

Streetscene

IN CONCERT

Flowerhead smells scent of success

- Monday, Jan. 25**
PARADISE VALLEY JAZZ JAM SESSION
 And Blues Jam Session at Alvin's, 5756 Cass, Detroit. 832-2355
- Tuesday, Jan. 26**
LEN WALLACE
 The Ark, 537 1/4 S. Main St., Ann Arbor, (folk) 761-1451
- MARY MCQUIRE & MYR RISE**
 Mt. St. Bernard, 24555 Novi Road, Novi. 349-7038
- NED'S ATOMIC DUSTBIN**
 With Supreme Love Gods and Flowerhead at St. Andrew's Hall, 431 E. Congress, Detroit. (alternative rock) 961-MELT
- CIVIL BROS. FEATURING THORNETTA DAVIS**
 And Blues Jam Session at Alvin's, 5756 Cass, Detroit. 832-2355
- CREATORS OF HABIT**
 Blind Pig, 206-208 S. First St., Ann Arbor 996-8555
- FIRST ANNUAL REGGAE AWARDS**
 Includes performances by Black Market, Je-Moi, King David, O.C. Roberts, Reggae Mafia, Schwab and The Makani Rhythm Tribe, Tropical Connection and Universal Association at the Metro Musicare, 326 W. Fourth St., Royal Oak. 542-1990
- Wednesday, Jan. 27**
OPEN STAGE NIGHT
 The Ark, 537 1/4 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 761-1451
- LUCKY PUNCH**
 With Griff's Grill, 49 N. Saginaw, Pontiac. 334-9292
- THE MAY TRICKS**
 With The Shy Messiahs at Alvin's, 5756 Cass, Detroit. 832-2355
- DIG**
 Blind Pig, 206-208 S. First St., Ann Arbor. 996-8555
- DETROIT MUSICIANS ANONYMOUS**
 Meets at Finney's Pub, 3965 Woodward, Detroit. 730-6060
- BLACK MALL**
 With Happy Accidents and Club Chaos at The Ritz, 17550 Frazee, Roseville. (psychedelic funk/alternative rock) 778-8150
- Thursday, Jan. 28**
DOORSEAT DOGS
 With Downing Opaque at Psycheck's Lounge, 2932 Canlit, Hamtramck. 874-0909
- VUDU HIPPIES**
 With Felton at 3-D, 1815 N. Main St., Royal Oak. 589-3344
- DAN KUCZAK**
 Goltman City Cafe, 22848 Woodward, Ferndale. 398-7430
- SHESMOUSE**
 With Ricochet at Griff's Grill, 49 N. Saginaw, Pontiac. 334-9292
- BENEFIT FOR THE HEIDELBERG ARTS FESTIVAL**
 Alvin's, 5756 Cass, Detroit. (music, performance art, and poetry) 832-2355
- MONSTER BAIT**
 Record release party at Blind Pig, 206-208 S. First St., Ann Arbor. 996-8555
- CHILDREN OF THE REVOLUTION**
 With Cafe Zero and XXX at The Ritz, 17550 Frazee, Roseville. (rock) 778-8150
- Friday, Jan. 29**
LARRY MOZERO QUARTET
 Blind Pig, Ferndale, 207 S. Ashley, Ann Arbor. (jazz) 662-8310
- DISCIPLINE**
 Lil's, 2330 Canlit, Hamtramck. (progressive rock) 875-6555
- THE POINT**
 With Club Chaos at Griff's Grill, 49 N. Saginaw, Pontiac. (alternative pop) 334-9292
- KIDN HARRIS AND THE SHARPS**
 O'Club, 29 S. Saginaw, Pontiac. (blues) 334-7411
- EVEN STEVEN**
 With Earth Dogs at Psycheck's Lounge, 2932 Canlit, Hamtramck. 874-0909
- FEAR**
 With the Skatologists at St. Andrew's Hall, 431 E. Congress, Detroit. 961-MELT
- THE MIND**
 Finney's Pub, 3965 Woodward, Detroit. 831-8070
- FRANK ALLISON**
 The Gallery, 22759 Van Dyke, Warren. 757-6060
- CODE BLUE**
 Moby Dicks, 5452 Schofer Road, Dearborn. (blues) 581-3650
- THE ALLIGATORS**
 New Detroit Bar, 655 Beaubien, Detroit. (blues) 963-3355
- MARC FALCONBERRY**
 Attie Bar, 11667 Jos. Campau, Hamtramck. (blues) 365-4184
- JOE HUNTER**
 Big Fish, 700 Town Center Drive, Dearborn. (solo piano and vocals) 536-6550
- RED C**
 With The Ludites at Alvin's, 5756 Cass, Detroit. (roots rock/folk) 832-2355
- GRANDFATHER FISH**
 With Crackerbox at Blind Pig, 206-208 S. First St., Ann Arbor. (ska)

