

# Palisadian-Post

Serving the Community Since 1928

24 PAGES

THURSDAY, JULY 12, 2012 ♦ PACIFIC PALISADES, CALIFORNIA

75¢

## V I E W P O I N T

# July Fourth Bands Rock the Palisades

By KELSEY BERRYMAN  
*Palisadian-Post Intern*

Palisadians came together at the Palisades High football field on the Fourth of July to hear three bands and a comedian.

First up was Arwen Hernandez conducting the PaliHi concert band. It was a small band, mostly brass, but they played beyond expectations. While I figured that they would sound like a standard school band (slightly out of key and not all together) they played beautifully and cohesively. After the triangle clanged in tune, the trumpets opened softly for the first song, "Groovin' Down Cool Street," which was whimsical with its wind-like humor. The band then changed its tune to a fight song, followed by an unidentified "torch" song that was deep and soulful before moving into a happy optimism accentuated by the xylophone that was positively jazzy.

Donovan Lyman and Randy Coleman made up the concert's second group. They both crooned love songs while playing their acoustic guitars. These songs moved from happy in love ("Last Salutation") to angry and sad love with "Catch the Wind." While all of this was beautiful country music, it did not quite make me feel festive or patriotic. I think that it would have been more suited to a Country-and-Western bar rather than the Palisades Fourth of July celebration.

The comedian and actor Jeffrey Tambor, who lives in the Palisades Highlands, followed these two. He tried hard to make everybody laugh but many people just weren't paying attention. Tambor kept speaking about the quirks of the Palisades, from the two rival yogurt shops to parking tickets, but it just wasn't hitting home. There was no swell of laughter.

Fortunately, The English Beat lived up to high expectations. David Wakeling's band, originally formed in the

late 1970s, helped define the music of the 1980s and did not disappoint the excited crowd 30 years later. The band started with drumsticks tapping together and then everything just exploded. Almost immediately, there was a mosh pit and it was not just full of parents (though there were plenty of them) but also tweens and kids dancing to these '80's jams. This lasted throughout the hour that the band played.

I found each song to be very danceable with a good groove.

Wakeling, a Palisadian and the lead guitarist, enunciated like Jagger while yelling things like, "Are You Ready?" Joining him were guitarist Rick Torres, Kevin Lum on keys, Matt Morrish on sax, Wayne Lothian on bass, Rhythmm Epkins singing, and Antonee First Class. This was music before rap, ska and ragae, and one of the singers, Epkins, skaed in his Jamaican twang similar to Shaggy with everything rhyming with "Yo" in a call-and-response with the audience. All in all, The English Beat's best song was their penultimate "Mirror in the Bathroom."

In the end, what the people on the field said rang true. "He [Wakeling] still sounds good," Andy Whatley commented. Nilou, the woman sitting next to me, said, "Being on the field with The English Beat is very nostalgic. It's from when I was in high school." And from Patsy Reiter: "I danced to this in college. It has a great beat. Woo!"

All in all, it was a great night with music that made Pacific Palisades feel like it was aflame just in time for the fireworks.

*Kelsey Berryman, a Palisades High alumnus, is a senior at the University of Iowa and an intern for the Palisadian-Post.*