

StreetSCENE

'Trip' with U2 can cost plenty



LARRY O'CONNOR

U2 can make you sing. U2 can make you dance. U2 can also make you go broke.

Go to a concert as a consumer, as we did Wednesday when the Irish quartet rolled Zoo TV Outside Broadcast into the Pontiac Silverdome, and you end up being consumed in the vortex of pocket book plundering.

"I guess it's the price of love... you know it's not cheap," sings Bono an "Ultra Violet (Light My Way)." Neither is one of his shows.

When you add the cost of tickets and ancillaries, such as parking, a T-shirt and something to eat, the damage assessment on the wallet can be in excess of \$60 for one person. And double that figure with a date.

The first jolt, obviously, is the ticket. Ours, like everyone's, was \$20 and bought from a friend who had an extra.

That was only the beginning.

Once our Ford Escort rolled into the Dome, preconcert anticipation was quickly brought down to reality. Parking was \$7, two bucks more than the going rate of \$5. For that price, we thought a car wash should be included.

Already, \$37 is spent and we haven't even plunked down in our seat yet.

Since dinner was missed in the mad dash to beat traffic jams on route to the monolithic structure, we stopped by the refreshment area, by stadium concession stand standards, the prices were rather reasonable. We bought a jumbo pretzel and a Diet Coke, which together cost \$3.75.

Another cha-ching, and we haven't made it to the souvenir stand yet.

The concert T-shirt is a badge of honor, the ultimate symbol that you came, you saw and you were there. A U2 tee has always been a highly sought possession among fans, stemming back to the days when the band's sleeveless black shirts with the white flag on the pocket in the "War" days were the rage.

This tour's clothing line was rather bland by comparison. The shirts come in the basic colors of white and black with a rather nondescript design on the front and tour dates on the back. The cost is \$23. (Outside some bootleg shirts — also 100 percent cotton but made in China — were going for \$10).

Other official merchandise, such as "Achtung Baby" baseball jerseys (\$40), baseball caps (\$20), tank tops (\$20), programs (\$13) and, of course, U2 condoms (\$2) was available.

We settle for a black Zoo TV Tour tee for \$23.

Our seats were on the main floor, but in the 78th row and 100 yards away from the proceedings. For the price of the ticket, we were treated to two opening acts: Heroes of Hip-hop and Primus. However, due to the tin-can acoustics, both sounded like mud.

Once U2 hit the stage we were treated to a dazzling multi-media display and a host of great songs.

Of course, we were forced to stand on our \$30 seat for the duration of the two-hour show to get a glimpse of the actual performers onstage. Most of the time, we had to settle for watching Zoo TV on the monitors above the stage.

Was it worth it? Sure, if you're a rabid U2 fan.

Otherwise, \$63.75 is a lot of money to watch TV.



Party time: Kelly Brown spends plenty of time each week, representing CIMX-FM at local gigs and station-sponsored events in the metro area.

Brown gives CIMX her best



BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

Kelly Brown is one half of CIMX-FM's morning tandem whose perky personality helps butter the toast and gets the coffee brewing. So imagine the surprise when the usually ebullient dee jay sounds a bit perturbed on the phone.

Caffeine backlash? A Tim Horton maple glaze not sit well?

Not quite.

The 1981 Livonia Churchill graduate gets miffed by criticism the "cutting edge" station has not entirely fulfilled its promise of playing new music by airing enough local music. The co-host of the "Homeboy" show heard 11-11:30 p.m. Sundays hasn't taken some of the knocks to heart, the most recent of which were leveled in the August edition of Monthly Detroit.

"Actually, no I don't take it personally," said Brown, 29, after concluding her usual 6-10 a.m. shift on the air with Anglophile Mike Harrison. "I know I'm doing as much as I can... I work my butt off. Every day I'm working for these guys."

Brown does daily reports on what shows are taking place that evening. She's also been one of the most visible on the local scene, working exhaustive hours (she estimates sometimes up to 70 hours a week) by turning up at local gigs and station-sponsored promotions.

■ 'In terms of dee jays, she's not the typical dee jay in that she's very approachable. She truly loves local music.'

Art Lyzak
operates Lili's in Hamtramck

And, of course, there's the "Homeboy" show she hosts, which showcases a half-hour of music from local bands.

"In terms of dee jays, she's not the typical dee jay in that she's very approachable," said Art Lyzak, who operates Lili's in Hamtramck. "She truly loves local music."

