

MONDAY, MARCH 15, 1993

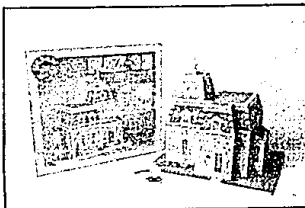
## STREET SEEN

Discoveries by Janice Tigar-Kramer 953-2047 mailbox # 1861



### It's puzzling

Around this time of year, Fun-Turns might be the panacea for winter doldrums. If you like challenges, consider this high-tech puzzle that won this year's "best puzzle" award from Fun & Games Magazine. The cylindrical pop can puzzles include 49 plastic squares and one empty space. Just unscramble the pieces and slide them back in place. "Diet Coke" is tougher than "Neon Rainbows," according to the folks at A.M.P. Industries of Mt. Clemens, the puzzle's distributor. The company will market other Fun-Turns, including puzzles picturing "Batman" characters. Available at Golden Unicorn, Rochester Hills (about \$15).



### Create a landmark

Got cabin fever? Any one of Wrebbitt's five 3-D puzzles of famous architecture could keep you toiling through spring. This 289-piece Victorian mansion is moderately tough, right down to the landscaping that surrounds the multi-level building. Others include a 600-piece puzzle of the Capitol and a 900-piece model of a European castle. For architecture buffs looking for a whopping challenge, there are grand-sized jigsaw puzzles with two buildings to a box. The models can be dismantled to use during the cold days of winter '94 — but it may take that long to finish the first assembly. Available at Hudson's (\$20-55).

## STREET SOUNDS

### Best of The Smiths II — The Smiths

The Smiths were undoubtedly the pre-eminent among the Manchester mood pop period of the mid-'80s. And, yes, Johnny Marr was only second to The Edge as the most prominent rock guitarist to emerge from the '80s. Morrissey? The less said there the better.

But do we really need another Smiths' greatest hits package? The people at Warner think so. Since the band's untimely breakup in 1988, fans have been saturated with the eponymous "Louder Than Bombs," the live offering "Rank" and the "The Smiths . . . Best I." The posthumous ones nearly match the number of original releases.

For those reasons, "The Smiths . . . Best II" should be sledgehammered into oblivion for its obvious overkill. Dammit, the material here won't let you, though.

"The Smiths" "Boy With a Thorn in His Side," "Big Mouth Strikes Again" and "Still Ill" more than stand the test of time as indelible if not wholly sardonic pop standards.

The odd juxtaposition of material spans 1984 through 1988 and, if anything, only highlights Morrissey's lyrical spike for the absurd. "Big Mouth Strikes Again" finds "Moz" in his contemptuous nadir: "Sweetness, sweetness I was only joking when I said by right you should be bludgeoned in your bed."

"The Headmaster Ritual" was evidence of teenage angst: "Mid-week on the playing fields/Sir thwacks you on the knees, knees you in the groin/elbow in the face/bruses bigger than dinner plates/I wanna go home/I don't want to stay . . ."

By the same merit, "Last Night I Dreamt That Somebody Loved Me" is an example of how Morrissey's melancholy and angst had degenerated into full-blown self-pity.

There are some omissions here such as the joyfully scornful, "Happy Birthday." But let's not give him any more ideas to release "Best of The Smiths III."

— Larry O'Connor

# Pure offers lyrics for thought

■ The name may be apropos. Canadian alternative rock band Pure may have a blasting musical style, but its thought-provoking lyrics may be the reason why the band is enjoying a growing popularity.

BY CHRISTINA FUOCO  
STAFF WRITER



Canadian alternative rock band Pure learned the hard way that American country music fans and their hobby seri-

ously. On a bus ride during an early portion of Pure's tour with Daniel Ash, a Missouri trucker remarked over the CB upon passing the bus, "Look at those freaks. What zoo did they come from?"

Saidly, the group replied that they were with country star Billy Ray Cyrus. "He didn't take to that lightly at all," vocalist/lyricist Jordy Birch said with a laugh during a phone conversation from his Vancouver, B.C., area home. "These guys take their country serious."

While the bus driver hollered at the trucker, Birch took a more inspired route — he wrote a song about it.

"I just said, 'Thanks for the song, chief. Something good's gotta come out of a guy like that.'"

Welcome to America, Pure. Actually, Pure's introduction to the country has gone a little more smoothly than that. They released an EP, "Greed," in the summer and the single "Laughing Like A Fiend" received favorable airplay. The song "Greed" was also included on the "Cool World" movie soundtrack.

Pure's recently released album, "Pureafunalia," produced by former Talking Heads member Jerry Harrison, so far has done well. The band's two singles, "Pure" and "Blast," hit music was met with even more fanfare in its home country. Some 1½ months after the release of "Pureafunalia" the group won the "Best New Artist" CASBY, the annual "people's choice" award sponsored by a national retailer and a radio station. Birch and the rest of the



Pure sound: Making up the Canadian group Pure are bassist Dave Hadley (from left), keyboardist Mark Henning, vocalist/lyricist Jordy Birch, drummer Leigh Grant (standing) and guitarist Todd Simko.

band — Todd Simko, Leigh Grant, Mark Henning and Dave Hadley — are already planning its fourth Canadian tour. This one will be open to all ages — a rarity in the club scene.

## STREET BEATS

Pure's blasting musical style obviously has something to do with the group's sweeping popularity. The refreshing part of Pure is its thought-provoking lyrics. The first Detroit-area single, "Pure," represents that. The song is a true story about a girl who was kicked out of her house by her devout Catholic parents after she became pregnant.

