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**Vanier College hosts band on the move**

**Rockabilly Bopcats happy to play York**

Mark Cutforth  
 On Saturday night, the Bopcats entertained York University with an energy-filled evening of rockabilly music. From the opening song to the final encore, the dance floor was packed with enthusiastic supporters. Lead singer, Sonny Baker, squealed between songs "tonight we're going to get sticky, we're going to get high, and we're going to have a good time." He was right on all counts.

During a brief, between-sets interview, the band members expressed a genuine interest in their audience. They have all played various types of music, but excluding heavy metal, their passion is rock and roll. According to Baker, "Rock music should be fun. People should go out and have a good time and escape rather than going out and listening to something gloomy and then going home and becoming introspective." Baker's comment suggests the key to the band's success: the Bopcats provide their audience with a great evening's entertainment.

Although rockabilly is a much-travelled, often limiting musical style, the Bopcats do manage to keep their material fresh and original. The man who takes care of the writing is lead guitarist Jack Dekeyzer. Dekeyzer, who has played with the likes of Robert Gordon and King Biscuit Boy, quickly points out that "We're a contemporary rockabilly band. Most of the rockabilly bands around today are revivalist, just rehashing the same old stuff. We have our own style and hope to keep working and developing it."

The Bopcats, engineered their first national tour, without label support and their first single reached No. 2 on England's Rock 'N' Roll Chart. They have released two albums; the second, 'Wild Jungle Rock', is

receiving plenty of attention as an import in the U.S.

Not surprisingly, the Bopcat's immediate concern is with breaking the U.S. markets. Their next tour will concentrate on American cities in preparation for their upcoming third album: "the album that could make or break us." Drummer, Teddy Fury, comments, "We played the Ritz in New York to a Monday night crowd of 1,200 plus. We outdrew the Stray Cats." After exhausting the Canadian-club scene, the band is ready and quite willing to play most anywhere in the States.

After three-and-one half years of intensive gigging, the band has generated a lot of interest in rockabilly and developed quite a large following. They have opened for bands such as the Jam and George Thorogood. "Exposure's the thing," comments Teddy Fury. "We'll tour with anyone, but what we need most is a real strong AM hit."

The most recent addition to the band is bassist, Zeke Rivers. Once a student of York, Rivers reminisced about playing Vanier Hall with his old band and getting into the odd fight. "My picture is still hanging up in Winters College." Graduating from the music programme in 1975, Rivers played with a number of bands including Willie English, before joining the Bopcats.

The band was happy to finally play York. They hold little back; their stage presence is straightforward, but unique (love those haircuts) and the music is clean and tight.

The Bopcats are certainly a band on the move. They hope for great success and point to Rush as an example of just how far a Canadian band can go. But one wonders if they, like Teenage Head, should ever expect to be more than just a great bar band.



The Bopcats: Zeke Rivers' picture still hangs in Winters.

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**This farce on target**

Alison Bailey

At Old Angelo's on Elm Street, they don't just drop names, they create them. When the lights dim on the second floor, the Acme Harpoon Company takes over the imaginations of the audience and escorts them on a journey through the past, present and future--with a little twist.

It's the only place in Toronto where Dr. Izhee Gay will talk about teaching Zulus to make quiche and where you will find a Catholic school called "The Lady of Spontaneous Combustion".

But it is all done in jest. Making people laugh is Acme's business and Friday the audience laughed through most of the three-hour show.

The tables are crowded and it is a little hard to see the complete stage if you don't have a front row seat, but the audience didn't seem to mind.

It was a night for learning as well as laughing. The company had the inside track on why "Happiness is a warm gun" and why "It's hard to love a man in Sergio Valente jeans."

The company, consisting of Richard Dumont, Joe Chilco, Deborah Jarvis, Lindsay Leese and Wally Kolodinski, opened at Old Angelo's September 21. Although the show was scheduled to close October 30, it is being held over until Christmas because of good response.

Along with regular comedy skits, there are improvisations which change nightly and encourage audience participation.

The show begins at 8:30 p.m., Tuesday to Friday with two shows on Saturday at 8 and 10:30 p.m. Admission is \$7 Tuesday to Thursday and \$8 Friday and Saturday.

They have a student special Tuesdays and Wednesday. Two students with ID get in for the price of one.

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