



Cry Wolf — Phil Deckard (from left), Timmy Hall, Paul Cancilla 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 quiet loudly. "We're not into identifying 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 Cry Wolf's debut album on R.S. Grand Slam, bear this credo. While many a hand dressess to the hilt in spandex and leather and sings about babes, booze and bachelin' Canaries, this San Francisco-based quartet avoids the banal heavy-metal clichés.

In fact, chief songwriter and lead singer Timmy Hall borrows through the tillacles 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, guitar

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### SEEING THE SHOW

**Who:** Cry Wolf  
**Where:** The Ritz, 17580 Frazer in Roseville. Call 788-8150 for more information.  
**When:** Thursday, Feb. 21

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## Cavedogs lead musical pack around Boston

By Larry O'Connor  
staff writer

In Boston, rock'n'roll was nothing but a dog-meat 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 Raindogs, the Straw Dogs and the Riverdogs.

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

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

From the opening cut of "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 Cavedogs' sound is a Mould snarling through "Elbow" and "Ivory" is humorous, but the comparison doesn't apply to the Cavedogs.

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

"EVERYBODY" has their definition of these things," said guitarist Todd Spahr, whose band opens for Charltons UK on Friday, Feb. 22, at Saint Andrew's Hall. "Pop tends to make people nervous, especially in the 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 Stasimoff ("Living Colour, Smashing Pumpkins, Something Happened") took the Cavedogs under his tutelage. Stasimoff has a knack for accentuating a band's pop sensibilities without losing its some edge.

He took several demos the Cavedogs had over a period of five years and crafted them into "Joy Ride for Shut Ins."

"I don't know what we do actually."

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### SEEING THE SHOW

**Who:** Cavedogs, opening for the Charltons UK  
**Where:** Saint Andrew's Hall, 431 E. Canfield in Detroit. Call 961-MELT for more information.  
**When:** Friday, Feb. 22

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## 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 works, not only in the acoustic but also the vocal contribution of this song.

The title track called "East of the Sun," socio-political lyrics aside, 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's a Remake of the Old," from the Everly Brothers, 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 Neid (Mike plus the Mechanics).

There are 11 new cuts on this al-



### 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 apparently titled "Machine Gun Etiquette." Maybe this alternate title better describes their buzzsaw guitars, Animal drums, thrashing bass and repellent lyrical content.

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

The Damned is one of the first generations of punk rock groups out of Britain in the late 70s. There is even a live version of their follow-up 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.

But "It's a 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 members of the present band are Ray Scabies, Captain Sensible, Dave Vanian and Captain Gray. They're in the studio preparing ma-



terial for their '90s contribution

The Damned's material of the past album resembles the works of today's cutting edge bands like The Misfits and White Wedding.

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

## IN CONCERT

### • BRAD FELT

Brad Felt will perform in a special jazz party, "Farewell Valley," Monday, Feb. 19, at Alvin's, 5756 Cass, across from Wayne State University, Detroit. For information, call 832-2255.

### • UNCLE TUPELO

Uncle Tupelo will perform with guests, Frank Allison and The Old Six, 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 822-2380.

### • 2444-B-PARK

Lunar Park will perform Tuesday, Feb. 19, at Rock's Cafe, 611 Church, Ann Arbor. For information, call 996-2747.

### • HELMET

Helmet will perform with guests, Hwassim, Tuesday, Feb. 19, at Club Heidelberg, 215 N. Main, Ann Arbor. For information, call 934-3562.

### • RHYTHMIC MCFUED

Rhythmic McFued will perform Wednesday, Feb. 20, at the Blind Pig, 208 S. First, Ann Arbor. For information, call 996-8555.

### • NEW RIDDEN

New Ridden will perform Wednesday, Feb. 20, at Rock's Cafe, 611 Church, Ann Arbor. For information, call 996-2747.

### • PARK THE KARMA

Park the Karma will perform Thursday, Feb. 21, at Club 3-D, 1415 N. Main, near 12 Mile, Royal Oak. For information, call 994-3344.

### • SAMARITANS

Samaritans will perform Thursday, Feb. 21, at Cross Street Station, 511 W. Cross, Ypsilanti. For information, call 485-9500.

### • HIS NAME IS ALIVE

His Name Is Alive will perform with guests, Majestic Crus. Thursday, Feb. 21, at Club Heidelberg, 215 N. Main, Ann Arbor. For information, call 994-3662.

### • TRACEY SCIENCE/HUMAN RIGHTS

Tracey Science will perform 6-9 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 21, at the Blind Pig, 208 S. First, Ann Arbor. Human Rights perform 9 p.m. to close. For information, call 996-8555.

