

STREET SEEN

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



Stylish coverup

Fashionwise, these hand silk screened umbrellas beat the accordion-style bonnet. Rain gear like this isn't a must-have, but it can be a bold fashion accessory, says Karen Daskas of Diane M, the Birmingham boutique that sells the cotton blend rain wear. Two New York artists premiered their generation-sized umbrellas this season in a few boutiques nationwide. For now, there are 12 patterns, including the black and white psychedelic print, teal fish and taupe cats and dogs. Besides looking good, the colorful gear from Let It Rain has sturdy wood shafts and handles. It's mildew resistant and water repellent — at no extra charge (\$65).



Retreads

Nike's new outdoor cross-trainer gives old rubber a second chance. Available this spring, Escape Lo's outsoles are made of up to 20 percent recycled rubber. For now, the company recycles its rejected soles and rubber left over from the production process. When Nike has the know-how, it will grind up the whole shoe for outsole material for new athletic shoes. Tests show the newfangled sole doesn't reduce shoe performance. Best of all, leftover rubber doesn't end up in a landfill. Escape Lo (about \$75) is sold at Foot Locker stores in Livonia, Troy, Birmingham and Southfield and at Twelve Oaks Mall, Novi.

LOCAL SPINS

Ten of the recordings receiving airplay on "Detroit Music Scene," 4:30-5:30 p.m. Sundays and 5-6 p.m. Thursday on WDTR 90.9:

- (1) "Lucky in Kentucky" Joe Tackett
- (2) "All There Is" Shrilil
- (3) "Fat Girls" Keweevo
- (4) "12 Hours in Toronto" Gtoy
- (5) "She So Strange" Mickey Strango
- (6) "Piece by Piece" Carol Martini
- (7) "Greatest Hits of Sheila Landis" Sheila Landis
- (8) "Broken Mirrors" Scott Stern and the Trust
- (9) "Prologue" Gesture
- (10) "Live The Lab" The Sillies

CUTTING GROOVES

Rated as the Top 10 songs played recently at Club X in the State Theatre, 2115 Woodward Ave., Detroit, held every Saturday night.

- (1) "N.W.O." Ministry (Sire)
- (2) "Time Bomb/Nimbus" 808 State (Tommy Boy)
- (3) "O Fortuna" Apotheosis (Radikal)
- (4) "Something Good" Utah Saints (P.L.G.)
- (5) "Happiness in Slavery" Nine Inch Nails (Intercope/Atlantic)
- (6) "Sesame's Treet" Smart E's (ZYX)
- (7) "It's All Right" 25th of May (Arista)
- (8) "Higher Ground" (the Freklo Nose Mix) Rod Hot Chili Peppers (EMI)
- (9) "It's A Fine Day" Opus III (ATCO)
- (10) "Tool and Die" Consolidated (Nettwerk)

Havens: Music with honesty



Don't look for a musical version of the tale of "The Hobbit" coming from this band, even though its name shows up in the book. The Grey Havens offer their music with feeling. As they see it, if it's not worth playing, why play it?

BY CHRISTINA FUOCO
STAFF WRITER

While The Grey Havens are talking seriously about their music, vocalist/lyricist Dennis Denmore is sitting in a chair huddling mischievously.

Suddenly, the Mount Clemens resident bursts his fist forward revealing a goofy face drawn on it. "I'm tellin' you, you can't get ideas out of his head, whether it be a song or... whatever," bassist Steve Joachim said over the band's laughter.

Songs are usually what Denmore is cooking up. It's typical of the 23-year-old to talk about a handful of new songs a week or to spew out lyrical ideas on the spot. Most of the songs are put on the back burner, however, as drummer Ken Crego tries to keep the band focused on its immediate goal.

"I know I frustrate everybody in this band. I'm like, 'Look, good idea,

STREET BEATS

let's put it on hold. Let's do this. We made a plan, let's stick by it this time," Crego explained.

Veterans of many small clubs throughout the Detroit area, The Grey Havens are shooting to play bigger venues. The group will get a step closer when they play St. Andrew's Hall in Detroit Saturday, April 3, with the Ferndale-based rockabilly band The Del-Kats. The Grey Havens are expected to showcase a few new tunes which will be on an EP that will begin recording in mid-April. The songs will share a common thread with its older efforts — honesty.

Honest effort

"Everything we play, there's a lot of feeling in it. If it doesn't feel right, why play it?" said Crego of Fraser.

Denmore elaborated: "We're all really honest and nice guys. What you see is what you get."

Honesty is a quality that the band members embrace in their friendships. It's only natural for them to expect it from their fans and musical peers — no matter how it may hurt.

"They're paying to see us and we

have to take that into consideration. It's not like, 'Yeah right, you don't know what you're talking about you don't play an instrument,'" Crego said.

The Grey Havens formed after playing in other bands with a myriad of influences. Crego comes from a rock background; rhythm guitarist Kevin Wilson prefers AC/DC-type rock; and bassist Joachim likes Rush.

Wilson, seemingly the odd man out influence-wise, doesn't feel he's compromising his beliefs by playing with The Grey Havens.

"This is the alternative type of music that I like," he said. "When I listen to it, it's just something (you listen to when) you're driving around on a Sunday at midnight. It's moody and melodic. The old U2 kind of style. That's the best way I can describe it."

Denmore is also heavily influenced by U2. He's played U2 covers in the past. While those may be gone, the influence remains within Denmore's guitar stylings — especially with the harmonies. But all those backgrounds roll into one unique rock sound.

'Just flows'

"When it (all the influences) meshes together, it comes out alternative... Just the way Dennis plays guitar. He does a little picking, his voice... Everybody's on a different side of the fence," Crego said. "When we jump to one side (and see) what we can come up with, it just flows."

