



Ayka Kimura performs with the Rochester Symphony at Varner Recital Hall on the campus of Oakland University. Call (810) 651-4181 for tickets.

SATURDAY



SRO Productions "Everybody Loves Opal," by John Patrick in the City of Southfield's historic Center, "The Burgh." Call (810) 827-0700 for show times and tickets.

SUNDAY



Have your bids ready for a silent auction of celebrity aprons at Taste of Troy, 1-4 p.m. at the Troy Marriott. Call (810) 689-1687 for details.



Hot tip: Colm Wilkinson stars in "Andrew Lloyd Webber - Music of the Night" at the Fox Theatre. Tickets available at all Ticketmaster outlets or by calling (810) 433-1515.

Arts & ENTERTAINMENT

WHAT TO DO, WHERE TO GO

KEELY WYGONIK, EDITOR • 313-953-2105

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 29, 1996 • PAGE 1 SECTION B

'One Hot Minute' with the Chili Peppers

BY CHRISTINA FUDCO
STAFF WRITER

There is no such thing as a straight-forward interview with the Red Hot Chili Peppers. Not five minutes into the interview, Birmingham native and Red Hot Chili Peppers drummer Chad Smith turns the tables and begins asking extremely personal questions.

"You don't have to be ashamed of sexuality (even though) we've been raised to think it's a dirty and terrible thing in this typical American society of oppressed sexuality," the Bloomfield Hills Lahser High School graduate said with a sly giggle via telephone from his California home.

"Oppressed sexuality" are two words that have probably never been used in association with the Red Hot Chili Peppers. From the infamous sock-wearing incident to the lyrics on their albums, the Red Hot Chili Peppers aren't ones to hold back.

The tradition continues with the promotion for their latest album "One Hot Minute" (Warner Bros.). The video for the frantic first single, "Warped," ends with a platonic smooch between new guitarist Dave Navarro (ex-Jane's Addiction) and singer Anthony Kiedis.

Navarro puckered up again, this time with bassist Flea, on the cover of Guitar magazine's October issue above the headline "Nothing's Shocking," a take on the title of Jane's Addiction's 1988 album. A number of book, drug, and other stories who disapproved of the cover shot pulled it from the shelves.

"We like to stir the pot of controversy every once in awhile. It's not even like a conscious thing."

With the album "One Hot Minute," however, the controversy stops there. The band steered away from sexual lyrics on the album, which sold one million copies in the first month of release.

Instead, songs like "Warped," "Aeroplane," "Deep Kick," and "Falling Into Grace" lock into the effects of drug addiction, a problem that singer Kiedis kicked prior to recording "One Hot Minute." The album's closing track "Transcending" was written for deceased actor River Phoenix.

In a recent interview, Kiedis wouldn't comment on the song's change of focus saying he hates talking about song themes.

"I really hate analyzing our music. It takes all the fun out of it, it takes the mystery and the beauty out of it. We work on songs and we record them for people to hear and it isn't our place to sit there and try to give detailed explanations of how a song came to be or what it's about."

Musically, "One Hot Minute" ricochets between psychedelic, metal and spoken word



Four hot musicians: The Red Hot Chili Peppers - clockwise from top, singer Anthony Kiedis, guitarist Dave Navarro, bassist Flea, and drummer Birmingham native Chad Smith - will play The Palace of Auburn Hills on Thursday, March 7.

IN CONCERT

Who: The Red Hot Chili Peppers, along with special guests Toadies and Spacehog.

When: 7:30 p.m. Thursday, March 7

Where: At The Palace of Auburn Hills, 2 Championship Drive (Lapeer Road at I-75), Auburn Hills.

Tickets: \$22.50 available at The Palace box office and all Ticketmaster outlets. For more information, call (810) 377-0100 or (810) 645-6666.

while making a pit stop at funk. Smith explained that with the addition of Navarro it was natural to leave the Chili Peppers' trademark funk far behind.

"Dave has brought his personality to the band which is important, especially in our band. Our strong, individual personalities are a big part of how we sound. We didn't want him to try to play funk. We told him to 'Be yourself and do your own thing.'"

Smith added the band is "lucky to have him play with us."

"He's a wonderful, sensitive caring individual and he's tortured as well. He fits in just well. He's fulfilled all the proper requirements for being a Chili Pepper."

