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Meltdown Throwdown

Contestants take part in an ice cream sandwich-eating contest Thursday at Boxcar Books. The contest was part of Boxcar's "Thursdays at Boxcar" series and was organized by volunteer staff member Nick Melloan-Ruiz. Melloan-Ruiz came up with the idea for the contest after dipping ice cream sandwiches in an experimental basil smoothie. **LEFT** IU alumna Missy Ragatz was crowned second-place winner. **TOP RIGHT** Contestants accumulate piles of empty ice cream sandwich wrappers. **BOTTOM RIGHT** Bloomington resident Laura Hall-Araujo referees the eating competition.



ANDREW K. ANDERSON | IDS

» ARTS FAIR
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

work with glass because it's done in a nontraditional way."

Burt is one of only three other vendors listed as a glass dealer at the festival.

"Most people follow patterns — I just play with it," Burt said. "I enjoy moving around colors, moving around shapes until I feel like it's done."

The fair featured artists from more than 10 different genres ranging from painting to wood burning.

The Bloomington Area Arts Council sponsored and organized this local event.

"We've had great business, great support from the community," BAAC board member Ashley Fisher said.

The Bloomington Community Band performed alongside The

Silk Road Ensemble. Local jewelry artist Kathleen Clausen demonstrated her wire-wrapping technique beside Cyclops Studios' Adam Nahas' sculpture presentation. The Kids' Kraft Korner painted pint-sized faces next to Different Drummer's belly-dancing performance.

"We just stumbled upon this and were pleasantly surprised," festival attendee Lynne Jevicky said. "This is genuine, quality, one-of-a-kind stuff."

Jevicky is a Cincinnati native vacationing in Bloomington this weekend and described herself as "pretty well-traveled" and a frequent art gallery admirer.

"Things like this are cool because you can meet the artist, talk to them and ask them questions about their work," Jevicky said. "They are skilled craftsmen and artisans who hand-make their own work."

Bloomington local Christina Kniptstine acted as one of these artisans Saturday. Kniptstine buys old plates, glass, shells and other objects and organizes them into mosaics.

"People respond to patterns," Kniptstine said. "Like a quilt — people respond to patterns and old pieces of fabric they know."

Kniptstine began her artistic career as a painter. Five kids and an antique set of broken china later, she decided to try her hand at mosaics.

"I thought mosaics were something I could do in a house full of chaos," Kniptstine said. "I had seen some really beautiful ones back east."

Early in the day, Kniptstine sold an abstract rendition of the Taj Mahal. It was a longtime favorite piece of hers and the first smelting work she had ever created. Kniptstine saw it as a personal

celebration of light, culture and different textured objects and watched it spend the previous year glowing in her studio.

"Every time I sell something, I almost cry," she said.

Kniptstine's passion for her work can be seen in every piece she creates. She said she feels a personal bond to her broken-together mosaics and believes each to be an individual union of images and ideas.

"I work intuitively and from the heart," Kniptstine said. "I hope people see it and relate to it."

This is Kniptstine's second year showcasing at the Arts Fair on the Square. Like the other vendors, her work is covered blankly next to 60 other white canvas tents. Three-foot-high mosaics drip from the walls and ceiling.

"Bloomington is a great arts town," Kniptstine said. "We get a great turnout of people here."

LIVERPOOL, ENGLAND

Still with The Beatles

When I first borrowed The Beatles' "Anthology 2" from my father when I was six, I found really great music that I thought no one in my generation knew about.

At the expense of not following any current sounds outside of the stray Blink-182 and Smash

Mouth albums my younger brother would buy, I listened to it and the other installments of "Anthology" over and over and over, as if it were something new.

And when it came time for me to buy my first album, I bought "Revolver," which ranked at the top of some best-albums-ever lists but never got much radio play in my own childhood.

I then went through the first half of adolescence thinking at times that I'd made a mistake. The other music I listened to at that time (Billy Joel, Supertramp, Creedence Clearwater Revival) was by no means from my time, and so it wasn't until high school that I gave any thought to anything current.

Every time someone asked me what my favorite band was, I'd reply, "The Beatles," a bit sheepishly, because more modern names like The White Stripes

and Coldplay never came into my head.

Turns out I had nothing to be ashamed of. Those "Anthology" CDs I listened to got a lot of people in my generation hooked on the Fab Four. Whether it was through those albums or through something more direct, the tastes of the parents seeped through.

Say what you will about the money (his Beatles work still feeds Sir Paul McCartney when he's 68) or the sacrifice of any sort of message the band had tried to send (although the same McCartney said, "There are only four people who knew what The Beatles were about, anyway"). The music has passed onto another set of fans.

The music affected me to such an extent that, before visiting friends in London whom I hadn't seen since last summer, I made a stop in the band's hometown of Liverpool. The Beatles were far from the only good thing to come out of this city. The Beatles' spirit, however, still lives here, and although the city has grown since then, its collective memory of the band has grown with it.

The clearest examples of this are the new Cavern Club and McCartney's and John Lennon's childhood homes. The original Cavern, where the Beatles



Fans' notes and signatures adorn the fence to the Salvation Army's Strawberry Field Community Home on June 11 on Beaconsfield Road in Liverpool.

performed 292 times before they made their first trip to the United States, was cleared to make way for an underground loop. It was rebuilt as close to the original as possible in 1984 after ownership passed to Liverpool F.C. player Tommy Smith.

Today, the place is both a world tourist stop and a thriving music venue, and the greatest tribute is that the original music outweighs the tribute bands.

Two other buildings have stayed right where they started. Thanks to donations from the McCartney family and Yoko Ono, the homes of the Lennon-McCartney duo have been restored to resemble their state in 1957, when the two met at a church

festival. The UK's National Trust runs tours through Lennon's Mendips home (more accurately known as Aunt Mimi's Mendips home) and the McCartney flat at 20 Forthlin Road.

Beatles sights abound in Liverpool. Penny Lane still has a barbershop, the red gate at Strawberry Field still stands, and the Beatles Story museum has more history than even I knew.

The amazing thing is that I wasn't the only one seeing those sights who wasn't born when the band broke up in 1970. The music lives and still seems new for so many people.

I'm not alone.
Email: alefarr@indiana.edu

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