. Cross, Vp. 511-1111.  
465-5050
- **Regulator Boys**  
Murdoch's, 2088 Crooks Road, Rochester Hills.  
852-0550

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