

MUSIC NOTES

RCA recording artists 700 Miles are excited about their Nov. 4 gig in Detroit. Not because they named their band such because it's 700 miles between Detroit and their hometown of New York. This time, they get to play a real venue — not a floating monastery. "It was a boat party — a booze cruise," John Carlin said. "It was the perfect ending to a grueling tour. We partied and played on the water."

Seriously though, the 700 Miles story is true. "Without laying it on too thick, Detroit is our home away from home," Carlin said. They recorded their demo, which eventually became their debut for RCA, at the White Room Studios while it was still being built. "We were the first band to record at the White Room... We had no affiliation with Detroit whatsoever before that. Little did we know that Detroit would play a pivotal role in our lives." 700 Miles will play St. Andrew's Hall in Detroit at 8 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 4, with Big Country (yes, that Big Country).

AIDS research and the environment will benefit from the "Festival of Life" tour which visits industry, 15 S. Saginaw, in Pontiac, on Wednesday, Nov. 3. Dog Society, The Judybats and The Inclined perform at the show co-sponsored by Greenpeace and The Body Shop. At least \$1 per person plus a percentage of all net profits will be donated to both charities. For more information, call 334-1999.

Former Southfield resident Dave Stroughter of Majesty Crush has been tapped for panelist duties at the CMJ Music Marathon in New York City this week. He'll contribute his views on MTV's role in teenage sex education. The band will play CBGB in New York on Saturday, Nov. 6. They return to Detroit on Saturday, Dec. 4, to play in the Detroit Music Awards' post party at Club X at the State Theatre, 2115 Woodward, Detroit. Call 961-5451 for more information. MTV's Kennedy will host the awards.

Music magazines in the United States and abroad have all embraced David Gray's debut album "A Century Ends," on Caroline Records. Gray, he said, for the most part ignores reviews and the comparisons to Van Morrison and his idol Bob Dylan. He lets his thoughtful, almost folk-like acoustic sound speak for itself. But he does have a few words about the record and his life. "It's round. The tour, it's kind of round. The world is round. It's all very reassuring," he said. Gray performs with Kirsty MacColl ("Walking Down Madison") at the Blind Pig in Ann Arbor on Thursday, Nov. 18, in an 18 and older show. For more information, call 995-8555.

Dropping former lead singer Matt Kramer is all part of Saigon Kick's grand plan. "It's our plan to keep dropping one (member) a year. Then we'll release a blank CD in honor of what could have been," said Jason, the one-name vocalist, guitarist and keyboardist for the band. Saigon Kick is now a three-piece and has released their first album with Jason on vocals called "Water," featuring the Z-Rock hit "One Step Closer."

"Water" also features a new bassist Chris McLernon. Drummer Phil Varone rounds out the band which scored a hit with the ballad "Love Is on the Way." They've added two musicians to tour with them as well. Got that?

See NOTES, 5C

LOCAL SPINS

Here are 10 local albums, in no particular order, played by "Detroit Music Scene" in playing during its show, 5-6 p.m. on Thursdays and 4:30-5:30 p.m. Sundays on WDTN 90.9 FM.

1. "Drain-O," Mr. X (Bam Boom)
2. "McFly," Spanking Bozo (44 caliber)
3. "Lings," Hope Orchestra (Deep Scene)
4. "Castle Walls," Damoc (Premier)
5. "As I Come," Jimmy G
6. "Mysterious," Jigsaw Jungle
7. "Real World Now," GTOY (Creation)
8. "This Midwestern," The Hannibals (Hotwash)
9. "Flirt," Charm Farm (PIA)
10. "Thanks for Nothing," Carolyn Striho (Mysterio)

CUTTING GROOVES

Here are the top 10-selling singles, according to Harmony House.

