

Street

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MUSIC NOTES



CHRISTINA FUOCO

When people in the United States see Eve's Plum name for the first time, chances are they recognize it as resembling the name of the woman who played Jan Brady on the Brady Bunch. Around, few make the connection, although they have their own interpretations. That's fine to guitarist Michael Kotch.

"That's cool because then they realize that we're not some band with a totally obscure name," Eve's Plum was in town to play the Blind Pig in Ann Arbor March 11 with a band with an equally intriguing name, Tripping Daisy.

Usually record companies have to beg radio stations to play singles by new acts. With Cry of Love, their label had to tell them not to play their song "Peace Pipe" until the band was ready. "Radio jumped on it," lead singer Kelly Holland said.

"They embraced it right away. We had to tell them 'Don't play it just yet.'"

Cry of Love and their label wanted to make sure their marketing and touring strategies were set first. Since releasing "Peace Pipe," Cry of Love has been repeatedly been told of their uncanny resemblance to early 1980s bands. Holland isn't insulted the least bit. After all, "rock 'n' roll is an apple that doesn't fall very far from the tree." Bands copy each other and add a personalizing twist to it, he added.

Cry of Love played Harpo's on Friday, March 11.

Blind Melon proved at their Wednesday, March 9, show at the State Theatre in Detroit that they are more than a one-hit wonder. Blind Melon, performing their best Detroit show to date, was able to keep up the energy of the near-capacity crowd longer than the length of their acoustic hit "No Rain." The band sounded fuller and seemed more confident on stage — especially singer Shannon Hoon, who frequently joked around with fans. (Although most of what of the soft-spoken Hoon said was inaudible.) During previous stops to the area with acts such as Nell Young, Guns 'N Roses and Public Image, Ltd., the band and its music tended to get lost in the venues. This time around Blind Melon's music sounded fuller while Hoon's vocals and Christopher Thorn's acoustic guitar came across clearly. The 1½-hour show also included a near-perfect rendition of "Tones of Home."

Ready through the lyrics of Carter the Unatopable Sex Machine's latest album "Post-Historic Monsters," you'd think that they were telepathic. In the song "Commercial Suicide Part 1" the band writes "I heard your Gameboys in the fire. Bono (of U2) ain't the new messiah. Michael Jackson is a liar." "With that line, it was written before we knew anything about his supposed activities," vocalist Jim Bob said about the song. He thought to use the word only because it "rhymed with desire."

When Carter USM comes to St. Andrew's Hall at 8 p.m. Sunday, March 27, fans will not see an additional member — a drummer. Previously the band used recorded drum tracks during its live show, something that went over well in the United Kingdom but caused controversy here. "Everyone accepts it," he said of UK fans. "In the States, musicians and fans didn't like it. They felt we were cheating and somehow wrong." Now I can't see how we never had one." The New York band Lottion opens the show. Call (313) 961-MELT for more information.

Unsigned bands are eligible to win a gig in Japan through the 1994 "Soundcheck — The Yamaha Music Showcases," which begins in the summer. Bands in any genre that play originals and are not signed to a nationally distributed record label are eligible to enter.

Last year, East Lansing's The Vervo Pipe won the national contest and played at MusicQuest, an international pop and rock showcase in Japan. To receive an entry form, call Soundcheck at (800) 451-7625. The deadline is May 31.

Grant Leo Buffalo is a band that is definitely benefitting from a general admission seating policy. The band will open for Pearl Jam at the Masonic Temple in Detroit on Saturday, March 19, and at Crisler Arena in Ann Arbor on Sunday, March 20. Fans are expected to rush in to the venues to secure good seats shortly after the doors open — plenty of time before Grant Leo Buffalo hits the stage.

Grant Leo Phillips, the jangly alternative rock band's guitarist and vocalist, never thought about it like that.

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LOOKING AHEAD

What to watch for in Street Scene next week:

- Christina Fuoco reports on making it on the music scene when you're under age.
- John Monaghan takes a look at the alternative movie scene.

Fishbone — It's in the 'Swim'

■ Last year was an eventful year for Fishbone — some of it good, some of it bad. But it's been the release of their album "Give a Monkey a Brain and He'll Swear He's the Center of the Universe" that has broadening their ska-based following.

