

BLAH BLAH BLAH

By BEA FLATTE

All right New Jersey club owners, this one's for you. Last week Stephen Tarkanish of S.T.A.R.S. Productions held one of his biannual club owner parties at Bar Anticipation in Belmar to show off this year's hottest cover bands. On the bill were Yasgur's Farm, Dogvoices, Love Pumps, Lurker Park, Yo' Cuz, and Primitive Ink.

If you couldn't be there, this is who you missed. Yasgur's Farm were the one band who showed up to perform straighthead classics, and not the so called classics you hear from most of the copy bands on the scene today. I'm talking Pink Floyd, Santana, Hendrix, and Crosby, Stills, Nash and Young - Not one Nirvana, or Pearl Jam tune, which in my opinion are too new to fit the bill of classics...

The first time I saw this band I was no more than 15 years old. I was impressed then, but I was blown away last week. They capitalized on the music I listened to long before alternative came beatin' down everyone's doors. They were the first band to take it to the stage and they remained the best band who performed.

Also showing up front and center were Love Pumps who got right down to high energy and straightahead rock 'n' roll. Lurker Park came next with their mix of alternative, rock, pop, and metal mix, hitting on every style known to rock radio today. Yo' Cuz were next on the bill to deliver what Steve calls Motalian rock which concentrates heavily on the grunge/alternative persuasions of rock covers. And finally, Primitive Ink, whose touring circuit covers the entire East Coast from Maine to Florida. What they brought to the stage more than any other band on hand is variety.

Before leaving you for another week I have to talk about the man - Stephen Tarkanish. I never had the pleasure of meeting him before last week, since I went out of my way to avoid the bands he represented. Oh yes, he is aware of my effort at avoidance because I told him myself when I first spoke to him months ago (well you know Bea Flatte). It had to do with my feelings of over-representation of certain bands on the scene, like the Dog and Voices. It's not my bag to write about the same bands that others writers keep up with and at one time there was a column which reported heavily on these bands. Now, however, it's been left to me to do it, and I have no problem with that as long as we keep it interesting for my readers, who mean everything to me.

If I could get a dime for every time I heard the name Stephen Tarkanish, I would be retired and I've only been here a year. When you hear so much about one guy it makes you want to draw your own conclusions when you finally meet him for yourself. Here's what I walked away with: Stephen is one hell of a guy who knows his business better than most I speak with. He is also kinder and gentler than the beast that some people have painted him to be. And he is consistent when it comes to selecting talent - all of the bands were good. I had a lot of fun, and to think, it happened on a Monday night. See ya next week.

All reporting by Tracey Stones.