Sweet sound:
Flowerhead
 — Eric Faust (from left), Buz Zoller, Eric Schmitz, and Pete Levine — opens for Ned's Atomic Dustbin at St. Andrew's Hall on Tuesday, Jan. 26.



BY CHRISTINA FUOCO
 STAFF WRITER

Flowerhead drummer and vocalist Pete Levine and his family have this knack for picking "hot spots" to live in.

"(We) just (unintentionally) sort of head toward the spots that are about to blow," Levine said.

His father, a computer specialist, moved his family to Tehran, Iran, — where war is rampant — during his son's high school years.

Years later, Levine moved to the United States while his family changed residence to Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, where they lived during the Gulf War.

"It was like hell," said Levine, now 32. "I was watching CNN, calling my parents telling them, 'Put on your gas mask. They're comin', dad.'"

Recently, the Levines decided to play it safe and move to the United States occupying the potential odium to the Gulf War.

Meanwhile in home, Levine was living in Washington, D.C., battling a drug problem. Divine intervention suggested he move to Austin, Texas, a potential hotbed of new musical acts.

"God looked down on me and said, 'Go to Austin' . . . I kind of had a drug problem at the time. The best thing to do was get the hell out of D.C. and the problems that came with it."

It was there he founded Flowerhead with bassist and vocalist Eric Faust, guitarist and vocalist Eric Schmitz and guitarist Buz Zoller.

"It was a great thing that happened."

Since being signed by Zoo

Records, Levine has had it much easier. The budding band released its first album, " . . . K-BLOOM" in October. The swirly-guitar British sound is one not often produced by Americans, let alone "four boys who are ostensibly from Texas," Levine said jokingly. Instead the sound was influenced by Levine's time he spent in Europe, but not similar-sounding rock bands like Ride or Lush.

"We love Led Zeppelin, the Stones and the Who; I guess that must be it," he said.

The group is touring with Ned's Atomic Dustbin and the Supreme Love Gods. The tour comes to St. Andrew's Hall in Detroit on Tuesday, Jan. 26.

Levine is grateful Flowerhead got the tour.

"We've been really lucky in terms of everything that we're doing," he said. "There were a lot of bands that wanted to get on this tour. Every place we've played has been packed."

"This will be the 'baby band's' first visit to the northern section of the Midwest. Playing in a handful of cities that may have never heard of Flowerhead is educational for the group."

"It keeps us on our toes a little bit more," Levine said.

Flowerhead opens for Ned's Atomic Dustbin and Supreme Love Gods on Tuesday, Jan. 26, at St. Andrew's Hall, 431 E. Congress, Detroit. Doors open at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$13.50 in advance. Call 961-MELT for more information.

Red C has country twist for its roots rock sound

BY CHRISTINA FUOCO
 STAFF WRITER

In creating its roots-rock sound, Red C has invented a new genre of music.

"We're leftist country," said lead singer Susan Calloway with a laugh.

Although not necessarily country, her band was recently named "Best Country Band" and "Country Talent Deserving Wider Recognition" at the Detroit Monthly/Metro Times Music Awards in Detroit.

As Calloway explained, all these awards don't necessarily make Red C a country band.

"We kind of . . . dabble in country," said Calloway who was awarded the "Best Country Vocalist" prize.

Guitarist Tim Diaz agreed.