The main beef against CIMX-FM has been it hasn't put many local artists (Goober & the Peas, See Dick Run as exceptions) into regular rotation. Instead, the majority of them have been relegated to the Sunday radio abyss.

But it begs the question: How much is enough?

There are those who grouse the station could do better than an obligatory half-hour (extended to one hour once a month for live remotes). Then

there are those who credit CIMX-FM as a catalyst in helping rejuvenate this area's alternative scene, which has been largely ignored by AOR stations in Detroit for years.

Undeniably, local music has become a passion for Brown, who started getting involved after seeing several shows at Lili's in Hamtramck.

"I'd go to Lili's and see bands and I thought they were really good," she said. "The Seattle scene wasn't happening yet and nothing has been happening in Detroit musically for a real long time."

"...the music is really good. They have their own creativity. They have their own styles. I enjoy seeing them working really hard."

Their struggles somewhat mirror her own. She worked as an administrative assistant for Shearson Lehman Hutton Inc., before deciding to chuck it in a daunting career change to radio.

After graduating from Specs Howard School of Broadcast, Brown worked as an intern at WRIF-FM. When Greg St. James moved over to CIMX-FM in 1990, he invited her join him in the undertaking of the format change.

Brown quickly went from performing administrative tasks to doing on-air reports from local shows at area clubs. Last year, she landed a full-time slot on the morning drive with St. James.

During her 60 to 70 hour work week, sleep is the most difficult spin to Brown's radio career. She said she often takes a nap for a few hours before heading out to a show. Despite that, she's kept quite a cheerful outlook and is certainly grateful for her break in radio.

"There's people I went to school with who are still doing farm reports in Moose Breath, Ohio," she said.

STREET SENSE

Good looks: Whose responsibility is it?



BARBARA SCHIFF

Dear Readers,

Some weeks ago, on just one day, there were three talk shows all with the same theme. The theme was the importance men attach to their wives' attractiveness. Two

of these shows had on husbands who were unhappy that their wives had lost their good looks by gaining weight. Three plastic surgeons who had operated extensively on their own wives were presented on the other show.

It was clear that all three presentations were meant to be supportive of the "victimized woman point of view." The husbands on the first two shows were pretty dorky guys, complaining that they had married beautiful "chicks" with gorgeous figures only to find themselves 10 years later with overweight matrons no longer resembling the Playboy centerfold.

The men said this made them feel disgusted, unloved and tricked. Why, they wondered in unison, had their wives been so meticulous about their appearance before they got married only to sink into decrepitude once the bond became harder to break. After all, they said, one of the main reasons they had chosen these particular women was because their looks "turned them on."

I was distressed because I knew that if I could ignore the sleazy impression these men made, their words made sense. If I buy an expensive dress and it goes limp after one cleaning, I, too, want my money back.

The wives were an unhappy, but

Monday, Sept. 14

PARADISE VALLEY JAZZ JAM
Avin's, 5750 Cass, Detroit.
832-2355

GOING PUBLIC
Rick's Cafe, 611 Church, Ann Arbor.
996-2747

Tuesday, Sept. 15

NON-FICTION
The Shelter, behind St. Andrew's Hall, 431 E. Congress, Detroit.
961-4617

CATHAL MCCONNELL & ALEX GRAHAM
The Ark, 637 1/2 S. Main, Ann Arbor.
761-1451

YOUNG MEN
Bund Pig, 208 S. First, Ann Arbor.
996-8555

DIG
Rick's Cafe, 611 Church, Ann Arbor.
996-2747

CHISEL BROTHERS WITH THORNETTA DAVIS
Avin's, 5750 Cass, Detroit.
832-2355

MARY MCCOURE & KEVIN RISM
Mr. O's Farm, Novi Road and 10 Mile, Novi.
349-7038

Wednesday, Sept. 16

SELECTION
With Let's Go Bowling and Gangster Fun at St. Andrew's Hall, 431 E. Congress, Detroit. Tickets are \$9.95.
961-MELT

SCOTT STEIN AND THE TRUST
Doug's Body Shop, Woodward Avenue, south of Nine Mile Road, Ferndale.
358-1940

ALLAN HOLDSWORTH
The Ark, 637 1/2 S. Main, Ann Arbor.
761-1451

METAL ZONE NIGHT
With Black Anthem and Carbide at Griff's, 49 N. Saginaw, Pontiac.
334-5150

