

Thursday, May 24, 2001

## THE WEEKEND

FRIDAY



The Waxwings perform with The Blacks, 9 p.m. at Gold Dollar in Detroit. Cover charge, 21 and older, call (313) 833-6873 or [www.gold-dollar.com](http://www.gold-dollar.com).

SATURDAY



Dennis Day of Livonia (center) stars in "The Secret Affair of Mildred Wild" with Ron DeMaagd and Kathleen Booker, 8 p.m. at the City of Southfield's historic park on the corner of Civic Center Drive and Berg Road. Tickets \$10, \$8 seniors and children, call (248) 827-0710.

SUNDAY



During Civil War Remembrance at Greenfield Village in Dearborn visitors can watch re-enactments of life on and off the battlefield and learn about the customs of home wakes, 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Call (313) 271-1620.



# The Beats Go On

## Detroit Electronic Music Festival bolts back to Hart Plaza

BY STEPHANIE ANGELIN CASOLA  
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The Detroit Electronic Music Festival, launched last year as a collaboration among the Detroit Department of Recreation, Pop Culture Media and a community of Detroit-area techno visionaries, gets set to spin this Memorial Day weekend with the promise of another phenomenal world-wide dance party.

And if the maiden festival was any indication, the revolution will be electrifying.

The world's largest free electronic music festival will take over Hart Plaza Saturday, reflecting off the towers of Detroit's Renaissance Center and reverberating from the city's international waterfront for three days. More than 80 performers will preside over four stages for one reason — to celebrate the music pioneered in Detroit more than a decade ago.

### Electronic forefathers

"History has not been kind to black artists," said Derrick May, who will make his tri-



**Titan of techno: Derrick May, DJ, producer, and founder of the Detroit's Transmat record label will return to headline the 2001 Detroit Electronic Music Festival, an event that celebrates the form of music he helped invent.**

umphant return headlining the DEMF 10 p.m. Monday, May 28. ("The festival) will make sure people know who we are and where this music comes from."

Carl Craig, creative director and founder of Planet E Communications, will show where the music originated through the sounds of electronic forefathers — Juan Atkins, Kevin Saunderson and Derrick May — while mixing in experimental visionaries like Chicago's Tortoise or Long Island's hip hop trio, De La Soul. Heroes like L.T.J. Bukem and Carl Cox take the stage along with up-and-coming DJs like Ann Arbor's Tadd Mullinix and bands, like Berkley's Halon to reveal their own versions of this ever-evolving

Please see DEMF, B2

**Plug In**  
What's Focus Detroit Electronic Music Festival 2001  
When: Noon to midnight, Saturday-Monday, May 26-28  
Where: Hart Plaza, Detroit  
Details: Come ready to dance. The three-day party is free and open to all. See [www.detroitmusicfest.com](http://www.detroitmusicfest.com)

**SEE INSIDE FOR COMPLETE SCHEDULE OF PERFORMERS.**



PHOTO BY DOUGLAS COOKER

## The New School

Looking over the line-up for the Focus Detroit Electronic Music Festival, Halon isn't a name that will instantly grab you. It doesn't have the recognition of De La Soul or the world-wide credibility of DJ Carl Cox, but the Berkley-based three-piece has just begun to earn its stripes. The band isn't easily classified — not techno, punk, pop, garage rock or anything derived from the downtown scene that's demanding so much attention these days. You've never heard a band like Halon, and that's just how members Matthew Taplinger (drums), Jed Robertson (bass) and Rob LeVally (guitars, keys, computer) want it.

The three musicians solidified their friendship while attending Ohio University in Athens, Ohio. Six years later the Toledo natives transplanted themselves in the suburbs of Detroit. Beginning with collaborations between Taplinger and LeVally in the basement of their Berkley home, Halon welcomed Robertson into the musical configuration. The band stirs up its sound with the simplicity of bass, drums and guitar and the complex mastery of found sounds, keyboards, a vocoder and a computer. As Taplinger described it, "We like to bring a heavy analog assault."

**Behind the masks: Matthew Taplinger, Jed Robertson and Rob LeVally are Halon, the electro-based rock band defining the broad musical direction taken at this year's DEMF.**

Please see HALON, B3

## The Old School

Detroit born and bred, house DJ and producer Norm Talley takes over the turntables for a history lesson on his city and the music that's come to redefine it.

"I started out as a collector, 8-tracks and 45's," he said, during an interview in Ferndale recently. He put that music to good use. Talley was known around his neighborhood as the newspaper boy who strapped 8-tracks and a player onto his bicycle and went about his route. Wherever he went, music followed.

By age 13, he was asked to play records at his friend's house parties. He saved up money he made delivering newspapers to buy two turntables and a mixer. Soon, Talley was trekking around Detroit's West side with his collection of vinyl, 8-tracks and cassettes. Staying out past 11 p.m. at that age wasn't going to fly with Talley's parents. His mother started checking up on him, restricting him to DJing parties only where he'd be close to home.

As Talley grew older and began earning money as a DJ, his parents noticed there was more to playing records than they ever expected. "I always loved music," said Talley. "My father listened to the blues, Teddy Pendergrass... The O'Jays. He made me want to collect. Now I understand these were really classics."

Perhaps that's what separates him from the other DJs he grew up with in Detroit. Talley possesses an innate sense of Detroit's rich music history. During his 3-hour set at this year's DEMF, he will revive 15 years of music made here, bringing the lesson right up to present day. "My love is the music, to make

Please see TALLEY B2

## EXHIBIT

# Traveling science show features 'Atoms' family

BY SHARON DARGOY  
STAFF WRITER

The calendar says Memorial Day weekend, but it looks more like Halloween at the Cranbrook Institute of Science in Bloomfield Hills.

Colorful projections of a bat and other spooky silhouettes light the dark entrance to the museum's new traveling exhibit, *The Atoms Family*.

Those who dare, enter the Phantom's dark portrait chamber and peer through his microscope to watch particles vibrate in a demonstration of Brownian Motion. They simulate bouncing atoms with marble-sized balls or play a computer-gen-

erated game that laughs, "WHA-HA-HA," in a spooky voice for each correct answer.

The Wolfman lurks next door in a graveyard complete with a water-wheel turbine and coal-powered light bulbs.



PHOTO BY JUAN GLENZ

**Monstrously fun: Visitors look through a microscope at vibrating particles at The Atoms Family exhibit. The display, which opens Saturday, combines horror movie characters with hands-on science learning.**

And Dracula beckons the faint-hearted to enter his library and learn about — ooh, this is scary — polarization, lightning and light energy.

A plasmasphere, filled with sparkly, sputtering "quiet lightning" lures young fingers closer. Closer, CLOSER to its outer shell.

It's OK to touch to glowing sphere. The exhibit and its hands-on science learning displays were made for curious fingers.

And the spooky setting? Think Frankenstein meets Einstein. This new exhibit is more about atoms and energy than horror movie monsters.

"Science can be scary for people, so you want to make it interesting and you want to make it fun," says Heather Hall, Cranbrook spokeswoman. "You need something to get their attention."



"This exhibit was created by the Miami Museum of Science. I think what they wanted to do was to take the concept of energy — which is what the exhibit is about — and try to find an interesting tie-in, something that would draw people in."

Visitors test dozens of interactive displays as they navigate their way through four rooms — Phantom's Portrait Hall, Dracula's Library, The

Please see ATOMS, E5