

Third Degree wins B



Mark Owens/The Collegian

Stevie Ray Revisited: Third Degree frontman Gregg Krupa leads his band through a rousing blues cover of the late bluesman's "Pride and Joy."



Mark Owens/The Collegian

Keeping the beat: Quattro drummer Brad Quattro sets the pace for his band's rendition of the Led Zeppelin classic "Rock and Roll."

by Greg Geibel
The Collegian

Pittsburgh's Third Degree captured the \$300 prize Saturday in the 1990 Battle of the Bands. The event, sponsored by SPC, JRC, and the Resident Assistants, kicked off at noon and rocked music fans until 7:30 p.m.

On a dreary Saturday morning, the Behrend Apartments were treated to a 10,000 watt bone-crushing Raven Sound Company wakeup call. Although rain was threatening the day's activities, everyone remained positive.

Starting off the day's festivities was an Erie thrash band called Morbid Prophecy. Although the band has only been playing together for two months, their musical abilities were highlighted on songs by Testament and Sacred Reich. Morbid Prophecy is comprised of drummer Bill Dailey, bassist Dave Sinn, guitarists Jim Cooper and Mark Collins, and vocalist John Kress. "We are the only thrash band in Erie," said Kress.

Following Morbid Prophecy was a Top 40/Hard Rock band called Felony. Made up of Craig Schertzer and John Schultz on guitar, Tony Scire on bass, Tom Reeping on vocals, and Mike Reeping on drums, Felony covered songs by Skid Row such as "Rattlesnake Shake" and "Sweet Little Sister" as well as doing their own original numbers.

Third in the show was Oil City's Quattro. Instead of heavily playing the bar and club scene like most bands, Quattro is primarily a studio band, where they concentrate on writing and recording their original material.

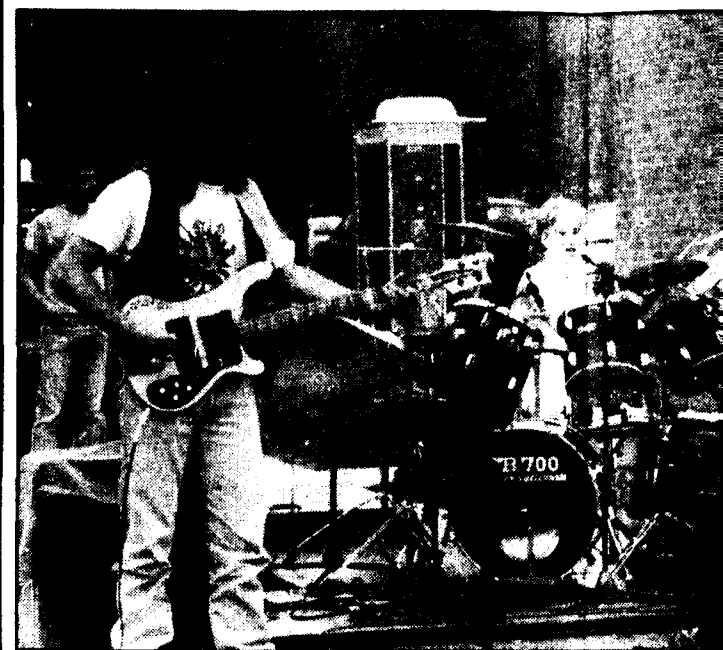
When a cover tune is needed, Quattro does their version of the song, as shown on Saturday. With Jeff Brown on vocals, Jeff Quattro on keyboards, Brad Quattro on drums, and Jason Quattro on guitar, the band got a serious groove with their version of "Play That Funky Music."

Quattro also covered Zeppelin's "Rock-n-Roll" and performed several original numbers.

Up next was the all instrumental Sweet Logical

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has been long a*



Before the Rain: Third Degree members Steve Krupa and Gregg Krupa begin the set that won Saturday's

by Robb Frederick
The Collegian

"Before we begin, we'd like to dedicate this set and this entire day to the late, great Stevie Ray Vaughan."

So began Third Degree's set in Saturday's Battle of the Bands. The set, a homage to Vaughan and the improvisational blues-rock style he personified, would send the group home with a \$300 prize and some long-awaited recognition.

"It's nice not being second best for once," explains Chuck Jones, Third Degree's rhythm guitarist.

Jones formed the band two years ago with guitarist Gregg Krupa, who remains the driving force behind Third Degree.

"Gregg is influenced by legends, and we're influenced by Gregg," Jones said. Krupa's legends include bluesmen Roy Buchanan, Freddie King, and B. B. King.

Krupa, who looks far beyond his 21 years, is the impetus behind Third Degree. His scarred vocals are frighteningly similar to those of Stevie Ray Vaughn, and his guitar techniques include playing behind his head and back and sliding a baseball bat across his guitar frets.

Taking their name from a Johnny Winter album, the group began to define its sound and build a musical repertoire.

After numerous line-up changes, drummer Tim Bartels joined the band. The current unit was completed when bassist Steve Breman joined in August.

For Breman, the introduction to Third Degree was a difficult one.

"When Steve started with the band, I told him we had a gig the Friday before we actually did," explained Chuck Love, the band's

manager.

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