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Smoke clears, lights fade St. Xavier emerges champs

By GREG SHOLDICE
and DAVE ROWNEY

When the music had faded, the smoke had cleared and the lights were dimmed, St. Xavier emerged from the battle of the bands as victors.

The Georgetown rock and roll group defeated two other bands from town Sunday to win the Spanky's Restaurant Battle of the Bands.

They were the eventual winners after defeating a total of 60 rival bands from Port Credit, Brampton and Mississauga.

The three Georgetown bands all made it to the finals at the Brampton-based restaurant, known for attracting top musical talent.

Russell Gray, Brian McIlroy, Andrew Stoddart and Dax Urbaszat won, as first prize, eight free hours of recording time in a Toronto music studio.

First Class came in second place while Tempest was third.

The bands were judged for audience reaction, stage presence, musicianship, show presentation and original material.

About 100 young people attended the Battle, which began at 8 p.m. Each group played a 45 minute set.

The group has been together about a year, practising about twice per week for 2-3 hours.

The members were surprised all three Georgetown groups made the finals. Maybe it's an indication "people should check out the smaller towns more," said guitarist Russell Gray.

The band plays a variety of music which includes songs from Van Halen, Led Zeppelin, Rush and Kim Mitchell.

"We each have our own main influence and different style, said Dax Urbaszat. The band has also eight original songs in its repertoire. St. Xavier would like to record a song and have it played on a Q107 radio station program called Homegrown.

The band members say they're different from many other groups because they're good friends with each other, have a "full band" and a good stage show.

"You lose your energy and that's it," said one member.

First Class was the only band in the finals with a keyboard player (Rych McKeown). The band plays a



THE CHAMPIONS-After three months of competitions at the restaurant Spanky's, the top rock and roll band was crowned Sunday evening. The group St. Xavier won eight free hours of recording time at a Toronto studio. Seen here are (from left) Russell Gray - guitar, Dax Urbaszat - vocals and guitar, Brian McIlroy - bass guitar and Andrew Stoddart - drums. (Herald photo)

lot of Canadian music and would eventually like to cut a record.

Feb. 22 they will be competing at the Toronto Concert Hall in a high school band star search.

Said guitarist Greg Onoprijenko about the competition between the three Georgetown bands: "We all get along off stage, but we all feel the competition."

The musicians, all between the ages of 15-19 years practise three times a week for about 3 hours.

"It matters if we win, but we want to have fun. We're here for the experience," said one band member.

Other group members previously not mentioned are lead guitarist Randy Fascinato, bass guitarist Mike Bellinger and drummer Tracy Harding.

The rock group Tempest has been playing together for three years. Shane Oldreive and Sean Cotton first started playing together. "Shane got Broughton (Adam) and I got 'Ben' (Adam Bennett)," said Sean Cotton.

The group has played a variety of gigs, including concerts, dances, bars and clubs.

One of the highlights about playing at Spanky's is their excellent sound system, the band members said.

The group plays original tunes as well as material from Kim Mitchell, Max Webster, Rolling Stones, Steely Dan and the Dobbie Brothers. Three



CLASS SHOW-First Class lived up to its name Sunday at Spanky's Restaurant by putting together a class show. However, it wasn't quite good enough to win first place at the Battle of the Bands. Members of the group are: Greg Onoprijenko - vocals and guitar, Rych McKeown - vocals, guitar, Randy Fascinato - lead guitar, Mike Bellinger - bass guitar and Tracy Harding - drums. (Herald photo)



ALMOST MADE IT-Tempest came a close third in the Battle of the Bands competition Sunday. Members of the rock and roll group are (from left) Sean Cotton - guitar

and vocals, Adam Bennett - bass guitar and vocals, Shane Oldreive - guitar and vocals and Adam Broughton - drums and vocals. (Herald photo)

of the members teach music lessons at Neil's Music Centre in Georgetown.

The group considers itself different from others because they're not afraid to try something daring. For instance, Sunday they did a tune from a television series.

The group will be playing at the Acton High School March 6 and at the Toronto Concert Hall in the near future.

"We're not only concerned with the music, but with the visual effects. It's got to be loud with a lot of light," said one of the members.

Crisis team eases grief of students

By ANIPEDEKIAN
Herald Staff

To die is poignantly bitter, but the idea of having to die without having lived is unbearable.

—Erich Fromm, Man for Himself, 1947

One of the hardest things to talk about is death. For adults and young people alike, it's a subject that brings discomfort and awkwardness.

But death is very much a part of every life and is always happening around us. Meeting the subject face on, is a unique team of school teachers and administrators who work for the Halton Board of Education. Called the Tragic Events Response Team, this group of volunteers help a school cope with the immediate news of a death.

It could be the death of a teacher or the death of a student that brings members of the team to a school within minutes.

The 23-member Team includes social workers, child care workers and a psychologist. They've been trained in what to do when they go to a school that has experienced a death.

Formed in June 1985 after the Milton train disaster that took the lives of six teenagers, the Team was founded by Park Public School principal Jack Peckitt and board psychologist Dan Dalton.

When the Milton train disaster took place, Mr. Peckitt was vice-principal of W.I. Dick. Three of his

students died in that tragedy. The experience motivated him to set up the support team for Board staff.

After all, statistics say there will be 20-25 student deaths each year, especially now that the Board provides special education to children with terminal diseases.



Jack Peckitt

"One of the first reactions is shock, which can lead to inaction or all kinds of inappropriate action," Mr. Peckitt said. "Principals have appreciated having another principal there just to confirm they're on the right track."

