

# StreetSCENE

## Rattle's music: Chaos, attitude



Somewhat you don't associate concrete with rattle. One word evokes hardness the other noise. But then if you're a band with an attitude and music that's about chaos, Concrete Rattle is an appropriate moniker.

By JOSEPH HOFFMAN  
SPECIAL WRITER

Another macabre moniker has arisen on the local thrash/metal scene and their name is Concrete Rattle.

Definitely not the kind of rattle you want in your children's hands. This one has sharp edges. "Our music isn't about perfection and technique, it's pretty much about chaos and attitude," said Pete Falk, who is the band's percussionist.

"This band's raw resonant sound is their prided trademark, best described as controlled chaos."

The members of this chaos are Jimmy Burnett of Taylor who unleashes the band's vocals, J.T. Monroe of Westland attacks the guitar, Joey Neely of Westland plays a refulgent bass and Pete Falk of Garden City puts the thunder into the drum kit. "What differentiates our music from other bands on the local scene is that we don't play straight-ahead commercial rock'n'roll," Monroe said. "We take a lot of left turns when all the other bands are making right turns."

"In other words, we don't pay attention to the radio charts and MTV and pattern ourselves after what's going over well out there. We do what we want to do."

What they do is entertain the audience with a wry stage presence.

On stage you'll find Burnett contributing the high-energy vocals as he seizes the microphone with sardonic conviction. Falk pummels his pink drum set adorned with skulls.

Monroe rips through the necessary chords that drive their distinct sound while Neely slushes

One interesting and gutsy aspect of this band's stage show is their free-form jam style.

Often the band will just start playing something off-the-cuff on stage and just go out with it to see how it turns out.

"A lot of bands won't do free-form because they're worried about messing up," Monroe said. "We don't care about that. We'll give it a shot. It often turns out pretty good."

"We just write whatever we come up with, not following what is supposed to be a 'this is good music, so if we do that style we'll be good too' sort of thing."

"It's not that we don't care," Neely added. "It's just that we're going our own thing, what we feel is good."  
This is the attitude that sets

the pace for this band that has been evolving for the past three years since its formation.

They say the next step for them is to get on a bus and tour for a couple of years and see what becomes of that. Although they plan on making it, they know that they are from suburban Detroit and that's where their roots are.

"We will always say we were from Detroit," Neely said. "Though we plan to travel and showcase our sound out-of-state, too."

But, before they do that you can still find these guys gigging around town.

Concrete Rattle will perform Saturday, Dec. 12, in the Shelter at St. Andrew's Hall, 431 E. Congress, Detroit. For information, call 961-MELT.

his waist-length mane to match his pounding bass lines.

The band's latest driving composition deemed, "Touch Freak," is their satire of what they call "our two-faced bureaucratic system."

"It's like the government tells you one thing to get your vote. Then once they got that, they do just the opposite," shouts Burnett to a captive audience at Westland's Studio Lounge.

Another song of honorable mention is a rampant rock original called, "I Don't Believe," something of a cross between the Red Hot Chili Peppers and Slayer.



Tuneful quartet: Members of Concrete Rattle include Peter Falk (from left), drums, Jimmy Burnett, vocals, Joey Neely, bass, and J.T. Monroe, guitar.

## IN CONCERT

**Monday, Dec. 7**  
**PARADISE VALLEY JAZZ JAM**  
Alvin's, 5756 Cass, Detroit.  
832-2355

**Tuesday, Dec. 8**  
**LEE MURDOCK**  
The Ark, 637 1/2 S. Main St., Ann Arbor.  
(609)  
761-1451

**BLACK MALL**  
Blind Pig, 208 S. First, Ann Arbor.  
996-8555  
**CHIEFS BROTHERS WITH THORNETTA DAVIS**  
Alvin's, 5756 Cass, Detroit.  
832-2355

**Wednesday, Dec. 9**  
**SHESOHUNE**  
With Sunbelt at Griff's Grill, 49 N. Saginaw, Pontiac.  
334-9292

**TOASTERS**  
Rick's Cafe, 611 Church, Ann Arbor. (5ka)  
996-2747  
**BENEFIT FOR ANN ARBOR TENANTS UNION**  
With Kiss Me Screaming and Crackerbox at Blind Pig, 208 S. First, Ann Arbor. (Alternative rock)  
996-8555

**Thursday, Dec. 10**  
**JIM THACKERY**  
Blind Pig, 208 S. First, Ann Arbor.  
(Blues)  
848-1920

**YUDD HIPPIES**  
With Chivalry at Griff's Grill, 49 N. Saginaw, Pontiac. (Alternative pop)  
334-9292

**ANNAS VALLEY**  
The Ball, 17580 Frazer, Roseville.  
778-6404  
**VANCE GILBERT**  
The Ark, 637 1/2 S. Main St., Ann Arbor.  
(folk)  
761-1451

