

# ARTS & LEISURE

## Shanes is Taking Flight

**Barbara J. Soltis**  
Capital Times Staff

Attention die-hard Penn State partiers: Next time you soar into Shane's, scope out the gradual transformation. Shane's is changing flight plans after sixteen months. By the beginning of May you'll be landing in Shanes Flight Deck!

"At first I just wanted to create a cheerful atmosphere, but now I'm excited about creating a unique theme bar in this area," said Shane Mrakovich, 28, the proprietor. "I've always preferred air travel opposed to driving, and the bar will be modeled after one of my favorite Philly niteclub spots, the 94th Air Squadron."

Upon entering the bar the patron will be greeted by the world of aviation. The facelift includes: an interior repainting of airplane colors of grey, red, and blue; parachutes adorning the ceilings, plane wings and various parts of planes utilized as wall props. A new flight menu featuring 747 burgers and daily airport drink specials will be available to all passengers.

Mrakovich patiently waits to acquire the Dollar Rent-a-Car property located to the right of Shane's in the Yankee Highspire Plaza. Rent-a-Car's lease expires in May, and if Mrakovich acquires the property he plans to construct a patio flight deck. He is also considering adding another bar, stage or dining area.

The renovation will not detract from

the cozy night club atmosphere. The sensational lighting system of wacky lights or eight light dice, strobe lights, and red and blue police lights will continue to spotlight all your dance moves. The three video screens are not going anywhere either.

"I'll continue to cater to the college crowd and local singles," Mrakovich said. "Shane's is definitely catered more toward the college crowd than the Burst, because of our sound system, lighting, large dance floor and videos."

Shanes is Mrakovich's first club venture. "I was always out at the night clubs so I figured I may as well go out and make money at what I enjoy doing," he said. "Besides I love the music and entertainment industry."

Upon acquiring Marabella's Italian Restaurant, the previous twenty year occupant's business, Mrakovich promptly put \$20,000 into remodeling. He immediately envisioned a night club atmosphere with a big dance floor. "I wanted to have an atmosphere where bouncers and security remained invisible and people could have a great time," Mrakovich said.

Unfortunately advertising was not a big vehicle for Shane's at first. "I wanted to prepare and plan a grand opening nite, but three PSH college customers said they would make up fliers and pack the place," Mrakovich said. "I had no idea several hundred students would show up!"

Business tapered off drastically after



Samuel Benson  
Artist from Chester Pa.  
Artist Talk February 22, 1990

The picture in background is titled  
"The stars Banged Her Banner"

the first night, which caught Mrakovich unprepared. "Don't worry, those days of no orange juice and glasses are gone forever!" Mrakovich said. "I was new at the business and didn't do follow-up advertising either. But now I started to fight the old dinosaur, the Burst, by consistently advertising, and I get a nice late college crowd."

Mrakovich eventually envisions having a couple of Shane's clubs and even foresees having an oldies club. In the late 1950's his parents owned a place called the Peppermint Lounge on the main strip in Middletown. The Peppermint Lounge was a popular "Happy Days" oriented hangout with a huge soda fountain bar. Mrakovich's parents currently own the property in the Yankee Highspire Plaza.

Mrakovich attends as many social activities on campus as possible. "When I'm forty I'll probably still be here acting

young and going to those great Penn State Harrisburg parties," the humorous proprietor said.

Fear not Penn State patrons. Shanes will not be raising drink prices! As a matter of fact, Shanes will implement a Monday night \$1 drink extravaganza especially for students in several weeks. Presently Wednesdays and Thursdays are dedicated to PSH partiers, complete with fifty cent drafts and dollar test tubes containing all your favorite mixed potions, plus a DJ--still awaiting your presence.

Another alluring aspect of the facelift is a free food buffet available two weeks from now on Monday, Tuesday, and Friday from 5-7 pm. Italian foods will be featured one night along with different delectable foods the other two nights. If the response to the buffet is successful, it will become a five-day deal!

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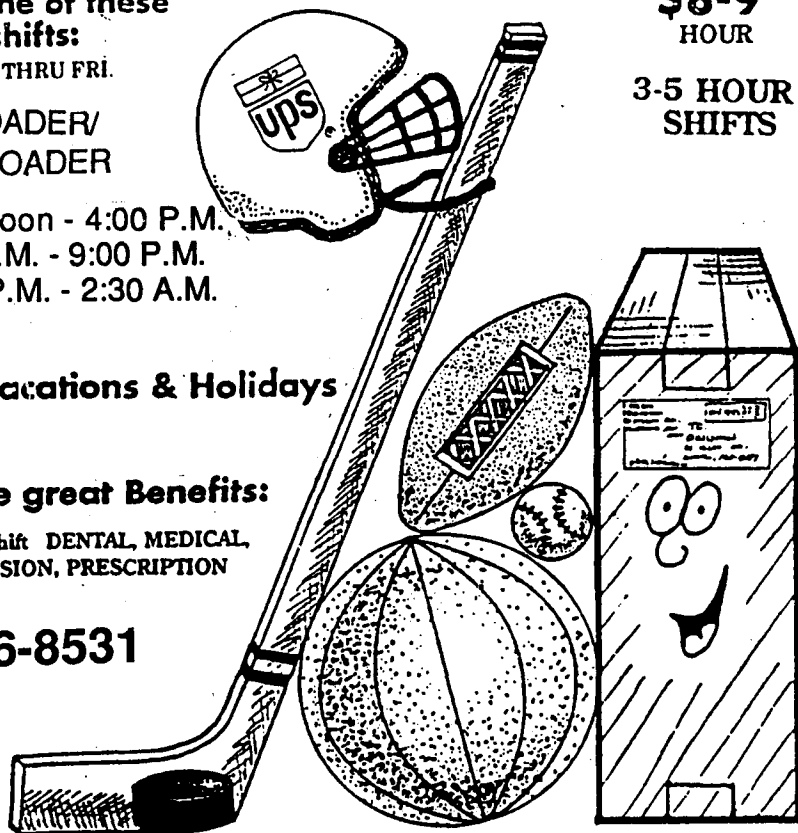
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## Campus Happenings

March 21, Wednesday:  
12:05 Noon, Gallery Lounge  
Musician Pam de Wall--a violin and guitar duo of ethnic and classical music.

March 21, Wednesday  
7 p.m., Black Cultural Arts Center  
"Women in Russia"--A premiere of

March 15, and 29, Thursdays:  
12 Noon, Gallery Lounge  
"Women in History,"--This film series features films dealing with women's struggles and desires to achieve success. Bring your lunch, beverage provided.

Dr. Ruth Leventhal's video documentary of the status of women in Russia.

March 22, Thursday:  
8 p.m., Black Cultural Arts Center  
"Women: the New Immigrants"--A teleconference from Penn State Erie, the Behrend College, featuring author Gloria Steinem, editor and writer of Ms. Magazine.

March 28, Wednesday:  
12 Noon, Gallery Lounge  
"Women in Business"--A panel discussion with area businesswomen about careers in business.

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