

SpringSuey is opportunity to support music education in local public schools

By Terry Kuehn

Tacomascene.com

March 1 will be an opportunity not only to help support music education in our schools, but also to see and hear, all on one stage, local bands who have played and performed locally, regionally, nationally, and even internationally.

Music and the arts, in school, are taking a back seat to sports and are losing out in the educational process.

Sports drives the economy in a way that music and the arts never seem able to do. Sports programs seem always to get major billing. Take, for example, any sports section in any newspaper: it seems to encompass pages and pages and pages, on a daily basis, and in some cases even sections and sections.

Now this is not to say that music and the arts are not covered; but in no way does music and the arts receive coverage and support like sports receives coverage and support.

Broken down further, educational budgets reflect cuts much faster to music programs than to sports programs. Music activities in the schools do not seem to receive the attention and support that sports programs receive.

As recently as Sunday, October 20, 2002, there appeared in The News Tribune an article on education. The article expounded on the fact that our public schools are cutting back on music programs. We did not see that there were any cutting-back intentions of any sports programs.

And as late as December 26, 2002, The News Tribune had another article on education: Washington's 1 million schoolchildren are state government's highest priority. But adjusted for inflation and the voter-mandated initiatives, per-pupil support has dropped over the decade....

For several months TacomaScene.com has been working towards SpringSuey MusicFest, on what we see can be Tacoma's answer to Portland, Oregon's answer to music education in its public schools.

Example: MusicfestNW is all about the bands and the music, the fans and the community. Bands have the opportunity to gather with their peers, engage music-industry professionals and increase their exposure.

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Fans get to experience the musical brilliance and diversity of the northwest, and the community benefits where it counts most: in our kids, through First Octave, a sponsored project of the Portland Schools Foundation that raises money for music education in Portland Public Schools.

SpringSuey 2003 is being planned as a first of it s kind music event dedicated to the up-and-coming musical youth of our community. It is being planned as a benefit fest to help maintain and sustain musical education in our schools.

SpringSuey 2003 will be a music fest involving many aspects of live performing local bands. It will be music exhibition that will be broad in perspective and encompass multifaceted ranges and styles of presentation.

It will be a musical anomaly that will be an exhilarating experience for anybody interested in live music from today and yesterday....and maybe even some from tomorrow. It will be a presentation of sight and sound by local performing musical artisans who live and work right here in the great Pacific Northwest. It will be excitement. And it is scheduled to happen on March 1, 2003, at Wilson High School Auditorium.

TacomaScene.com has spoken with representatives of the Tacoma School District and to Teresa Maxwell of Communities in Schools. In hopes of not speaking out of turn we will say that Mrs. Maxwell seemed quite elated that an event such as this might be taking place here in Tacoma.

The music industry, as any industry, relies on youth to propel itself into the next generation. We feel that SpringSuey can be a catalyst in seeing that the musical youth of Tacoma can be given a helping hand now: A stepping stone for tomorrow s musicians today!

For additional information regarding this up-and-coming musical anomaly, which we consider to be a most worthwhile community event, please visit www.springsuey.com. Please spread the word.