



# Rider student burns up stage

By Casey Sky Noon

Junior Zack Needles played the role of a rock star for the first time when his band, If Camden Burns, performed at the Hamilton Street Café in South Bound Brook last Sunday, Oct. 16.

That evening, the three-room venue held an underground band marathon, hosting six other local groups from the tri-state area.

Get-lost-in-comfort couches were paired with supportive parents, girlfriends and young artists in the merchandise and congregating front room.

Surrounded by psychedelic murals and tripped-out paintings, fans gathered almost eerily in clusters of three for set after set of original hardcore music.

Following a we're-not-gonna-make-it scare on the infamously confusing roads of New Jersey, the Pennsylvania band members nervously kissed their girlfriends and systematically set up on stage.

"I didn't even know what to think," admitted guitarist James Pisaturl when commenting on how he felt before playing. "I was just so incredibly flustered."

Walking to the front of the three-foot-high stage and taking a deep, calming breath, lead singer and guitarist Needles introduced If Camden Burns to its first live audience.

## 'War of the Worlds' plans weekend attack

By Cara Latham

Aliens land on earth and mercilessly attack everyone in sight, without any regard for life or signs of remorse. Their only objective is to conquer the planet and covet it for themselves.

This has been a typical scenario in many media accounts. Although Spielberg's film *War of the Worlds* strays from the original book, it is similar to Orson Welles' 1938 broadcast, which made millions believe Martians were attacking. The film did not provoke world-wide panic, but it has great effects and nonstop action-packed scenes.

While less scary and more of a thriller, it is the most stimulating movie about an alien invasion to date, with its ability to captivate audiences and engage their interest. The movie focuses on one family's struggle for survival during an alien invasion and the slew of obstacles that arise as they look for a safe haven.

The movie depicts Ray (Tom Cruise) as a divorced dad of two who is trying to make ends meet. His ex-wife drops off their teenage son Robbie (Justin Chatwin) and their daughter Rachel (Dakota Fanning) while she vacations with her new husband. It is clear that his relationship with his kids isn't perfect. The kids show a lack of respect toward Ray and do not connect with him. Their bond is tested when a severe lightning

Then, as if reaching the jump-out-of-your-seat climax of a quiet, suspenseful horror film build-up, the band began with an angst-filled song called "Eve Black Finally Puts A Bullet Through Eve White."

Backed by his younger brother, Craig Needles, on bass, Zack artistically screamed about "looking for a feel good way to kill yourself." Meanwhile, his hands caressed and tapped his six strings with ease, speed and precision.

By the second song, anxious adrenaline subsided and drummer Justin Cunnane's mechanical start relaxed into his full-blown power hitting style.

Pisaturl and Craig Needles alike concentrated on playing a mistake-free set, but eventually got lost in their music and caved into the desire to jump around and rocked out.

While their faces gave away their apprehension, they nevertheless mustered up enough courage to create an attention-holding stage presence.

During "Baseball, Shame, Cocaine," the feeling caught on and a small circle of head-banging teens formed within the crowd.

The band's heavy metal distortion and Pantera-esque sliding brings floods of old school memories to mind, but the emotional lyrics screamed in the hardcore style unique to this generation

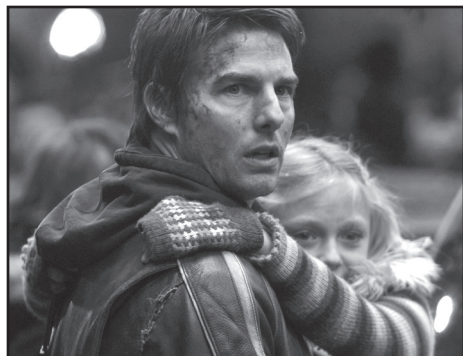


Photo copyright Paramount Pictures

**War of the Worlds will be playing in the BLC Theater this weekend.**

storm strikes, and aliens emerge from the ground to wreak havoc.

