

By LISA RUDY
SPECIAL WRITER

Even if you're not a goat, you'll be more than inclined to taste-test everything Mr. B's Farm has to offer from its very versatile and extensive menu. This combination watering hole/restaurant on Novi Road in Novi is situated on what was once a goat farm. However, the place has more to offer than the usual "barnyard fare."

Large wooden tables, booths, Beatie's photos, neon beer signs and clippings from the Boston Post make up the restaurant's decor. And in spite of the casual, hoot and hollerin'-type atmosphere (whispering not allowed at bar), The Farm's menu offerings are quite impressive. This is a place where you can order anything from a B's Bermuda Blossom, a "special-seasoned" deep-fried Bermuda onion arranged to look like a flower blossom (and it really does) to what one metro magazine claims to be the "Best Burger and Fries."

When the waitstaff brings a pile of extra napkins along with your "Slopburger," you realize it's a given that you'll need them. Also offered on the menu are barbecued beef ribs, steaks, fish, Mexican entrees, sandwiches, interesting appetizers and pizza toppings to inspire even the most creative individual.

If you've eaten too much, which is kind of hard to avoid because everything tastes great and the portions are pretty large, specialty coffees including cappuccino and the "B-52" are guaranteed to keep you going long enough to enjoy the nightly live entertainment.

Rotated on a monthly basis, the bands are pretty versatile, performing everything from Van Morrison to Garth Brooks, and they make a point to encourage audience participation. Don't be surprised to find yourself standing next to a bowl of chili on top of your table lip-synching into a leftover cheese stick to "Wild Thing." It's just that fun!

The Farm is a great place to relax, kick back, enjoy some great food at inexpensive prices, hoot, holler, sing out loud, jump up and down and raise... uh... goats!

Mr. B's Farm
24555 Novi Road, Novi
349-7038

11 a.m. to 2 a.m. Monday - Saturday;
opens at noon Sunday



"Relax and Enjoy" is the motto at the Java Coffeehouse on Main street in downtown Rochester and that's exactly what the clientele here does. Even on a Sunday night, patrons can be found pushing tables together to play cards, do homework, share desserts or simply "shoot the breeze."

The coffeehouse, opened in April 1992, features a long list of beverages including cappuccino, cafe au lait, assorted gourmet coffees, Bigelow teas and some very creative hot-flavored milks. A beverage condiment table is against one of the brick walls, and because of the casual atmosphere, you won't feel intimidated about borrowing the honey, cinnamon or various other beverage "additives" when other tables happen to be using them.

Also, you won't have to worry about saving room for dessert; the coffeehouse's menu is made up primarily of "goodies" only. For those with a penchant for sweets, generous slices of deep dish apple pie, chocolate forest cake, scones, cannolis and walnut fudge brownies are just a few of the desserts offered at the pastry counter. Desserts are rotated on a weekly basis, but favorites are always kept on hand.

Paintings by local artists are also a big highlight here, and if you're interested enough, Arthur (one of the coffeehouse's owners), will be more than happy to assist you in purchasing something.

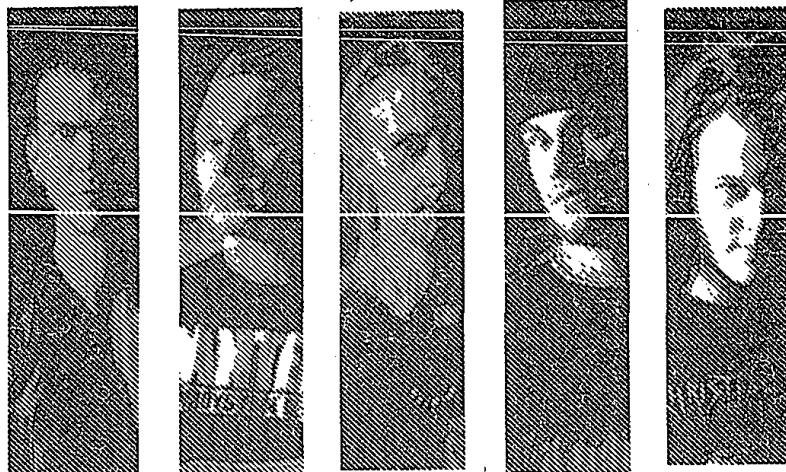
Arthur, by the way, in keeping with the relax and enjoy motto is quite the host. He makes it a point to chat with his clientele. He's more than willing to take time out to talk about things like how French Press coffee is made and how long you should steep your tea to get the best flavor.