Not too long ago, Smith was vying to become a

Pepper too. He left Detroit for Los Angeles in 1988 after his band Toby Redd had "kind of fizzled out." Three months later a friend of a friend referred him to the Chili Peppers.

Soon thereafter he found himself holed in the studio recording "Mother's Milk," which featured their break-through hit "Higher Ground."

The album was followed in 1993 by the multi-platinum selling "Blood Sugar Sex Magik" which, along with relentless touring, a string of hit singles, and TV appearances, made the band a household name.

Smith, whose family still lives in the area, comes back to visit often. Last year as a favor to friend Dan McCourt of McCourt's Music in Pontiac, Smith played the "world's biggest drum set" at the Sanctum in Pontiac. The 308-piece kit got McCourt, who assembled the set, in the Guinness Book of World Records.

He has also played the National Anthem prior to Pistons games. He and his band were supposed to play The Palace of Auburn Hills on Saturday, Nov. 25, but Smith broke his wrist playing baseball and the tour was subsequently postponed. Prior to injuring his wrist, Smith said he was looking forward to touring the United States again but, he admits, it's "weird" to play "all these big places." Nevertheless, he said, fans won't go away disappointed.

"It's a new thing for us to play all these big huge places with crazy lights. (Bu) we're gonna rock as hard and as well as we can and that's what we do every time. People will be very entertained."

EXHIBITION

Artist shares experiences 'At Mid-Career'

BY MARY KLEMC
STAFF WRITER

Joseph Wesner's retrospective at the Meadow Brook Art Gallery at Oakland University in Rochester is more than a look back over 18 years of the internationally renowned sculptor's career. It is also a celebration, one for new viewers as well as for Wesner and those who encountered and encouraged him in his work.

The display, "Joseph Wesner: At Mid-Career," continues through March 31. Besides his sculpture, it features drawings by Wesner, most of which have never been exhibited. The majority of works shown were chosen from private collections around the country.

"It's a shared enterprise, this idea of making art ... (You) have this window to grace that nobody else has," said Wesner, a Birmingham resident who chairs the sculpture department at Center for Creative Studies in Detroit.

What: "Joseph Wesner: At Mid-Career," an exhibit of works by the Birmingham sculptor Wesner Meadow Brook Art Gallery, across from Meadow Brook Theatre at Oakland University, Rochester.
When: Through March 31
Hours: 1-5 p.m. Wednesday, 2-6:30 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, 7 p.m. through the first installation on evenings of Meadow Brook Theatre performances.
Phone: (810) 370-3005

"Anyone who owns work, looks at work, makes work, exhibits work, teaches about it has ... part of that window to grace."

Wesner, 40, studied at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C., and Cranbrook Academy of Art in Bloomfield Hills.

His community involvement includes the Cityscape public art project in Birmingham, and Art on the Move pub-

lic art displays in Birmingham and Detroit by CCS students. As part of Art on the Move, he created an artist mentorship program for college art students and Detroit high school students.

The permanent collection at Cranbrook Museum contains one of his sculptures, as does the permanent 20th century collection at the Detroit Institute of Arts, and another is permanently installed outdoors at OU.

Among his travels overseas, Wesner was artist in residence in Sweden and Denmark in 1989, and went to the People's Republic of China as visiting artist soon after Nanmen Square.

The artist has been chosen to represent the United States in the "Conditions of Liberty" exhibit scheduled to originate in Norway this year and tour around the world. Also in 1996, he will represent the United States in the International Contemporary Art Festival in Romania.

The retrospective shows how Wesner incorporates his cultural experiences into his work. He is generous with his art, pouring his sense and sensitivity into it; reaching out, communicating. The artist works to please himself but he also wants to share, not intimidate.

"What you deny your work you deny your audience."

"(I'm) trying to make work so no one feels cheated when they experience it."

Wesner's materials - among them stone and metal - sing of the earth, their surfaces speaking of formation by nature or man.

Rocks are especially fascinating to him. In 1989 he went into coal mines in Kentucky to select slabs for his art.

"Rocks are the soul of things, the essence of things."

The earliest piece in the show is Wesner's drawing of a football player, made

See ARTIST, inside



At work: Birmingham sculptor Joseph Wesner stands near "Eco Eco," one of his pieces in his recent "Eco" series. Wesner's art is featured in a retrospective at Meadow Brook Art Gallery at Oakland University in Rochester.