

AGING HIPSTERS HAVE TROUBLE KEEPING UP WITH ENERGY LEVEL AT BATTLE OF BANDS

Has Hybrid Vinyl gone the way of the Stones?



PHOTO/CHRIS COOPER

Lisa Munro (bass) and Winnie Song (drums) are two-third of Mothra, a synth-heavy alternative band and the only all-female group at the recent Markham District High School Battle of the Bands. The \$200 first prize was won by the Shims.

I now understand what it means to feel "over the hill". The second annual Markham District High School Battle of the Bands was held March 2 and even my posse of well-meaning hipsters had trouble keeping up with the evening's ridiculous energy level and over-the-top performances. The event pitted Markham area high school bands against each other for a top prize of \$200. Nine bands signed up and each was given 15 minutes of performance time.

It seemed short set times warranted explosive material and non-stop energy. A well-rehearsed mosh pit, leaps into the audience and a climactic man-tackle were greeted, respectively, with cheers from an equally energetic crowd.

Hybrid Vinyl, my now-three-year-old band, was, as a whole, the oldest group present. Preceding our performance was Loosely Assembled, a band containing kids who were much younger and, ironically, more promising than us.

An impromptu intermission was given just before our performance, but nobody in the audience was interested in breaking the high energy.

Offering some light intermission fare, we played some humorous acoustic songs.

Despite my urging, the audience refused to mingle and hung on our every word. This was the feeling in the room - an insatiable need for non-stop, unflinching rock n'roll.

Our set of original songs - a hyper, yet faded, indie sound - was received with a mix of adoration and complete bewilderment.

Some other memorable acts



Chris Cooper

Youth Issues

included, in chronological order:

• **Trachea:** starring Andrea Nunez, a short girl with an enormous voice, backed by a group of loud and very serious musicians.

• **The Aqueducts:** A guitarist and drummer who played likable hits but cleverly interspersed a couple of original songs.

• **Mothra:** Three girls, presenting synth-heavy, mellow alternative rock, was the only all-female group to perform.

• **Act Upon:** Full out screamo, complete with hatred and angst - presented by four guys whose black hoodies look like they could fit little kids. Their performance was enhanced by a choreographed throwdown pit and the loudest screaming I have ever heard.

• **The Shims:** Familiar faces from the school's now-stagnant rock scene, playing lovable classics like Under My Thumb.

• **Scene of the Accident:** Surprisingly enjoyable tunes that make you wonder where your girlfriend is.

A combination of acoustic guitar and keyboard - later joined by drums - gave it a mellow feel that calmed the audi-

ence. The audience was again awakened when Scene of the Accident was joined by Dave Murphy on guitar, in a ridiculous reunion that ended in a big man-hug.

"I've never seen Dave move that fast," Chris Kong, 17, said of Murphy's uncharacteristic performance.

'Our set of original songs - a hyper, yet faded, indie sound - was received with a mix of adoration and complete bewilderment.'

The evening was capped off with yet another surprise appearance - three MDHS teachers toting guitars and bongos.

It was a fitting end to an unpredictable and ultimately out-of-control night.

In the end, the Shims got the most votes and won the \$200. They more than deserved it - I have never danced so hard to a rock band.

The real reward, however, was a kind of self-satisfaction and camaraderie that can only be found at an event like this. It wasn't really a battle - it was a symposium.

And one could hardly tell, by looking at the beaming faces and flying cardboard boxes, that it was a contest at all.

Chris Cooper is a student at Markham District High School and a member of Hybrid Vinyl.

Join a Winning TEAM!

OVER 3,500 CARRIERS DELIVER THE YORK REGION NEWSPAPERS AND YOU CAN BE ONE OF THEM!
• EARN BONUS POINTS! • WIN GREAT PRIZES! • EARN EXTRA MONEY! GAIN THE EXPERIENCE OF RUNNING YOUR OWN NEWSPAPER ROUTE!

