

Local band breaks fast in Toronto

By KARLA-JEAN RULLMAN

Toronto has given a warmer welcome to Kinetic Ideals, a band breaking its way into the progressive punk rock scene, than Mississauga has, even though the band is based in Meadowvale.

Kinetic Ideals has been playing such Toronto nightclubs as the Head-space, The Edge, Turning Point and the Cabana Room, as well as Oshawa's Kinsmen Hall. The group's debut single, 'Life in Shadow', has been recently released and has sold about 300 copies to date.

The four-man band stars bassist Alan Murrell, guitarist J.C. Chambers, drummer Jon Davies, vocalist Mikey Rullman. All are from Meadowvale except Davies, who lives in Cooksville. Saxophonist Kevin Lamb, 24, has just joined the group and will be appearing in half of the band's numbers.

The group came together in April of this year and made its performing debut at Streetville Secondary's end-of-the-year Grade 13 party. Since then, the band has accelerated to Toronto clubs and is quickly establishing its name in the city.

A major stumbling block for Kinetic Ideals has been the lack of local clubs. The few clubs that do exist in Mississauga cater more towards middle-of-the-road rock or folk music.

"There's no venue in the suburbs for bands like us," said the 19-year-old

Davies. "People would rather listen to another record than to their own friends."

The group's British avant-garde music is more readily accepted in Toronto because "they're ready for new stuff," 20-year-old Rullman said. "We play wherever it best suits us."

"It's easier to play where something is already happening," 21-year-old Chambers said. "It's hard for groups to set up on their own."

Arranging their own shows is costly. Renting a suitable hall or club but attracting only a small audience could result in a deficit.

Kinetic Ideals are self-supporting in the sense that they play unsponsored and all their equipment is their own. They feel Mississauga should help promote local talent by establishing facilities and encouraging local sponsors.

"We still have a strong local following," Rullman said, "but we're the only Mississauga band doing our type of music downtown."

The urban crowd seems to be more appreciative of Kinetic Ideals. "I think it's because they can relate to our modern world music," Rullman explained.

Originality is a key fac-

tor in Kinetic Ideals' music. Many of their songs have been written from what they call 'spontaneous jams'. Posters promoting the group read "Not A Category."

"We don't like to be classified because it would limit us," said Rullman. "We want to de-mystify the new music movement. People tend to classify everything that's new and energetic as 'punk'. There's so many myths about punk, such as the musicians are rotten, unoriginal, vulgar and crass. It's not just with us but throughout the whole spectrum of new music, and there's a lot of good music coming out."

Kinetic Ideals rely mostly on word of mouth advertising. Their posters and engagements are their only real source of promotion and the



Left to right: Mikey Rullman, Alan Murrell, J.C. Chambers and Jon Davies

noticeable increase in the size of their Toronto audiences has proven the band's efforts to be successful.

"All we can do now is keep playing and hope that people can recognize us," Rullman said.

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