

Kenny Mugwump, below, of Farmington Hills is part of the Chrome Bumper production company that taped a video for Virgin Records and MTV in a house on Freedom Road. The eerie-looking house is used by the Farmington Area Jaycees for the annual Haunted House. Mugwump is also lead vocal in the band, Loudhouse, which is featured in the video. Camera crews get their exercise running with a camera on a dolly while taping the video. Loudhouse, a Detroit progressive rock band, is featured in the soundtrack of the new Patrick Swayze film, "Point Break."



photos by CHARON LAMIEUX/staff photographer

'Loud house' home for rock video

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

Safe and mainstream is not what Chrome Bumper is all about.

"I would not want to do a hardware store," said Farmington Hills resident John Quigley. Quigley and his two associates, Kenny Mugwump of Farmington Hills, formerly of Livonia, and John Vitale of Sterling Heights, are Chrome Bumper, a two-year-old production company.

And a hardware commercial is not their thing. Their thing is more like the commercial they did for a tattoo parlor not too long ago.

Their latest venture brings the trio back to their homebase in the Farmington area. For the past week, they have been taping a video for Virgin Records of Los Angeles that will be shown on MTV.

"We brought it to this area because we live in this area," Quigley said.

The video features a Detroit-area band, Loudhouse. Mugwump happens to be the lead singer in the progressive rock band.

If you've driven by the abandoned house on Freedom Road, south of Orchard Lake, where the Farmington Area Jaycees host their annual Haunted House, you've probably noticed that something's going on.

CAMERAS, PROPS, hens, a dog, a totem pole

and a lot of people are all working with each other to tape 22 different scenes for the four-minute video.

"We're coming across with this as the loud house. We're trying to show how kooky they are," said Quigley, a Farmington High School student.

With band members displaying their tribal art, and the hens and dog decorated with food coloring, the eerie fog floating around the house, and the artful designs inside the former haunted house, the video will be anything but mainstream.

If you see the new Patrick Swayze movie, "Point Break," you will hear Loudhouse. They are on the soundtrack. They do a remake of Deep Purple's "Smoke on the Water."

But the video Quigley and his associates are making has nothing to do with the new movie. They could have used a script that was ready to go. But that cost about \$150,000. Chrome Bumper decided to save themselves some money and unleash their creativity.

Chrome Bumper came up with its own script. And the video won't show — like many other videos — parts of the "Point Break" movie.

This video will be an original. But it's not your average.

Detroit artist Arthur Johns was brought in to lend his talents to the scene. Outside the house is a totem pole and copper art or as Johns describes it, "urban tumbleweed."

Also outside the house, crews are taping fog —

with the help of a dry ice machine — a totem pole, hens — colored food coloring.

The cameras aren't exactly doing their regular thing either. "We want to see a lot of movement," Quigley said. Cameras are shooting from various angles. Images are out of frame.

INSIDE THE house that Quigley said "could not be passed up" for this "avant garde video," scenes will be shot of Hell's Kitchen, which features a funeral curtain and a wall of actual fire. Fire also will come out of the old-fashioned meat grinder in the kitchen. Special effects for the video are by Glass Action of Detroit.

As you walk into the house — interior walls painted in green and white swirls — a half-body mannequin hangs from the ceiling with a large animal-like claw around it. That's more of artist Johns' work.

In another room of the house, frames will be shot of an upside down room. A band member will be taped crawling on the floor as though he is crawling on the ceiling.

Considering the time we've been out of school, this (video production) is humongous," said Quigley, a Specs Howard Broadcasting graduate.

Chrome Bumper has its sights on the future. The three associates want to do films. But not your regular films. The kookier the better. Quigley said he's talked with David Lynch's Propaganda company, which is not mainstream in the film industry.

police/fire calls

Listed below are some of the Farmington area police incidents, fire calls and court cases reported during the past week:

● INCENDIARY DEVICE

No one was injured when a homeowner on Albion woke early Sunday morning to a loud bang. The woman looked outside and saw a fire on her back porch, a Farmington Hills fire report said.

Fire officials found three Molotov cocktails altogether. Two of the devices were found unlit near the woman's front porch. There was no estimated damage.