"The award is only as good as the people who are giving the award," said the Royal Oak resident. "There are probably really good country bands out there doing originals, but I don't know because Detroit isn't really known

for its country scene."

Calloway of Ferndale explained that country does influence Red C's work.

"Country is a definite influence," she said. "As far as bands that do original music in Detroit we're probably more country than any of them. At the same time, on the larger scale of country music, we'd be still way on the other end."

Although "roots rock," which includes The Jayhawks, Assaulds, and Gin Blossoms in its genre is more suited to Red C's style, Diaz said he doesn't mind being labeled country.

"I'm a real admirer of country music, more of the Western, Texas boy," Diaz said. "I'm proud to be considered country . . . I'm proud that some of the people are fooled into thinking we're country."

Nevertheless, their award-winning sound garnered them slots opening for bands like the Gin Blossoms, Sweetedriver, Missionary Stew and Goober & The Poos.

So far, seeing Red C in concert is the only way to hear their music. The group has chosen not to release any of their demo tapes for the public because of the constant growth of the band, their manager Billy Brant explained. Plans are in the works, however, for a local and perhaps national release.

"It's not smart to waste good plastic; it's gotta be the right time, you know," Diaz said.

The constant growth includes recent lineup changes. Drummer Stephen Wood jumped to rhythm guitar. Brian Ferraby of Royal Oak was hired as drummer and Joe Lambert of Howell rounds out Red C as the newly added bassist.

Wood, Calloway and Diaz founded the band five years ago after a brief separation.

"Our musical paths all went in different directions. Tim went to California and Austin, Texas. At the same time, Sue and I kinda got going on some projects in New York," Wood explained.

Wood and Calloway returned to Michigan and soon after, Diaz



At the heart: The core members of Red C are Susan Calloway of Ferndale, Tim Diaz of Royal Oak and Stephen Wood of Southfield.

phoned the duo from California to catch up on their musical careers. The conversation made him re-think his career choices.

"I thought, well, I don't want to stay here (California). I'm going to Texas. I'm going to give it one last shot and then go home."

He ended up back in Michigan. The three of them realized here is

where they wanted to start their careers.

"It's kind of like the whole theme of 'The Wizard of Oz.' Love is never any farther than your own backyard," Wood said.

Red C and The Ludites co-headline a show at Alvin's, 5756 Cass, Detroit, on Friday, Jan. 29. Call 832-2355 for more information.

STREET SENSE

Focus on what you can be, not on what you want



BARBARA SCHIFF

Dear Barbara, I am very unhappy about a recent occurrence in my life; my closest girlfriend became engaged and no longer has much time to be with me. Until this happened, we were inseparable and spent five nights a week together.

It seems so unfair; she meets a guy and drops me almost completely. I miss her and I am sad

and lonely without her. I have spoken to her about this and she tries to be understanding, but she says she is in love and nothing I say will change that.

To make matters worse, I don't like the guy. I don't think he is good enough for her. He isn't crazy about me either; maybe he is jealous. I know there isn't anything I can do about this but maybe you can help me think about it in a way that will make it easier to accept, or maybe she will read this column and find more time for me.

Jilted Friend

Dear Jilted, All of us are responsible for graceful handling of the many disappointments and insults, real or imagined, that life inflicts on us. Your friend is making an appropriate, developmental step toward maturity by falling in love and is a good role model for you to do the same.

Our culture is designed for us to pair off heterosexually, not to remain in the intense same sex relationships of our early teen years. You do not state your age so I don't know if you are just in your teens, the only time your distress is suitable.

In your mind you know what you want to get from your friend, but not the kind of person you aspire to be. Your focus is on what you can get not on what you can be. Long term this is the important issue, if you can be an adequate person.

Being a friend and having friends is not the problem; the problem is whether you can be an independent self-sufficient person who can accept disappointments, losses and separation gracefully. Can you go your own way and do your own thing enthusiastically and without complaint?

Regarding the way your girlfriend's fiance feels about you, is it too painful for you to think that he is so in love with your ex-girlfriend that he doesn't even think about you?

Barbara

If you have a question or comment for Barbara Schiff, a trained therapist and experienced counselor, 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.