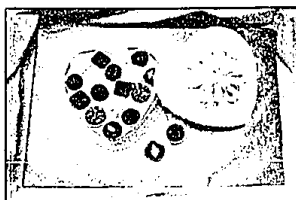


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## STREET SEEN

Discovers by Janice Tigar/Kramer 953-2047 mailbox # 1861



### Straight from the heart

Wear your heart on your sleeve, or any place else for that matter. These handmade pins from bits 'n' pieces feature romantic and comic Valentines from the early 1900s. Each one (covered with Lucite) is embellished with odds and ends like charms, rhinestones, chain links and bits of old jewelry. Some sayings are direct: "I want some." Others are coy: "Be mine?" Sisters Cathy and Mary Adams shop flea markets and antique shops to make their one-of-a-kind baubles which, they say, make great conversation pieces (\$20-\$30). For information, call 540-4206.



### Let 'em eat cake

The folks at Home Bakery in downtown Rochester worked up the design for this tasty alternative to a traditional candy heart box. This 10-inch Victorian sweetheart cake may look like a box of chocolate-covered petit fours, but it's all cake, promises Lois Hennessey, who runs the family-owned shop with sisters Laura and Lynn Kuezdaj. The pink and white, two-layer cake (all edible) features a hand-shaped rum paste bow, cornelli lace and poured chocolate frosting over the "candies." This special order heart cake takes seven hours to make, but it's worth it, they say (\$68). For information, call 651-4830.

## LOCAL SPINS

Here are the Top 10 recordings on Detroit Music Scene, which is heard 4:30-5:30 p.m. Sundays and 5-6 p.m. Thursdays on WDR-FM 90.9.

- "Two Worlds," King Bros. (Holler)
- "High Noon," Chain Reaction (Rathoboz)
- "Better Days," Scott Fab (demo)
- "Smoke and Mirrors," Scott Stern and the Trust (Faith Harbor)
- "I Want U 2 Luv Me," Mortal Man (Henry Pie)
- "Big John Henry," John L. Norwood (demo)
- "Acapulco," Pat Forchione (Talent Lives)
- "Black and Blue Down," Confuse A Cat (360 Records)
- "Manions," GTOY (demo)
- "Love You to Death," The Sillies (Nebula)

## CUTTING GROOVES

Here are the Top 10 recordings played on WOUX, Oakland University's student radio station.

- "Watery, Domestic," Pavement EP (Matador)
- "More Sad Hits," Damon and Naomi (Shimmy-Disc records)
- "See Ruby Falls," Drunken Boat (1st Warning)
- "Eleven: Eleven," Come (Matador)
- "Freedom of Choice," compilation (Caroline)
- "Wicked Midnite," The Mekons (Loud Music)
- "Happy Hour," King Missile (Atlantic)
- "Mule," Mule (Touch and Go)
- "Possessed," The Balanescu Quartet (Mute)
- "Goya," Grenadine (Shimmy-Disc)

# Curry lets music do the talkin'

■ When Mark Curry shows up at the Blind Pig in Ann Arbor this week, he plans on bringing his band. It will be far different than his acoustic performance at The Shelter that brought a lot of attention to the shy 25-year-old.

BY CHRISTINA FUOCO  
STAFF WRITER

Mark Curry leans against the main bar in the Shelter below St. Andrew's Hall in Detroit. Wearing baggy brown pants, a T-shirt, denim vest and ski cap, it's easy to overlook him. Few fans stop to chat; others brush past him, ignoring him. Until he gets on stage.

"How y'all doin'?" he says with his raspy voice while taking off his ski cap and scratching his head.

With Curry and his guitar alone on stage, his blues-inspired rock blended with his streetwise humor and child-like innocence immediately capture the audience. Many of them had never even heard of Curry, whose songs "Sorry About the Weather" and "Blow Me Down" receive airplay.

Looking back at the Shelter show, the shy 25-year-old shrugs off the attention.

"I don't want to be some great big huge thing," he said. "This whole

## STREET BEATS

trip that I'm doing is just expressing myself."

Curry will express himself differently, however, during his show Tuesday, Feb. 2, at the Blind Pig in Ann Arbor.

"Both times I've been to Detroit it's been acoustic," he said. "This time I'll bring my band."

What you can expect is Curry to hang out with the crowd before the show.

"I'm just hangin' out like everybody else," he explained.

Usually a man of few words, Curry prefers to let his music do the talking. On "It's Only Time," his debut album, his songwriting allows his innocence and fleeting humor to come through. Sometimes it's difficult for him to explain, however.

Struggling for words, Curry said his songs just come from things that



Shy guy: Mark Curry brings his blues-inspired acoustic rock to the Blind Pig on Tuesday, Feb. 2, without his dog Zuno who's "chillin' at home."

■ "I don't want to be some great big huge thing. This whole trip that I'm doing is just expressing myself."

Mark Curry

happened. "I have to relive it everyday," he said. "I don't have a problem goin' back. I have to live with it."

"Going from these lyrics, it must seem like I'm an emotional basket case. Writing about it keeps you

from getting locked up."

Curry has continued writing about it for his next album, which he will begin recording when this tour is over.

Perhaps, when the new CD is re-

leased Curry's record label will hold a release party at the Whitney. Curry is game.

"It was cool," he said. "It was outside... It was happenin'. It was heavy in there."

Mark Curry and special guest Half Way Home perform on Tuesday, Feb. 2, at the Blind Pig, 206-208 S. First St., Ann Arbor. Tickets are \$5.50. Must be 19 or older to enter. Doors open at 9:30 p.m. For more information, call 645-6666 or 996-8555.