● GUN DISCHARGED

A Farmington Hills police officer shot and killed an injured raccoon on Beechwood Aug. 4, after a homeowner called to report that the raccoon was caught in a foot trap.

The raccoon's left rear paw was severely injured, a Farmington Hills police report said.

● INDECENT EXPOSURE

An unidentified man exposed himself to a Union Lake woman Aug. 5 as she was walking by Kmart, 30800 Orchard Lake Road, a Farmington Hills police report said.

The man reportedly drove his car in front of the woman and asked for directions to Haggerty Road. When the woman looked up at the man, she saw him fondling himself. The woman shouted at the man, who drove away.

● **BURN INJURY** — Farmington public safety officers were called to Greene's Hamburgers early the morning of Aug. 4, where they found a 16-year-old Novi youth with second-degree burns seeking medical treatment.

The boy told police he was at a bonfire in a friend's back yard in Novi, when another youth tossed a can of bug spray into the fire. It exploded, sending burning liquid over his body.

Friends drove him toward Farmington in search of a hospital, but couldn't find one so dropped him off at the corner of 10 Mile and Orchard Lake Road.

The youth was taken to Botsford General Hospital for treatment of second-degree burns on his hands, back and legs.

● THEFTS REPORTED

A garden trailer valued at \$3,000 was reported stolen from Maxi Collision, 32581 Northwestern Highway, Aug. 1-2.

Two Honda generators valued at \$2,000 were reported stolen from

where they were chained to two light poles near Shiawassee and Tuck roads. The generators were apparently stolen during a storm July 9-11.

Wheel covers valued at \$400 were reported stolen from a 1983 Oldsmobile at the Muirwood Apartments, July 22.

An AM/FM cassette car stereo valued at \$400 was reported stolen from a 1981 Chevrolet at Klancy's, 32350 Eight Mile, Aug. 2.

Two purses, wallets and cash valued at \$500 were reported stolen from an office at Solomon Group, 32560 12 Mile, Aug. 2.

Cash, charge receipts and checks totaling \$5,825 were reported stolen from Kitts Industrial Tools, 27600 Eight Mile, Aug. 2-3.

A Winchester rifle and bottle of vodka valued at \$250 were reported stolen from a unit at the Farmington Manor Apartments, 30150 Nine Mile, Aug. 3-4.

Approximately \$332 in cash and coins were reported stolen from the Pet Supermarket, 37592 12 Mile, Aug. 4.

An AM/FM cassette radio valued at \$200 was reported stolen from a 1986 Ford on Lincoln Court in the Independence Green Apartments, Aug. 4-5.

A telephone and 10 cassette tapes valued at \$300 were reported stolen

from a 1987 Pontiac on Floralview in the Village Green Apartments, Aug. 4-5.

A car phone valued at \$250 was reported stolen from a 1987 Toyota on Country Circle, Aug. 4-5.

● DAMAGE REPORTED

The west front window at Lowen Clinic, 23280 Farmington Road, Farmington was broken with a slingshot and ball bearing Aug. 1-2, causing \$300 in damage.

A hole was punched in the door of a car parked at Maple Village Drugs, 23306 Farmington Road, Aug. 2, causing \$150 in damage.

An estimated \$400 in damage was done to a plate glass window at Glass Craft, 34631 Grand River, when it was broken with a projectile Aug. 2-3.

The window of Caterpillar construction equipment on Halsted was smashed Aug. 2-3. Damage was estimated at \$300.

Windows at Leo Adler Properties, 28200 Eight Mile, were shot out, Aug. 2-3. Damage was estimated at \$1,200.

A computer received an estimated \$750 damage after a customer reportedly pushed it off a counter at U-Haul, 30711 Grand River, Aug. 3.



PETER BALDWIN

Barn burns

No one was injured after a homeowner on 13 Mile Road tried to smoke out a rodent on his property that resulted in catching his barn on fire Aug. 2. The barn and its contents were destroyed. Damage was estimated at \$2,100. Using fire to exterminate rodents or pests is not advisable, said deputy fire Chief Peter Baldwin. "It's not an acceptable method. Animals have a propensity to escape when fire comes near them," Baldwin said.

ELEGANT EVENING COLLECTION

August 16, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
August 17, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
Birmingham

August 19, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
August 20, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
Rochester

August 21, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
August 22, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
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