

StreetSCENE

IN CONCERT

Monday, Nov. 16

PARADISE VALLEY JAZZ JAM
Alvin's, 5756 Cass, Detroit.
832-2355

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

Tuesday, Nov. 17

CRIS WILLIAMSON AND THE FURE
The Ark, 637 1/2 Main, Ann Arbor.
761-1451

CHISEL BROTHERS WITH THORNETTA DAVIS
Alvin's, 5756 Cass, Detroit.
832-2355

CREATURES OF HABIT
Blind Pig, 208 S. First, Ann Arbor.
996-8555

MYX RISE & MARY MCGUIRE
Mr. B's in Novi.
349-7038

Wednesday, Nov. 18

Concrete Rattle
Griff's Grill, 49 N. Saginaw, Pontiac.

334-9282
Vudu Huggies
Rick's Cafe, 611 Church, Ann Arbor.

996-2748
Tracy Science
Blind Pig, 208 S. First, Ann Arbor.

996-8555
Voon
St. Andrew's Hall, 431 E. Congress, Detroit.

661-MELT
Cris Williamson and Tret Fure
The Ark, 637 1/2 Main, Ann Arbor.

761-1451
Scott Stern and The Trust
Doug's Body Shop, Woodward Avenue,
south of Nine Mile Road, Ferndale.

398-1940
Vudu Huggies
Rick's Cafe, 611 Church, Ann Arbor.

996-2748
Thursday, Nov. 19

BABES IN TOYLAND
Blind Pig, 208 S. First, Ann Arbor.
996-8555

BRIGHT BLACK
With the Affections at Griff's Grill, 49 N.
Saginaw, Pontiac.
334-9282

HONKY DORY
3D Club, 1815 N. Main, Royal Oak.
589-3344

CELTIC FIDDLE FESTIVAL
With Kevin Burke, Johnny Cunningham
and Christian LeMaitre at The Ark, 637 1/2
Main, Ann Arbor.
761-1451

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

BLACK MALL
With Jason MacCauley Berry and Twitch
at Paychecks, 2932 Caniff, Hamtramck.
874-0254

Friday, Nov. 20

DREAM CATCHER'S BENEFIT
With The Three of Us, Richard Cyr, David
Felix, Howlin' Dabbs, Sal D'Agillo,
Waykoo, Opaque and Broken Yoyot Alvin's,
5756 Cass, Detroit. Tickets \$5.
Proceeds benefit the Bay Mills Chippewa
Community, the Lansing Indian Center
and the American Indian College.
832-2355

SILU BUG
With The Happy Accidents at Griff's Grill,
49 N. Saginaw, Pontiac.
334-9282

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

GROOVESPOON
Blind Pig, 208 S. First, Ann Arbor.
996-8555

THE SLEDMO SCENE
The Ark, 637 1/2 Main, Ann Arbor.
761-1451

RON BROOKS TRIO
Bird of Paradise, 207 S. Ashley, Ann Arbor.
662-8310

CHISEL BROTHERS WITH THORNETTA DAVIS

Q Club, 29 S. Saginaw, Pontiac.
334-7411

DARY PRIMACH
Sully's, 4758 Greenfield, Dearborn.
646-1920

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

UNCLE CHUNK
Blind Pig, 208 S. First, Ann Arbor.
996-8555

LEGION HALL
Psychosis, 2932 Caniff, Hamtramck.
874-0254

JAMES WALIN
Moby Dicks, 5452 Schaefer, Dearborn.
281-3650

HARMONICA SHAN & THE BLUESMATICOS
Attic Bar, 11667 Jos Campau, Hamtramck.
365-4194

Saturday, Nov. 21

DREAM CATCHER'S BENEFIT
With Wolsky Bay Drum, Barb Barton,
Pedestrians, Phoenix Rising, John D.
Lamb and the Wild Blue, Hopo Orchestra, Basin
Street and Cafe Zele at Alvin's, 5756
Cass, Detroit. Tickets are \$5. Proceeds
benefit the Bay Mills Chippewa Community,
the Lansing Indian Center and the American
Indian College.
832-2355

