

# STUDENT LIFE

## Battle of the Bands strikes a chord



Janet Niedenberger/THE BEHREND BEACON

Drive-Thru Records band I Am The Avalanche performed at this year's Battle of the Bands.

By Matt Burneisen &amp;

Jonathan Evans

staff writers

mrb5061@psu.edu &amp; jne252@psu.edu

and more fans into Erie Hall. Their brand of post-hardcore and punk rock made them stand out. This Jamestown crew plans to release a new EP entitled "Chasing the Ever After" today.

Playing fourth, Dust 'n Ashes not only brought along a great sound, but also a tighter crowd than previously seen throughout the battle. David Dubowski, a Behrend student and talented local musician said, "They performed well and showed to me that they have been performing together for quite a while. They definitely had their act together. The bass player (Matt Green) picked up his role in the band quite well and really held down the low end. He also kept the rock style that they were looking for going strong."

Dubowski's statement proved correct when the three judges awarded Dust 'n Ashes first place in the Battle of the Bands for their spiritual performance.

Bringing the rowdiest crowd of the night, Tommy Magik and the Wonderfulls were on stage during the first ejection of the night. Kevin Jackson, who earlier said, "Everybody was behaving well..." was proven wrong during their performance.

A herd of their drunken fans gathered and started crowd surfing, which led to the dismissal of one of the fans. Ben Winfield, who joined the Pittsburgh-based band in December of '05, said, "The arrangement for the show was a little different than other similar events I have been to. We had ten minutes to set up with only about twenty minutes to actually play our set afterward. We had to wait the whole ten minute setup time before we could begin instead of just playing when we were ready which was a little different."

Their progressive rock sound and Behrend campus ties made them a crowd favorite of the night. Winfield

also said that the band is currently writing and recording a new CD that will be released before the end of the year.

As Tommy Magik and the Wonderfulls exited with the majority of the crowd, the next band, the Sandlot Heroes, took the stage. They still have four shows still to play in April, beginning with a show at the Hawk's Nest, which is located at the University of Hartford. They then will travel between New Jersey and Pennsylvania for the rest of May.

Next to perform was another Pittsburgh band called California After College, also known as "Cali AC." The pop punk licks of their song "Tracing Chalk Lines" caught the judges attention but was overshadowed by their tight rhythm section. Cali AC's next stop is at the Nativity Church/School in South Park, Pa.

Next on the stage was Phantasm. This Jamestown-based group boasts a packed tour schedule throughout the Northeastern United States this coming Spring. They have scheduled stops in Connecticut, Pennsylvania, New York and Ohio. They also performed at Bruno's Café last night.

Finally, Audio Imagery took the stage to close out the battle portion of the evening. This hip hop/rap/rock group brought their unique, crowd-pleasing unique sound to the stage. They are a very experienced band who have played with artists such as Rusted Root, Ill Nino, Fall Out Boy, Oleander, Sponge, The Executioners, Freeway (Rock-a-Fella), Bowling for Soup and Black Thought (The Roots) just to name a few. Other Penn State students will have a chance to enjoy their music when they play at The Crowbar in State College on April 24. Overall, the professionalism of the bands and the quality of their performances made for a successful event.

## Homelessness prevalent in Erie

By Chris LaFuria

sports editor

csl5005@psu.edu

lengthy period of time struggle to overcome their drug addiction and are unable to function in the workplace. Due to this problem, the City Mission offers drug and alcohol rehabilitation and classes that adhere to the needs of the homeless men.

A major goal for the Erie City Mission is to help serve the homeless people throughout the city. According to recent statistics, there is an 80-bed shelter that houses only men at an estimated 450 men per year. In addition to the shelter, the Mission serves approximately 4,500 families per year with roughly 140,000 meals served to people.

A recent program that has seen much success is the "New Life Program," which consists of programs such as Anger and Rage Management classes, Spiritual Life Development, Drug and Alcohol

Addictions Recovery, Vocational Activities, Financial Planning, and various other programs. Many men throughout Erie have benefited from this program. "We now have five or six men from the New Life Program who are now in college, doing exceptionally well," Knox said.

According to Chuck Knox, the Director of Development for the Erie City Mission, there are over 2,000 homeless people that live in the city of Erie, even though the state's representation of the number is approximately 60. Knox said that homelessness is an "invisible" problem in the city because many people are unaware of the epidemic. While many people have images of homeless people finding shelter by street heating vents and on park benches, Knox claims that homeless people find their shelter in abandoned houses and in homeless shelters such as the City Mission.

In addition to these living conditions, homeless people in Erie also form several small communities throughout the city. Clusters of homeless people gather by the former International Paper building, near the Bayfront Highway, and along State Street. Even though groups of homeless people live in such close proximity, they each maintain an independent identity, completely separate from people within their community.

Through his work with the City Mission, Knox has dealt with many different types of homeless people. He said that the main issue with the homeless people that live in Erie is that they are dual diagnosed. Many of the men that enter the City Mission arrive with an addiction to drugs or alcohol and a mental disorder that affects their everyday lives. Many who remain at the shelter for a

PENNSTATE



Erie The Behrend College

45th

Annual  
Honors  
and Awards  
Convocation

♦ ♦ ♦

Sunday  
April 23, 2006  
2:00 p.m.  
Erie Hall

♦ ♦ ♦

There's only one issue left of this year's Beacon! Get your ideas and articles in today!  
E-mail the Student Life Editor at [smm480@psu.edu](mailto:smm480@psu.edu).