

6A(0) (F-6A)

MUSIC NOTES

New Model Army is ready to rebuild its American following now that it's signed with a new label, Epic Records.

"(Previously) it all went horribly wrong for us in the United States," said guitarist/vocalist Justin Sullivan.

What aided in that mess, Sullivan said, was the lack of support by its former label, Capitol Records.

Because of that, New Model Army decided to concentrate on its European fans. They're now selling out venues that seat 3,000-10,000. The group played at St. Andrew's Hall in Detroit June 23, in support of its first Epic release and sixth overall, "The Love of Hopeless Causes."

Despite the business problems, Sullivan has always enjoyed playing here.

"Motown is the home of the greatest pop music ever made," he said. "The minds of the West came together when Barry Gordy left Detroit and went to L.A."

Are members of Radiohead creeps like their hit implies?

"Yes and it's a good thing," said lead guitarist/keyboardist Jonny Greenwood during a phone conversation from Amsterdam.

Actually, the dreary song isn't really that depressing, he said.

"People think we're saying, 'I'm a creep and I don't want to be.' It's a self-realization; it's realizing what you are."

Greenwood, who's a little jaded by his band's success, doesn't mind answering the "creep question," but he's sick of telling how he makes his guitar crack before the chorus.

He and the rest of his band will play St. Andrew's Hall in Detroit on Thursday, July 1 — fireworks night. Call 961-MELT for more information.

17 Reasons Why won \$1,000 or an equal value of Yamaha equipment at "Soundcheck," the Yamaha music showcase June 16 at the State Theatre in Detroit. Bent Lucy, Blue Nation, Paycho Cafe and The Rainbirds also competed.

The group will now compete in the regional showcase, also to be held in Detroit in mid-summer. Regional winners will get \$5,000 or an equal value of Yamaha equipment and an all-expense paid trip to the national showcase. The national winner will receive \$25,000 or an equal value of Yamaha equipment and an all-expense paid trip to Japan to represent the United States in the international showcase, "MusicQuest."

The Detroit area plays a prominent part in "Details" magazine's music is-until music is which hits the stands earlier this month. The photo of Tom Jones accompanying an interview with him was shot near the giant Unirayl Tire on I-94.

George Clinton's Brooklyn, Mich., home is profiled in the "Crib Notes" section.

In the flow chart of "ambient music," Derrick May and Detroit is between the balled Brian Eno and "armchair techno" acts like Biosphere and Irresistible Force.

According to "Details" the local bands The Charm Farm, Goobar and the Pens, Brotherhood Recipe and The Del-Kats are the hip bands in town. A lot more Detroit club scene treasures are buried in the July issue of the magazine.

— Christina Fuoco



A bit angry: Turning their personal angst into a winning musical sound is HAL — keyboardist/bassist Justin Mysza (left), vocalist Myk Willis, guitarist/vocalist Michael Madill, drummer Ken Wilson and keyboardist Robert McCarroll.

HAL puts its anger to music



Getting dumped by their girlfriends may have hurt, but it gave Michael Madill and Robert McCarroll a focus. They formed a band and used their music to say the things they couldn't say to former girlfriends.

BY CHRISTINA FUOCO
STAFF WRITER

When Michael Madill and Robert McCarroll got dumped by their long-time girlfriends a year ago, they didn't let themselves seep into depression or a self-destructive path.

Instead they started a band — quite an angry one at that.

"We both got dumped from 3-4 year relationships; we had nowhere else to go," said guitarist/vocalist Madill. "With all the lyrics, we got to say all the things we couldn't say to her (before)."

Now that they're in more satisfying relationships, HAL is finding it tough to stay angry.

"We just have to stay angry. I wanted to go through my girlfriend's journals, so I could read about old guys and be jealous and bash the keyboards, but she wouldn't let me," said McCarroll with a laugh.

That intense anger has led HAL to become one of the most animated, energetic industrial bands in the area. The band's shows are strengthened by a massive video screen backdrop which accompanies

STREET BEATS

HAL to most shows. It's been a "member" since HAL's first show in September 1992.

"We played without it once at Paycheck's; it was really strange," said McCarroll, a Reeper High School graduate.

The film has evolved from a "loop of flashing yellow lights and a bucket of dry ice" to high-tension wires and newscasts from wars, said the band's "image artist" Kevin Leaser.

"Anything that's disturbing... anything that doesn't look pretty," he explained.

Recently, all this earned the Rochester-based band the \$1,000 top prize in the Modern Rock Jam held at the State Theatre in Detroit. With the money they won, they recorded their debut CD at the Tempermill studio in Ferndale.

In describing themselves, the group is adamant about its selfishness. HAL doesn't sing about their entire world, just its own. "The band is selfish. It's not to change the world. It's not that we're anti-world," said vocalist Myk Willis.

The tall, hefty Madill and the average-built Willis share vocal duties — Madill does all the rapping and Willis performs the melodic parts. Ken Wilson plays drums.

McCarroll, who does all of the computer programming, shares keyboard duties with bassist Justin Mysza.

"Bob does more of the rhythm-

oriented programming. I would be more textural chords and loops and samples. Bob's samples are more rhythm oriented," Mysza said.

McCarroll has a different explanation.

"Justin does the smooth and icing on the cake stuff, the glossy stuff. I do all the grunge and the beats... all the muddy dirty stuff. Anything that's distorted, that's me."

The lyrics are written by Madill, who recently graduated from the University of Michigan with a degree in English.

"He (Robert) like spits out these elementary grade school things," Madill said.

"And he makes them smart, evil and brilliant," said Wilson.

HAL performs on Friday, July 2, at Paycheck's Lounge, 2932 Caniff, Hamtramck. For more information, call 874-0909. The group will also perform Friday, Aug. 13, at Freedom Hall in Sterling Heights with Majesty Crush and Surge to Union.