The Tragic Events Response Team doesn't take over a school after a death, but two or three of its members go to that school and give the principal and the staff support in handling the situation, as they need and request it.

The first thing a principal must do

upon hearing of the death of a student or teacher is write up a little speech to share the news gently with the school body.

"The true quality of the professional comes out in a situation like this," Mr. Peckitt marvelled. "We've seen speeches written in just a few moments that were excellent."

Last year, the Team was called to eight schools, and four so far this year. Team members only go when they're invited, and it may be for just part of a day or a couple of days.

"We're simply there as support, to offer suggestions and options. People can forget what are common sense 'approaches or alternative ways to deal with situations,'" Mr. Peckitt said.

During the Christmas holidays, a student at Georgetown District High School died. School principal Barb Singleton is a member of the Team, so she rallied social worker Bill Coon and GHS teachers to help handle the situation.

"So the Team was involved, but it wasn't as if they were strangers in the school," Mr. Peckitt said.

What the Team really does, is make it legitimate to express grief being felt by students and staff. The principal's brief speech lets everyone in the school know it's okay to feel upset.

"We've found all teachers most anxious to know what to say, what the children will be feeling. If teachers want, a Team member will

go into the class with them," Mr. Peckitt said. Team members help them know better what questions and behavior to expect.

Often, giving students something to do, like prepare a memorial display, order flowers, lower the flag, write a note to the parents of the dead child or to the brothers and sisters, these all help ease the grief. There are many things that can be done.

"To be a Team member can be very stressful. One member was called upon twice in two weeks and when a third call came she refused."

"It brought to us the fact that, you're going to have those feelings too," Mr. Peckitt said. "You can't go into a school without experiencing the grief yourself. It's emotionally draining."

Despite the stress of dealing with tragedy, eight new members have joined the Team this year, making the two-year commitment it demands.

What skills are important for Team members to have?

"We want to make sure Team members have dealt with death themselves and can discuss their feelings about death, and death isn't something that's been blocked out," Mr. Peckitt said.

Being articulate about their feelings so they can share them is the most important skill of all.

In the hills

Informed birthing

Informed Birth and Parenting's "Choices in Childbirth" will be presenting their seven week series of classes starting Tuesday, February 3.

This first night will be for you and your partner to decide if this is the childbirth class for you!

For more information, call Darlene, 877-0952.

7% increase

Health insurance rates and unapproved staff wages are responsible for the seven per cent average increase in day care costs this year.

Halton's new director of social services, Bonnie Ewart, approved the increases being requested by private operators like The Village School in Georgetown and the Central Ontario Lakeshore "Y" First Base programs in Acton and Georgetown.

The increases now go to council for final approval.

After hours no.

The after hours phone number for Halton Region is to be 878-8113. This one number will replace the five Regional telephone numbers now used after hours.

It will mean collect calls from residents in Rockwood and Burlington's Aldershot area. Otherwise, the number is accessible to all other areas.

Spunky teens

A couple of spunky teenagers who have taken the year off school to spread their peace message across Canada will be in Georgetown Friday, Jan. 23.

Students Against Global Extremism (SAGE) members will be speaking and holding a question and answer session at St. George's Anglican Church at 11:30 a.m. Admission is free and everyone is welcome to attend.

Costly agendas

The cost for a year's supply of Halton Regional council and standing committees agendas has gone up five per cent over last year, and more than doubled over the fee in 1985.

The Region wants to charge \$238 for 1986 council agendas and \$274 for standing committees agendas. Last year, charges were \$227 and \$261 respectively; and in 1985, a flat \$100 for each.

On board

Couns. Marilyn Serjeantson and Peter Norton have been appointed to the Credit Valley Conservation Authority for a two-year term beginning this month.

Mayor Russ Miller and Coun. Joe Hewitt have been appointed for a similar term with the Halton Region Conservation Authority.

Coun. Pam Sheldon has been appointed to the Halton Housing Authority, an appointment to Nov. 30 this year.


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1985 ESCORT, 4 Dr., 4 Cyl., Auto, PS/PB, Stereo	SIK 96127	\$100.68
1985 MUSTANG, 3 Dr., 4 Cyl., PS/PB, Stereo	SIK 96117	\$206.07
1985 RELIANT SE, 4 Dr., 4 Cyl., PS/PB, Air	SIK 96114	\$214.08
1984 PONTIAC 6000, 2 Dr., 6 Cyl., Auto, PS/PB, Air	SIK 96133	\$238.76
1984 GRAN PRIX, 8 Cyl., Auto, PS/PB, Stereo, Air	SIK 96109	\$232.32
1984 BUICK SKYHAWK, 4 Cyl., 4 Spd., PS/PB, Stereo	SIK 96118	\$189.40
1984 CHEV CELEBRITY, 4 Dr., 6 Cyl., Auto, PS/PB, Stereo, Air	SIK 96145	\$232.59
1983 CUTLASS, 4 Dr., 8 Cyl., Auto, PS/PB, Stereo, Air	SIK 96154	\$227.72
1983 FIREBIRD, 6 Cyl., Auto, PS/PB, Stereo, Air	SIK 96110	\$249.38
1983 T-BIRD, 6 Cyl., Auto, PS/PB, Stereo, Air	SIK 96144	\$219.71
1979 BUICK LeSABRE, 2 Dr., 8 Cyl., Auto, PS/PB, Air	SIK 96115A	\$129.04
1984 DODGE CARAVAN, 4 Cyl., Auto, PS/PB, Stereo	SIK 96119	\$282.89
1983 RANGER PICKUP, 4 Cyl., 4 Spd., Stereo	SIK 96181	\$154.26

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THIS WEEK'S SPECIALS



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