

StreetsCENE

IN CONCERT

Taking a Walk through alternative

Monday, Jan. 11

ARLO GUTHRIE
The Ark, 637 1/4 S. Main, Ann Arbor.
(folk) 761-1451

PARADISE VALLEY JAZZ JAM SESSION
Alvin's, 5756 Cass, Detroit.
832-2355.

Tuesday, Jan. 12

ARLO GUTHRIE
The Ark, 637 1/4 S. Main, Ann Arbor.
(folk) 761-1451

MARY MCQUIRE & MYK RISE
Mr. B's Farm, 24555 Novi Road, Novi.
(acoustic rock) 249-7038

CHISEL DROE, FEATURING THORNETTA DAVIS
Alvin's, 5756 Cass, Detroit.
832-2355

SOMETHING WILD
Blind Pig, 206-208 S. First St., Ann Arbor.
996-8555.

Wednesday, Jan. 13

BEVAN ROWERS
The Ark, 637 1/4 S. Main, Ann Arbor.
761-1451

SPIN DOCTORS
Theatre, 603 E. Liberty, Ann Arbor.
(rock) 99-9-MUSIC

REVELATION
Griff's Grill, 49 N. Saginaw, Pontiac.
334-9292

HORIZONS IN POETRY
Alvin's, 5756 Cass, Detroit. (poetry)
832-2355

BLACK MALL
With Urban Voodoo Juice at Blind Pig.
206-208 S. First St., Ann Arbor. (funk)
996-8555.

Thursday, Jan. 14

BENEFIT FOR OXFAM AMERICA
The Ark, 637 1/4 S. Main, Ann Arbor.
761-1451

FICTION
With Dopes and Amalia at Griff's Grill, 49 N. Saginaw, Pontiac.
334-9292

TRANSPARENT RED
With Void Where Prohibited and Deterent at Psycheck's Lounge, 2932 Caniff, Hamtramck.
874-0909

STRANGE BEDFELLOWS
S-D, 1815 S. Main, Royal Oak. (alt/ama-
na-rock) 589-3344.

JOHN D. LAMB
Gotham City Cafe, 2284B Woodward, Ferndale.
398-7430

JOHNNY "YARD DOG" JONES
With Chicago Polo, Wily D. Warren, Robert Noll, and Harmonica Shaw at Alvin's, 5756 Cass, Detroit. (blues)
832-2355.

VIDU HIPPIES
Record release party at Industry, 15 S. Saginaw, Pontiac.
334-1995.

Friday, Jan. 15

PATTY RICHARDS WITH THE JEFF KREBSLER TRIO
Bird of Paradise, 207 S. Ashley, Ann Arbor. (jazz)
662-8310

TEXAS HEAT
Sublim, 4756 Greenfield, Dearborn. (blues)
846-5377

HUNTIMEN
With The Point at Lili's, 2930 Caniff, Hamtramck. (hard rock)
875-6555

BUGS BEDDOW BLUES BRIGADE
O Club, 23 S. Saginaw, Pontiac. (blues)
334-7411

BROTHERS FROM ANOTHER PLANET
With Sin Eye and Billy Sunday at Psycheck's Lounge, 2932 Caniff, Hamtramck. (funk)
874-0909

QUANTUM VISA
With the Ludlites (SANE/Freeze benefit) at Gotham City Cafe, 2284B Woodward, Ferndale. (acoustic/iterative rock)
398-7430

20 MULE TEAM
Griff's Grill, 49 N. Saginaw, Pontiac.
334-9292

TRAINS CAN'T STOP
With Fig at Finney's Pub, 3965 Woodward, Detroit.
831-8076

DEAD PROFESSOR
The Gallery, 22709 Van Dyke, Warren.
757-6060

DETROIT WINTER BLUES REVIEW
Alvin's, 5756 Cass Ave., Detroit.
832-2355.

WALTY MIKE
Blind Pig, 206-208 S. First St., Ann Arbor. (alt/iterative rock)
996-8555.

