Capt. Dave: Musical madness

"Did they really do that?" "He was wearing a WHAT?!"

By Jill Hamilton

They're talking about Captain ave and The Psychedelic Lounge

Cats.
If you think local rock is staid and boring, you just haven't been to a Captain Dave concert. Captain Dave and the Psychedelic Lounge Cats don't just give concerts — they stage

and the Psychedelic Lounge Cais don't just give concerts – they stage events. Their bizarre performances are quickly becoming legendary around town. Attendees' comments range from those who are clearly disgusted to those who express undying devotion to the band. One thing's for sure — every time these guts play, the place is packed.

Who are Captain Dave and the Psychedelic Lounge Cats? Creative gentiuses? Just a bunch of wird and the properties of the properties. The result of the properties of the properties of the properties of the properties. The result of the properties of the properties of the properties of the properties. The properties of the p

a variation of "Girl from Ipanema," for the soundcheck.

Their set began when Capitain Dave, clad in a 76s style black leather jump suit, emerged from a cloud of yellow smoke and began a stream of James Brown-style stage prattle. The Lounge Cats launched into a James Brown sound-allke song called "Free James Brown," with lyries like "Blame it on the PCP, set him free," and "So what if he's a junkte, he's so damn funky." Whether this was a homage to or a parody of the Godfather of Soul remains un-clear. Capital Dave's humor is always a bit Inserutable.

DURING THE next song, "Bok Choy," a song about pimps, the infamous go-go dancers appeared. One
of the go-go dancers, called The
Quantum Mechanics Milk Baby
Clown, was rather scantily lead in a
pair of diapers, a pair of pantyhose
on his head and a vaguely unsettling
haby mask.
The other, simply referred to as
Jimmy the Meat Dancer, had on a
necklace of something aspecarine to

necklace of something appearing to be liver and a jock strap festioned

with p₁₆ 5 feet.

The two gyrated with exaggerated eroticism to the surreal flash of a strobe light in front of the old home



Captain Dave and the Psychedelic Lounge Cats have earned a reputation for not just giv-ing concerts but staging events.

movies projected onto a white sheet hung behind the hand.

Their songs sound like Funkadelic in if Funkadelic's music was played by had lounge musicians and sung by a "song stylist." Song ittles include, "Lay it in the Mud," "Mortie's Head" and "Barbra Streisand is the Vodka of My Restaurant."

rant."

So, these guys aren't your average band. No heavy metal hair-do's. No covers of "Stairway to Heaven." No loud guitar heroes. Just . . . , weird-

was itte size.

CAPTAIN DAVE and the Psyschedelic Lounge Cats started out by playing at a friend's party as a joke, at week after the band had formed, they got a gig at Bookles. All formed, they got a gig at Bookles and cancers time, there were no go go dancers are supported to the support of the property of the prop

tain Dave, originally of Bloomfield Hills, said. "Flexible" means that the band has an ever-changing cast of characters. Past shows have fea-

tured guest whistlers. The Grand Co-median with Things Tied to Ilim and Ann the 2it Dancer.
One of the more lasting characters has been Jimmy the Meat Dancer.
'I wanted to dance as close to nude as possible.' Jimmy sald. 'So, I decided I would wear meat. It seemed like an extension of myself.'
'We should get some other danc-ers to represent the other three food groups,' added Johny Pontez, the rhythm guitarist.

CONTROVERSY HAS followed the band practically since its beginning. The bizarre costumes and odd the band practically since its beginning. The bizarre costumes and odd stage anties are apparently a little too much for the more faint-hearted of club owners.

At one of their first gigs at one club, the Lounge Cats were asked to end their performance prematurely after management decleded that the act was gettling a bit raunchy. The band was reportedly banned from the club for months. But things reportedly banned from the club for months. But things at the club and word has it that the band will be allowed word has it that the band will be allowed perform if the 'Unen down' their actions and the club and word has it that the band willing to make some compromises in the act to keep club owners happy. At a recent performer at Doolev's in Ann Arber the

owners happy. At a recent perform-ance at Dooley's in Ann Arbor, the

bar's management decreed that the go-go dancers would have to wear a pre-specified amount of clothing before the hand would be booked. Captain Dave and the Lounge Cats compiled.