Back by popular demand are the poetry reading nights and performances by local musicians, featured on random evenings throughout the week. Anyone possessing those particular talents is encouraged to take part.

Whether you happen to be an early bird or a night owl, the Java Coffeehouse is a refreshing place to check out.

Java Coffeehouse
806 Main St., Royal Oak
647-0460

11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Sunday - Thursday;
11 a.m. to 2 a.m. Friday and Saturday.



Noc Barrage:
Band members include lead singer John Cross (from left), bassist Sean Haezebroeck, keyboardist Scott Walasek, drummer Matt Cross, and lead guitarist Tony Hamera.

Noc Barrage: Techno 'warning'



By CHRISTINA FUOCO
STAFF WRITER

Noc Barrage would like to issue a warning to those who may buy its new CD, "Anhedonia." Techno music lovers stay away.

"That is, techno people who listen to nothing else. Don't buy it because I don't want to see it in the 'used' (CD/tape) bin," said lead singer John Cross of Centerline. "If they want to buy it, fine. We'll get the money, but they're not gonna find what they're looking for."

The group mentions this just in case people get the wrong idea about the band after seeing Noc Barrage win the "Best Industrial/Techno Band" in the 1992 Detroit Music Awards.

"I'm glad we won the award because I don't think it fits," said

Cross.

Actually, Noc Barrage doesn't claim to be purely industrial either. It does seem to have an identity crisis.

"We kind of defy categories," drummer Matt Cross said.

"What we are is industrial metal," John added.

The identity crisis even extends to record labels interested in Noc Barrage.

STREET BEATS

"A lot of times record companies say, 'It's really good but we don't know how to market you.' I can understand," Matt said. "Sometimes I listen to us and I think the stuff we're doing is pretty tripped out.

But I think it's tripped out for Detroit and the Midwest — not for the East and West coast which is where (the sound) is coming from."

That sound is aptly shown on "Anhedonia," released only a few weeks ago. It sounds slightly different than the live version of the songs. The music on the CD was enhanced with computers whereas in concert everything is played live — with the exception of an eight-measure part in one song, keyboardist Scott Walasek added.

"It's important for us to have a live show," said Matt. "Personally, I've always felt cheated if I go see a band and I hear tapes. Although I understand exactly why they do it."

One song on the CD, "Solito Voice," was done completely with computers. Agreeing with Matt's theory, the group won't play it live.

"You present it to the audience the way you did it, which is load up a machine and let it play. The machine plays it. You don't. Why try to stand up there and act like you're doing any work?" John said.

"I think by not playing the song we've been true to our performance," Matt added.

To some members of Noc Barrage — which also includes Sean Haezebroeck and Tony Hamera — performing has little to do with pleasing fans.

"Personally, I don't care what they (the audience) get out of our music," Matt Cross said. "For me, this (playing live) is the greatest high I've ever achieved. I can't imagine anything feeling better than this. That goes for any physical or mental feeling you get from anything."

Noc Barrage will have a record release party and performance at the Shelter below St. Andrew's Hall, 431 E. Congress, Detroit, on Wednesday, Feb. 24. Call 961-MELT for more information. The group will also perform during an Amnesty International benefit Friday, Feb. 26, at Alvin's, 5756 Cass, Detroit. Call 832-2355 for more information.

Mind finds success in the classifieds

By CHRISTINA FUOCO
STAFF WRITER

The alternative band The Mind is proof that advertising for musicians can pay off.

When former Birmingham resident Jay Yarbrough decided it was time to start his own band, he didn't mess around with networking to try to find talented musicians. He spelled out exactly what he wanted in a classified ad.

"I just took the ad out and these boneheads answered," said Yarbrough, lead singer/guitarist, with a laugh. Among those who answered were Daryl Ropp of Madison Heights and later Kevin Mrak of Warren.

"I can't believe how lucky I am; I got really lucky," Yarbrough said.

The Mind hopes to get even luckier soon. They are planning on sending demo tapes to independent labels in hopes of landing a record deal.

"We're takin' our time with it; the first blow has to be solid. We're get-

ting ourselves ready," said Yarbrough who now lives in Macomb Township.

To prepare itself, The Mind has promoted itself with high-exposure projects. It opened for Rhythm Corps in Ann Arbor along with playing a number of headlining gigs around town. Radio station CIMX also showed support by playing "Believe In It," a song from The Mind's demo tape, during the "Homeboy Show."