The film is dedicated to the destruction incurred by the aliens and Ray's efforts to protect his kids. It boasts some outstanding scenes. At one point, the aliens are shown rummaging through a room in which Ray and Rachel have sought safety. This is an invigorating scene that puts viewers on the edge of their seats, as Ray silently moves Rachel around to areas that are out of sight.

Fanning gave a particularly effective performance. She did not overact, but was accurate in her portrayal of a fearful young child. Cruise's performance was average, as he played the part well, but didn't show any outstanding qualities.

Special effects added tremendously to the success of the film. The images of the annihilation of whole cities are stunning, as well as the machines and mechanisms used by the aliens.

While the outcome was suitable, there were many unrealistic scenarios at the end. Nonetheless, the suspense is sure to make anyone who enjoys a good thriller completely satisfied.



Photo by Casey Sky Noon

**Junior Zack Needles, far right, performs his first live show along with If Camden Burns bandmates Justin Cunnane and Craig Needles, from right.**

undoubtedly modernizes its tone.

Fast-paced and thoroughly energetic with guitar solos to match, these first-timers produced a warm and welcoming sound, at least to those who were already open to loud, in-your-face art.

Unfortunately, the back-up vocalist's microphone did not pick up Craig's extra-loud howls, and the cluster of string instruments on the left-hand side of the stage not only set the group off balance, but also created a dangerously close performing space. However, this

serves as a testament to the importance of sound checking as well as to the first show being a learning experience.

"We can do it," beamed Zack when asked how he felt about the night. "That's what I learned."

Despite skipping a section of 'Ghost,' knocking over a microphone stand here and there, and taking a couple of long breaks between songs, If Camden Burns played an impressive first show, making it over that initial stage fright milestone.

## Future of 'Fog' looks cloudy

By John Schulter

More movie remakes have come out this year than ever before. *The Amityville Horror*, *Charlie and The Chocolate Factory*, and *Herbie: Fully Loaded* are just a few of these films that we've seen on the big screen. There are mixed results, however, and many seem to end up as disasters. This holds true for *The Fog*, starring Tom Welling (*Smallville*) and Selma Blair (*Cruel Intentions*).

A remake of the classic 1980s film, *The Fog* may sound like an interesting horror flick, but ultimately turns out to be utter chaos.

When the film begins, the people of Antonio Bay are celebrating the town's four founding fathers for turning what was once a deserted area into a beautiful and populated community. Their descendants still live in the town and don't seem to be too interested in the celebration, especially Nick Castle (Welling). His girlfriend Elizabeth (Maggie Grace) abandons him, and he is left alone, trying to make ends meet as a fisherman with his buddy Spooner (DeRay Davis). Elizabeth soon comes back and, with the help of Antonio Bay's radio station host Stevie Wayne (Blair), they attempt to discover why a mysterious fog is wreaking havoc. As they discover more about the fog, they unravel a mysterious secret that endangers their lives as well as the town's past.

This movie had potential. The storyline was pretty interesting and the

actors had the chance to really elevate their characters. The scenes involving the ocean, beautiful sunsets and the lighthouse, along with the cool and dark look, were appealing and fit right in. Unfortunately, everything else in this movie was bad.

The visual effects were atrocious. The fog arrived as if it were a tidal wave, and a child was seen running from it. Also, that child's babysitter was shown combusting into a crispy corpse. These are some examples of the many highly unrealistic sequences in the movie.

The actors were not convincing in their roles at all. The clean-cut Welling, portrayed as a fisherman, was a ridiculous concept to even think about. His stereotypically annoying friend, Davis, failed to provide comic relief. Grace just looked shocked the whole time and added nothing to this dreadful film. Blair's performance fell short toward the end. In the original film, her character was much more heroic and vital to the outcome of the movie. In this remake, it seemed that she spent the whole time running. She appeared to be afraid and took a back seat during the very little action that occurred throughout the film.

The ending was the most unrealistic and appalling sequence in *The Fog*. Do not even look at the poster for this movie, let alone shell out money to see it, because you will most likely be disappointed. All in all, *The Fog* will leave viewers in a blur.