Moody Blues

from page E1

the Moody Blues' first new recording since 1991, and classics such as "Nights in White Satin" and "I'm Just a Singer (In a Rock n' Roll Band)." The Ann Arbor concert is part of a tour that takes the Moody Blues through the U.S. and England until the end of April. A legend in pop history, the group is in much demand. Members will be lucky to have one day off a week during stops in the Midwest.

"None of us really live in England anymore though we maintain homes there," said Edge. "We were turning up in Soho (London) and making albums like a bunch of Troglodytes when one of us went to do some work on someone else's album at Studio Mulinetti. It was set on a cliff and (studio engineer) Danilo Madonia's mother made us great Italian food.

Like the old days

"It was more like the old days. And it was the first time we produced ourselves. We were conscious of not putting strains on the bands. We worked in two to three week stretches of time over the last two years with regards to our waistlines. For our last album we went in and worked three months straight. Another fitat was whoever wrote the song got to produce it. The rest of us could throw in ideas and they were used or not. It didn't bother us if they weren't because you realized when it was your song, you'd get to produce it."

Nothing changes

The Hill Auditorium audience will hear Edge's poem "Nothing Changes" in the second half of the program along with oldies like "Your Wildest Dreams." Edge had been carrying the poem around for some time before he arriving at Studio Mulinetti in Italy. Ominous lyrics speak of winter's war and a dark future if we do not change.

"We've got the toys now to screw things up," said Edge. "We're standing at the crossroads. I have an optimistic heart, but a pessimistic brain. The Internet is breaking down the barriers. The positive side is we'll be a mono-culture."

Musical family

Born in Birmingham, England, Edge grew up listening to everything from Chopin to Caruso so it came as no surprise to his parents when he chose a musical career.

"My father was an untrained opera singer who used to sing in Music Hall as it's called in England. You know it as Vaudeville here in the States," said Edge. "Mom was a pianist, mostly for silent movies. At age 11, I heard Bill Haley and the Comets play "10 Little Indian Boys" and got interested in rock n' roll from there. In my early days, I played

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Graeme Edge
Drummer, Moody Blues

snare in a marching band (at church) then my parents bought me a drum kit and put up with it."

Edge moved to London at age 22 to play with the R & B Preachers, and the Silhouettes until joining with Ray Thomas and Mike Pinder to form the Moody Blues. Justin Hayward and John Lodge joined them shortly thereafter. Released in 1966 their ground-breaking album, "Days of Future Passed," remained on Billboard charts for more than two years. Recorded in stereo and with a symphony orchestra, it was one of the very first concept albums.

"I started playing for $25," said Edge, who during the Moody Blues' four-year sabbatical in the mid 1970s recorded two solo albums – "Kick Off Your Muddy Boots" and "Paradise Ballroom." "You don't gradually work your way up. You get a break or not. I've been with the Moody Blues 35 years, but worked as a professional drummer for 38 years. My dad's definition of a professional musician is somebody who would rather play than starve."

Intense schedule

Edge is looking forward to returning to Ann Arbor even though he's only been home nine days since Aug. 13 due to his intense touring schedule and family illness. He's always liked playing in Ann Arbor, at Pine Knob and other places in metro Detroit with the Moody Blues. As a thank you to their fans, the group will do two one-hour sets that will include many oldies. Edge never tires of playing the songs from "In Search of the Lost Chord," "On the Threshold of a Dream" and "Seventh Sojourn," to name a few of the Moody Blues' top-selling albums.

"I know what it's like to be a fan. I went to see Elton John six or seven years ago and was disappointed because he didn't do any of the old material, only the new," said Edge. "That's why I like doing the old material. I never get fed up performing on stage and watching people enjoy themselves."

Olupus

from page E1

Olupus-style.

"We try and make Cupid's night out a very interactive experience," said Jacokes. "Most of our shows have interaction, but not as grand as C.N.O." Those still Valentine-less need not worry. Just enter Olupus' "Favorite Valentine Contest" by writing 49 to 51 explaining why you should be the band's valentine. Expect a barrage of surprises, including a handful of new songs to the set list — a mix of covers and originals.

"This year we are debuting at least three brand new songs," Jacokes added. "They become Valentines for the fans who know our stuff well. We stick to the relationship songs for this show, the boy-meets-girl songs. Some of them are love songs. But we also realize that, for some people, Valentine's day is a good day to be bitter about defunct relationships, so we play a fair share of love-gone-wrong songs."

■ 'We try and make Cupid's night out a very interactive experience.'

P.J. Jacokes
Bassist, Olupus

There's something for everyone. But those who dare sit in the front row, better be fans of Barry White-style crooning and close contact; Davidson draws his energy from the audience, giving those off-stage a chance at the limelight. "I love our audience," he said. "I love fans. There, that's the performance high," he said, pointing off-stage as the lights fade.

Express your love with a song on Valentine's Day

Even if you can't carry a tune, you can send your Valentine a song from your heart.

The Renaissance Chorus, a barbershop quartet, will serenade your sweetheart at home, work or anywhere else you choose in the Wayne, Westland, Garden City, or Livonia area.