THE TRUNCHEONS
With Rubberhead at Griff's Grill, 49 N. Saginaw,
Pontiac.
334-9282

MEGADETH
With guests Suicidal Tendencies at The
Palace at Auburn Hills, Two Championship
Drive. Tickets are \$15 reserved (\$17.50
day of the show).
377-0100

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

BIG DAVE AND THE ULTRASONICS
Rick's Cafe, 611 Church, Ann Arbor.
996-2748

HEAVEN'S WISH
With Something's Wild at The Ritz,
17580 Frisco, Roseville.
778-8150

NON-FICTION
The Marquee, 8139 E. Seven Mile, Detroit.
368-8633

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

RON BROOKS TRIO
Bird of Paradise, 207 S. Ashley, Ann Arbor.
662-8310

CHISEL BROTHERS WITH THORNETTA DAVIS
Q Club, 29 S. Saginaw, Pontiac.
334-7411

HOWLIN' DIABLOS
Sully's, 4758 Greenfield, Dearborn.
646-1920

NON FICTION
The Marquee, 8139 E. Seven Mile, Detroit.
368-8633

GROOVESPOON
Blind Pig, 208 S. First, Ann Arbor.
996-8555

SONIC BOOMERANG
With Reaction Formation and Nova Ovens
at Finney's Pub, 3965 Woodward, Detroit.
831-8070

JOELY STICK
Cross Street Station, 511 W. Cross,
Ypsilanti.
485-5050

MYX RISE & MARY MCGUIRE
Mr. B's in Troy
669-6070

JAMES WALIN
Moby Dicks, 5452 Schaefer, Dearborn.
281-3650

UNCLE JESSIE AND THE 29TH STREET BAND
Attic Bar, 11667 Jos Campau, Hamtramck.
365-4194

Sunday, Nov. 22

BENNY & THE JETS
Office Bar, Telegraph Road, north of Five
Mile Road.
730-1627

Spectacle: Soul-searching soundscapes

■ Inspired by the likes of British soundscape bands My Bloody Valentine, Ride and Curve, local outfit Spectacle is a band whose heart-felt introspection bolsters their youth expressed through a billowing tonal twin-guitar attack.

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER



Shoegazers? Spectacle vocalist and guitarist Travis Hawthorne looks sheepish at the mere inquiry.

"Yeah, we've been called that," said the vocalist and guitarist letting out a sigh.

Shoegazers is the term applied to the lot of English bands proficient in carving out surreal soundscapes but having a penchant to only make eye contact with their Doe Martens on stage.

Spectacle may be guilty on implication, perhaps, but glaring at their faces is an innocuous fault when compared with the array of honest emotion they pour out through their beguiling sound.

The oldest member of the band is Hawthorne, who is 19. Drummer Eric Campbell, 18, guitarist Loren Jackson, 17, and bassist Nick Sheren, 17, make up the rest of Spectacle.

Though mere fawns on the music scene, Spectacle has already released a 7-inch single on Vulva Records in Royal Oak — the same label as local visceral kingpins Majesty Crush.

On the two-song glimpse, sinuous guitars elp a billowing cloud of pent-up angst. Suffocating, yet exhilarating, the twin guitar foray gorges into the caverns of the soul.

The music reveals a band mature beyond their years. Hawthorne grapples with fleeting mortality in "Monody," a song he wrote in tribute to a friend who died 1 1/2 years ago in an auto accident.

In "She Doesn't Believe," the introspective songwriter portrays the feelings of a 6-year-old English girl during a conversation he had with her on a train ride. She was expressing some doubts to Hawthorne about the existence of God.

Hawthorne believes, though. He went to Fairlane Christian School and later attended Jerry Falwell's Liberty University for a year before coming home.

"All I could think about is music, really," Hawthorne said. "Academically, I wasn't up to par and I figured why waste my money."