ORIENTAL SPAS
The Studio Lounge, 6921 Wayne Road, Westland. (rock)
729-2540.

DAVID OLNEY AND PAUL K.
La Casa Music Series at Birmingham Unitarian Church, 651 N. Woodward, Bloomfield Hills. (acoustic)
645-4990

CHISEL DROE, WITH THORNETTA DAVIS
Moby Dicks, 5452 Schoefer Road, Dearborn. (blues)
581-3550

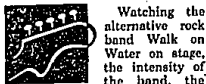
JOE HUNTER
Big Fish, 700 Town Center Drive, Dearborn. (solo piano)
336-6550

BROTHERHOOD RECIPES
With Sonic Boomerang at The Ritz.

SEE IN CONCERT, 6B

■ Rehearsing in places heavy with death metal bands could influence more naive bands, but for Walk on Water, the experience has made the group stick to its hard alternative rock.

BY CHRISTINA FUOCO



Watching the alternative rock band Walk on Water on stage, the intensity of the band, the heat, and the audience feed off each other. The result is a polished sound and image that garners Walk on Water its positive reviews.

But the audience would never know that the group was almost washed up, so to speak, before it played live. Sharing practice space with death metal bands, Walk on Water watched many notable bands fall into that trap.

"We were the only alternative-type band (practicing there)," said a jovial Jimmy Anders, who plays bass. "It's like it's always 10-1 everywhere we practice — 10 metal bands to us. It seems like the easiest kind of band to get into.

"We're the only survivors." Lead singer Mark Kahalan of Royal Oak joked that sometimes the metal bands' aura could have influenced naive musicians.

"If we came in with violins to become a classical band practicing there we'd end up like a death metal violin band because you're surrounded by all death metal," he explained.

Luckily, they didn't succumb and instead they gave in to their natural instincts and stuck with hard alternative rock.

"We entered this thing with no preconceived notions," said guitarist Billy Reedy of Detroit. "We didn't want to be Alice in Chains. We wanted to be whatever came out."



Hard sound: Creating Walk on Water's hard alternative rock sound are Mark Kahalan (from left), Billy Reedy, Jimmy Anders and Eric Miller. The group will celebrate its record release at Psycheck's Lounge Saturday, Jan. 16.

Drummer Eric Miller said Walk on Water keeps that philosophy when writing its songs.

"We're smart enough to say, 'That's not us; it's not working,'" he said. "We've experimented with a ton of stuff already. There's a great comfort zone of being able to do whatever we want to do. That's very important to all of us."

The public can hear the results Saturday, Jan. 16, when the group celebrates the release of its first effort "Pupil" with a performance

at Psycheck's Lounge in Hamtramck. The tape showcases the group's incomparable sound which blends a grunge base with funky, slow grooves. Singer Kahalan says the title describes what he sees in the band.

"(We wanted) something signifying vision," he said. "Also a pupil is a student and this is our first album."

Each individual, however, has recorded before. Kahalan and Reedy are former members of the Happy Deathmen. Anders and

Miller performed with Tangent Image.

"It was cool because, they're a total unit and we're a total unit. It (only) took two months to get comfortable," said Reedy.

"That comfortable feeling shows in concert. Miller said playing the drums behind the band allows him to witness that.

"It's kind of great to watch the energy and attitude; it's (the feeling) coming from inside," said the Grosse Pointe resident. "It sounds really corny, but it's

amazing to watch. Each one of us feeds off the other three."

Reedy agrees.

"If you make yourself happy, it's gonna suck them (the audience) into it," the Detroit resident said. "It was just a good idea to start this band."

Walk on Water will hold a record release party Saturday, Jan. 16, at Psycheck's Lounge, 2932 Caniff, Hamtramck. Leaping the Gnome and Big Block will also perform. For more information, call 874-0254.

