

Picnic turnout higher than expected

In what Provost Ruth Leventhal called a "super turnout," approximately 1,400 people attended the first Provost Picnic here last week, which featured a free lunch, entertainment, and a series of lectures by faculty members.

"I thought we had a super turnout for the picnic," Leventhal said. She added that the administration is currently considering making the picnic an annual event to "bring students together with faculty."

Seating for approximately 600 people was provided, according to a spokesperson from the Campus Relations office, but the large turnout was well received.

"We are extremely pleased [with the turnout]," said Sherry Walker, Assistant to the Director for Campus Relations, "and we are very pleased with how much everybody in the campus faculty pitched in and work-

ed together to make the event a success.

Between 700 and 800 people were expected to attend the event, according to JoAnn Coleman, Supervisor of Food Services who prepared and served all the food for the picnic. But the attendance that broke all previous estimates was served a lot of food in a short amount of time.

300 people were served picnic lunches of hamburgers, hot dogs, brownies and potato salad in the first 20 minutes, Coleman said. She estimated that "a little bit more than 1,000 hamburgers" were served during the two hour afternoon meal.

What does one eat with 1,000 hamburgers? About 20 gallons of fruit salad, 15 sheets of brownies and up to 1300 servings of potato salad made from 300 pounds of potatoes, Coleman said.

During the meal, a varie-

ty of entertainment was showcased. Charlie Van Horn and Company, a contemporary jazz-pop band, led the afternoon off with a diverse set of tunes, covering everything from latin-flavored swing music to Van Halen's "Jump."

Included in the set were covers of hits made famous by such performers as Sam and Dave, Donna Summer, and Stevie Wonder. The band also performed a two-song medley featuring the Temptations' "Ain't Too Proud To Beg" and the Isley Brothers' "Shout."

The band's line-up consists of Ron Smith, Sandy Billitt, Dominic Iacavone, Charles Smith, and leader Charlie Van Horn. Smith and Billitt provided vocals for the band that Van Horn described as "a party band with a lot of jazz influence."

The band has been in existence for 10 years, with the current lineup together for

two and a half years.

Following the band was a performance of "P.D.Q. Bach," a parody of baroque music performed by Capitol alumni, staff and family.

The performance, which was organized by Sherry Walker and her husband Ty, was described by Ty Walker as being "as outrageous as you want it to be."

"The provost saw a similar performance during University Park's July Arts Festival, and wanted us to have one for the picnic," he said. "We began putting this together about seven weeks ago, and were pleased with it."

After "P.D.Q. Bach," Pam and Simon, an instrumental swing and blues duo, took to the stage under the tent. Using an electric guitar and violin, they performed traditional folk tunes and ragtime blues.

Following a closing set from Charlie Van Horn and Company, picnic-ers were given a choice of four lectures to attend as part of the Provost's Lecture Series.

The lecturing faculty members were: Associate Professor of Public Policy Robert Bresler, Assistant Professor of Computer Applications Gayle Yaverbaum, Humanities Division Head William Mahar and Professor Emeritus of American Studies and History George Wolf.

Wolf's lecture on "American Sports History" emphasized the "significant role" that sports plays in American culture. Wolf said that professionalism changed attitudes about sports in the 20th century and that much of the "core of patriotism" that is evident during Olympic games is related to Americans' attitudes toward sports.

"Sports can be seen in our art, literature, music and sculpture," Wolf said. "The experience of sports -- directly as a participant or vicariously as a spectator -- continues to have a strong-

hold on American pop culture."

Mahar's presentation on "Women in Music" consisted of excerpts from famous women composers like Fanny Mendelssohn-Hensel, Clara Wieck Shumann and Sara Aderholt.

About 65,000 women have composed music from 3500 B.C. when their names were first recorded on clay tablets in Samyria up to 1983 when their names appeared besides the names of men as full fledged members of the American Federation of Musicians, Mahar said.

In his lecture about the upcoming presidential election, Bresler said he felt President Reagan would have a smooth road to reelection and said the prevailing question in November should be "What will Reagan's margin of victory be?"

Bresler also said he believes Gary Hart would have been a much stronger challenge to President Reagan and that the Democratic Party must be more precise about who they desire to vote for them. The Democrats must stress the future in attempting to show voters how Reagan's large federal deficit could be damaging to our long-term economic well being, he said.

Dr. Yaverbaum, in her speech "Computers and You", described some uses of computers for non-programmers. She described word processing, graphics, spreadsheet and filing capabilities available on the Penn State system.

"We don't all have to learn how to program a computer. We don't all have to learn to fly an airplane to be a passenger," she noted.

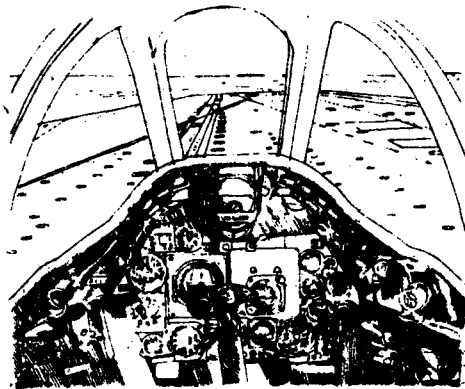
Yaverbaum said computers would become increasingly prevalent in education in the coming years, both at Penn State and public schools.

--Contributing to this report were: Neil Myers, Tony Perry, Ken Stiggers and Angelo Vecchio.

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