He made contact with Jackson, whom he knew from art class at the Bible-based school in Dearborn. The two began jamming informally before mutual friends put them through to Campbell and Sheren.



Making a Spectacle: Travis Hawthorne, vocals and guitar; Nick Sheren, bass; Loren Jackson, guitar; and Eric Campbell, drums; provide the "four-legged table" for Spectacle's musical expression.

■ 'Our music is like falling asleep in a bed of roses only to wake up to find you've been sleeping in a bed of nails.'

Travis Hawthorne

Together, they've forged a creative bond.

"It's a four-legged table," said Jackson, who is a student at Livonia Churchill. "A person can

come in with the chords, but it's not necessarily their song by the time we're finished."

Spectacle's ethereal guitar buzz shouldn't come as surprise as the

band cites My Bloody Valentine, Spiritualized, Curve and Ride as influences. But their music is their own.

"Our music is like falling asleep in a bed of roses only to wake up to find you've been sleeping in a bed of nails," Hawthorne said.

"Monody" is available on Vulva Records, 503 S. Main St., Royal Oak 48067.

Band seeks to express itself universally

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

In Universal Xpression's new world order, every type of music has clout.

On the Caribbean band's grand menu of engaging sounds are reggae, soca, salsa, merengue, zouk, rhythm and blues and a pop topping. There's a conscious attempt by the band to ingratiate itself with the masses on its new release, "World Groove," but neither band members nor their music suffer for it.

"What we try to do is appeal more to the younger people and more to the American audience," said keyboardist and songwriter Richard Parris, who is originally from Nevis in the Eastern Caribbean. "You can't put out music all the time in your basement. You have to go where the market is."

Universal Xpression's market has been primarily rooted in the Detroit area, which has been a daunting task to any the least.

Very few clubs exclusively offer world music here. In spite of that, Universal Xpression has succeeded by hard work.

Already, the band has sold 500 copies of "World Groove," which is receiving airplay on "Caribbean Vibrations," heard 9 p.m. to midnight, Fridays on WDET-FM, and is No. 10 on the playlist at WSGR-FM in Port Huron.

Formed among friends and Detroit residents Winfred Julien, guitarist; Lonnie McKenzie, bassist; Lonnie McKenzie, drummer; and Mark Butler, percussionist; Universal Xpression has acquired a following by playing on the college circuit.

The band has performed at Blind Pig, Rick's Cafe and City Grill in Ann Arbor as well as Club Soda in Kalamazoo. They've also performed breathtaking shows as an opener for such international acts as Burning Spear, Arrow, Shabba Rank, Yellow Man, Third World, Black Uhuru and Zaiko Langa Langa.

One spell during the summer, Universal Xpression went 15-straight days on stage.

"The music is getting more popular," Parris said.

Popular as well as diversified. Each member brings musical per-



Xpression purpose: Universal Xpression members Richard Parris, Winfred St. Julien, Lennox McKenzie, Lennox McKenzie and Mark Butler seek to blend many elements into their world music sound to appeal to a widespread audience.

■ 'One good thing about this music is there's no fuss, no fight. It's like everyone is having a good time.'

Richard Parris

Parris has been influenced by soca, whereas Winfred Julien, who is from Dominica, is enamored with French zouk music.

Both McKenzies are from Jopala, making reggae their source of inspiration.

But it's Parris who melds emotional lyrics to the upbeat melodies. One of the numbers he's particularly proud of is the hook-ridden "Can't Stand It," which includes a quaint rap.

"One good thing about this music is there's no fuss, no fight," Parris said. "It's like everyone is having a good time."

And the world could certainly use a little of that.



Even plane: Wayward carpenters? Not at all. The Levellers, named after a political party during of English Civil War, blend Celtic wistfulness and punk spike into their sound. The band plays Wednesday, Nov. 18, at The Shelter at St. Andrew's Hall in Detroit. For information, call 961-MELT.