

Press Release



HIGH SCHOOLERS CROWD NORMANDALE BANDSHELL FOR "BATTLE OF THE BANDS"

MORE THAN 200 ENTHUSIASTIC HIGH SCHOOLERS BRAVED COLD WIND AND OCCASIONAL DRIZZLES TO ENJOY A "STOMPING GROUNDS" BATTLE OF THE BANDS CONCERT AT NORMANDALE BANDSHELL FRIDAY, MAY 7 TO BENEFIT THE BLOOMINGTON YOUTH COFFEEHOUSE INITIATIVE.

The show featured a wide variety of high school talent, ranging from hip-hop to Broadway show tunes, and from heavy metal to classic rock to folk rock. The headline acts included Blue Shift, a band of recent Bloomington high school graduates that plays contemporary rock and is developing a regional following; AnalectA, a hip-hop trio from Kennedy High School; Squall, a heavy-metal outfit of Jefferson High Schoolers and recent graduates, and; H.A.L., a quintet of Jefferson High Schoolers and recent graduates that performed classic rock tunes popularized by groups like the Beatles, Bob Dylan and The Rolling Stones.

The evening's weather began pleasantly enough, but as the evening grew darker, it became colder and windier and there were occasional raindrops. When AnalectA took the stage at about 7:00 p.m., they invited the crowd to come to the front of the stage. Perhaps a 100 or so accepted the invitation and remained there, enthusiastically cheering all the acts with even an occasional "crowd surfer", until the show ended shortly after 9:30.

Before and between the headliners, there were many other terrific student performances. Ryan Henneboehle, a Jefferson senior, performed an acoustic set that included a song of his own composition as well as songs penned by Bob Dylan and Leonard Cohen. Stacy Fuller, another Jefferson senior, performed a song she wrote plus a song from the musical "Chicago". Becky Wilkenson, a Jefferson student, performed a sizzling version of the classic blues song "Fever". Abby Koehler sang several songs beautifully, accompanied by her brother, Adam, on guitar. A rap set by a Jefferson group known as "DE and UTS Rappers" (David Buenano, Cordaro Harper and Kevin Flemming) brought admiring cheers from the crowd. An acoustic set by Drew Glowa and Andy Engerbretson included songs by Steve Miller and others. Break dancing, starring Luke Linhoff and others, amazed the crowd before H.A.L. came on for the final set. Other fine performers included Justyn Rubenstein, Sarah Loca and Julie Faulk.

The concert was organized as a benefit for the Bloomington Youth Coffeehouse Initiative, an organization that is trying to establish a fun, tobacco- and alcohol-free location for high schoolers to go after school, on weekends and in the evenings. Many performers and attendees commented how fun the evening was and how they wished there were more events like this for Bloomington high school students. More than \$1,000 was raised to benefit the coffeehouse.