



Cry Wolf — Phil Deckard (from left), Timmy Hall, Paul Canilla and Steve McKnight — got its break when a Japanese promoter invited the group to perform there in 1989.

Cry Wolf: Staying true to self

By Larry O'Connor
staff writer

Cry Wolf is a metal band with something to say, albeit quite loudly. "We're not into glorifying ourselves," said bassist Phil Deckard, whose band performs Thursday, Feb. 21, at The Ritz. "That's what I don't understand — bands who get some success and their attitudes completely change. It's not like they're not genetically superior or

anything compared to when they first started out."

Songs on Cry Wolf's debut album on R.S. Grand Slam bear this credo out. While many a hard dresser is to be hit in spandex and leather and sings about babes, booze, and bitchin' Camaros, this San Francisco-based quartet avoids the banal heavy-metal clichés.

In fact, chief songwriter and lead singer Timmy Hall bores through the illacies of idol worship with

some rather pointed commentary.

Sings Hall in "Face Down in the Wishing Well": "Face down in the wishing well. Another one takes a fall. Money has a wicked smell. When you got to have it all, sucker took the easy trip and he fell."

THERE HAVE been no easy trips for Cry Wolf. After forming in San Francisco four years ago, guitarist

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SEEING THE SHOW

Who: Cry Wolf
Where: The Ritz
17580 Franklin in Roseville.
Call 778-8150 for more information.
When: Thursday, Feb. 21

Cavedogs lead musical pack around Boston

By Larry O'Connor
staff writer

In Boston, rock'n'roll was nothing but a dog meet dog world.

So Todd Spahr, Brian Stevens and Mark Rivers found initially when they moved there and formed the Cavedogs in 1985. Already butting heads on the Beantown circuit were the Handbags, the Straw Dogs and the Reverends.

But in all this canine-contested rivalry, the Cavedogs have turned out to be the leader of the pack.

The band's Capitol debut "Joy Rides for Shut-ins" is an incendiary batch of pop songs that burn in several different hues.

From the opening cut "Taytor Country" influences such as Elvis Costello are easy to detect. Other times, the Cavedogs appear to be

charting their own power-chord course.

The trio's sound has been likened to the result of a clandestine meeting of Husker Du's Bob Mould and pop's prince Paul McCartney. The mere thought of Mould snarling through "Rough and Tumble" is humorous, but the comparison doesn't apply to the Cavedogs.

Instead, the sound is more of the constant struggle between the voltage of rock'n'roll and the accessibility of pop.

"EVERYBODY has their definition of these things," said guitarist Todd Spahr, whose band opens for Charlatans UK on Friday, Feb. 22, at Saint Andrew's Hall. "Pop tends to make people nervous, especially in this country where people think of WHAM!"

"I don't know what we do actually



Brian Stevens (from left), Todd Spahr and Mark Rivers butted heads with a collection of "dogs" in Beantown, but as the Cavedogs, they have turned out to be the leader of the pack.

Perhaps which is why noted producer Ed Stasium (Living Colour, Smashmouth, Something Happened to the Judds) chose the Cavedogs under his tutelage. Stasium has a knack for accentuating a band's pop sensibilities while retaining its sonic edge.

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SEEING THE SHOW

Who: Cavedogs opening for the Charlatans UK
Where: St. Andrew's Hall, 431 E. Congress in Detroit.
Call 661-MELT for more information.
When: Friday, Feb. 22