"We're all open minded. Four guys, different influences, but we all fit."

The band members admit, however, that the humble Denmore is the backbone of the group.

"Your guys could be the best songwriters in the world, (but) your singer is what makes it. He has the distinct voice... he's our key to success," Crego said.

Unfortunately, part of that success is spawned from the emotional rollercoaster a few of the band members have endured during the last few years. Sometimes Denmore finds it hard to sing about.

"There's a lot of things that I'd like to forget but I can't because it



Honest sound: The Grey Havens include Ken Crego (from left), Dennis Denmore, Steve Joachim and Kevin Wilson (seated).

was a part of my life. I'm not gonna write about his girlfriend (pointing to Crego) or something. That's most of what it's about," Denmore explained.

He recently tried turning the tables, however, to write a song about the recent deaths of Crego's uncle and father. Denmore felt he couldn't convey Crego's feelings accurately though.

"If I could explain it to him (Denmore) then he could probably write about it. The song wouldn't be from my heart, it would be from his. Everybody in their life has disappointments. It's good that we play instruments and we can write about it. And people can relate to it," Crego explained.

Although emotionally difficult at times, music to Denmore is therapeutic and personally satisfying,

however — more so than human beings sometimes.

"Music is the only woman that understands me," Denmore said with a snicker.

Like The Grey Haven in the tale "The Hobbit," the four members feel the band is the bright spot in their lives.

"There's a lot of garbage out there — a ton of it. I like to think of us... not being away any way because, oh, this is what's popular now. We stick to what we like and what we've been doing it since," Joachim said.

The Grey Havens open for The Del-Kats at St. Andrew's Hall, 431 E. Congress, Detroit, on Saturday, April 3. Doors open at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$5. Call 961-MELT for more information.

Rage: Ex-rebels turn angst into music



In a Rage: Not quite, but Tom Morello (from left), guitarist, Timmy C., bassist, Brad Wilk, drummer, and Zack de la Rocha, vocalist, are Rage Against the Machine.

BY CHRISTINA FUOCO
STAFF WRITER

Former teen rebels themselves, Rage Against the Machine members have kind of become the spokesmen for their fans' boiling angst. They've also become students of it by observing the audience's reaction to their music.

"I thought the politics would be very alienating," guitarist Tom Morello said about his group's lyrics. "I figured they might get off on the (guitar) riff, the intensity of the band. (But) they would go, 'shut up.'"

But, Morello found, "the opposite is the case."

"There's a real deep dissatisfaction among young people in this country. People want a change. There's a realization that just changing from the Republican to the Democratic party is really no change... If there's going to be a real substantive change, it's gonna have to come from below." The 1986 Harvard University grad-

uate finds this rage especially prevalent in the Midwest.

"I grew up near Chicago; there's this certain angst among young people there that is different (from people where), he said. "There's different kinds of anger, angst and alienation among young people — urban and suburban — which is unique. Our music speaks to it."

That feeling is in Morello's blood — literally. His father was a member of the Mau Mau guerrilla army which freed Kenya from British colonial rule. His mother is a founder of Parents for Rock & Rap, an anti-censorship organization.

This, in turn, framed his political thoughts as a child. Growing up in Libertyville, Ill., while other children were idolizing football stars "Joe Namath and Larry Czonka," he said, he was admiring Malcolm X.

See RAGE, 6B

IN CONCERT

Monday, March 29

NIGHT OF THE LIVING POETS
Poetry night every Monday at Lil's 21, 2930 Jacob, Hamtramck.
675-6553

Tuesday, March 30

ALBION KRAUSE AND UNION STATION
The Ark, 637 1/2 S. Main St., Ann Arbor, (vrtuosos).
761-1451

MARY MCQUIRE AND MYK RISE
With Moon Dog at Blind Pig, 206 S. First St., Ann Arbor, (alternative rock).
996-8555

DETROIT
With Moon Dog at Blind Pig, 206 S. First St., Ann Arbor, (alternative rock).
996-8555

SIN
New alternative dance night featuring elec-

tronically manipulated versions of '70s rock and disco at the Shelter below St. Andrew's Hall, 431 E. Congress, Detroit.
961-MELT

Wednesday, March 31

NEW BAND SHOWCASE
Three bands every Wednesday at Lil's 21, 2930 Jacob, Hamtramck.
675-6555

MARIA MULDAUR
Two shows at the Ark, 637 1/2 S. Main, Ann Arbor.
996-8555

WHIP TAIL
With Ten High at Blind Pig, 206 S. First St., Ann Arbor, (alternative rock).
996-8555

Thursday, April 1

PRINCE AND THE NEW POWER GENERATION
Fox Theatre, 2211 Woodward, Detroit.
567-6000

THE BARTONIAN
With Sambuca Forrest at Blind Pig, 206 S. First St., Ann Arbor, (alternative rock).
996-8555

FREE LOVE LEMONADE
Grounds Coffeehouse on campus of University of Detroit Mercy, Livonia and Melchior, Detroit, (alternative rock).
993-1167

DAVE MOORE
The Ark, 637 1/2 S. Main St., Ann Arbor, (songwriters).

761-1451

CLUB CHAOS
With Nativ Rage, and Jason McCauley Berry at 3-0, 1815 N. Main, Royal Oak, (alternative rock).
589-3344

SUN MESSENGERS
Part of Wayne State University Alumni Association at Alvin's, 5756 Cass, Detroit, (jazzy rhythm and blues).
832-2355

Friday, April 2

MICHAEL ELWOOD AND DETH GALLIGER
Record release party at La Casa Music Series at Birmingham Unitarian Church, 651 N. Woodward Ave., (at Lone Pine), Bloomfield Hills.
646-4950

See IN CONCERT, 7B