# RingLeader gets ready for the fast track



RingLeader: Performs at the third annual Detroit/Midwest A&R Showcase at Club Hollywood in Mount Clemens.

BY CHRISTINA FUOCO  
STAFF WRITER

RingLeader has only played two gigs together but the group's so confident of its abilities that it's tentatively decided to bypass playing clubs "in the slums."

"I played there 10 years ago," said drummer Russ Nowak of Westland. "I don't want to play there again."

This may sound cocky but with Detroit punk rock veteran Gary Adams on guitar, they may be able to cut it. A former member of The Cubes (with Carolyn Striho), What Jane Shared? and Dark Carnival (with Ron and Scott Asheton of the MC5), Adams is ready to share his knowledge with the fledgling band.

"I personally have learned a lot about the local music business — what you have to do, what you shouldn't do. (Bands should) try to promote yourself and get good gigs

and get attention," the Livonia resident said.

He learned one other important piece of advice.

"I don't expect everyone to like us, sometimes people will tell you otherwise," Adams said.

Feedback so far has been positive. Its demo tape finished in the top 10 in the 89X Demo Derby contest last summer. On Thursday, Feb. 4, the group is playing as part of the third annual A&R Showcase at Club Hollywood in Mount Clemens. The showcase offers 16 local bands the chance to play in front of representatives from record labels.

"This is the biggest break I've ever had," says Adams whose band formed in September 1990 as The Undecided. It later solidified as RingLeader.

Although a band hasn't been signed from the showcase, lead singer

Rich Genik said this gig guarantees he'll play in front of record company reps.

"This whole business is a crap shoot."

Genik is impressed that the band made it this far without trying to get a following — something only younger bands have an easy time getting.

"A following is just every one of your friends... people who have a lot more disposable time," he said.

He's confident of the band's ability, however.

"I guarantee that we will not sound like anybody else," Genik said.

RingLeader performs Thursday, Feb. 4, as part of the two-day third annual Detroit/Midwest A&R Showcase at Club Hollywood, 31 N. Walnut, Mount Clemens, at 7:30 p.m. Call 463-1800 for more information.

## IN CONCERT

Monday, Feb. 1

**YARD BOGS**  
3-D, 1815 N. Main St., Royal Oak,  
589-3344

**PARADISE VALLEY JAZZ JAM SESSION**  
Alvin's, 5756 Cass Ave., Detroit. (jazz)  
832-2355

Tuesday, Feb. 2

**MEDICINE**  
With Wig and Dusk at St. Andrew's Hall,  
431 E. Congress, Detroit. (alternative rock)  
961-MELT

**DAVID BARRETT**  
The Ark, 637 1/4 S. Main St., Ann Arbor.  
(composer/performer)  
763-1451

**JOE HUNTER**  
Big Fish, 700 Town Center Drive, Dearborn.  
(solo piano and vocals)  
336-6350

**MARK CURRY**  
With Half Way Home at Blind Pig, 208 S.  
First St., Ann Arbor. (blues-inspired acoustic)  
696-8555

**CHISEL BROS. FEATURING THORNETTA DAVIS**  
And Blues Jam Session at Alvin's, 5756  
Cass Ave., Detroit. (rhythm & blues)  
832-2355

Wednesday, Feb. 3

**OPEN STAGE**  
The Ark, 637 1/4 S. Main St., Ann Arbor.  
761-1451

**JOE HUNTER**  
Big Fish, 700 Town Center Drive, Dearborn.  
(solo piano and vocals)  
336-6350

**RUSTED SHUT**  
Part of Metal Zone Wednesdays at Griff's  
Gill, 49 N. Saginaw, Pontiac.  
334-9292

**MOTOR CITY FREE ARTS GROUP**  
With The Don Look Now Band at Alvin's,  
5756 Cass Ave., Detroit. (electric)  
832-2355

**RESTROOM POETS**  
With Morsel at Blind Pig, 206-208 S. First  
St., Ann Arbor. (alternative rock)  
996-8555

Thursday, Feb. 4

**MARY MCCOURE AND MYK RIBE**  
Hoop's in Auburn Hills (acoustic rock)  
373-4744

**THE THIRD ANNUAL DETROIT/MIDWEST  
A&R SHOWCASE**  
Two nights of music. Tonight with Gangster  
Fun, Heaven's Wish, Hope Orchestra, Karla  
Burton & Bamstomer, Lazy Bones, Park  
The Karma, Ring Leader, Tribal Opera and  
The Verve Pipe at Club Hollywood, 31 N.  
Walnut, Mount Clemens. (Moved from the  
Premier Center due to the venue's closing.)  
(variety of genres)  
463-1800

**OPEN BLUES JAM**  
Lili's 211, 2930 Jacob, Hamtramck.  
875-6555

**CYLINDERHEAD**  
Grounds Coffeehouse on University of Detroit  
campus, McVick's (Six Mile) and  
Livernois roads, Detroit. (alternative)  
993-1167

**RING DAVID**  
Cross Street Station, 511 W. Cross, Ypsilanti.  
(reggae and calypso)  
485-5050

**DETROIT BLUES BAND**  
Blues jam session at Moby Dicks, 5452  
Schoefer Road, Dearborn.  
581-3650

**JOE HUNTER**  
Big Fish, 700 Town Center Drive, Dearborn.  
(solo piano and vocals)  
336-6350

**HATE VAIL**  
With Some People's Children and Sister is  
at Psychick's Lounge, 2932 Canfield, Hamtramck.  
874-2909

**LAST MINUTE**  
With Twitch at Griff's Gill, 49 N. Saginaw,  
Pontiac.  
334-9292

See IN CONCERT, 6A