



Four years ago Terry Farmer left Livonia with a straight-ahead rock'n'roll outfit. He's home now his own group, The

Bead Band — fellow Livonians David Perampile, Mike Buhager, Todd Glass and Ewall "Skip" Kusko.

Bead Band: Success au naturel

By Larry O'Connor staff writer

When someone starts talking about "tapping into the energy," and "tuning into the environment," and "being in the moment," only one thing can be surmised. He's been living in California.

Four years ago, Terry Farmer left Livonia for Los Angeles with a straight-ahead rock'n'roll outfit, Let's Talk About Girls. He's come home, sans the band, with his hair much longer and a totally new vernacular.

Occasionally, Farmer uses his index finger to draw out an analogy on a table. Other times, his hands wave to usher home his feelings.

THE BIGGEST realization for Farmer was that he could do it on his own. He left the security of being guitarist for Let's Talk About Girls in August 1988. The band was formed on the Michigan State campus and was a highly regarded entity on the club circuit before heading to L.A. to seek fame and fortune. The group is still together.

with what we were doing with my particular twist of style. The band had an incredible history and that was the foundation from which I was working on.

At the same time, Farmer said changes were taking place inside of him — physically, mentally and spiritually. Singing can do that to a guy, but so can musical inspiration.

His brother, Chris, also performs with the band. "I helped program myself to get in tune with the environment," he said. "Jan and Dean are into nostalgia. I get to see how it works."

Farmer knew how things worked in this area musically. So The Bead Band had little problem getting booked into clubs, performing at Alvin's in Detroit and Jameson's in Royal Oak.

Neil Young: Still the one

By Larry O'Connor staff writer

Perhaps there's more than a twist of irony to Neil Young and Crazy Horse's appearance Saturday at the Palace of Auburn Hills.

With a war in the Persian Gulf, anti-war protests in the streets and what is supposed to be a kinder, gentler nation, nothing has really seemed to change much since tumultuous times of 1969 when Young emerged as rock'n'roll's foremost poet.

When the man in blue jeans, cut-off sweat shirt, brown mane streaks and eyes glazed with intense awe

SEEING THE SHOW
Who: Neil Young and Crazy Horse
Where: Palace of Auburn Hills
When: Saturday, Jan. 27, 8 p.m.

bangs at his electric guitar, perhaps will realize we're back to square one.

But Young is not an artifact, a hippie merely cashing in on the current '60s nostalgia craze. To fans young and old alike, he's the genuine article.

Young's work through the '70s, '80s and '90s has teetered on genius at times, and sputtered on disaster at others. His integrity as an artist, though, has never been questioned.

His longevity can be measured in the simple segue of commercial radio. Young is one of the few, if not the only, who can still play rock'n'roll music.



Among the songs Neil Young has produced with the California bar band Crazy Horse are several hits, including "Heart of Gold" and "Old Man."

IN CONCERT

TALL MIDGETS
Tall Midgets will perform Monday, Jan. 28, at the Blind Pig, 208 S. First, Ann Arbor. For information, call 996-8555.

VOODOO CHILI
Voodoo Chili will perform Tuesday, Jan. 29, at Rick's Cafe, 611 Church, Ann Arbor. For information, call 996-2747.

CROSSED WIRE
Crossed Wire will perform Tuesday, Jan. 29, at the Blind Pig, 208 S. First, Ann Arbor. For information, call 996-8555.

KILLING JOKE
Killing Joke will perform at a record-release party in the Shelter, 431 E. Congress, Detroit. There will be album, CD and poster giveaways. Cover is \$6. For information, call 961-MELT.

TRINIDAD TRIPOLI STEEL BAND
Trinidad Tripoli Steel Band will perform Wednesday, Jan. 30, at Rick's Cafe, 611 Church, Ann Arbor. For information, call 996-2747.

SECOND SELF
Second Self will perform Wednesday, Jan. 30, at Nectarine Ballroom, 510 E. Liberty, Ann Arbor. Tickets are \$6 in advance. Doors open at 9 p.m. For information, call 99-MUSIC.

BIM-SCALA-BIM
Bim-Scala-Bim will perform Wednesday, Jan. 30, at the Blind Pig, 208 S. First, Ann Arbor. For information, call 996-8555.

FLOOR 9
Floor 9 will perform with Bushmasters Thursday, Jan. 31, at 3-D Club, 1815 N. Main, Royal Oak. For information, call 589-3344.

LA TRINITY
La Trinity will perform with guests, Crazy Horse, on Thursday, Jan. 31, at Club Heidelberg, 215 N. Main, Ann Arbor. For information, call 991-3362.

PERCY GABRIEL JAZZ BAND
Percy Gabriel Jazz Band will perform Thursday, Jan. 31, at Alvin's, 5756 Cass, Detroit. For information, call 832-2355.