1. "I'd Do Anything for Love," Meatloaf (MCA)
2. "Shoop," Salt N' Pepa (Polygram/Next Platoon)
3. "Whoomp! There It Is," Tag Team (Bellmark)
4. "Indo Smoke," Milla Grilmon for "Poetic Justice" soundtrack (Epic)
5. "Cryin'," Aerosmith (Geffen)
6. "Something in My Eyes," Bell Biv DeVoe (MCA)
7. "Jesse," Joshua Kadison (SBK)
8. "Boom! Shake The Room," Jazzy Jeff (Jive)
9. "Dream Lover," Mariah Carey (Columbia)
10. "River of Dreams," Billy Joel (Columbia)

LOOKING AHEAD

What to watch for in Street Scene next week:

- Christina Fuoco's interview with Jamiroquai, England's funky heartthrob.
- Linda Chomin finds art in the work of stylist Raphael in Art on the Edge.
- John Monaghan's look at the latest in alternative movies.
- Some good Street Sense from Barbara Schiff.

Detroit gets to 'See the Light'

■ Techno artists generally perform to taped music. With NASA's "See The Light" tour, bands like Vapourspace and Orbital hope to prove that they can move audiences with its live sound.

BY CHRISTINA FUOCO
STAFF WRITER



Although Detroit is frequently called "the home of techno," the city and the rest of the country have yet to catch on to it like

Europeans have.

New York area promoter DB hopes that with this tour Americans will "see the light" and change their musical mentality.

"It's a rock 'n' roll country, babe. Everyone wants tight jeans, long hair and guitars," DB said. "In the U.K., it's the most important youth movement of the late '80s. Since 1988, it's been the number one driving force fashionwise."

Phil Hartnoll of Orbital finds Detroiters' way of thinking fascinating. "It's funny. The rest of the world wants to go to Detroit. It's sort of a mecca," he said.

DB hopes they'll change their tune when his organization NASA (Nocturnal Audio Sensory Awakening) brings the "See The Light" tour to industry in Pontiac on Friday, Nov. 5. The show will include performances by Moby, Aphex Twin and Orbital on the main stage; Vapourspace all night in the Satori Room; and DJ Tim from the Utah Saints spinning discs. Vendors will be selling wares like Smart Drinks, beads and other clothing.

NASA originated as a rave night at a New York City club called the Shelter. Earlier this year, the morning after its one-year anniversary, it closed because the landlord hadn't paid city taxes for five years. While it searches for a new home, DB made plans to bring the "eclectic" night on tour.

"NASA is the only rave scene that's eclectic in musical terms. We hire five DJs for one night so there's a peak, valleys, it's very up and down all night," he said.

Most of the bands play live, as opposed to the European style of performing to tapes.

"It prohibits moving around because they have to keep their fingers on the knobs" but it's a more honest approach, DB said.

Dance artist/keyboardsist/DJ Moby takes playing live to new extremes. He may be strapping on his



guitar for the tour to promote his new EP "Move."

"I've been playing a lot of guitar in it (his shows). There's one slow almost heavy metal version of a Joy Division song," he said about the song "New Dawn Fades."

He admits, however, that it may confuse his fans.

"For rave kids, I don't know if they'll understand it. (But) I've been playing guitar for 18 years. I put it aside but it's been creeping back in," he added. "It feels nice to play it."

STREET BEATS

New York's Vapourspace, a.k.a. Mark Gage, feels the pressure of playing his ambient music live but he said he's rather not fool the audience with a tape.

"In techno music, it's hard to get it (the music) to sound the way you want it (live). But there's hidden functions you can utilize (in the keyboards), especially in the older gear. You just have to read between the lines of the owner's manuals," said Gage, who adds he was "more or less discovered" by Richie

Hawtin and John Acquaviva of Detroit's Plus 8 records.

Although it's tough to reproduce the sound live, Gage feels it has its advantages. For instance, if the crowd's not dancing to a particular song, he can skip on to the next one. Groups who use pre-recorded music don't have that advantage.

"When you do a live show, you can move along. You're not a slave to any particularly length of a song," he said. "Plus, one tweak of a knob can send a crowd into La La land."

As the tour DJ, Tim of the Utah Saints hopes to keep that feeling going between the acts. He's using the tour to perfect his DJ skills (the DJs at a club in Leeds, England) and to maintain the popularity of his band which will release an album in June.

