

ROCKET 101

BATTLE OF THE BANDS '97

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Thomas Carlyle once said "Music is well said to be the speech of angels." Guardians of angelic music descended upon the apartment quad on Friday, April 25 for the Behrend Battle of the Bands.

The fest was a fruit basket of live entertainment: music grapes, magic show apples, and card trick bananas.

Students and others who showed up

gorged themselves on these delectable treats as well as free food doled out by IFC, Panhellenic Council, and Residence Life.

Catchpenny, from Pittsburgh, PA, kicked off the show around 3:00 PM. Two handfuls of people had arrived by this time and were treated to an innovative blend of rock and pop. Although they don't appreciate the comparison, the only band that sounds similar is Shudder To Think.

Their singer, Michael "Pizza" Siriani, sang gorgeous words over crisp potato sound chips provided by "Mishka", "Henry", and Eric Podlesnic.

Next up was The Three of Us, a band from Emlenton. Two acoustic guitar players and a female vocalist 360'ed the sound of Catchpenny. Beautiful, tender vocal harmonies overlapped sweetly strummed symphonies.

wake of charred flesh.

Finally came Stone, featuring Behrend's own Paul Desman. They played 3 original songs in the vein of Rush, and two covers: Pink Floyd's "Comfortably Numb" and Dave Matthew's Band's "Ants Marching." By the time Stone began to play a crowd had amassed in the apartment quad,

After SKUDD came Erie's own Hear No Evil (playing in Pale Horse's spot since they were a no-show). Hear No Evil played a couple of covers, including a Zeppelin medley, Dishwalla's "Counting Blue Cars," and Bush's "Comedown." The rest of their set consisted of eighties-sounding classic rock.



BATTLE OF THE BANDS CHAMPION: Paul "Kermit" Desman, of Stone excited the crowd with his wonderful oral talents.

LOOK INTO MY EYES: Hypnotist and Mentalist Michael Anthony impressed the audience with his amazing predictions and mind readings.



AND THE WINNERS ARE...

1st Place
Stone

2nd Place
The 3 of Us

3rd Place
Hear No Evil

4th Place
Ditched

Following The Three of Them was Cucumber Jones. Their female vocalist sounded like Janis Joplin. The band was pretty good, and their sound was similar to Rusted Root.

Following Cuke Jones was the Girard band Purgatory. These teenage-looking kids played skipping-stone punk: thwop, thwop, ker-plunk. Three chord madness that will improve in time.

After Purgatory came the Erie band Corkscrew Peggy, who sounded similar to P... Against The Machine. Purgatory lacked the propulsion and well, rage, of Rage, and their arrangements were mediocre in comparison. They did not impress me at all.

Following Corkscrew Peggy was the Meadville band SKUDD, a band that sounded remarkably similar to Korn and the Deftones. While honoring that genre of music with their style, they shamed it with their drawn-out compositions and the lack of crunch. Had they been faster, tighter and crunchier, and they would have been a viable force in the Battle.

Bands	Overall Score	Originality Score
Catchpenny	113	23
The 3 of Us	134	30
Cucumber Jones	123	23
Purgatory	65	17
Corkscrew Peggy	68	17
SKUDD	74	18
Pale Horse	NO SHOW	---
Hear No Evil	133	17
Edenrot	73	20
DITCHED	129	23
Stone	140	24

including those who were sober and those who were not.

Overall, I felt the Behrend Battle of the Bands was a worthwhile activity. The inclusion of novelty acts was a good idea on the part of White Streak Productions, as they provided smooth transition from band to band. The bands themselves, on the whole, were decent.

Following Hear No Evil was Ditched, a Pittsburgh band that rocked and rolled. Their alternative-heavy vibe laden with pop hooks caused the crowd to bob their heads in melodic acknowledgment.

Then came Edenrot, a band from St. Mary's. Loud, heavy, and satanic, Edenrot burned and thrashed, and left a



AND THE WINNER IS... Stone, the contest's last band revitalized the audience and had everyone "dancing in the streets" or at least the quad.



THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE HOME: 2nd Place winners The 3 of Us at home in Emlenton, PA.