BY CHRISTINA FUOCO
STAFF WRITER



The flurry of activity is overwhelming Angelo Christopher Moore, lead vocalist/saxophonist for Fish-

bone. Answering the phone in his Richmond, Va., hotel room, Moore doesn't sound quite together.

"I got chicken in my hand; the phone's tangling up... all kinds of confusing stuff." He drops the phone and momentarily gets his act together.

He picks up the phone and begins chatting about the last year. For Fishbone, it has been an endless stream of events — good and bad.

"They released the album 'Give a Monkey a Brain and He'll Swear He's the Center of the Universe' to critical acclaim. The syndicated

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rock radio station Z-Rock picked up on the single "Swim," broadening their primarily ska-based following.

During the summer they co-headlined the Lollapalooza Festival and afterward gigged around Europe with Stone Temple Pilots and the Mighty Mighty Bosstones.

Behind the scenes Fishbone bassist Norwood Fisher faced charges for allegedly kidnapping the band's former guitarist Kendall Roy Jones from a religious group. Fisher was later acquitted.

"That incident, Moore said, is now filed away as part of the band's ongoing transformation process. With Jones' heavy metal influences in tow, the California band has slowly added hard rock in with its ska sound.

"It's been a big progression; it's been a transformation. We've transformed into something," he said. "We just play different kinds of music. One track 'bluin,' there's a different focus on different kinds of music."

John Bigham eventually replaced



him and Fishbone collectively proved — musically and theatrically — during Lollapalooza that they were one of the most dynamic bands around. During their opening song, "Swim," Fishbone dropped their curtain, adorned with their trademark fish, while repeatedly shouting "The pool is open." A cartoon-like mechanical fish flapped its jaws and blew above the band.

Upon hearing that "Swim" was one of the highlights of Lollapalooza, Moore's spirits are lifted.

"Yeah? Cool. This time we won't have the mechanical fish but we're still gonna have 'The pool is open,'"

he said like an anxious child trying to earn approval.

Their tour, which comes to St. Andrew's Hall in Detroit on Saturday, March 19, will primarily feature material from "Give a Monkey a Brain and He'll Swear He's the Center of the Universe." "They might get a pinch of the old set, so if you have any requests you're going to have to ask Norwood. He takes care of all that. It's hard for me to get in a request and I'm in the band."

After the tour, the band is taking a well-deserved break. There is preliminary talk about Fishbone's next

album, but it's "up in the air." According to Moore, their label, Columbia, wants them to do a greatest hits package featuring remixes of older songs and a few covers.

"We want to do all originals... They can't lose what Fishbone has to offer them."

Fishbone performs with *Kyuss* and *Buhazard* at Saturday, March 19, at St. Andrew's Hall, 431 E. Congress, Detroit. Tickets are \$11.50 in advance. Doors open at 9 p.m. Must be 18 with ID to enter. For more information, call (313) 961-MELT or (313) 645-6666.

Steve Gornall gives Motor City the blues



Blues man: Steve Gornall is gone, but his Blue Collar Blues Band is still playing in the Detroit area.

BY MARK GALLO
STAFF WRITER

Guitarist/vocalist Steve Gornall and his high-energy Blue Collar Blues Band have been local fixtures for years. From Siskoo's to Mr. Lou's to Sully's, where they supplied my first taste of live music for the year, patrons have been lined up and geared up for Gornall's repped up take on the rockin' blues.

None of the acclaim that's come his way, most especially since the release of the extraordinary "Steve Gornall & The Blue Collar Blues Band" disc on the local Blues Factory label, has gone to his head. Like most overnight sensations, he's been at this for awhile.

In the early 1970s, his band Nature, which was the pride of Livonia and opened for local luminaries like Bob Seger and Ted Nugent, gave him his first taste of fame. He traces his enthusiasm and involvement, however, back to the seventh grade, when he and Robert Noll, another of the main

players in the local blues community, started jamming.