Dada blends life in L.A. into its lyrical offerings

BY CHRISTINA FUOCO

STAFF WRITER

Phil Leavitt admittedly doesn't put much thought into his band Dada. Perhaps that's why his rock'n'roll bands didn't work and his current one does.

"Rock'n'roll bands are really hard to be in," he said. "They're more trouble than it's worth. We were always worrying about what we were going to wear."

"If you have to research for these things, you're really going about it in the wrong way."

Even in writing lyrics for their new album, "Puzzle," the Dadaists just wrote about common sights in their L.A. surroundings — movie stars, crashing cars and thieves.

"There are certain things that are a part of life you can't escape," explained Leavitt, the group's drummer. "You walk out your front door and you see things. There are freaks about. They find their way into songs.

Bank robbers and people who crash their cars. It's what real life is."

Dada's sound is built around the two-part harmonies of Michael Gurley (guitars) and Joie Calio (bass). Leavitt's solid backbeat frames the trio. Two pieces of Dada's "Puzzle" — "Dizz Knee Land" and "Here Today, Gone Tomorrow" — showcase this sound which has been compared to early works by The Police and Simon and Garfunkel. Writing the music even came easy for the trio.

"That 'Here Today, Gone Tomorrow' was just a spontaneous jam in a rehearsal studio. I just started playing that groove and (then came) the stream of consciousness lyrics."

"Dizz Knee Land" is Dada's first single. Leavitt was sorry to say that the name change wasn't forced upon them by the California themepark.

"The spelling really came about

during the recording of the record," he said. "We had this chalkboard where we kept track of the progress of the songs. We started to get a bit of studio fever. All the spellings on all the songs changed."

Leavitt said the song is harmless to Disneyland.

"It's not a derogatory slam on Disneyland; it's more of a state of mind than an actual commentary on the merits of Disneyland," he said.

Those two songs, as well as the others on Dada's set list, come across differently live.

"They can expect a sort of more aggressive version of the record. We don't try to re-create what we recorded. The studio is one thing; the stage is another."

Dada opens for Material Issue on Monday, Jan. 18, at the Blind Pig, 208 S. First St., Ann Arbor. Call 996-8555 for more information.



California dreamers: Dada — Phil Leavitt (from left), Michael Gurley and Joie Calio — will open for Material Issue at the Blind Pig in Ann Arbor on Monday, Jan. 18.

STREET SENSE

Swap superficial feelings for deeper awareness



BARBARA SCHIFF

Dear Barbara, I am the divorced mother of three children. I did not want the divorce and wish that it had never happened. My husband left me three years ago, and since then I have worked hard to be a stable, self-sustaining person who could survive on my own. I have

done well except at Christmas when I fall back into feeling sorry for myself.

When I was growing up, Christmas was the most wonderful time of the year. Both of my parents truly got involved in decorating, cooking, buying presents, family visits, church activities and the many other rituals that accompany this wonderful holiday. As my brother and I grew up, we enjoyed their efforts and became increasingly responsible for our own projects. Christmas was an intense

period of family togetherness. My parents died about five years ago and my brother lives in the West. I was able to handle those separations until my own divorce when I no longer even had my children around all the time. I can't seem to find a way to think about the way Christmas is for me now, compared to the way I used to be. It will help me get rid of the emotional emptiness and anger that I succumb to.

I know that I am being immature to expect that I should not have to cope with disappointment like everyone else. Have you ever known anyone with this problem and if so how did they solve it? I like to think of myself as a solution-oriented person.

Sad at Christmas

Dear Sad, It is true that your thoughts and feelings do not go together. You say you understand that there are disappointments that we must all endure, but then you cannot endure yours gracefully.

Although I haven't known someone with your exact problem, knowing how you should feel but not being able to feel that way is a common complaint.

An old joke popular in therapeutic circles illustrates this problem. The patient says to the analyst that if he finally has insight and understands his problems, why does he still feel so lousy. When this happens, as it has with you, the person is merely