

More mail

**Max Webster are No. 2 band
beer bottle pic poor taste**

Dear Sir,
As a concerned parent and teacher at the Stouffville District Secondary School, as a member of the Staff Dance Committee, and as the teacher-in-charge at the Max Webster concert, I feel compelled to reply to the letters to the editor in last week's paper.

Firstly, I have to agree with Keith Carson's comment that the published photo of Editor Montgomery and Kim Mitchell of Max Webster (with a bottle of beer between them) was in poor taste. The picture was taken in a private dressing room provided for the group, as part of their contract. This is provided for all performers as a resting area prior to a concert and

between sets. It is definitely off-limits to students. Consequently, I cannot understand the resultant connection made by Mr. Carson to "indiscriminate use of beer... by teenagers." SDSS has always taken stringent precautions to eliminate the entrance of alcoholic beverages and drugs of any kind into its dances. A student Dance Squad, formed by the very able social convener Tom Lehman, enforces this rule diligently.

A voluntary group of teachers aids at every dance and parents are certainly welcome to help or observe. Students or their guests who attempt to defy this rule, or attempt to gain entrance after imbibing elsewhere, are prevented from en-

tering and are dealt with severely by the principal. The implication of the photo and the letter that this sort of incident is common-place is completely unfounded.

Secondly, I am genuinely pleased with Mrs. Alma Oldham's concern that students come "to love the very best in music, art and literature." I cannot think of any educator who does not concur with that opinion. As a result, the students at SDSS are given the opportunity to hear and learn about a great variety of "good, up-lifting, character-building music." Under the able baton of Mr. Hawley, the Junior and Senior bands perform at monthly assemblies before the entire student

body. They also have their own Music Assembly at least once a year, as well as performances at the Kiwanis Festival and at an annual Music Night. In addition, the student-produced Variety Show elicits numerous song and dance routines, not in the rock genre. These are also performed for student audiences. As a result, I believe that exposure to up-building music both curricular and extra-curricular is frequent at SDSS.

The social convener has 10 school dances to organize annually and this year Tom has judiciously selected different types of bands or disc-jockies for each one. He does this, of course, in order to appeal

to the largest number of students that he can. This is what he was elected by the student body, to do. As a "heavy metal" type of rock group, Max Webster is number two in all of Canada. Number one, Rush, made the cover of our national magazine, Maclean's, last month. Getting the group here was considered a coup as evidenced by The Tribune's interest, by the large attendance despite adverse weather, and by the large number of student guests from all over Metro Toronto.

Mrs. Oldham is, of course, entitled to her opinion that rock music is "simply jungle-beat noise." The people in attendance did, however, appreciate their sound. I would question whether they all thought it was "the ultimate in good music" or the only kind of good music.

I think, moreover, that it is defamatory to condemn this group as "part of the drug culture and other associated evils" by making sweeping generalizations about members of "those kinds" of bands. The group, that night, was not proselytizing listeners to either drugs or sex.

Upcoming dances in the school will feature a local student band, a disc-jockey dance with a variety of types of music, a square dance, and a May Prom. Last Friday, the dance was a ten-hour marathon which featured numerous kinds of music and raised hundreds of dollars for the Student Council. It, in turn, supports about 60 clubs and teams in the school ranging from the International Student Christian Fellowship Club to Judo.

In conclusion, I wish to reiterate that the Max Webster concert did not extol alcohol or drugs, has not replaced "beautiful music" in the school, and was simply one of a very large number of diverse social events scheduled at SDSS.

Finally, I, as a concerned teacher, am delighted in the interest shown by the community in school events. We welcome comment and criticism and encourage participation in our entire program.

Yours truly,
Mrs. Reet Krabi
R.R. 1
Stouffville

Ed. note: Tribune editor John Montgomery did not appear in the now infamous "beer bottle" picture. The guilty party was Bryon Hurrle who also wrote a review.



The appearance of the Max Webster band, one of the hottest rock groups in Canada, at Stouffville high school recently set off quite a stream of letters to the editor. Opponents of

rock music have denounced it as degenerate and accused it of promoting Godless sensuality, drugs and alcohol.

—John Montgomery

**Best band to play at SDSS
everyone enjoyed music**

Dear Sir,
I am writing in reply to Mrs. Oldham's letter in your February 9th edition. As Social Convener of the school I try hard to get the best bands available for our dances.

Rock groups such as Max Webster have been coming to Stouffville High School for years. I can't see why someone would just now decide to raise a stink about it. Why didn't they do it when rock groups first started coming to Stouffville?

I think Max Webster is the best band ever to come to our school in the six years that I have been here.

I know that everyone, including the teachers, who attended that dance enjoyed the music and the stage show.

I met the members of the group. They are ord-

inary people who act a bit different on stage. But that's their job.

I am pleased with the success we have had with the past dances this year

**Reader heartily agrees
rock music demoralizing
degrades gift of music**

Dear Sir:
May I express my appreciation of the article in your February 9th edition, contributed by Mrs. Oldham? I heartily agree with her estimation of "rock" music, and its demoralizing effect upon those who play, and those who listen.

Music is a God-given gift to mankind, and is the

and expect the same for the upcoming dances. Being the person who books the groups for the dances, I'm not going to deprive my fellow

students of the music they enjoy...ROCK MUSIC! Sincerely,
Tom Lehman
Boyer St.
Stouffville

concord of sweet sounds," as Shakespeare expressed it.

If we degrade this gift, we are bound to suffer consequences, one being the loss of discernment as to what is

harmonious and uplifting, and that which is sensual and in plain English, just "noise."

Thank you.
Frances E. Rattee,
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