Noll went to Chicago and worked with legends like Albert Collins and Big Twist. Gornall spent a decade in the trenches of the Hollywood-bust-throat Top 40 and rock world of the 1970s-80s, where he worked with "whoever would pay" him. Among those were Paul Warren, former Doors keyboardist Ray Manzarek and appeared on that location of pop music, "American Bandstand." By the time he got back home, he was ready to dive head-first into the honesty of blues music.

The Blue Collar Blues Band, anchored by drummer Vinnie Scalabrino and bassist Tim Garrick, and featuring the secret weapon of harmonica playing Icen Kenny Welk, is a band that burns in a big way, and frontman Gornall is as a tight bundle of music energy.

Wearing a wide variety of influences on his sleeve, from Duane Allman

to Stevie Ray Vaughan to Buddy Guy, Freddie King and Eddy Clearwater, he's a wholly unique player in his own right. A writer of classical proportions, he's absorbed the past 30 years of rock and blues guitar heritage, distilled it and alluded to it all over the new disc.

"All You Gotta Do," for instance, has an opening right out of Jim Hendrix's "Belly Button Window," while "Daddy's Little Girl" takes the Chuck Berry highway and "Red Hot" works a CCR "Born on the Bayou" groove into the introduction. On "7-11 Sunset Strip," the band works in a style that would do Little Charlie and the Nightcats proud, and "Heart on the Ground" comes straight out of an Otis Rush bag. But cuts like "Runnin'" and the incendiary instrumental that is "Buzzy Guitar" more than adequately demonstrate, Gornall is a wholly unique picker. It's a style that's turned many a sleepy

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Items should be submitted two weeks in advance to: Christina Fuoco, 30281 Schenckcroft, Livonia, MI 48150, or by fax at (313) 691-7278. Please include venue's address and phone number with area code. Thursday, March 17

- DAVID GOLDFINGER**
With John Gardner and Carl Cacho-Negrata at The Ark, 637½ S. Main St., Ann Arbor. (419) 761-1451
- BLASPHEMOUS**
With Phunhogg at 3-D, 1815 N. Main St., Royal Oak. (rock) (810) 589-3344
- SEE DICK RIN**
Grt's Gnt, 49 N. Saginaw, Pontiac. (rock) (810) 334-9292
- HEAVEN'S WISH**
With Fall From Grace and Blue-Eyed Soul at

IN CONCERT

- The Ritz, 17580 Frzho, Roseville. (rock) (810) 778-6404
- CLUB CHAOS**
Aton's, 575 Cass Ave., Detroit. (alternative) (313) 832-2355
- "BLUES SUPERSESSION"**
Featuring Mark Pasmann, Eddie Harsch of the Black Crowes, Mimi Harns, Paul Randolph, Stevie and special guest Theatre Days of the 1960s. at Botsford Inn's Blues Bar, 28000 Grand River at Eight Mile, Farmington Hills. (blues) (313) 459-6959
- DAVE MATTHEWS BAND**
Blud Pk, 206-208 S. First St., Ann Arbor. (rock) (313) 996-8555
- WALDOCK MOUNTAIN RAMBLERS**
Murdock's, 2086 Crooks Road, Rochester. (blues) (810) 852-0550
- STEVE MARDELLA**
The New Sho, 41270 Hayes, Clinton Township. (blues) (810) 288-7788
- ALTERNATIVE DANCE NIGHT**
Industry, 15 S. Saginaw, Pontiac. (810) 334-1009
- ROBERT NOLL**
Speakeasy, 31410 Ford Road at Memman Road, Garden City. (blues) (313) 425-7373
- BEWY AND THE JETS**
Club Odyssey, Ford Road at Inkster, Dear-

born. (rock) (313) 730-1627

Friday, March 18

- LYNN MILES**
La Cosa Music Series at Birmingham Universal Church, 651 N. Woodward Ave., Birmingham. (acoustic) (810) 648-4950
- ROBERT NOLL**
Concert's, 1090 Rochester Road, Troy. (blues) (810) 588-3471
- COCTEAU TWINS**
With The Veedi at State Theatre, 2115 Woodward, Detroit. (etherpop) (313) 961-5451
- THE FOGHORN**
With The Veedi at St. Andrew's Hall, 431 E. Congress, Detroit. (funk/rock) (313) 961-MELT

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