CALL TODAY (905) 513-1717

Carriers wanted in these areas

- | | | | |
|------------------------------------|---|---|---|
| MARKHAM ECONOMIST & SUN | Forty Second St
Frederick Rd
Friar Tuck Rd
Galbraith Cres
Galsworthy Dr
Gillingham Ave
Grandview Blvd
Greenwich Ave
Hamilton Hall
Hammersly Blvd
Helsey Dr
Hemlock Dr
Heppburn St
Hertford Cres
Hewlett Cres
Hickory Cres
Honeybourne Cres
Ingram Rd
Jack Cr
Jaffray Rd
Jill Cr
John Lyons Rd
Jonquil Cres
Judy Cr
Juneberry Ave
King Arthurs Cr
King Richard Cr
Larkin Ave
Long Island Cres
Major Buttons Dr
Manhattan Dr
Marcus Cres
Mayflower Dr
McCarty Cres
McPhillips Ave
Meadowgrass Cres
Medley Cres
Michener Cres
Millpond Pl
Milne Ln
Miramar Dr
Oak Lea Cir
Old Wellington St
Ovida Blvd
Paradise Ave
Park Place Dr
Penhurst Cr
Pettigrew Cr
Pringle Ave | Rainbow Valley Cres
Ramona Blvd
Raymerville Dr
Reesorville Rd
Reginald Cres
Riverview Rd
Rose Way
Russerl Jarvis Dr
Sandcherry Ave
Sara Jane Cr
Saratoga Rd
Sawyer Cres
Serviceberry Rd
Sherwood Forest Dr
Silverhome Pl
Sir Bedevere Rd
Sir Ector Cr
Sir Gawaine Pl
Sir Lancelot Dr
Smithy St
Snider Dr
Soho Cres
Southdale Dr
Spring Meadow Rd
Stargell Cres
Station St
Stone Mason Dr
Stricker Ave
The Meadows Ave
Tiers Gate
Victoria Wood Ave
Walkerton Rd
Walkerville Rd
Wall St
Waterwheel St
Wignall Cres
Wilclay Ave
Willow Gate Dr
Woodhall Rd
Woodside Cr
Woolen Mill Rd
Wooten Way N
Wooten Way S
Worthing Ave | Blake St
Booth Dr
Burkholder St
Charles St
Chessman Cr
Church St
Commercial St
Deborah Pl
Dorman Dr
Duchess St
Elm St
Fairview Ave
Gabrielle Mews
George St
Hazelnut Pl
Harold Ave
Hemlock Dr
Hoover Park Dr
Ivy Cres
Jacob Way
Lloyd St
Loretta Cr
Main St E
Main St W
Manitoba St
Millard St
Ninth Line S
Ninth Line N
Orchard Park Blvd
Rose Ave
Rupert Ave
Sandale Rd
Shane Cr
Stouffer St S
Stuart St
Summerfield Ave
Sunset Blvd
Tenth Line S
Thicketwood Blvd
Tindale Rd
Valley Rd Muss Lake
Warriner St
Winlane Dr
Willowway
William St |
|------------------------------------|---|---|---|

If you do not see your street here and are still interested in becoming a carrier please give us a call

Sun-Tribune (905) 513-1717 ECONOMIST & SUN

TOWN CENTRE PRIVATE HIGH SCHOOL

Public Welcome - Free Admission

TCPHS presents an art exhibition at
the Kathleen Gormley McKay Art Centre
197 Main St., Unionville (part of the Varley Art Gallery)

TCPHS Exhibition will run:

Wednesday, March 22	10:30 am - 3:00 pm
Thursday, March 23	10:30 am - 3:00 pm
Friday, March 24	10:30 am - 3:00 pm
Saturday, March 25	10:30 am - 3:00 pm
Sunday, March 26	12:30 pm - 3:00 pm

OPENING RECEPTION
Thursday, March 23rd 4:00 pm - 7:00 pm
For information call: 905-470-1200

Bereaved Families of Ontario York Region

An association of families who have experienced the death of a loved one.

(905) 898-6265
bfoyr@bellnet.ca
www.bfoyr.com

This message brought to you as a community service of The Economist & Sun.