### • JUICE

Juice will perform Thursday, Feb. 21, at Rock's Cafe, 611 Church, Ann Arbor. For information, call 996-2747.

### • WHIRL BENEFIT

Scott Campbell with Jimmy Barnes and the Gravelroaders, The Trunchkins, Wrath of Christian and the Incurables, will perform 8 p.m. for WHIRL FM's \$9.75 7-11 Fundraiser, Feb. 22, at Ford Community & Technology Center, 10000 Ford Road, Dearborn. Admission is \$4. For information, call 935-9876.

### • JUNK MONKEYS

Junk Monkeys will perform Friday, Feb. 22, at Club 3-D, 1415 N. Main, near 12 Mile, Royal Oak. For information, call 934-1975.

### • LILY'S 21

Lily's 21, 2930 Jacob, Hamtramck. For information, call 875-6555.

• TEDDY RICHARDS

Teddy Richards will perform with guests, Stewart Franklin Band, Friday, Feb. 22, at Alvin's, 5756 Cass, across from Wayne State University, Detroit. For information, call 932-2355.

• CHARLATANS UK

Charlatans UK will perform with guests, Cavedogs, at Saint Andrew's Hall, 431 E. Congress, Detroit. For information, call 961-9617.

• SOCIAL FABRIC

Social Fabric will perform Friday, Feb. 22, at Cross Street Station, 511 W. Cross St., Ypsilanti. For information, call 485-9500.

• 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 Rock's Cafe, 611 Church, Ann Arbor. For information, call 996-2747.

• HARMONICA SHAH

Harmonica Shah will perform Friday, Feb. 22, at Moby Dick's, 5452 Schaefer, Dearborn. For information, call 581-3650.

• BIG HEAD CONVENTION

The Big Head Convention will perform with guests, Shan Hui, Friday, Feb. 22, at Pinney's Pub, 3965 Woodward, Detroit. For information, call 831-8070.

• DETROIT BLUES BAND

Detroit Blues Band will perform Friday and Saturday, Feb. 22 and 23, at the Outer End Lounge, 5855 Monroe, Taylor. For information, call 278-5340.

• HAPPY TOM SHOW

Happy Tom Show will perform along with Dog Swing and Nervous Roots Friday, Feb. 22, at the Hamtramck Pub, 2048 Canfield, off I-75. For information, call 355-3829.

• ART LYZAK'S LUCKY DOGS

Art Lyzak's Lucky Dogs will perform Saturday, Feb. 23, at Lily's 21, 2930 Jacob, Hamtramck. For information, call 875-6555.

• REDFORD STEVE

Redford Steve & the Instruct Special will perform Saturday, Feb. 23, at Moby Dick's, 5452 Schaefer, Dearborn. For information, call 581-3650.

• LUCY'S ALIBI

Lucy's Alibi will perform Saturday, Feb. 23, at Club East, 29441 John R. at the corner of 12 Mile, Madison Heights. For information, call 541-1298.

• MIAMI HARRIS AND THE SNAKES

Miami Harris and the Snakes will perform Saturday, Feb. 23, at Alvin's, 5756 Cass.

## LOCAL

## COLLEGE

Here are the top 10 songs on "Detroit Music Scene," which is heard 45 p.m. days on WHFR FM 90.3, campus station of Henry Ford Community College.

1. Extremes, Duri and Various
2. Repressed Emotions, Killing Joke
3. Vision Thing, Sisters of Mercy
4. Native, KMFDM
5. The Lush, The Lush
6. One Woman, Incurables
7. Voices from Earth, In Autumn
8. Lost in Space, Grady Hay
9. Chihuahua, Ministry Show
10. Get Back to Memphis, Detroit Blues Band

10. Just One More Night, Knives

Here are the top 10 albums on WHFR FM 90.3, campus station of Henry Ford Community College.

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10. Just One More Night, Knives

10. Some Friendly, Charlatans UK

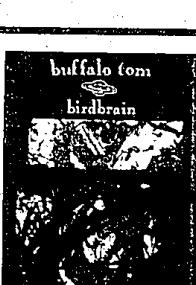
increasingly catchy.

"Crawl" is another standout. An aggressive and unrelenting guitar assault leads to an almost chaotic, but still fun little catharsis. "Fortress Teller" is slower and quieter and show that this trio can also sing two-part harmonies.

"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 instrument.

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

— Jim Hamilton



buffalo tom  
birdbrain