

# STREET SCENE

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LISA BACHMAN

Members of Loudhouse include Tim Cross (from left), Vin E. Sedrack, Ken E. Mugwump and Mike Cross.

## Loudhouse stays close to home

By Joseph S. Hoffmann  
special writer

A year ago, Loudhouse was just beginning its trek into the music business when they landed a contract with Virgin Records in Los Angeles.

Since that time their debut disc, "For Crying Out Loud," has attacked music stores everywhere.

They also have a song in the soundtrack of the popular film "Point Break." That song is a very unusual remake of the early '70s Deep Purple hit "Smoke on the Water."

They took the root of the original song, but drummer Vin E. Sedrack intensified its driving drum beat. Guitarist Mike Cross left the historic guitar solo somewhat intact, but bassist Tim Cross enhanced the original bass part.

Last but definitely not least, the band's stalwart vocalist, Ken E. Mugwump of Livonia, fires off his

own unique tribal rendition of the song's archetypical lyrics.

"They recently filmed a video for 'Smoke on the Water,'" in an old abandoned Jaycees' heated house in Ferndale. That will appear along with the band's two other videos on MTV Headbanger's Ball.

Another significant facet of the band is their multiple talents outside of music. Mugwump and the group also wrote and directed the video. Many friends and relatives from around the area joined in.

"A LOT OF people don't even know what we're doing yet; they're saying, 'I've heard of those guys, but what are they doing?'" Mugwump said. "They're doing it. It's not like 'they're doing it.' We're doing it and that's the bottom line. I jump on the train. See what we've got to offer."

This band keeps its activities local. They recorded their CD in Ferndale. They shot all three of their videos in and around Detroit, and they

all live in the area.

"We're a product of this area and we don't ever plan on deserting our hometown like so many other bands do," said Mugwump, whose bright red dreadlocks, pall blue sunglasses and black plastic full-length trench coat make him look like some sort of mad witch doctor.

Their disc consists of 12 power-driven anthems of the musical periphery. Their sound is truly a product of the '90s, evidence of the musical era to come.

In the song called "Faith Farm," Mugwump takes you through a visual mind trip into Loudhouseland: "Zebra from Zimbabwe/Freecin' in their tracks/Suited/Radar men he's got a monkey on his back/Mister Elephant man never forgets who shot his wife."

Each band member controls his instrument to exceptional perfection.

That's what breathes life into their strange new sound that Mugwump calls "a combination of life, death, calls a combination of life, death,

old shoes, new shoes and a great sense of humor."

"PUNCHING CLOWN" is one of the songs that captures the band in its purest form, unredefined, domineering and contemporary in the present-day alternative music subculture.

Their euphoric song called "King Among the Ruins" proves that guitarist Mike Cross can manipulate the acoustical guitar with the same integrity as he does with the electric one.

"I saw something very different in them, in a time where there is not much new happening in even the alternative arena," said Joel Martin, the band's producer.

There is a resolute versatility in Loudhouse that defies a comparison of style.

From the primitive masks to the tribal tattoos this band's strange and dynamic stage performance tests the boundaries of reality.

## IN CONCERT

### Monday Dec. 23

- **Dolorants**  
Main Street Station, 511 W. Cross, Ypsilanti. 485-5050
- **Full Moon Rising**  
Rick's Cafe, 611 Church, Ann Arbor. 596-274
- **Paradise Valley Jazz Jam**  
Alvin's, 5756 Cass, across from Wayne State University, Detroit. 432-3233

### Thursday Dec. 26

- **Mallries**  
Blind Pig, 208 S. First, Ann Arbor. 996-4555
- **The Styles Band**  
Rick's Cafe, 611 Church, Ann Arbor. 996-2747

Goober and the Peas pair up with Crossed Wire and Majesty Crush for New Year's Eve at St. Andrew's Hall in Detroit.



### Friday Dec. 27

- **Almighty Lumberjacks of Death**  
With the Butcherettes, Recep and Mother Metal at St. Andrew's Hall, 431 E. Congress, Detroit. Cover is \$5. 961-3637
- **Frank Allision**  
Lili's 21, 2930 Jacob, Hamtramck. 473-6555
- **Holy Cows**  
With Dad Blasted and the Jamersons at Fins' Pub, 3965 Woodward, Detroit. 631-8070
- **Johnny "Yard Dog" Jones**  
Attic Bar, 11667 Jos Campau, Hamtramck. 473-4194

### Saturday Dec. 28

- **Uncle Jessie & the 29th Street Blues Band**  
The Attic, 11667 Jos Campau, Hamtramck. 363-1549
- **Park the Karma**  
Lili's 21, 2930 Jacob, Hamtramck. 473-6555
- **Pinelop Perkins**  
Blind Pig, 208 S. First, Ann Arbor. 996-2747
- **Hubert Sumlin**  
Sally's, 4758 Greenfield, between Michigan Avenue and Ford Road, Dearborn. 446-1920
- **Alternative music night**  
With Any Denial, Nick Dikovsky, Only a Mother and Major Dents at Alvin's, 5756 Cass, across from Wayne State University, Detroit. 432-3233
- **Heavens Wish**  
The Attic, 17580 Fraze Road, at 10th Mile Road, Roseville. 778-4604
- **Chieh Brothers**  
Moby Dick's, 5452 Schaefer, north of Michigan Avenue, Dearborn. 381-3650