GLEN ARMSTRONG AND THE DIRTY CLEVER
Bund Pig, 208 S. First, Ann Arbor.
996-8555

NIGHT FLIGHT
Rick's Cafe, 611 Church, Ann Arbor.
996-2747

MARC RIGOT AND OLD BABY
With Cuthouse at Avin's, 5750 Cass, Detroit.
832-2355

Thursday, Sept. 17

LUTHER "GUITAR JR." JOHNSON
Sully's, 4758 Greenfield, Dearborn.
874-6024

HOPE ORCHESTRA
With Cat House at 3-D, 1815 N. Main, Royal Oak.
589-3344

PHYSICAL ABUSE
Psychicks, 2932 Canfield, Hamtramck.
874-0254

PUBLIC ENEMY
Phoenix Plaza Amphitheatre, 10 S. Water St., Pontiac. Tickets are \$12.50 in advance.
334-5150

BEAVE NEW WORLD
With Chords at Griff's Grill, 49 N. Saginaw, Pontiac.
334-5150

UNCLE CHURCH
Bund Pig, 208 S. First, Ann Arbor.
996-8555

HOLY COWS
Rick's Cafe, 611 Church, Ann Arbor.
996-2747

Friday, Sept. 18

JOAN ARMSTRADING
With Archie Roach at The Michigan The-

atre, 603 E. Liberty, Ann Arbor.
99-4096

CROSSED WIRE
With Strange Bedfellows and Mutant Press at The Alley, Greektown, Beaubien and Monroe, Detroit.
963-5445

HUMAN PHATA
With Psychicks and 27th City at Psychicks, 2932 Canfield, Detroit.
874-0254

THRILL KILL CULT
Industry, 15 S. Saginaw, Pontiac.
334-1999

GEORGE CLINTON
With the P-Funk All Stars and Bootsy's X & the New Power Generation, 17500 Frisco, Roseville.
728-6404

GANGSTER FUN
With Nova Owens at Hamtramck Pub, 2048 Canfield, off I-75.
365-3629

SO INVISIBLE
With Screaming Savage and Caverns at Lili's, 21, 2930 Jacob, Hamtramck.
875-6555

FOOTLOOSE
The Ark, 637 1/2 S. Main, Ann Arbor.
761-1451

HOLY COWS
With Weatherwanes and Mooshka at Griff's Grill, 49 N. Saginaw, Pontiac.
334-5150

BLUES AVENUE
Soup Kitchen Saloon, 1585 Franklin St., Detroit.
259-1374

THE BRAINWORMS
Moby Dicks, 5452 Schaefer, Dearborn.
581-3650

THE ALLEGATORS
Star's Dugout, 3350 Auburn Road, Auburn Hills.
852-6433

LUCY'S ALBI
Coconut Jos', 225 Jos. Campau, Detroit.
259-3675

GANGSTER FUN
Bund Pig, 208 S. First, Ann Arbor.
996-8555

FIRST LIGHT
Rick's Cafe, 611 Church, Ann Arbor.
996-2747

BLACK MALL
With Fig at Finney's Pub, 3965 Woodward, Detroit.
831-8070

Saturday, Sept. 19

BRIGHT BLACK
Lili's, 21, 2930 Jacob, Hamtramck.
875-6555

THE VOLKSTARS
With Machine Gun Kelly at Psychicks, 2932 Canfield, Hamtramck.
874-0254

JON SPELMAN
The Ark, 637 1/2 S. Main, Ann Arbor.
761-1451

DISCIPLINE
With Verboten at Griff's Grill, 49 N. Saginaw, Pontiac.
334-5150

UNCLE JESSE & 28TH STREET BAND
Alibi Bar, 11607 Jos. Campau, Hamtramck.
365-1194

BLUES AVENUE
With The Bluesmen, Johnny "Yard Dog" Jones, Harmonica Shah and the Boogymen at Moby Dicks, 5452 Schaefer, Dearborn.
581-3650

WINDSOR DUKES
Soup Kitchen Saloon, 1585 Franklin St., Detroit.
259-1374

ORNOXATIONS
Hamtramck Pub, 2048 Canfield, off I-75.
365-3629

LUCY'S ALBI
Coconut Jos', 225 Jos. Campau, Detroit.
259-3675