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COLUMBUS, OHIO | JUN 12, 2007

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'JUGGALOS'

## Township leery of band's groupies

BY JANE HAWES

Thursday, July 13, 2006

She got used to the Hookahville fans ambling across her yard every spring and fall during the twice-yearly music festival next door to her house in rural Licking County.

"Other than the litter and trash, it wasn't that bad," said Claudette VanDyne. "The only issue was with the large crowds and the drugs. But this group, from what I've read, their M.O. is violence and destruction."

"This group" is the Insane Clown Posse, and it's coming to peaceful, rural Etna Township to play at the Frontier Ranch Music Center today through Sunday.

But it's not the Detroit-based rap/metal band that worries residents. It's the band's rowdy, devoted groupies.

They call themselves the Juggalos, and they're expected to number 7,000 or more when they show up at the concert 20 miles east of Columbus.

Their name has shown up in police reports across the country. They have been accused by police of improper nudity and drug abuse. And they're known for a fondness for throwing bottles of orange Faygo, an homage to the Detroit-based bottler of inexpensive soft drinks.

The most recent incident took place last month in Lakewood, Wash., where 23 people were robbed and beaten in a park by a gang sporting the



SOREN MCCARTY | WIREIMAGE.COM

Insane Clown Posse fires up its groupies at a 2003 concert. The rap/metal band will perform in Licking County this weekend.

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black-and-white clown makeup favored by the Posse's two lead singers, Joe "Violent J" Bruce and Joey "Shaggy 2 Dope" Utsler. The gang identified itself as Juggalos.

VanDyne and other neighbors have been distributing fliers warning people about the Juggalos. Township officials looked into ways to keep them away, but because the site is privately owned by a local family, there was nothing they could do.

"I have read and seen the lyrics to the songs and they are outright disgusting," Township Trustee Dick Knapp said. "This is certainly, in my opinion, not the type of element we want in Etna Township."

The sheriff in Portage County in northeastern Ohio, where the Gathering of the Juggalos took place the past three years, is just happy the group decided to move its festival out of his jurisdiction.

"We are truly glad they are gone," said Sheriff Duane Kaley. He recounted problems with onstage nudity and drug use.

"And they do their bottle throwing thing," Kaley said, referring to the Posse's association with Faygo. "They threw some bottles at our cruisers."

Marc Beginin is a spokesman for the band's label, Psychopathic Records. He said there was no controversy in Portage County.

"They throw Faygo bottles at everybody," Beginin said. "It's a sign of affection. If that's all that happens in a festival, a few plastic bottles and rocks get thrown at you, that's a pretty good day."

The Insane Clown Posse, formed in 1990, has a devoted following.

In addition to the music, festival-goers can participate in everything from a carnival to "psycho parties," according to the event's Web site.

Beginin said his organization uses a private security firm that also manages the security at Cleveland Browns games. A station for the Licking County sheriff's office also is set up at Frontier Ranch, as well as a tent for 24-hour medical services.

"It's really professional," Beginin said. "Residents have never been assaulted, nothing has ever been stolen. The idea here is to make sure everyone is safe."

**JaneEhawes@cs.com**

**Reader Comments (1-3 of 34)**

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Jul 21, 2006 07:23 pm

I've been involved in the juggalo culture for over 9 years. I have not seen the "curruption" of the youth due to any Psychopathic Records artist. The world is

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changing and if you think it's being poisoned from an underground band that has a tiny following compared to other bands your a joke containing no punchlines. ICP teaches to NOT give in to sins such as greed I believe some people don't know how to raise thier children and like somebody else here said.. "the parents and the bad seeds should TAKE RESPONSIBLITY and not blame a band for thier problems." People are shooting each other in the streets and you worry about ICP and how terrible they are? Go water your grass or somthin.

Jul 21, 2006 05:50 pm

yo who ever left that comment^^^^ is a sad person,just another hater. say all u wont but it wont matter, juggalos will never die!!!! now get off of your coumputer and stop crying over stuff u dont like and get a life.....

Jul 21, 2006 01:30 pm

I just wanted to comment that i attended the Gathering and i saw nothing out of the ordinary that wouldnt have taken place at any other concert such as woodstock and the such. I also wish to extend a Thanks to the Staff security And the police force attending the gathering and showing us love and respect , we as a whole are peaceful people that share a common love for a certain type of music , and we are getting a bad name over a couple of bad seeds claiming to be into what we are. in closing i would like to thank Tony the caretaker of the farm , The fine officers of Licking county and the security at the show. you all were greatly appreciated there.



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