

Who's Gonna Lay the Smackdown?

Battle of the Bands doesn't get ugly.

The term "battle of the bands" should not be tossed around lightly. At such an event you would expect dramatics, axe grinding, drum pummeling, shrieking and some good ol' shit-talking. The tension and action should be on par with that fateful battle on March 29, 1987, where Hulk Hogan body slammed Andre the Giant at WrestleMania III.

Now the Black Forest did a great job in scheming and promoting the open auditions (preliminaries) for their second annual Battle of the Bands. But there just didn't seem to be enough trash and drama being thrown around by the musicians in the lead-up to the Aug. 27 finale.

So I got on the horn and tried to stir up some controversy around the genre-bending event. I called the Rhythm Pimps and told them that Takimoto was saying bad things about all their mamas ... OK, I didn't. But I posed a simple question to each band: Why do you think you should win?

Nobody was biting. You guys are all too modest! This is a BATTLE!

"Personally, I don't give a rip about winning," Inreverence vocalist Kevin Wayne said.

"You don't care?" I asked. Oh man, we're in a world of hurt. Where's the competitive spirit? Andre the Giant (RIP) is rolling over in his grave right now!

"I think we deserve to place at least top

third because we've been a local band for so long here in Eugene," Rhythm Pimps guitarist Anthony McCarthy said in a deadpan tone.

Why settle for third place? I thought. *With your funky take on SoCal-style jam rock you*

guys should shoot for at least second.

"I think we should win because our sound is different and unique enough to stay fresh and interesting. It's true music," Lucidic percussionist Bue Brown said.



BLACK FOREST'S BATTLE OF THE BANDS:
The Ol' Howl and Smash, On the First Day ... They Were Kittens, 8 Track Liberators, Rhythm Pimps, The Death Of, Inreverence, The Dirty Digits, Takimoto, Outspent and Lucidic
5 pm, Saturday, 8/27 • All ages with 21+ beer garden
Black Forest, FREE

Dude, that response was as trite as my question!

Finally, farther down the road of canned responses, The Dirty Digits vocalist Eric Wise called me back to lay the smackdown.

"We need to win because we need the money for a series of things like paternal tests, rehab, bail bonds, prosthetic limbs, abortions, drugs, sex toys, gender-altering operations, exotic pets, things of that nature," Wise said.

I liked that one. He didn't call anybody out, but at least he showed his level of desperation and, in that, his desire to succeed.

Based on a series of individual, one-hour auditions, 10 bands are advancing to the finals, where they will compete for a \$1,000 cash purse and a chance to perform at the Q-Fest in September. The Ol' Howl and Smash, On the First Day ... They Were Kittens, 8 Track Liberators, Rhythm Pimps, The Death Of, Inreverence, The Dirty Digits, Takimoto, Outspent and Lucidic will perform 15 minute sets at the event.

Held in the parking lot behind Collins Cycle Shop, the Battle will feature an all-ages area as well as a 21-and-over beer garden. Five mysterious judges will arbitrate as Eugene's 10 best bands showcase styles that range from jam rock to hardcore metal. Despite the lack of shit-talking, Black Forest's second annual Battle of the Bands should definitely not be missed. **EW**

Pabst Blue Ribbon

LIVE AND LOCAL

Lucidic
 Lucidic's tag line "Organic Conscious Groove" hits the nail right on the head. This jam-based band has an original sound that is guaranteed to get even the most diehard member of the rhythmless nation up and dancing. See them live at the Battle of the Bands on Saturday 8/27. Check Eugene Weekly's Clubs page for details.

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