"I'm the chicken of the band," Captain Dave said, "I will tone down the act if someone asks us to I don't know if the rest of the band agrees."

The rest of the band looked less cager than Captain Dave to comply, but seemed resigned to accepting the residual to the complimation of the complex of the comple

The Lounge Cats have big plans for the future. They say that they either intend to bring back break dancing, or that they want to piece together an Evel Kineval documenary and write a disco song to go with it.

"We went from a bad joke to a bad band," Mellow Ian said.

"It's a good joke now," Pontez countered.

IN CONCERT

Monday, January 15, 1990 O.G.F.

Trinidad Steel Trinidad Tripoli Steel Band will per-form on Monday, Jan. 15, at the Blind, Pig. 208 S. First, Ann Arbor. For infor-mation, call 996-8555.

Walk The Dogma
 Walk the Dogma will perform on Tuesday, Jan 16, at the Blind Pig. 208 S. First, Ann Arbor. For information, call 996-8555

Difference
 The Difference will perform on Tuesday, Jan 16, at Rick's Cafe, 611 Church, Ann Arbar For information, call \$96-2747

Crossed Wire
 Crossed Wire will perform on Wednesday, Jan. 17, at the Blind Pig. 208 S.
 First, Ann Arbor For information, call
 996-8355.

Juice
 Juce will perform on Wednesday, Jan.
 17, at Rick's Cafe, 611 Church, Ann Arbor, For information, call 996-2747.

 RH Factor
 RH Factor will perform Wednesday through Saturday, Jan. 17-20, at Jaggers, 3881 Elizabeth Lake Road, Waterford.

 For information, call 681-1700. Knaves
 The Knaves will perform on Wednesday, Jan 17, at the Jokebox in Royal Oak, For information, call \$49-2233.

Culture Bandits
 Culture Bandits will perform aguests, the Generals, on Wednesday, 17, at Club Heidelberg, 215 N. Main. Arbor. For information, call 663-7758.

Frank Allison
 Frank Allison and the Odd Sox will perform on Thursday, Jan. 18, at the Blind
 Pig. 208 S. First, Ann Arbor. For information, call 996-2747.

• Fatta Fatta Fatta will perform on Thursday, Jan. 18, at Hick's Cafe, 611 Church, Ann Arbor. For information, call 996-2747.

Red C will perform on Thursday

through Saturday, Jan. 18-20, at the Mid-town Cafe, 139 S. Woodward, Birming-ham For information, call 642-1133.

Killdozer
 Killdozer will perform with guests,
Wig. on Thursday, Jan. 18, at Club
Reidelberg, 215 N. Main, Ann Arbor. For
information, call 663-7758.

Vibe Tribe
 Vibe Tribe will perform on Friday and
 Saturday, Jan. 19-20, at Jameson's. 1812
 N. Main, Hoyal Oak. For information,
 call 547-6470.

Second Self
 Second Self will perform on Friday,
Jan. 19, at the Blind Pig. 208 S. First, Ann
Arbor. For information, call 996-8555.

Big Fun
 Big Fun will perform with guests.

Trash Brats, on Friday, Jan. 19, at Club
Heidelberg, 215 N. Main, Ann Arbor. For
information, call 663-7758.

Allison's Ghost Allison's Ghost will perform with quests, E.P.X., on Friday, Jan. 19, at Fin-ney's Pub. 3965 Woodward, across from the Majestic Theatre, Detroit. For infor-mation, call 851-8070.

Trade Secret
 Trade Secret will perform on Friday and Saturday, Jan. 19-20, at Griffs Grill, 49 N. Saginaw, Pontiac.

Robb Roy
 Robb Roy will perform with guests,
Off Kilter, on Friday, Jan. 19, at the
Hamtramck Pub, Caniff Avenue, off I-75

John Shea Trio
 The John Shea Trio will perform Friday and Saturday, Jan. 19-20, at the Bird of Paradise, 207 S. Ashley, Ann Arbor. For information, call 662-8310.

