

# Secondary education major plays bagpipes for Gov. Ridge

Ann Mease  
Staff Reporter

If you hear the faint sound of bagpipe music on at Penn State Harrisburg (PSH), you have not been transported backwards in time to the rugged highlands of Scotland.

David Puckett, secondary education major is the reason you hear bagpipes on campus. Puckett sometimes practices on the open fields by the Educational Activities Building, and in the quiet study on the second floor of the Capital Union Building.

Puckett said he went to see a Scottish military bagpipe unit called "The Blackwatch" when he was seven years old and has been fascinated with the instrument ever since.

Finally pursuing a lifelong dream, he started taking lessons over two years ago with Dr. Robert Davidson, of Harrisburg. He soon committed ten tunes to memory

in nine months. Puckett is now able to play over 30 tunes on the bagpipe.

According to Puckett, it took nine months to master the chanter pipe which has a double reed and eight open holes on which the melody is played.

Puckett said, "There are three drones and four reeds on the bagpipe and each drone took three months to master, building up my lung power to play all three drones at one time."

Over the last two years Puckett has played his bagpipes at several functions, including a Veterans Day Ceremony on campus.

According to Puckett, he has played with the Kiltie of York Pipe Band in several parades, mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral in Harrisburg, and Bruce Bond's Wink 104 radio program, at Wanda's.

On October 10, Puckett played for Governor Ridge at the 1996 Governor's

Awards for the Arts, at the Capital Rotunda. These awards are given to celebrate the vitality and heritage of the arts in Pennsylvania.

According to the advisory panel for the awards, the Art Awards recognize not only individual achievements, but also the contributions of the outstanding arts organizations, corporations and foundations, which make the Commonwealth a leader in the cultural life of the nation.

According to Puckett it was quite an honor to perform for Governor and Mrs. Ridge who were sitting several feet away when he played, "Bonnie Galloway" on the bagpipes.

Dr. John Patterson, a professor in the Humanities Department highly recommended Puckett to be chosen as one of the entertainers at the Governor's Awards for the Art's ceremony this year.

Patterson said, "David has a deep feeling for the tradition and history behind this instrument, making him dedicated to the music."

Puckett said he will continue to play the bagpipes between his studies to relieve stress and because of his deep inner commitment to keep alive the ethnic tradition of this beautiful instrument.



David Puckett practices playing the bagpipes on the grounds of the Penn State Harrisburg campus

Photo by Jeff Warren

## Fencing club formed at PSH

Debbi Mallek  
Staff Reporter

Rachel Wright, is a first semester junior at PSH. When she arrived here, Wright wanted to find other students to share her interest in fencing.

"Fencing is a great sport," said Wright. "It sharpens your concentration."

The Fencing club will be coached by Bryant Hayes, ranked 17th fencer in the country. Hayes, who has been Wright's personal coach for several years, studied

under Emaniul Kaidonov and Wes Glon, University Park fencing coaches.

Brad Smitley, head of athletics, has worked with the club to get clearance from Risk Management, and to schedule meeting/practice times.

The Fencing club will meet at the CUB Mondays and Wednesdays from 7-10 p.m., pending approval from student government. The club drafted and submitted a constitution to student court for review. Student court will then pass the Fencing club

constitution on to student government for final approval.

Membership in the Fencing club is open to anyone interested. The club will start by offering lessons at the beginner level for the first semester.

After that, there will be classes for beginners and those more advanced students.

Dickinson, Franklin and Marshall, Carlisle War College, and Bucknell all have established fencing

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