Album: Give a Monkey a Brain and He'll Scream He's the Center of the Universe

Artist: Fishbone

Review: The latest Fishbone undertaking continues in the direction of their former works of eclectic mayhem. Previously influenced by Sly, Clinton and Marley, they now add Coltrane, Zorn and the Butthole Surfers to their list.

Many of the songs retain the previous funkiness which began on the "Bony" in the Boneyard EP. Check out the ska on "Unyielding Conditioning." Also nice is the soulful grunge of "Servitude."

If you're a Fishbone fan, this album is a must in your collection. If you're not, get the earlier albums first so you understand.

By James Hofer of Harper Woods

CD: Sister Slewelly

Artist: Big Head Todd and the Monsters

Review: Strange names aside, this is one intelligent roots-based rock ensemble that has produced a no-bad-track recording. It's a keeper.

By Joe Gatzek of Plymouth

CD: Rid of Me

Artist: PJ Harvey

Review: Beware of those anxious listeners (scratching fingernails on the chalkboard) in a distant desert. Nevertheless, PJ Harvey, the 23-year-old singer/songwriter/guitarist from England has a very interesting, guttural-sounding underground strong. Challenge yourself.

By Joe Gatzek of Plymouth

Heard a good album, CD, tape or concert lately? But you have an opinion about it, right? Right. So why not share it with us. Street Scene's Reader's Choice is exactly what it's always been to more. A handy coupon is inside this week's Street Scene section. When you ready, mail your review to Street Scene, 36251 Schockford, Livonia 48150, call it in to 953-2030 or fax it by dialing 951-7279. Let's hear what you think.



Of this world: Brothers from Another Planet members include bassist Gordon Spencer (left), guitarist Jake Smith, vocalist James Page and drummer Vincent "Vinz" Panzo (in front).

Brothers searching for a kinder planet

BY CHRISTINA FUOCO
STAFF WRITER

Brothers From Another Planet is tired of being misunderstood.

"They're not militant, rap, techno or funk rock."

"We're ghetto metal; we announce it at every other show. We're not rock 'n' roll. We're not thrash. (Ghetto metal) has nothing to do with our ethnic background," said vocalist James Page.

"We just tell the truth," added bassist Gordon Spencer. "We don't preach about anything. We talk about racism — black against white, white against white, white against black, black against black. A lot of people get mad. The truth hurts."

To them, the truth is Brothers From Another Planet can't play many shows in this area due to local club owners' poor treatment of the band.

"That hurts me more than the backstabbing," said Page, an Ann Arbor resident. "We can go 30 minutes

away and get the red carpet treatment."

Here, the band is paid poorly.

"The bar owners don't want to pay anything. If you want to pay the money for a quality car, you'll get a quality car. If you want to pay \$100 for a clunker, that's what you'll get," said Spencer, an Oak Park resident.

"I would rather wait for the big bucks than burn myself out for theitty bitty dimes," Page said.

The "big bucks" they say are found in areas like Ann Arbor, Grand Rapids, Ohio, New York and Europe, where they'll tour in August.

To help with their cause, group members joined the Black Rock Coalition, an organization founded by Vernon Reid of Living Colour.

"It helps out a lot... it's about being able to play clubs no-matter what you look like; it's about the music," Spencer said.

See BROTHERS, 7A

Monday, June 28

LYNVED SKYVIND
With Bad Company and Drivin' and Cryin' at Pine Knob Music Theatre, I-75 and Sashabaw Road, Clarkston.
377-0100

HALF JAPANESE
With Sleepyhead at Industry, 15 S. Saginaw, Pontiac.
334-1999

ALLMAN BROTHERS BAND
With Albert Collins and The Jolebskars at The Winery Report with Big Daddy Winery at Pine Knob Music Theatre, I-75 and Sashabaw Road, Clarkston.
377-0100

NEIL WOODWARD ALBUM RELEASE PARTY
The Ark, 6371/5 S. Main St., Ann Arbor, (701) 761-1451

IN CONCERT

THE CAMELEON'S DISH
With Melba at Blind Pig, 206-208 S. First St., Ann Arbor.
996-8555

TRAM CAN SHINATRAS
With L-Kage at St. Andrew's Hall, 431 E. Congress, Detroit.
961-MELT

Wednesday, June 30
P.J. HARVEY
With Galtz and Scorpions at St. Andrew's Hall, 431 E. Congress, Detroit. (alternative rock)
961-MELT

THURSDAY, July 1
RADIOHEAD
St. Andrew's Hall, 431 E. Congress, Detroit.

Clarkston, 377-0100
SOMETHING WILD
Blind Pig, 206-208 S. First St., Ann Arbor.
996-8555

JOHNNY CLEGG AND SAVANA
With Marmy Attraction at Industry, 15 S. Saginaw, Pontiac.
334-1999

4 HOK BLONDES
The Majestic, 4140 Woodward, Detroit.
POSTPONED
99-MUSIC

Thursday, July 1
RADIOHEAD
St. Andrew's Hall, 431 E. Congress, Detroit.

(moody, alternative rock)
961-MELT

ROCK EXCHANGE
With Rio Belle at Griff's Grill, 49 N. Saginaw, Pontiac.
334-9282

BROTHERS FROM ANOTHER PLANET
With The Opacore at Blind Pig, 206-208 S. First St., Ann Arbor.
996-8555

Friday, July 2
PETER D'ARIEL
The Palace of Auburn Hills, I-75 and Lapeer Road, Auburn Hills.
377-6200

REXHAUS MOHAWK
Cross Street Station, Ypsilanti.
485-5050

See IN CONCERT, 8A