Your thoughtfulness will be remembered, too. In addition to a Valentine serenade, the person of your choosing will receive a red rose and personalized Valentine's Day card. The vocalists will even deliver your special personal gift.

The cost for a Singing Valentine is $40. Call now to schedule the singers between 8 a.m. and 9 p.m. Monday, Feb. 14.

To make your reservation, or for more information, leave a message at (313) 438-2364.

Be specific about the time (within a 4-hour window), location, directions, spelling and pronunciation. Also leave your name, phone number and best time to contact you.

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For many years, beloved conductor Neeme Järvi has jetted back and forth between his two posts as music director of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra and the Gothenburg Symphony Orchestra in Sweden. This season, UMS is proud to present Maestro Järvi with his "other" orchestra as Sweden's National Orchestra makes its UMS and regional debut. Maestro Järvi's interpretation of Shostakovich's Symphony No. 13 wowed local audiences in October; in this concert, he conducts Shostakovich's monumental Symphony No. 6 as well as Arvo Pärt's Symphony No. 3, dedicated to the conductor.

This concert is made possible by a gift from David and Martha Hershey "in honor of the memory of Bertha and Maris Bratkovich, his wife, music was life."

Additional support is provided by SAS Scandinavian Airlines, Conrad Leonard Johnstone and Karin Johnstone, Sergo and Diane Bonanno and The Swedish Round Table Organization.

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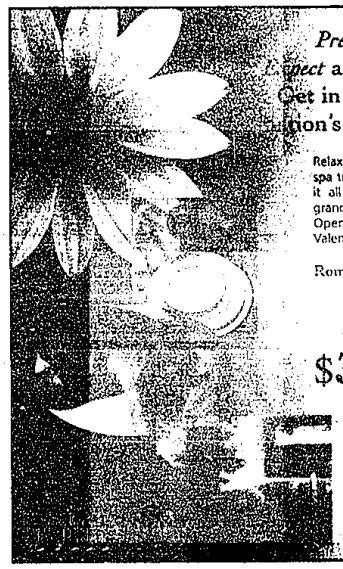

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BLACK HISTORY MONTH EVENTS

AFRICA!
This temporary display showcases a portion of the museum's African collection, including objects used for daily activities as well as those intended for special occasions. *Through March 26*

SUNDAY BRUNCH AND SCIENCE LECTURE SERIES
Descendants of an African Tradition: Combining Ethnographic Aesthetics Between Yoruba and African-American Art Production
Sunday, February 13
Guest Speaker: Jon O. Lockard, Adjunct Lecturer, The University of Michigan Center for Afro-American and African Studies. Lockard introduces the basic principles of Yoruba art, a philosophy of the Nigerian people, and its relationship to contemporary African-American art. 11am brunch, noon lecture, $21 ticket price and registration call *248 645.3210.*

AFRICAN-AMERICAN SCIENTISTS WEEK
Monday, February 14-Friday, February 18, 11am-4pm
Hands-on activities and take-home projects based on the work of African-American scientists of the past and present. For elementary age students; free with museum admission.

GOSPEL CONCERT
Saturday, February 19, 8-8pm
The Institute and the Gospel Music Hall of Fame and Museum presents A Gospel Showcase featuring superb music. Tickets are $10 per person and include museum admission and strolling light supper. Reservations required: call 248 645.3210.

OTHER EXHIBITS & EVENTS
New long-term exhibits: *Every Rock Has a Story, The Motion Gallery, Reading Objects and Life Lab*
New traveling exhibit: *Take My Picture Please: A Festival of Cultural Snapshots, through February 6*

PLANETARIUM PROGRAMS
Young Stargazers Sky Journey
Planet Alignment 2000! Begins February 4
Laser Swing

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February 14-18

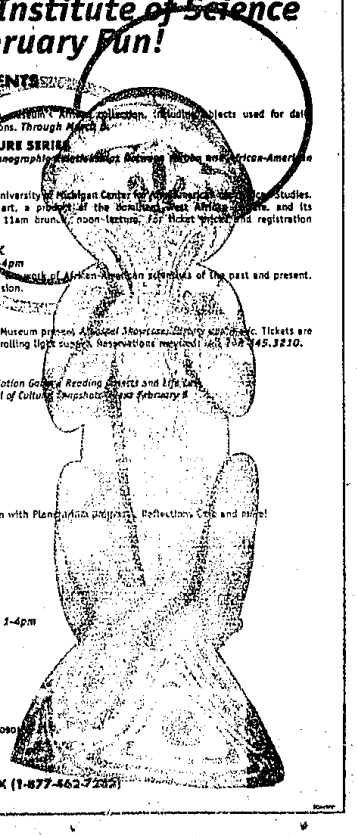
STARRY NIGHTS
The Institute and Observatory remain open until 10pm with Planetarium programs, Reflections Cafe and more!

FOSSILS OF PREHISTORIC MICHIGAN
Adult Science Class
February 7, 14, 21 & 28

HOOT OUT
Friday, February 11, 7-9pm

MAPLE SYRUP FESTIVAL
Saturday, February 26 and Sunday, February 27; 1-4pm

MAPLE SYRUP BREAKFAST
Sunday, February 27



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