

FRIDAY



See "The Arkansaw Bear," written for children to help them understand the journey of life, in the Community Arts Auditorium on the campus of Wayne State University off Cass Avenue in Detroit. (313) 577-2972.

SATURDAY



Bush (pictured), Jesus Lizard and Souls, perform 6:45 p.m. at Pine Knob Music Theatre, I-75 and Sashabaw Road, Independence Township. Tickets \$28.50 and \$25 pavilion; \$20 lawn, (248) 377-0100.

SUNDAY



Timothy Campos presents "Daniel Sends His Love," 7 p.m. at Trinity House Theatre, 38840 W. Six Mile Road, Livonia, (313) 584-8427.



Hot tip: Visitors can watch demonstrations of military maneuvers, and enjoy the sounds of fife and drum corps during Greenfield Village's Colonial Life Festival, June 28-29. Other activities include a recreated Woodland Indian encampment, and an appetizing array of colonial foods. Greenfield Village is at Oakwood Boulevard and Village road in Dearborn, west of the Southfield Expressway, (313) 271-1620.

WHAT TO DO • WHERE TO GO

THE
Observer
NEWSPAPERS

ENTERTAINMENT

KEELY WYQONIK, EDITOR • 313-953-2105

THURSDAY, JUNE 26, 1997 • PAGE 1 SECTION E



Playing TasteFest: John Hiatt (bottom right) closes out the TasteFest on Sunday, July 6, by playing songs off his latest CD "Little Head" (Capitol). (Bottom left) Local blues rockers Howling Diablos (Wednesday, July 2) are also among the entertainment slated for the five-day event Wednesday, July 2-Sunday, July 6 at Detroit's New Center area.

MICHIGAN TASTEFEST

SATISFIES MUSICAL TASTE BUDS TOO

BY CHRISTINA PUOCO
STAFF WRITER

The self-described "Sybil of rock 'n' roll," John Hiatt wanted to lighten up a bit on his latest and 14th album, "Little Head" (Capitol) and keep the songs a little less serious than his 1995 Capitol Records debut, "Walk On" (Capitol).

He makes his intentions clear right from the start with the title track, a funky warning about what can happen when a man thinks with the wrong part of his body.

"It's mostly women who seem to appreciate that song. Frankly most of them have suspected it's the truth anyway. Some of the fellas seem to be in denial," Hiatt said with a laugh via telephone from his Kentucky hotel suite.

The song, he said, "just kind of showed up one day. I actually stole the line. We had a tour manager four or five years ago who used to warn us, 'You're in trouble when the little head starts doing the thinkin'.'"

The song "Woman Saved in Half" is inspired by Maurice McGovern's "Torn Between Two Lovers." In "Feelin' Again" he talks about "all those nights just killed a billion brain cells." With "Sure Pinocchio" he comes up with the clever rhyme "You put me in a box, like God and his uncle/Smellin' like old gym socks, lookin' like Artie Garfunkel."

Musically, the album "Little Head" is less bombastic than "Walk On."

"There's no mandolin," Hiatt said. "We kind of let the songs tell us what to do. That's what they were saying, 'Lighten up.' They never appeared to need a mandolin. They seemed better suited to the four-piece rock band."

For the album he collected the Nashville Queens — Hiatt, guitar and piano; David Immergluck, guitar, pedal steel, dobro, and electric sitar; Davey Faragher, bass; Gary Ferguson, drums; Peter Holsapple, organ and piano; and Efrain Toro, percussion.

"They can really do the do. We flushed it out a little bit with percussion. ... The record was cut live which is a real key to the fun factor in the record. All the cuts are first take. It's got that sort of excitement,

The Michigan TasteFest

When: 11:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. Wednesday, July 2-Saturday, July 5, and 11:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. Sunday, July 6.
Where: Detroit's New Center Area, a business and residential district about four miles north of Detroit River. Most of the events take place outdoors on West Grand Boulevard between Woodward Avenue and the Lodge Freeway (M-30).
Cost: There is no admission fee, but there is a cost for food and beverages, as well as some of the children's activities.
Taste Tickets can be purchased and exchanged for food and beverages at the TasteFest booths,

which do not accept cash. Visitors to the festival can purchase nine Taste Tickets for \$5 at ticket booths throughout the festival.
Parking: Free parking is offered after 6 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday, and all day and evening Friday through Sunday. A \$2 preferred parking lot is available on the same schedule in the Fisher Building parking deck. Cars enter from Lothrop, between Second and Third streets. Proceeds benefit the New Center Foundation.
Information: call (313) 927-0000 or visit the TasteFest web site at <http://comet.org/tastefest>.



See TasteFest schedule inside

I think, of the initial blush of inspiration."

Fans can feel the "fun factor" themselves when John Hiatt closes out the five-day Michigan TasteFest in Detroit's New Center Area on Sunday, July 6.

Themed "Savor the flavors — four on the fun," the ninth annual TasteFest features 65 free performances and 36 Michigan restaurants selling "tastes" of their specialties including Cajun, Thai, Polish, Italian, Greek, Indian, British, Mexican, Middle Eastern, Japanese, soul food, seafood, and desserts Wednesday, July 2-Sunday, July 6.

"This is a civic celebration of the best kind, a showcase of community harmony, business resources and enthusiasm," said Patricia Haller, executive director of the Michigan TasteFest.

"We've described it as a world-class smorgasbord, but TasteFest is



more than food and free entertainment, it's a coming together, a blending of business and community, a family-oriented activity-filled five days organized by those of us who dearly love and are proud of the progress of metropolitan Detroit."

