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CERETTO, SKLARSKI BOOST LOCAL ROCKERS
LAUD *ROBOTS ARE THIEVES* BATTLE OF BANDS WIN

LEWISTON—Proving that rock music with a good hook and some meaty chops can transcend generations, veteran Niagara County legislators and NU alums Danny W. Sklarski and John D. Ceretto took to the stage at Niagara University Friday night.

They were there to laud local rockers Robots Are Thieves' victory in "Rage on the Stage," a battle of the bands that saw the local quartet of 19-year-olds from NU triumph over 19 other rock groups from Western New York.

"You know, the Beatles started out playing little clubs like this, too," Sklarski, D-Niagara, told the audience at NU's "Under the Taps" lounge. "And come to think of it, things turned out pretty well for the four of them. I have feeling we might be hearing more from Robots Are Thieves."

Ceretto and Sklarski were on-hand to present a proclamation from the Niagara County Legislature celebrating the band's success. While Robots Are Thieves have yet to achieve a chart-topping success like "Hey Jude," the band has produced their own material, including a CD and songs with titles like "Guns" and "Recipe." And, by winning the Rage on the Stage, Robots Are Thieves won three days in a professional studio, plus recording, editing, and packaging of an original CD.

The album will then be sent out to a number of record labels, along with other marketing materials.

"We're proud of these guys," Ceretto, R-Lewiston, said. "It takes a lot of guts to follow your dreams. We respect that around here."

The band's personnel are Mike Smith, lead singer/rhythm guitar; Tom Filosofos, drums; Peter Heuer, lead guitar/backup vocals; and Brent Feuz, bass/vocals.

"The proclamation from the Legislature said, and I'm quoting directly, 'The Niagara County Legislature extends congratulations and proud recognition to Robots Are Thieves and wishes [the band] success in all their future music and career endeavors,'" Ceretto said, reading from the citation. "Those aren't just words. We mean that."

Rage on the Stage was sponsored by Select Sound Recording Studios, AllWNYRadio.com, NightLife Magazine, and Evening Star Concert Hall.

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