THE GENERATORS
The Generators will perform Thursday, Jan. 31, at Rick's Cafe, 611 Church, Ann Arbor. For information, call 996-2747.

WILD KINGDOM/ASSEMBLY REQUIRED
Wild Kingdom will perform an all-guests show from 6-9 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 31, at the Blind Pig, 208 S. First, Ann Arbor. Assembly Required will perform 9-10 p.m. to close. For information, call 996-8555.

THE JUDDS
The Juds will perform with guests, Garth Brooks, Ladies of the Mississippi and Ronnie McDowell, at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 1, at the Palace of Auburn Hills. Tickets are \$20 and \$18.50. For information, call 377-0100.

AL RAPONE
Al Rapone will perform numbers off his album, "Zydeco to Go" on Blind Pig

Records, Thursday, Jan. 31, at Sully's, 4758 Greenfield, north of Michigan Avenue, Dearborn. For information, call 846-1920.

INDIGO GIRLS
Indigo Girls will perform with guests, Ellen James Society, 8 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 31, at Hill Auditorium, Thayer and North University, Ann Arbor. For information, call 99-MUSIC.

MISSIONARY STEW
Missionary Stew will perform Friday, Feb. 1, at Lili's 21, 2930 Jacob, off Jos Campau, Hamtramck. For information, call 875-6555.

RHYTHM CORPS
Rhythm Corps will perform Friday, Feb. 1, at Key West, 2430 W. Six Mile, Detroit. For information, call 592-0090.

COMMUNITY CONCERTS
Earth Community Concerts and Coffee House will be 7-10 p.m. to 2 a.m. Friday, Feb. 1, at Birmingham Unitarian Church, 651 Woodward, north of Long Pine Road. Artists performing include Assembly Required, Jim Congrove and Andy Sunfiring. Wild Kingdom, John Wayne and Rip Shreds, Ultra Slim and the Fat Planets and IAD recording artists His Name is Alive. The show is a benefit for WORLW-FM, campus station of Oakland Community College. Admission is \$5. For information, call 548-7235 or 541-8853.

URGE OVERKILL
Urge Overkill will perform with guests, Wig, Friday, Feb. 1, at Club Heidelberg, 215 N. Main, Ann Arbor. For information, call 994-3562.

GEORGE BEDARD & THE KINGPINS
George Bedard & the Kingpins will perform Friday, Feb. 1, at the Blind Pig, 208 S. First, Ann Arbor. For information, call 996-8555.

TINSLEY ELLIS
Tinsley Ellis will perform Friday, Feb. 1, at Rick's Cafe, 611 Church, Ann Arbor. For information, call 996-2747.

ALMIGHTY LUMBERJACKS OF DEATH
Almighty Lumberjacks of Death will perform an all-guests show with guests, Mol Triffid and Skeltons, Friday, Feb. 1, at St. Andrew's Hall, 431 E. Congress, Detroit. Doors open at 7:30 p.m. For information, call 961-MELT.

NEIL YOUNG AND CRAZY HORSE
Neil Young and Crazy Horse will perform with guests, Some Youth and Social Distortion on Saturday, Feb. 2, at the Palace of Auburn Hills. Tickets are \$25 for gold circle and \$20 reserved. For information, call 377-0100.

BEER ON THE PENGUIN
Beer on the Penguin will perform Saturday, Feb. 2, at Lili's 21, 2930 Jacob, off Jos Campau, Hamtramck. For information, call 875-6555.

TRUNCHEONS
Truncheons will perform with guests, Jimmy Bones and the Graverobbers, Saturday, Feb. 2, at Club East, 29481 John II, near 12 Mile Road, Madison Heights. For information, call 544-1298.

TOP HITS

- Best-selling records of the week.
1. Justy My Love, Madonna
2. High Enough, Dana Vankles
3. Love Will Never Do (Without You), Janet Jackson
4. Tom's Diner, D.N.A. featuring Suzanne Vega
5. The First Time, Surface
6. Sensitivity, Ralph Tresvant
7. Because I Love You, Stevie Nicks
8. Impulsive, Wilson Phillips
9. From a Distance, Bette Midler
10. In Your Face Tonight, Whitney Houston

LOCAL

- Here are the top-10 songs on "Detroit Music Scene," which is heard 4-5 p.m. Sundays (repeated 5:30-6:30 p.m. Tuesdays) on WDET-FM 90.9.
1. Never Say We're Through, Dark Star
2. Waterworld, Missionary Stew
3. Pick Me Up, Jimmy Bones and the Graverobbers
4. Love on the Astral Bites Band
5. Trying to Be Somebody, Knaves
6. The Note, The Incubators
7. What You Want, The Gear
8. Pyramids of Passion, Park the Karma
9. Sway Like a Reed, Hannabals
10. America, David Brian

SEASONS IN THE ABYSS

— Slayer

They're back, untamed as ever. Slayer returns, with yet another gut-wrenching contribution to the heavy metal heap.

