

# StreetSCENE

## Code Industry brings the music home

■ You would think that being from Detroit, Code Industry would be making it in Motown. But not so. The four-man band had to go to Europe to gain recognition for their industrial dance music, which may explain the anger reflected in their verses.

BY LAIRY O'CONNOR

STAFF WRITER

The message is rather explicit: "Detroit, the dead city, your image is carved in stone. It can not be erased. Burn it up!"

Its author, Rob Myers, makes no apologies for the sentence scrawled on the liner notes of his band's Code Industry's latest release, except to say he was a little angry at the time.

The city's stagnation is only one focal point for his rage, though. Racism, drug abuse, the media and ignorance regarding AIDS are forcefully scorned in an all-encompassing 14-track on the Austrian label Antler Subway (distributed stateside on Caroline).

The band's lack of support in its home city brought about the message on the sleeve.

"I don't know what it is," said Myers, 26, who's earnest and congenial in explaining his band's music. "We're from here. We're signed, which is unlike a lot of groups here, and I think we're good."

Code Industry invites paradox. As four black men they excel in the white-dominated medium of industrial dance music. More so, intertwined in their keyboard-generated and sample-laden sound a larger, universal message is being put forth.

Industrial dance music with a meaning is a daunting task. Granted, the target's rather obvious.

To explore the evils and euphoria of drug abuse as Myers does in three tracks: "Suiter," "Faceless" and "Last Breath," one couldn't call Code Industry efforts cursory, though. But are people listening?

"They are and they're not," Myers said. "They are in a way, but they're not looking underneath it all to what it really means."

"I don't think a lot of people are



Breaking the Code: Code Industry members William Keith, E.N. Sevy, Rob Myers and Kyl Cris tackle racism, drug abuse and other plagues on society on its Antler Subway/Caroline release "Young Men Coming to Power."

ready for Code Industry," he added later. "I don't think people want to be reminded of the ugliness of racism. I don't think people want to be reminded of the ugliness of political corruption."

Nonetheless, they're going to hear it anyway. With it, listeners may be taken aback by Code Industry's sound.

Foregoing the banality of pumping pulse beats, William Keith, E.N. Sevy, Kyl Cris and Myers venture into industrial music that is more drawn out with the keyboard dirge waiting from the taut lyrics. The result is a deliberate and ominous effect, which has the industrial music world on its ear.

Since the band's formation in 1985, Code Industry (they first operated under the name Code Assault) has made sizable strides. Initially, the group started out as a dance pop band but an affinity for the music of Thomas Delby, Tangerine Dream and Depeche Mode and refused to leave it there.

Code Industry cut a few singles. A friend, WDET deejay Alan Oldham, took one of the group's 12-inch singles, "Action," to the New Music Seminar in New York to impressable ears.

Antler Subway seized the opportunity and promptly released the outfit's singles in Europe. "We didn't really want to release it at first because they were de-

mos," Myers said. "Young Men Coming to Power" is a culmination of experimental forays. The recording process only took three weeks, completed at The Underground Studios in Warren.

Already, Myers said he's working on songs for the next album tentatively due out sometime in winter. One song is titled, "Solome," which distinguishes between a woman's inner and outer beauty. Another song focuses on violence.

Code Industry's sound will also continue to evolve, Myers said. "It has a personality," he said. "It's hard to categorize us. There's a few groups to compare us to."



Musical moves: Members of Catherine Wheel include Rob Dickinson (from left), Dave Hawes, Neil Sims and Brian Futter.

## Catherine Wheel rolls on 'Metallic'

BY LAIRY O'CONNOR

STAFF WRITER

One-hit wonders or a band onto something majestic?

Only time will tell.

Meanwhile, Catherine Wheel's "Black Metallic" is to be wholly savored. It's an indelible pop song, exploding into a glittering array of guitar atmospheres that envelops mind and spirit and transports them into a scintillating realm during its eight-minute duration.

In attempts to fully grasp its blissful ramifications, analogies to Led Zeppelin's overplayed classic "Stairway to Heaven" have even been bantered about.

Overstretching it a bit, perhaps, but song of the year is not out of the question.

"Surprised? yes," said singer Rob Dickinson in a telephone interview about the favorable reactions to the number. "The song was being played on import well before the album ('Ferment' on Fontana/Mercury). Being so long, I was surprised radio would be interested in it."