IN CONCERT

- BRAD FELT**
Brad Felt will perform in a special jazz jam, "Paradise Valley," Monday, Feb. 18, at Alvin's, 5756 Cass, across from Wayne State University, Detroit. For information, call 832-2355.
- UNCLE TUPELO**
Uncle Tupelo will perform with guests, Frank Allison & the Old Sex, Tuesday, Feb. 19, at the Blind Pig, 208 S. First, Ann Arbor. For information, call 996-8555.
- CHISEL BROS.**
Chisel Bros. will perform in a special open mike night Tuesday, Feb. 19, at Alvin's, 5756 Cass, across from Wayne State University, Detroit. For information, call 832-2355.
- LUNAR PARK**
Lunar Park will perform Tuesday, Feb. 19, at Ruck's Cafe, 611 Church, Ann Arbor. For information, call 996-2747.
- HELMET**
Helmet will perform with guests, Hussem, Tuesday, Feb. 19, at Club Heidelberg, 215 N. Main, Ann Arbor. For information, call 994-3562.
- RYTHMIC MCFUED**
Rhythmic McFued will perform Wednesday, Feb. 20, at the Blind Pig, 208 S. First, Ann Arbor. For information, call 996-8555.
- NEW RIDDEM**
New Riddem will perform Wednesday, Feb. 20, at Ruck's Cafe, 611 Church, Ann Arbor. For information, call 996-2747.
- PARK THE KARMA**
Park the Karma will perform Thursday, Feb. 21, at Club 310, 1813 N. Main, near 12 Mile, Royal Oak. For information, call 589-3344.
- SAMARITANS**
Samaritans will perform Thursday, Feb. 21, at Cross Street Station, 511 W. Congress, Ypsilanti. For information, call 485-0508.
- HIS NAME IS ALIVE**
His Name Is Alive will perform with guests, Majesty Crush, Thursday, Feb. 21, at Club Heidelberg, 215 N. Main, Ann Arbor. For information, call 994-3562.
- TRACEY SCIENCE/HUMAN RIGHTS**
Tracey Science will perform 6-9 p.m. on cover Thursday, Feb. 21, at the Blind Pig, 208 S. First, Ann Arbor. Human Rights perform 9 p.m. to close cover. For information, call 996-8555.
- JUICE**
Juice will perform Thursday, Feb. 21, at Ruck's Cafe, 611 Church, Ann Arbor. For information, call 996-2747.
- WHFR BENEFIT**
Scott Campbell, with Jimmy Bones and the Gravediggers, The Trunchums, Wrath of Christian and the Incubables will perform in a benefit for WHFR-FM, 82.3 FM, on Friday, Feb. 22, in Henry Ford Community College, P.O. Box 1000, Dearborn. Admission is \$4. For information, call 445-9676.
- JUNK MONKEYS**
Junk Monkeys will perform Friday, Feb. 22, at Lil's, 2130 Jacob, Hamtramck. For information, call 875-6555.
- TEDDY RICHARDS**
Teddy Richards will perform with guests, Stewart, Frankie Band, Friday, Feb. 22, at Alvin's, 5756 Cass, across from Wayne State University, Detroit. For information, call 832-2355.
- CHARLATANS UK**
Charlatans UK will perform with guests, Cavedogs, at Saint Andrew's Hall, 431 E. Congress, Detroit. For information, call 961-MELT.
- SOCIAL FABRIC**
Social Fabric will perform Friday, Feb. 22, at Cross Street Station, 511 W. Congress, Ypsilanti. For information, call 485-0508.
- HOLY COWS**
Holy Cows will perform Friday, Feb. 22, at Club Heidelberg, 215 N. Main, Ann Arbor. For information, call 994-3562.
- DRIVIN' & CRYIN'**
Drivin' & Cryin' will perform Friday, Feb. 22, at the Blind Pig, 208 S. First, Ann Arbor. For information, call 996-8555.
- URBATIONS**
The Urbations will perform Friday, Feb. 22, at Ruck's Cafe, 611 Church, Ann Arbor. For information, call 996-2747.
- HARMONICA SHAH**
Harmonica Shah will perform Friday, Feb. 22, at Moby Dicks, 3452 Schaefer, Dearborn. For information, call 581-3650.
- BIG HEAD CONVENTION**
Big Head Convention will perform with guests, Sun House, Friday, Feb. 22, at Finney's Pub, 3050 Woodward, Detroit. For information, call 831-4070.
- DETROIT BLUES BAND**
Detroit Blues Band will perform Friday and Saturday, Feb. 22 and 23, at the Under End Lounge, 5855 Monroe, Taylor. For information, call 278-5340.
- HAPPY TOM SHOW**
Happy Tom Show will perform along with Leg Swing and Nervous Beats Friday, Feb. 22, at the Hamtramck Pub, 2048 Canfield, off I-75. For information, call 355-3827.
- ART LYZAK'S LUCKY DOGS**
Art Lyzak's Lucky Dogs will perform Saturday, Feb. 23, at Lil's, 2130 Jacob, Hamtramck. For information, call 875-6555.
- REDFORD STEVE**
Redford Steve & the Detroit Show-It will perform Saturday, Feb. 23, at Moby Dicks, 3452 Schaefer, Dearborn. For information, call 581-3650.
- LUCY'S ALIBI**
Lucy's Alibi will perform Saturday, Feb. 23, at Club Exit, 2541 John St., at the corner of 12 Mile, Madison Heights. For information, call 544-1298.
- MINI HARRIS AND THE SNAKES**
Mini Harris and the Snakes will perform Saturday, Feb. 23, at Alvin's, 5756 Cass, across from Wayne State University, Detroit. For information, call 832-2355.

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LOCAL

Here are the top 10 songs on Detroit Music Series, which is heard 4.5 p.m. on Sundays, 5.30-6.30 p.m. on Tuesdays, on WHFR-FM 82.3.

1. Page of the Night (The) Jimmy Bones & the Gravediggers
2. Pyramids of Passion Park the Karma
3. One Woman Incubables
4. Say OK Tems
5. Visions from Earth In Autumn
6. Lost in Space, Lead Hat
7. Open Mega City Four
8. Childhood: Missionary Slow
9. Back to Memphis Detroit Blues Band
10. Justice More Night Knaves

COLLEGE

Here are the top 10 albums on WHFR-FM 82.3 campus station of Henry Ford Community College.