Regular Boys
 The Regular Boys will perform on Friday and Saturday, Jan. 19-20, at Hick's Cafe, 611 Church, Ann Arbor. For information, call 996-2747.

Static Alphabet
 Static Alphabet will perform along
with the Idiots and Sensitive Big Guys on
Saturday, Jan. 20, at Finney's Pub, 395Woodward, across from the Majestic
Theatte, Detroit. For information, call
831-8070.



Frank Allison and the Odd Sox will per-form on Thers-day, Jan. 18, at the Blind Pig in Ann Arbor.

MUSIC NOTES

You want albums. We got albums (not to mention a few CDs and cas-

to to mention a few Cbs and cassistic to the control of the contro

alphabet? Yes, Static Alphabet is a now foursome with the recent addi-tion of guitarist Mike Cummins. Cummins was a member of the Dancing Smoothies before joining the Alphabet.

Past and present of Detroit rock'n'roll were winners recently at the first-ever Rock Awards hosted by the Studio Lounge in Westland.

Members of Salem Witchcraft, Mugsy, Weapons, Texrer and Toyan Smith of Savage Grace walked off with "Sammys" along with today's up-and-coming bands on the circuit such as Romeo Rock, Warp Drive and LaBare.

- Larry O'Connor

TOP LPs

Best-selling records of the week:

"Another Day in Paradise." Phil Col-

"Don't Know Much," Linda Roustadt ih Auron Neville

ith Aaron Neville
"Rhythm Nation," Janet Jackson,
"Just Like Jesse James," Cher,
"With Every Beat of My Heart," Tay-

5. "With Every Beat of My Heart," Taylor Dayne.
6. "Pump Up the Jam." Trehnotronic.
7. "This One's for the Children," New Kild on the Block.
8. "Just Between You and Me," Loe Graims.
9. "Living in Sin." Boa Jos/.
10. "How Am I Supposed to Live Without You." Michael Boliob.
(Source: Cashbox magazine)

LOCAL

Here are the top 10 songs (no particu-r order) receiving air play on "Detroit tasie Scene." which is hosted by Scott Campbell and heard 4-5 p.m. Sundays (re-peated 5:30-6:30 p.m. Tuesdays) or WDTR-FM.

"Pictures on My Wall," Rhythm Colli

on.

"Joler," Hypnotics.

"All Fail Down," Imitation of Life.

"All Fraugh the Night," E.F.X.

"No Room to Swing the Cat." Rubber.

"Nerd's Revenge," Hay.

"The Antithesis," Syn Synol.

"Sugar Blues," Strange Bedfellows.

"Stairway to Heaven," Christophen

Gorey. 10. "Until You Change," Tim Zapawa.

REVIEWS

SHADOWLAND Shadowland

Halling from Los Angeles, via Florida and Alaska, this EP is Shad-owland's debut for Gelfen Records. It serves as a foretaste of an upcoming LP, "The Beauty of Eccaping," Interestingly, It has the same five songs on each side of the LP, which is the first time I've seen that for a commercial release.

Both this EP and the upcoming LP were produced by Pat Moran (Robert Plant, Tom Cochrane and Edie Flickell & New Bohemians) at Rockfield Studios in Wales, U.K.
This studio is where the Alarm

This studio is where the Alarm recorded their last LP. I don't know

if it's just coincidence but vocalist, Darren Rademaker works in that same genre of dramatic, gravelly vocals.

Shadowland describe themselves as "post-punk, Southern folk blues rock." That narrows it down, eh?

rock." That narrows it down, eh?
To be fair, they do operate in that
Alarm/Celtic folk area. This is not
all bad, particularly on the first
track "Wink of an Eye" or on their
version of Dylan's "It's All Over



Now Baby Blue." It is when they tip their collective hats to the Watertheir collective hats to the Water-boys' style of Celtic Diddly-eye that they tend to lose their identity.

they tend to fose their identity.