**ABANDONED YOUTH**  
With Ansocha Junction at Paychecks, 2930 Canfield, Hamtramck.  
874-0254

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

**HOLY COWS**  
With Crossed Wire at Blind Pig, 208 S. First, Ann Arbor. (Midwestern roots rock)  
996-8555

**Friday, Dec. 11**  
**SPIRAL DANCE**  
With Pink the Karma at Griff's Grill, 49 N. Saginaw, Pontiac. (Rock)  
334-9292

**GROOVESPOON**  
With Big Blue Couch at Lil's, 2930 Jacob, Hamtramck. (Rock)  
875-8555

**STEVEN GORHALL & THE BLUE COLLAR BAND**  
Q Club, 29 S. Saginaw St., Pontiac.  
334-7411

**THE RED BOYS**  
The Ark, 637 1/2 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. (folk)  
761-1451

**RAMONA COLLINS**  
Bird of Paradise, 207 S. Ashley, Ann Arbor. (Jazz)  
662-8310

**TYPE O NEGATIVE**  
Mogoope, 8139 E. Seven Mile, Detroit.  
369-8632

**UGLY BUT PROUD**  
Paychecks, 2930 Canfield, Hamtramck.  
874-0254

**LARRY MCCRAY**  
Rick's Cafe, 611 Church, Ann Arbor. (Blues)  
996-2747

**TERRY FARMER AND THE BEAD BAND**  
Blind Pig, 208 S. First, Ann Arbor.  
996-8555

**PHISH**  
Michigan Theatre, 603 E. Liberty, Ann Arbor.  
99-MUSIC  
**STRANGE BEDFELLOWS**  
With Rollinghead at Alvin's, 5756 Cass, Detroit. (Alternative rock)  
832-2355



Twosome: Eric Burdon and the Brian Auger Band will perform two shows at 8 and 11 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 12, at Alvin's in Detroit.

**Saturday, Dec. 12**  
**JESUS LIZARD**  
The Majestic, 4150 Woodward, Detroit.  
833-9850

**JAMES COTTON**  
Sully's, 4756 Greenfield, Dearborn. (Blues harmonica)  
848-1920

**10 LOST TRIBES**  
With Smokehouse at Griff's Grill, 49 N. Saginaw, Pontiac.  
334-9292

**MIND**  
With Last Minute at Lil's, 2930 Jacob, Hamtramck.  
875-8555

**STEVEN GORHALL & THE BLUE COLLAR BAND**  
Q Club, 29 S. Saginaw St., Pontiac.  
334-7411

**FIRST ANNUAL KITTY WALLACE CONCERT WITH PAT'S PEOPLE**  
The Ark, 637 1/2 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. (folk)  
761-1451

**RAMONA COLLINS**  
Bird of Paradise, 207 S. Ashley, Ann Arbor. (Jazz)  
662-8310

**HAVE NOTS**  
With Ring Leader at Paychecks, 2930 Canfield, Hamtramck.  
874-0254

**JACK O PIERCE**  
Rick's Cafe, 611 Church, Ann Arbor.  
996-2747

**OROBOROS**  
Blind Pig, 208 S. First, Ann Arbor.  
996-8555

**ERIC BURDON & BRIAN AUGER BAND**  
Alvin's, 5756 Cass, Detroit. Two shows at 8 and 11 p.m.  
832-2355

**HOPE ORCHESTRA**  
With Fly Away Hair, Hamtramck Pub, 2048 Canfield, Hamtramck.  
365-3629

**Sunday, Dec. 13**  
**JESSE RICHARDS**  
The Ark, 637 1/2 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. (folk)  
761-1451

**ACOUSTICS AT INDUSTRY**  
With Chris and Nick from Crossed Wire and Boggers & Choosers 11 p.m. to 1:30 a.m. in the Sacchi Room at industry, 15 S. Saginaw, Pontiac.  
334-1999

**BLUES JAM**  
Blind Pig, 208 S. First, Ann Arbor.  
996-8555

**MUTANT PRESS**  
1800, 16350 Harper.  
881-7625

## Brothers' 'Limits' demands attention



LARRY O'CONNOR

ventures in rastafarian reconnaissance. There's even a tad of torch and twang in the sardonic ode to rednecks "Country Joe."

While Brothers from Another Planet must be lauded for such diversity, their true home is in the land of the power chord and primal scream of rock'n'roll.

Guitarist Gordon Spencer tears off some searing guitar licks — obviously putting his blues upbringing to good use — in free-for-all "Forgotten Brothers" and "Metal Fatigue."

