

## *House of Love, Raising the Roof at 9:30*

After a modest 1988 debut and a quiet 1989, the 1990-model House of Love has made a practice of being better than anyone ever expected. The British quartet's recent album (its second to be titled "The House of Love") is filler-free, a rare accomplishment in contemporary rock, and Tuesday night's 9:30 club show effectively wedded that album's ample melodic appeal to a rougher, more spontaneous sound.

Though the wistful "Beatles

and the Stones" nearly got lost in the noisy club, such upbeat material as "Never" and "Shine On" stung as it rang. In much the way that such House songs as "Destroy the Heart," the potent final encore, deflate their buoyant melodies with acrid lyrics, so the band tested the neo-Merseybeat tidiness of its songs with wonderfully disordered playing.

The guitars of Guy Chadwick and Chris Groothuizen seldom sheathed their talons, driving even such quiet songs as "Love in a Car" to closing rave-ups that levitated Chadwick's Kinksy melodies toward Velvet Underground territory.

—Mark Jenkins