

Birthday With a Beat

THE OTTAWA CITIZEN – March 22, 2010

Beatboxing, breakdancing and birthdays were all part of a hip fundraising bash thrown Saturday at the ByWard Market bar Suite 34.

The evening was Ottawa marketing consultant Tuan Nguyen's way of taking his love of parties and of bringing people together and adding a charitable component. It was also a celebration of his 35th birthday, as well as a couple dozens other guests with birthdays falling around this time of year. David Martinek from the precious metal recycling company Recycle Frog helped organize things. As well, Max Keeping was there to deliver an inspiring message to the large crowd of 20- and 30-year-olds.

The evening raised funds for the construction of a new school in Nicaragua. Nguyen is part of a 15-person group headed down there next month, with the Canadian charity SchoolBox, to help with the build.



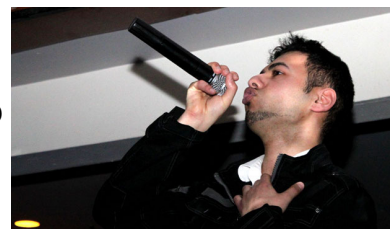
From left, Tuan Nguyen, Joe Rios, Angela Romero, George Ayoub and David Martinek at a giant birthday bash held Saturday, March 20, 2010, at Suite 34 Bar & Lounge in the ByWard Market in support of a project to build a new school in Nicaragua. The evening was organized by Nguyen and Martinek.



Tuan Nguyen performs some Michael Jackson at a giant birthday bash held Saturday, March 20, 2010, at Suite 34 Bar & Lounge in the ByWard Market in support of a project to build a new school in Nicaragua. Nguyen helped to organize the evening.

Party-goers enjoyed a dance performance from Brian Tong and fellow members of CASCO, which is a student-run charity organization from U of O's Telfer School of Management. Nguyen, who co-founded CASCO back in his university days, showed off his Michael Jackson moves in memory of a former CASCO member who had just passed away.

Also in the spotlight was beatboxer Ammar Abou-Agena, who produced funky drum beats, rhythm and musical sounds with mouth, tongue, throat and lips. It kind of sounded like



Ammar Abou-Agena beatboxing at a giant birthday bash held Saturday, March 20, 2010, at Suite 34 Bar & Lounge in the ByWard Market in support of a project to build a new school in Nicaragua.

"buh buh pft bhu buh pft." I guess you had to be there.

Carolyn Phillips – THE OTTAWA CITIZEN