On "limitation of Life," the similarities run close enough that they actually use Anthony Thistlewaite and Colin Blakey from Mike Scotts forementioned boys. And how about these for "Scott-Style" lyrics: "You have caten up all of the sun/You have caten up all of the sun/You have traveled far but I've traveled farther/You are not the permanent one."

This runs a little too close for comfort, although there is some marvelous instrumentation on this With their hearts and intentions in

With their hearts and intentions in the right place, perhaps over the course of a complete LP, Shadow-land may exert more of their own identity. In the meantime, despite its failings, this self-titled EP does enough to tease the taste buds. — Cornac Wright

AIN'T NO JOKE — Volebeats

One of the pitfalls of country mu-sic, or those who try to play it, is the ever-dreaded cliches. You know the ones: Trains, whiskey, women and

ones: Trains, whiskey, women and cigarettes.

The Volebeats' debut LP "Ain't No Joke" has its small share of pearls (as in Minnie), those numbers that the aforementioned subjects are dealt with ("Leave This Town" and "Bottles"). But, aw shucks, that ain't so had

"Bottlee") But, aw shucks, that ain't so bad.
For the most part, the Volebeats avoid hackneyed country expression. The Volebeats pull off their country rock effort without an ounce of pretention or a scintilla of insincerity. When Jeff Osker volce cracks on the opening cut, "And You Know It." you know this group is here to serve the music they love.
"Ain't No Joke" should be noted for what it lant, and that's a pure lowletter had the word. They will be noted for what it lant, and that's a pure lowletter had twang imitation country album. A listen to the salas. Its word. "Togulla y Bunuelos" or the Dylanesque harmonica on "Fool's Casite" certainly bears this out.



By paying homage to the country heroes of the '50s and '60s while keeping their present-day rock sensi-bilities, the Volebeats have undoubt-

billites, the Volebeats have undoubted active care their own path. It's a path of dirt, stones and, at times, puddles of reflection.

Some of the most intriguing pumbers here are written by former band member Terry Rohm, whose lyrics are penell sketches worked into story lines as in "Klara" and "Fool's Castle."

Then there are those songs that standout just in their simplicity. Such is the case with "Yes or No." one of three collaborations of Jeff Oakes and Matthew Smith that is worthy of praise.

Oakes and management worthy of praise.

After listening to this album, praise is not in short supply.

— Larry O'Connor

TRANSVERSE CITY Warren Zevon

1989 witnessed some fine albums by some of rock's most distinguished veterans, including Bob Dylan, Neil Young, Lou Reed, Elvis Costello, Van Morrison and Pete Townshend. Add Warren Zevon to that list. From the majestic opening chimes of the tille track through the closing tenderness of "Nobody's in Love Thus Year." Zevon's latest is one soild piecory lings. City" is a futuristic album whose bitting sarcam is aimed squarely at the present. It is musically sound, thanks in part to the all-star cast featuring Jerry Garcia, David Gilmour, Neil Young, Chick Corea, David Lindley and J.D. Souther. Zevoi emphasizes bollow keyboards often, but plenty of guitars and real drums provide a backbone.

bone.

As usual, Zevon's satirical lyrics steal the show. "Splendid Isolation" takes a poke at reclusive stars: "Michael Jackson in Disneyland/Don't have to share it with nobody else/Lock the gates, Goofy, take my



hand/And lead me through the World of Self."

"Turbulence" looks at the volatile polities of the Soviet Union from the inside. Who else but Zevon wood pen, "Well, we've been fightin' with the mujahaddin/Down in Afghanistan/Comrade Gorbachev, can I/Go back to Vladivostok, man?" He even croons a verse in Russian.

Zevon also takes potabots at the computer communicators of the 9-to-5 world ("Networking"), traffic ("Gridlock") and shopping ("Down in the Mail").

After another great record, it is incredible that this man is still best known for the novelty hit, "Werewolves of London." Zevon fans know better. The rest of the wards should catch on before it ends up like the comoe-depleted wasteland depicted in "Run Straight Down." Don't say Warren didn't warn you.