1. Extremes Diet and Various Improved Emotions Killing Jake
2. Vision Thing Sisters of Mercy
3. Napsy RMFMD
4. Giala Passion
5. Chase Fishon
6. Blast the Human Flower Danielle Day
7. Four Song EP Wrath (Christian)
8. Greatest Hits So Far (Public Image Limited)
9. Mixed Up The Cure
10. Some Friendly Charlatans UK

REVIEWS

EAST OF THE SUN, WEST OF THE MOON — a-ha

"East of the Sun, West of the Moon" is both a mythical destination in Nordic legend, and the title of the latest harmonious collection from the band called a-ha.

Their new release shows a lot of different shades and gradations that this band is capable of.

For instance, "Sycamore Leaves," sounds a lot like some of Simon & Garfunkel's early work, not only in the acoustical but also the vocal contribution of this song.

On the title track called "East of the Sun," socio-political lyrics aside, there is a certain U2 essence to it.

This is the band's fourth release, and very likely their best to date.

The song "Slender Frame" is a lucid example of where this artistic trio is headed. It is a contemporary piece with the a-ha signature all over it.

This album also features one of the band's first cover songs. It is a remake of the old Everly Brothers hit called "Crying in the Rain."

The album was produced by Ian Stanley, who you might know as the "third member" of the band Tears for Fears, and co-produced by Chris Neil (Mike plus the Mechanics).

There is 11 new cuts on this album, ranging from upbeat contemporary to the balmy ballads they're known for.

Outside of the three permanent members, who do all the writing (Magne Fureholmen, keyboards; Morten Harket, vocals; and Pål Waaktaar, guitar), Jørn Hoegberg and Per Hilstedt fill in on the bass and drums nicely.



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This album is well worth a listen for those of you interested in a new contemporary addition to your music collection.

Joseph S. Hoffmann

THE BEST OF THE DAMNED — The Damned

The Best of The Damned "Is that a contradiction in terms? Is there a best? Apparently so. Thus, the latest release from the English punk group.

The Best of The Damned is, allegedly, titled "Machine Gun Etiquette." Maybe this alternate title better describes their blitzkrieg guitars, hammering drums, throbbing bass and repugnant lyrical content.

There are 14 cuts in this "best of" collection, spanning two decades of their work.

The Damned is one of the first generation punk rock groups spawned out of Britain in the late '70s. There is even a live version of their caustic sounding song "New Rose" on the album.

Also included is an interesting raw punk version of Jefferson Airplane's "White Rabbit." It's not too bad, although Grace Slick may not attest to that.

"Hit of Miss" sounds like something you might find on a Clash album.

Through the years the members of the band have changed several times, and after a year of sabbatical, the band now consists of the present band are Rat Scabies, Captain Sensible, Dave Vanan and Paul Gray.

They're in the studio preparing material for their '90s contribution.

Overall, The Damned's material of the past, closely resembles the works of today's cutting edge bands like The Misfits and Wire.



It is bands like The Damned that were the innovators that have helped to shape and influence today's cutting edge groups. What about this "best of" collection? Well, it is raw in its most intrinsic form. At that, I'll leave the final decision up to you.

Joseph S. Hoffmann

BIRDBRAIN — Buffalo Tom

Buffalo Tom was formed by three guys, Bill Janowitz, Tom Maginnis and Chris Colburn, at the University of Massachusetts in 1986 when they realized the "impending doom" that is life after graduation.

Apparently, though, there was a problem — all three of them played guitar. They wisely decided that two of them should switch instruments and now, according to their press releases, Chris plays his bass like a guitar, and Tom plays his drums like a guitar.

What they ended up with is something that sounds pretty good. They released a debut album on SST Records, so "Birdbrain" is a sophomore effort, and a fine one at that.

The album has a garage feel to it and sounds raw and guitar heavy — a bit like the Hindu Love Gods record. Janowitz has a good rock'n'roll voice, with the right amount of obligatory roughness.

He's in the same vocal category as Warren Zevon or Paul Westerberg. Usually, I tend to stay away from records described as "raw" or "garage" because, to me at least, that usually means "lack of talent." But this is not the case on "Birdbrain." This album has melodies and everything.

The first song on the album, also called "Birdbrain" is the perfect garage pop song. It's short (3:13), sounds best played loudly and is

unusually catchy.

"Crawl" is another standout. Angry vocals and unrelenting guitar add up to an almost chaotic, but still fun little catharsis "Fortune Teller" is slower and quieter and show that this trio can also sing two-part harmony.

"Birdbrain" is the right choice for those who like their music short, sharp and to the point and to whom overproduction is a dirty word. There's none of that fancy schmancy sampling stuff or anything that sounds like it didn't come directly from a guitar, bass, drum or human throat on this record.

If that sounds good to you then Buffalo Tom is a band to check out.

— Jill Hamilton



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