"Ferment" is a stunning evidence Catherine Wheel is beyond the one-hit domain. Encaused in swirling, sonic guitar induced soundscapes is an outfit with above-average songwriting acumen.

That gets lost in all the hoopla of "Black Metallic" and credulously being jumped into the "slo-gazing" crowd of such pedestrian English bands as Curved Air, Blur and Ride.

Unlike these soundscape outfits, Dickinson and bandmates Brian Futter, Dave Hawes and Neil Sims create guitar music with a searing edge. Dickinson adds the band's dense sound is becoming even more focused and less textural on this tour that has included 180 gigs so far.

"Our live sound is getting more aggressive, more unpredictable," he said.

Few would have predicted such a rapid ascent for the Great Yarmouth, England based outfit. Their two EPs "She's My Friend" and "Painful Thing" crashed onto the British indie charts, leading to their debut LP "Ferment" to be highly anticipated.

For Dickinson, success is really all in the family. His cousin is Iron Maiden lead singer Bruce Dickinson, who apparently approves of the Catherine Wheel's musical tactics.

"He came along to our first gig in London," Dickinson said. "I told him he might come incognito and he showed up in a bright orange anorak and stood in the middle of the floor with his arms folded while critiquing us. He likes what we're doing actually."

Catherine Wheel will perform as part of the Spin/Funk/Tone featuring House of Love and Ocean Color Scene, on Wednesday, Oct. 21, at St. Andrew's Hall, 431 E. Congress, Detroit. Advance tickets are \$13.50. For information, call 961-MELT.

### STREET SENSE

## Father has right to be person he is



Dear Ms. Schiff: At the request of my mother, I am writing to you to inform you of an incident that was very upsetting to me.

As a three-pack a day smoker, I finally stopped smoking on Aug. 24, 1992. As you can imagine, this is not an easy effort. Yet, with the aid of Nicoderm, so far I've been successful.

The upsetting incident involving this matter is that my father, as usual, is not supportive of this effort. He made me pay for the Nicoderm patch. Also, his comment was, "It's no big deal to stop smoking."

My mother has been very supportive of the effort. She's even signed me up at a health club in the city in which I live so that I can incorporate an exercise regime into this program.

Ultimately, what bothers me about this is not that my father made me pay for the patches but rather the continued lack of support from my father in any respect of my life — whether it be quitting smoking, graduate school, my

career and future career objectives.

I would like your input on this, so that I can deal with future disappointments from my father in a better way.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,  
J.

Dear J.: My congratulations to you for your accomplishment. If you follow this pattern you will achieve success in your further endeavors as well.

May I add a recommendation to my comment? Do not fall into the trap of emphasizing what a terrible man your father is. He has a right to be who he is and you have the right to develop into an independent, self-sufficient, creative adult.

As such an adult you will not need others, even your father, for you to become a person you can like and respect.

Barbara

If you have a question or comment for Barbara Schiff, a trained therapist and experienced counselor, send it to her in care of Street Sense, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150.

### IN CONCERT

Monday, Oct. 19

#### PARADISE VALLEY JAZZ JAM

Alvin's, 5756 Cass, Detroit. 823-2355

#### VEVIE PIPE

Rick's Cafe, 611 Church, Ann Arbor. 996-2748

#### MOOSHKA

Rabbit's Coffee House, Harper Avenue, St. Clair Shores. 779-0707

#### Thursday, Oct. 22

#### BASEHEAD

Industry, 15 S. Saginaw, Pontiac. 334-1999

#### PHYSICAL ABUSE

With Shy at Psychicks, 2930 Caniff, Hamtramck. 872-8934

#### SHOCKTIRA

Rick's Cafe, 611 Church, Ann Arbor. 996-2748

#### MISSED IN DIARY

Giff's Grill, 49 N. Saginaw, Pontiac. 334-9292

#### HAND OVER HEAD

Blind Pig, 208 S. First, Ann Arbor. 996-6555

#### JOHN SCOTFIELD

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

#### MYK RISE & MARY MCQUIRE

Backseat Saloon in Keego Harbor. 682-1119

#### CYINDERHEAD

With Stable Day Jobs at 3-D, 1815 N. Main, Royal Oak. 589-3344

#### HABITAT FOR HUMANITY BENEFIT

With Robert Jones, Little Mack Collins and Regular Boys at Sully's, 4758 Greenfield, Dearborn. 846-1920