Slayer is a band that prides itself on being a force into the darker side of life. "Seasons of the Abyss" is certainly no exception to that rule.

With songs like "Dead Skin Mask," "Blood Red" and "Expendable Youth," you can kind of get an idea of where this band is coming from.

But wait... don't forget the lyrics.

"High velocity bullet at close range can damage the mind. Shattering the skull, shredding the brain. Severing the spine" is heard in the song "Hallowed Point."

Or, how about "Broken glass reflections. Show your flesh eaten away. Beyond the gates. I'll take you. Where the blood forever rains" from their song "Spirit in Black."

Yes, every one of the 10 songs on this cheerless collection of gloom and doom are almost lyrically identical. Slayer caters their music to a youthful crop of fans that find mystique in their satanic and sadistic overtones.

This is the kind of album that makes American parents frantic. The band is fully aware of the fact



that labels on their tapes warning of explicit lyrical content only increase the amount of sales to impressionable teens. They claim that their music is a healthy release of aggression bred by the unrest and dissatisfaction of the '80s. Ironically, unrest and dissatisfaction would better describe Slayer's music. — Joseph S. Hoffmann

ONLY A PICTURE

— The Knaves

Last on the way to the boat club to meet Buffy and Bif? Just who are these Knaves anyway?

The picture in the inner flap of the band's CD release, "Only a Picture," reveals four rather clean-cut guys, attired in natty sport coats and matching white shirts. These are guys a dad might gladly let date his daughter, a stinging indictment as one can lay on a group of rock'n'roll musicians.

Not surprisingly, the Knaves' music possesses a similar purity and aesthetic. All 12 numbers here are well crafted pop songs, diverse in style, but relatively common in theme.

The Knaves' hark back to a pristine time, a time when life was one big beach party where the sand in your shoes and a teenage crush were the only causes for angst.

Songs like "Only a Picture" and "Heart Beat of Love" only deal in the rudimentary feelings of first time love while the CD's revving "Tim Free" hardly sounds like a declaration of independence.

The band does veer into the life's darker avenues, we think "Skull and Crossbones" is a riff-roaring number that would be more at home in the song book of shock rockers 3-D Invictibles. "Tamami Trail" is a heart thumper of an adventure through the



swamp where there's "Gators, Snakes and Lardnitas."

The most endearing quality about the Knaves' sound (aside from the crystal clear production) is the guitar work of brothers Mark and John Paul Trafletti. While a good portion of this release stays within the boundaries of '80s surf-sound strumming forays into rockabilly ("Trying to Be Somebody") and the atmospheric drone ("Another One for You") provide a host of possibilities in the future.

In the meantime, though, the Knaves appear merely content on being forever naïf in the eyes of Buffy and Bif.

Larry O'Connor

EVERYBODY WANTS TO SHAG

— Teardrop Explodes

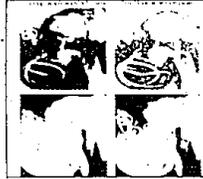
I remember a dark, always smoky basement where two friends of mine, in spasmodic attempts at conversation, "bitcher" while their best band ever to come out of Liverpool, England, Echo and the Bunnymen, for The Teardrop Explodes.

This was a decade ago. The Bunnymen have gone on to achieve well-deserved fame. The Teardrops, led by Julian Cope, a former school mate of Echo's Ian McCulloch, released two brilliant albums, drew loads of acclaim, then dissolved in apparent personal conflicts.

Cope has since established himself as a most interesting character in the world of recorded music, but aside from a final EP, The Teardrops were heard from no more.

That is, until late last year when "Everybody Wants to Shag... The Teardrop Explodes" was released. This, the band's third album, was recorded in 1982 and includes songs from the last EP and others intended for an album that was shelved following the band's demise.

Like the earlier work, "Everybody Wants to Shag" shows Cope's devo-



tion to the hypnotic rhythms and melodies of great pop while still sounding other worldly and unique. It's a balance rarely achieved.

The album is less polished than the previous two. Some songs, like "Strange House in the Snow" and the outstanding "Ouch Monkeys," are less conventional and point to the direction Cope would later take. Others sound incomplete, which may explain why the album wasn't released earlier.

Typically, Cope's lyrics communicate by evoking images and moods that strike the emotions more than the intellect. On "Ouch Monkeys" he hypnotically laments: "At night the monkeys come down from the trees/ and who has ever seen such foolish ones as these?/ A monkey quivers with its guts torn open wide/ as jungle cats rest on the ground with swollen sides."

The Teardrop Explodes is a band worth remembering. — James Radebaugh