The community feel is one of the reasons why Hiatt likes to play events like this, The Taste of Chicago, and Milwaukee's Summerfest.

"They're just a lot of fun. The people are there. The city is involved and it just seems like more of a community kind of atmosphere not just a show."

Plus, he added with a laugh, "we like to eat."

Thirty six Michigan restaurants are participating this year including Fishbone's Rhythm Kitchen Cafe of Southfield which will provide bourbon street whiskey ribs, crawfish etouffee, and bourbon street pudding; and the Orchid Cafe of Troy which will serve crispy shrimp toast,

spring rolls, chicken fried rice, and garlic beef noodle.

Smoke' En Gators of Rochester Hills will serve up gator bites with pineapple salsa, sweet and sour gator with southern green beans and rice, red beans and rice, authentic fried green tomatoes with ranch dressing; while Steve's Back Room of West Bloomfield brings tabbouleh, hummus, vegetarian Middle East combo, and vegetarian stuff grape leaves.

Proceeds generated by the festival fund the New Center Foundation, Inc.'s annual work program as well as a number of charitable programs serving the community, including an award-winning summer youth program at the local Fairbanks Elementary School. In the last two years, the New Center Foundation has donated \$22,000 in TasteFest proceeds to Fairbanks School for computer hardware and software, blacktop for a parking lot play space, and individual subscription to Weekly Reader for each child.

Hiatt's appearance at the TasteFest is one of a handful that he's doing to warm up for his summer European and fall U.S. tours.

"We're just kind of doing a few gigs through the summer to call ourselves professionals. We're kind of getting started slowly," Hiatt said.

He's spent the last year driving his kids "all over God's creation. I almost feel like a taxi cab."

A car racer since 1995, he's been burning rubber with his 5/8-sized classic race car at the Nashville Speedway at the Nashville Fairgrounds. This season he's planning on racing more than any other year. His best finish has been fourth place.

His car's number, incidentally, is 61, for the highway intersecting Highway 49, the famed "crossroads" where Robert Johnson is said to have sold his soul to the devil. His racing motto is "Hell Hounds on My Trail," after the Johnson blues classic.

"I grew up in Indianapolis, where my heroes were Dylan, Hendrix, Muddy Waters, Howlin' Wolf, and racers like A.J. Foyt, Mario Andretti, and Tony Bettenhausen," Hiatt said. "They were every bit the gods."

NO EXCUSES. PLENTY OF REASONS TO ENJOY SUMMER!

Relax. It's summer, OK. Remember: in Michigan, summer only comes around once every ten years or so. Just forget that with each passing humid day, your hair feels like an inflatable sponge. Never mind that you've discovered a few extra pounds of insulation around your midsection since last year. Take off the heavy loafers. Step into some sandals. Slip into a pair of shorts. Go ahead, show some skin. The days are longer, and the work week has just gotten shorter. The following O&E clip-and-save calendar is a start. Carry it with you. Use it as a fan. Better yet, use any of the listed events, concerts and exhibits as an excuse to enjoy yourself. There's only about 80 days before the Michigan hibernation season begins. June 27 — Star-Spangled Southfield Fireworks

Extravaganza, front lawn of the Southfield Center for the Arts, Southfield; (248) 354-9603.
27 (thru August 22) — Entertainment on Us, free music series sponsored by the Plymouth Downtown Development Authority, Fridays, excluding July 4, June 27 concert, "Blue Night"; (313) 455-1453.
29 — Summer Picnic Dance, American Polish Cultural Center, Troy; (484) 689-3636.
29 — Concerts in the Park featuring Waco Country Band, Westland Library Performance Pavilion, Westland; (313) 722-7620.
29-30 — FORE Dearborn Food Festival: Motor States Street Rods Car Show, music by Benny and the Jets on the lawn of the Dearborn Civic Center, Dearborn; (313) 584-6100.
30 — Detroit Symphony Orchestra, Metro

Beach Metropark, Mount Clemens; (248) 463-4581.
July
2 — Fireworks, Oak Park High School football field, Oak Park; (248) 691-7414.
2-6 — Michigan TasteFest, New Center Area, Detroit; (313) 872-0188.
2-6 — Fourth of July Parade & Fireworks, downtown Ypsilanti and Ford Lake park; (313) 483-4444.
3-5 — "Salute to America," Henry Ford Museum & Greenfield Village; (313) 271-1620.
4 — "Fourth of July Parade," downtown Norwalk; (248) 347-1919.
4 — "Festival of the Hills," Bloomer Park, Rochester Hills; (248) 556-4762.
4 — City of Wixom's Annual 4th of July Firecracker 4-Mile Run & Fun Run, Wixom; (248) 624-2850.
5 — Preservation Hall Jazz Band, Ann

Arbor Summer Festival; (313) 764-2539.
7 — Children's Free Day at the Detroit Zoo, free admission for children every Monday through August, Royal Oak; (248) 398-0903.
8 — Children's Free Day at the Belle Isle Zoo, free admission for children each Tuesday through August, Detroit; (313) 852-4083.
8 — Mud Day, Hines Park-Nankin Mills Area, Westland; (313) 261-1990.
9-10 — Bloomfield Open Hunt Pony Show, Bloomfield Open Hunt, Bloomfield Hills; (248) 844-9411.
9-12 — Wyandotte Street Art Fair, downtown Wyandotte; (313) 246-4505.
10 — In the Park Concert featuring Michele Ramo, Shain Park, Birmingham; (248) 645-0730.



Stayin' cool: The Birmingham Jazzfest, July 24-26, is one of the many exciting summer events in the metro area.

Please see SUMMER E2