#### Wednesday, Oct. 21

#### MICHELLE SHOCKED

With The Band, Uncle Tupelo and Taj Mahal at Michigan Theatre, 603 E. Liberty, Ann Arbor. 99-MUSIC

#### HOUSE OF LOVE

With Catherine Wheel and Ocean Color Scene at St. Andrew's Hall, 431 E. Congress, Detroit. 961-MELT

#### UDLY STIX

Alvin's, 5756 Cass, Detroit. 823-2355

#### GOING PUBLIC

Rick's Cafe, 611 Church, Ann Arbor. 996-2748

TEN HIGH

With guests Fully Loaded at the Blind Pig, 208 S. First, Ann Arbor. 996-6555

#### MARQUEADE

Giff's Grill, 49 N. Saginaw, Pontiac. 334-9292

#### Friday, Oct. 23

#### RYTHMIC CORPS

Rick's Cafe, 611 Church, Ann Arbor. 996-2748

#### STRANGE BEDFELLOWS

Lil's, 2930 Jacob, Hamtramck. 875-6555

FUN CLUB

With Hope Orchestra at Giff's Grill, 49 N. Saginaw, Pontiac. 334-9292

#### CATHOUSE

With Soul Station at Alvin's, 5756 Cass, Detroit. 823-2355

#### C.J. CHENIER

With Soul Station at Alvin's, 5756 Cass, Detroit. 823-2355

#### RFD BOYS

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

#### BROTHERS FROM ANOTHER PLANET

With Mother at Finney's Pub, 3965 Woodward, Detroit. 831-8070

#### MYK RISE & MARY MCQUIRE

Backseat Saloon in Keego Harbor. 682-1119

#### MOBY

With Maris at The Majestic, 4140 Woodward, Detroit. Tickets are \$10 in advance. 833-9700

#### HANNIBALS

With Moosha and Raginghead at Lil's, 2930 Caniff, Hamtramck. 875-6555

#### DUKE YUNATOE

Sully's, 4758 Greenfield, Dearborn. 846-1920

#### FREEMASONS

With Obnoxions at Psychicks, 2932 Caniff, Hamtramck. 872-8934

#### CHISEL BROTHERS

Moxy Dicks, 5452 Schaefer, Dearborn. 581-3650

#### RED C

Gotham City Cafe, 22848 Woodward, Ferndale. 398-7430

#### Saturday, Oct. 24

#### DAISY CHAINSAW

With guests Therapy at St. Andrew's Hall, 431 E. Congress, Detroit. 961-MELT

#### SECOND SELF

Psychicks, 2932 Caniff, Hamtramck. 872-8934

#### CYMBELINES

Hamtramck Pub, 2048 Caniff, off I-75. 365-3629

#### THUNDERHARP CHOIR

Giff's Grill, 49 N. Saginaw, Pontiac. 334-9292

#### FRANK ALLISON

Alvin's, 5756 Cass, Detroit. 823-2355

#### DUKE YUNATOE

Rick's Cafe, 611 Church, Ann Arbor. 996-2748

#### HANNIBALS

Blind Pig, 208 S. First, Ann Arbor. 996-6555

#### THE DICK SIEGAL ENSEMBLE

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

#### SCREENFACE

Slug Bug and Smokehouse at Finney's Pub, 3965 Woodward, Detroit. 831-8070

#### MYK RISE & MARY MCQUIRE

Backseat Saloon in Keego Harbor. 682-1119

#### HR (HUMAN RIGHTS)

The Majestic, 4140 Woodward, Detroit. Tickets are \$7.50 in advance (\$10 at the door). 833-9700

#### LITTLE CHARLIE AND THE NIGHTCATS

Sully's, 4758 Greenfield, Dearborn. 846-1920

#### CHISEL BROTHERS

Moxy Dicks, 5452 Schaefer, Dearborn. 581-3650

#### UNCLE JESSIE

Artic Bar, 11667 Jos Campau, Hamtramck. 365-4194

#### MEDICINE MAN

Gotham City Cafe, 22848 Woodward, Ferndale. 398-7430

#### Sunday, Oct. 25

#### CHRIS SMITH

The Ark, 637 1/2 S. Main, Ann Arbor. Admission is free. 761-1451