

STREET SCENE

Ministry prefers new songs

Ministry bassist/vocalist Paul Barker seems slightly disappointed in the crowds at the first few shows of the band's U.S. tour. While the tour is in support of Ministry's latest album "Fifth Pig" (Warner Bros.), the crowd is looking to hear older material.

"I really want to make sure we play as much new material as possible. The fans aren't as interested in that as the old classics, and that's really a drag," said Barker, whose band plays the State Theatre in Detroit on Thursday, April 11, and Friday, April 12.

Being a music fan, Barker understands where the audience is coming from.

"Obviously when a band has been around a long time and has a history, people don't necessarily want to hear the new material. They want to hear the old (stuff). If they become fans later on, they'll go back and dig into the history of the band, whereas the band in a live situation may be tired of it."

One old song that fans won't hear is the Ministry's 1994 synth-disco hit "Halloween."

"The problem is the version that I played with Al (Jourgensen, Ministry singer/guitarist and co-founder) is far removed from the recorded single version. It's much more stripped down, less bouncy - a darker interpretation which we thought was really funny at the time. That whole thing is really kind of depressing, and I don't want to live in the past, but it's



Bring your earplugs: Industrial/metal rockers Ministry - whose core members are singer/guitarist Al Jourgensen (left) and bassist/singer Paul Barker - plays two shows at the State Theatre in Detroit Thursday, April 11-Friday, April 12.

the albino that the band has to drag around with them."

Misc: The Black Crowes are in the studio mixing "Three Snakes and One Charm," their follow-up to "Amorica." The release date is tentatively set for summer. ... "Pervert," Charm Farm's debut record for Mercury, is due in stores Tuesday, April 16. ... "Destruction by Definition," the Hollywood Records debut by the local ska-flavored punk band The Suicide Machines, is due in stores Tuesday, May 21.

• Boat picks for the week: Golden Smog, a temporary hybrid of Soul Asylum, Wilco, Run, Westy Run, plays the Majestic, 4140 Woodward Ave.,

Detroit, on Thursday, April 11, (313) 833-9700. ... Howard Jones plays an acoustic show at 7th House, 7 N. Englewood, Pontiac, on Friday, April 12, (810) 335-8100. ... The Vigilantes of Love and the Gufs, frequent visitors to the Detroit area who just released its debut album for Atlantic, play the Blind Pig, 206-208 S. First St., Ann Arbor, on Wednesday, April 17, (313) 998-8555.

If you have any questions or comments for Christina Fuoco, you can write to her care of The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 36261 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150, or via e-mail at cfuoco@com.com, or you can leave her a message at (313) 953-2047 ext. 2130.

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New shows on sale

Tickets going on sale this weekend:

• Def Leppard plays Pine Knob Music Theatre, I-75 and Sashabaw Road, Independence Township, 7:30 p.m. Sunday July 7. Tickets, \$25 pavilion and \$18.50 lawn, go on sale at 10 a.m. Friday at Ticketmaster outlets.

• Dave Matthews Band, Ben Harper and The Freddy Jones Band, come to Pine Knob at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, June 22. Tickets, \$26.50 pavilion and \$20 lawn, also go on sale at 10 a.m. Friday. Tickets are already on sale for the following shows:

• Vigilantes of Love and The Gufs, 9:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 17, Blind Pig, 206-208 S. First St., Ann Arbor. Tickets are \$8 in advance for the 19 and older show. Call (313) 998-8555.

• Sean Kelly of The Samples, and Jelene, 9:30 p.m. Monday, April 29, also at the Blind Pig. Tickets are \$8 in advance for the 19 and older show.

• Tabu Ley Rochereau et L'Orchestra Africa International comes to the Majestic, 4140 Woodward Ave., Detroit, at 8 p.m. Thursday, May 3. Tickets are \$15 in advance. (313) 833-9700.

• Ekoostik Hookah returns to the area at 9 p.m. Saturday, May 11, at the Majestic. Tickets are \$7 in advance.

Information about all the shows listed above is available through Ticketmaster, (810) 645-8888.

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