Yarbrough believes that the overt honesty in the band's music and lyrics has attracted the attention.

"What I write and what Daryl writes and what Kevin plays is pretty much right from the heart," he said. "We're not trying to be anything that we're not. It really does come across."

People respond to it and we have a good time. It's definitely a cycle. I'm not sure where it begins though."

Although he hopes to educate his fans about his feelings, Yarbrough admits sometimes he can be "too educational." That comes from years of



Wanted: The Mind — Jay Yarbrough (from left), Kevin Mrak, and Daryl Ropp — have a definite plan to follow on their way to landing a record deal.

soul searching.

"I sometimes do have the tendency to be a bit educational perhaps," he said. "I went through a long period of self-searching. I feel I am very much in tune with who I am."

"People have been responding dramatically (to The Mind's music). The

sincerity, I believe, is the key ingredient to The Mind."

The Mind performs Thursday, March 11, at the Shelter below St. Andrew's Hall, 431 E. Congress, Detroit. Call 961-MELT for more information. For other upcoming shows, call The Mind at 228-8767.

IN CONCERT

Monday, Feb. 22

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

Tuesday, Feb. 23

BOB FRANKIE
The Ark, 637 1/4 S. Main St., Ann Arbor.
(no cover) 761-1451

JOE HUNTER
Big Fish, 700 Town Center Drive, Dearborn.
(solo vocals and piano) 832-2355

CHICKEL BROS. WITH THORNTON DAVIS
And Blues Jam Session at Alvin's, 5756 Cass, Detroit. (rhythm and blues) 832-2355

BORAX
Blind Pig, 206-208 S. First St., Ann Arbor.
996-8555

MARY MCQUEEN AND MTR RISE
Alvin's, 5756 Cass, Detroit. 832-2355

MARY GRAS PARTY
With Southwest Dye and The Sun Messengers at Sully's, 4756 Greenfield Road, Dearborn. The 6 p.m. showtime includes 842-1920 or 845-5377

BROWNS BEAT
Featuring Jimmy Somerville at Industry, 15 S. Saginaw, Pontiac. (cancelled) 761-1451

Wednesday, Feb. 24

DETROIT MUSICIANS ANONYMOUS
Discusses "Music: The Recording Process," at Sully's, 4756 Greenfield, between Michigan Avenue and Ford Road, Dearborn. 730-SONG.

OPEN STAGE
The Ark, 637 1/4 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 761-1451.

JOE HUNTER
Big Fish, 700 Town Center Drive, Dearborn. (solo vocals and piano) 832-2355

METAL ZONE WEDNESDAYS
Griff's Grill, 49 N. Saginaw, Pontiac.

NEIGHBORHOOD NIGHT
Alvin's, 5756 Cass, Detroit. (eclectic CD's) 832-2355

THE KIND
Blind Pig, 206-208 S. First St., Ann Arbor. 996-8555

ROBERT NOLL
The Ark, 637 1/4 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 761-1451

WAYNE GERRARD TRIO
Shadowne Cafe, 2917 Trowbridge, Hamtramck. (jazz) 873-CAFE

Thursday, Feb. 25

MARGARET CURRIEL
The Ark, 637 1/4 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. (traditional) 761-1451

THE SAMARITANS
Cross Street Station, 611 W. Cross, Ypsilanti. (dancehall reggae) 485-5050

DETROIT BLUES BAND
And Blues Jam session at Moby Dicks, 5452 Schaefer Road, Dearborn. 581-3650

JOE HUNTER
Big Fish, 700 Town Center Drive, Dearborn. (solo vocals and piano) 832-2355

OPEN BLUES JAM
Lili's 21, 2930 Canfield, Hamtramck. 875-8555

LEVIN HOUR
Psychic's Lounge, 2632 Canfield, Hamtramck. 874-0909

CROWBAR HOTEL
With Some People's Children at Griff's Grill, 49 N. Saginaw, Pontiac. 834-9292

SOMETHING WILD
Blind Pig, 206 S. First St., Ann Arbor. 996-8555

TOPOPHORIA STARDUSTS PRESENT KROB-BOWH CHICKEN AND POETRY
Alvin's, 5756 Cass, Detroit. 832-2355

LOVE/HATE
With Iggy Azalea at The Marquee, 8139 E. Seven Mile, Detroit. (rock) 366-8533