Vocellist and songwriter James Page also makes some of his most evocative statements in these moments, speaking to a self-preservation in "God Bless" while decrying the living casualties of war in "Forgotten Brother."

In "Political Sounds," a rolling rock number, Page casts a swathe through well-intentioned socio-speak to reveal a telling vignette of inner-city life. ("... little brother on the street trying to fend for something to eat because he's hungry/Little sister would go to school to learn the golden rule but we've got no money/This is my life. This is where I'm from...")

While these numbers bear most of the lyrical weight in these proceedings, there is due time given to frivolity. "Swamp Thing" is a delectable all-out, funk fest throw-down, driven by gorging bass lines and blues-inspired guitar.

The band's zest for reggae produces tangible results in two numbers: "Reggin' Fo Ma Muffin" and "Stuffin' the Muffin." Both are

deliberate and chug along on an energetic beat. Also, Page goes all out in his best *ya man* persona.

Then again, one thing Brothers from Another Planet have never lacked is personality. "Outer Limits" is evidence.

"High Noon" (maxi-single), "Chain Reaction: The light, breezy rock song of this three-song release is deceiving at times. Vocalist and songwriter Eric Harabadian draws a parallel between the daunting crime-ridden streets of today and the Wild West on the title track (Hmmm... sound familiar?).

"High Noon" is perhaps the most commercially viable number as the group otherwise embarks on some ambitious six-minute plus musical explorations. The lead guitar work of Bob Drozdowski strifes the realms of intoxicating tranquility in "The Party Principle" as his playing pulls the song out from the morass of belabored scales and tedious arrangements to match.

Both are

## Barbara, writer who's suffering really needs counseling



BARBARA SCHIFF

This is a message left in my telephone mailbox:

This message is regarding "No Longer Capable of Standing Suffering," your Nov. 9 column. This man is depressed and needs therapy. You are a trained therapist and you don't see it. I suffer from manic-depressive disorder and I know what depression is. This man wants to kill himself; he wants to die. It's not just his physical inabilities, it is in his mind. He needs counseling. I suggest you change your answer.

Dear Caller,  
Thank you for your message. In your communication you made the point that "No Longer Capa-

ble of Standing Suffering" needs anti-depressant medication. I am in complete agreement with you on this point.

In his letter, he indicated that he had previously seen therapists. Certainly, we must hold out help for every patient. If he has been on medication which did not help, different medication should be tried until it receives one that does help.

Also, it is essential that he continue the psychotherapy that should accompany proper medication.

My response was to the question: What can we do when all help has failed? My reply was to this specific point and not to the general discussion of the treatment of depression. Since I am really in agreement with you, may I add in this response the fervent hope that you successfully continue the therapy course direction

that you advocate.

Barbara  
Please print this letter in response to "No Longer Capable of Standing Suffering."

While I cannot say that I understand your sufferings, can tell you that on many occasions, for many years, I wished desperately to die. What I may tell you, you may very well have heard, but I think it should be said.

When I have found myself shaking and crying uncontrollably, wishing for death to seize me, I have always been comforted by prayer. As I think about the sufferings of others, those who are being tortured, those in the midst of civil war, those who have made their suffering a blessing for others by comforting them and spreading hope, I think how selfish I am and how lucky I am to have so much promise before me.

You have promise, too. It's oozing from your letter and I believe in your heart you don't want to die. You are right that you deserve better and credit for finishing college and returning to work. But why did you? You must want your heart to believe — and you should — that you have a purpose in life.

Lastly, you say you do not want to put your problems on others. I ask you: what are you doing to your family when you have committed suicide?

I don't want to undermine your suffering. I only want you to have the will to live. Please rethink better and credit for finishing college and returning to work. But why did you? You must want your heart to believe — and you should — that you have a purpose in life.

Dear Ms. Schiff:  
I have a disabling illness that affects my brain and nervous system in ways I never could have imagined before I got ill. It can affect my emotions and optimism in terrible ways simply because my brain is directly affected. Maybe the man who is contemplating suicide has something new wrong with his brain. Either his illness could have directly affected his brain or his medications could have changed his "self." If this is true, he may have to pressure his doctor to figure it out. That is still

better than his present dilemma. Do Not Use My Name

Dear Do Not Use My Name,  
Your letter, together with the others who have responded to "No Longer Capable of Standing Suffering," proves that there are loving people, who have suffered and do suffer, and who are willing to share their pain in order to help another human being whom they do not know personally.

My thanks to you and to the many people who feel the way you do and, I hope, put their feelings into actions.

Barbara  
If you have a question or comment for Barbara Schiff, a trained therapist and experienced columnist, send it to Street Sense, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150. You can also leave a message by calling 953-2047, mailbox 1877, on a touch-tone phone.

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