### • George Bedard and the Kingpins

New Detroiter Bar & Grill, 655 Beaubien, at East Fort. 963-3355

### • WAYN-AM Benefit

With Eddie Niblock, Shoots and Ladders, Scott Station and Neophyte Nallion at Fins' Pub, 3965 Woodward, near Alexander, Detroit. 431-3070

### • Bootsy X and the Lovemasters

Hamtramck Pub, 2438 Caniff, off I-75. 363-3879

### Sunday Dec. 29

### • Panic in Detroit Rave

With Majesty Crush and Charm Farm at Industry, 15 S. Saginaw, Pontiac. 234-1999

### • Gary DeLo's Bad Attitude Arts Ensemble

Blind Pig, 208 S. First, Ann Arbor. 996-4555

### Monday Dec. 30

### • Cracker Box

Blind Pig, 208 S. First, Ann Arbor. 996-4555

### • Prodigals

Rick's Cafe, 611 Church, Ann Arbor. 996-2747

### Tuesday Dec. 31

### • Flyin' Saucers

Lili's 21, 2930 Jacob, Hamtramck. 473-6555

### • Frank Allision and the Odd Sox

Blind Pig, 208 S. First, Ann Arbor. 996-4555

### • Regular Boys

Sally's, 4758 Greenfield, between Michigan Avenue and Ford Road, Dearborn. 446-1920

### • Jimmy Tittle

Birmingham Unitarian Church, 631 N. Woodward. Admission is \$15. 646-4300

## Hubert Sumlin sings the blues without Howlin'

By Larry O'Connor  
staff writer

Hubert Sumlin's billing as the former sideman to blues great Howlin' Wolf rings rather hollow.

For the Mississippi native was more than just a guitarist's silhouette in the background with one of the masters of the blues. Sumlin fought with him, he learned from him and he served him.

In return, Wolf reared him, fired him, pushed him and protected him in the gritty blues world.

"When he died, it just felt like the world ended," said Sumlin, 60, in a telephone interview from his home in Milwaukee, Wis. "I sat over that man's casket for three days."

There was something of a father-son relationship, Wolf taking Sumlin in after the teenager ran away from home and started playing with James Cotton. He met up with Wolf at a West Memphis, Ark., radio station in 1953.

The association with Wolf and Sumlin could make for an interesting discussion in psychological circles. Wolf seemed to have a bold 6-foot, 4-inches.

Sumlin had to do was release an album domestically. He did in 1987 with "Hubert Sumlin's Blues Party" on Black Top Records. Supported by New Orleans crooner Sam McClain and members from Roomful of Blues, Sumlin's emergence as a blues frontman was properly documented and largely heralded.

"I couldn't quit," Sumlin said. "The music is in you. I realized life goes on. You got to do what you got to do."

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"HEALING FEELING," Sumlin's recent release on Black Top, has been lauded by critics for its subtlety as much as for its grit. Noted guitarist Ronnie Earl lends some stirring guitar tracks backing up Sumlin. Likewise, Texas Heat frontman Darrell Nulisch provides a soulful vocal turn on cuts such as "Play It Cool."

If anything, the album is a testament to Sumlin's brimming vitality as a musician and a human being. Things are good now, said the guitarist who inspired Eric Clapton, Jimi Hendrix and Stevie Ray Vaughan.

In addition, Sumlin has generated in some of its most grizzled veterans a refreshing smile. Despite a recent bout with the flu, Sumlin merrily fills the conversation with anecdotes of his days with Wolf, punctuated with a distinctive howl of laughter and a "That's right, you got it."



Hubert Sumlin has proven there's a life for him after his 23-year association with Howlin' Wolf, apparent in his latest LP, "Healing Feeling."

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Hubert Sumlin will perform Friday and Saturday, Dec. 27-28, at Sully's, 4744 Gratiot, between Michigan Avenue and Ford Road, Dearborn. Cover is \$8 at the door. For information, call 846-1920.

## REVIEWS

### ACHTUNG BABY

— U2

downright weary in "Tryin' to Throw Your Arms Around the World."

Edge's piercing guitar stabs from all angles, sounding like he's jumping up and down on your chest in "The Fly" and so distant in "Acrobatics" you want to send him a postcard.

More so, the industrial tone of "Achtung Baby" harks back to the experimental trek U2 pursued before with unregulated zeal on the moody, ambient Brian Eno's production bête of "Unforgettable Fire." Then, the excesses of Eno's production bore the fruit of only a few memorable numbers, "Pride (In the Name of Love)" being one.

"Achtung Baby," by contrast, produces 12 indelible, simply majestic songs. Part of this is Eno's experimental ranting is somewhat tempered by the pragmatism of Steve Ballywhite and the instar experimentation encouraged by Daniel Lanois.

However, U2's highly touted daring venture into the ominous, technicolor world must be pulled into perspective. U2 sounds about as industrial and alternative as a band can sound — one selling albums in multi-platinum lots and selling out football stadiums that is.

Nonetheless, "Achtung Baby" is brilliant.

— Larry O'Connor