"I'm doing it to tie the name over so nobody forgets us," he said. "When we release our album, I don't want them to say, 'The Utah Saints. Hmm, Oh yeah, I remember them.'"

"DJ is my first love anyway." Since its inception, NASA has continued to push for the betterment of members of the so-called Generation X, DB said. It regularly

Electrosonic: Moby is one of the featured performers during the "See The Light" tour which comes to industry in Pontiac Friday, Nov. 5. Other performers include Orbital, Aphex Twin, Vapourspace and special guest DJ Tim of the Utah Saints.

donates proceeds to organizations like Greenpeace, helps food drives, and urges young adults to vote.

Its rave history has also been successful. NASA influenced the nation's first rave tour with Moby and Prodigy by designing the flyer and production. It continued its heavy influence by throwing Brazil's first rave/dance parties which attracted more than 3,000 people.

Technically the "See The Light" tour has all the makings for a regular concert tour. On the tour posters, however, DB warns people not to expect the usual concert format. He said it's an interactive dance experience with the talent and audience thriving off each other's energy.

"If you expect to be entertained (by just standing around), you'll be bored."

He realizes that it may be tough to win over U.S. audiences.

"It's an uphill battle to get house music heard here."

The NASA tour comes to industry, 15 S. Saginaw, Pontiac, on Friday, Nov. 5. Tickets are \$12.50 in advance. Doors open at 8 p.m. Must be 18 or older. For more information, call 334-1999.

Team has the Propz for those who are hip



Self-employed: Carlos Cabrera and Kevin Murdock are designing and marketing their own line of clothing, called "Psycho EFX."

Monday, Nov. 1

GIRLS AGAINST BOYS
With Dr. Dre at the White Room, 15 S. Saginaw, Pontiac, All ages, (punk rock)
344-1999

Tuesday, Nov. 2

DURAN DURAN
With the Cranberries at the Fox Theatre, 2211 Woodward, Detroit (pop), POSTPONED
396-7600

GRAMHAM PARLER
Blind Pig, 208-208 S. First St., Ann Arbor, (rock)
996-8555

Wednesday, Nov. 3

FESTIVAL OF LIFE
With Dog Society, Judybats and The Inclined at industry, 15 S. Saginaw, Pontiac. Sponsored by Greenpeace for environmental awareness and The Body Shop for

AIDS awareness. A dollar from every ticket goes to each organization. (alternative rock)
334-1999

SUGARSMACK
Featuring ex-Pixies member Hope Nicholson at Blind Pig, 208-208 S. First St., Ann Arbor, (hard alternative rock)
996-8555

MEKONS
With Sean at St. Andrew's Hall, 431 E. Congress, Detroit, (alternative rock)
961-MELT

DETROIT MUSICIANS ALLIANCE
Holds a songwriting workshop with Tim Diaz of Red C, Stewart Franche, M.E. Johnson of Urban Woodoo Juice, Chris Moore of Grassroots Win, Scott Morgan of the Rationals and Dion Roddy of Missionary

IN CONCERT

Slew at Lil's 21, 2930 Jacob, Hamtramck, (workshop)
875-6555

IMAGINARY FRIEND
With Restroom Poets at Abin's, 5756 Cass, Detroit, (alternative rock)
832-2355

DURAN DURAN
With the Cranberries at the Fox Theatre, Woodward, Detroit (pop), POSTPONED
645-8666

ROOMIES OF BLUES
Sully's, 4756 Greenfield, Dearborn, (blues)
846-1820

Thursday, Nov. 4

TEA ORU
With Jehova Waitresses at Blind Pig, 206-

208 S. First St., Ann Arbor, (funk rock)
996-8555

DEAD WILHELM
With The Exceptions at The Majestic, 4140 Woodward, Detroit, (alternative rock)
833-9700

CAROLINE BLISS
Record release party with live string accompaniment at industry, 15 S. Saginaw, Pontiac.
334-1999

DON'T LOOK NOW JUNG BAND
Abin's, 5756 Cass, Detroit, (funk)
832-2355

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

BILL HOCKEY
The Shanty, 3535 E. Nine Mile, Warren.
755-5055

See IN CONCERT, 6C