Birch sings: "She was as pure as the setting sun. Take a look and see what you have done. You turned your back on her. She lives a long way from Park Avenue. She's all alone man it's 'cause of you. Now

look what you call pure." "It just popped out of my head," Birch said about the lyrics after he heard the girl's story for the first time. "It was the very first song we ever wrote together. It's basically about hypocrisy. . . . She's still on the street with the kid . . . out in the cold."

The song is one example of how Birch shows his respect for women and love. To focus on that, the "Pure" video will star God as a woman.

"There's a lot of moans out there — look at that guy on the CB who just thinks that women are whatever . . . The inequality just doesn't seem right. I'm not into treating women like some kind of punching board. Some people say in other countries you're allowed to kill your wife. That's definitely not my scene," said Birch who's been married for 1½ years.

Birch said he appreciates that with Pure he can finally communicate his beliefs.

"It's better than just keeping it inside," he said. "A lot of writers are kind of sensitive; it's better to spit it out. It helps (because) then you can be proud of it, too."

"It's something of a diamond. You've communicated with people." Unfortunately, he and the rest of Pure couldn't get the now-renowned trucker to believe that the group is made up of average guys — not freaks.

"Compared to truckers they may be a little bizarre. They just don't get out enough."

Pure opens for Daniel Ash on Friday, March 19, at St. Andrew's Hall, 431 E. Congress, Detroit. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. For more information, call 961-MELT.

# Dancey's doodles turn up on walls and album covers

BY CHRISTINA FUOCO  
STAFF WRITER

Growing up in Grand Rapids, Mark Dancey used to doodle in the margins of his notes at school. Now, the quiet and unassuming artist/musician shrugs off the fact that more than one million people have seen one of his works — the cover of Soundgarden's album "Badmotorfinger."

"It doesn't matter," Dancey said with a shy grin. "That's cool though. It's not like when I was making it I was like, 'Whoa, someone's gonna tattoo it on their butt.'"

He does admit, however, that it was impressive to see his design as a stage backdrop during Soundgarden's headlining tour.

"You can't hate that," the Hamtramck resident said. Now Dancey's talent will be even more visible to Detroit-area residents. The Shelter nightclub below St. Andrew's Hall will soon install a mural painted by Dancey entitled "Shall We Dance." It will be located near the dance floor of the Detroit club.

It will be installed as part of the Dancey exhibit at the club which is scheduled to run through March. Already known as a musician in the band

Big Chief, Dancey is slightly apprehensive about making himself known as an artist. "So many people haven't heard of this. They haven't heard of me. It's not my goal to be taken as a serious artist. I'm just trying to make things interesting," said Dancey, 29, who is currently in the studio recording with Big Chief.

Included in the show is a color version of the blue Soundgarden cover, and Big Chief tour posters and T-shirts. Artworks from his magazine, "Motorbocky," will also be shown. The magazine is another part of Dancey's career with which many people are unfamiliar. Although fellow Big Chief members work on the magazine, which started in 1987, they try to keep the two separate.

"There's never anything about Big Chief in there it doesn't need to," he said. "Big Chief has its own momentum. We let the two stand by themselves."

Although he does artwork for his own band, Dancey tries to limit what he does for other bands. Recently, he designed the grungy, plaid-clad kid that the local rap/funk band Brotherhood Recipe uses as a logo. Dancey doesn't plan on doing any more album covers in the near future — except maybe



Wall art: Mark Dancey stands by his mural "Shall We Dance" that will hang in The Shelter below St. Andrew's Hall, Detroit.

Big Chief's. "It (Soundgarden cover) was good but it was a pain," he said. "I'm not asking to become the 'Album Art Guy.' I'd rather not do stuff with other people. I'd rather do our own thing."

## Monday, March 15

**NIGHT OF THE LIVING POETS**  
Poetry night every Monday at Lil's 21, 2930 Jacob, Hamtramck, (poetry) 875-6555

**Tuesday, March 16**  
**TOULOUSE TRIP**  
Blind Pig, 208 S. First St., Ann Arbor, 996-8555

**MARY-CHARIN CARPENTER**  
The John Corke at Hill Auditorium, Ann Arbor (country) 99-MUSIC

**SABE**  
The Ark, 2211 Woodward Ave., Detroit, (soulful pop/R&B) 567-6000

**PHIERS BENJUSAN**  
The Ark, 637½ S. Main St., Ann Arbor (y-tunes) 761-1451

**MARK MOORE AND MIK RISE**  
Mr. B's Farm, 24555 Novi Road, Novi, (acoustic rock) 349-7038

**ADAM ANT**  
Industry, 15 S. Saginaw, Pontiac, (early '80s punk) 334-1999

**NEW**  
New alternative dance night featuring electronically manipulated versions of '70s rock and disco at the Shelter below St. Andrew's Hall, 431 E. Congress, Detroit, 961-MELT

## IN CONCERT

the discussion.  
730-SONG

**Wednesday, March 17**  
**MODERITY FORBIDS**  
Part of Chi. Purca's Day party at Griff's Grill, 49 N. Saginaw, Pontiac, 334-9292

**RO/JUNO**  
AVO's, 5756 Cass, Detroit, (jaz) 832-2355

**OPEN STAGE**  
The Ark, 637½ S. Main St., Ann Arbor, 761-1451

**THE OPAQUE**  
The Ritz, 17580 Frisco, Roseville, (alternative rock) 778-6404

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

**TRAVIS GANT STOP**  
Lil's 21, 2930 Jacob, Hamtramck, (alternative rock) 875-6555

**Thursday, March 18**  
**FIREHOUSE**  
The Ritz, 17580 Frisco Road, Roseville, (rock) 778-6404

**BIG BLOCK**  
With Sonic Boomerang as part of the 65X Homeboy Contest at the Shelter below St. Andrew's Hall, 431 E. Congress, Detroit, (alternative rock) 961-MELT

See IN CONCERT, 8A