

Penn State Harrisburg

Rites of Spring 1997



photo by Jeff Warren

April Leister, behavioral sciences and education major braves the cold and the 35-foot-high rock-climbing tower at Rites of Spring April 19

Tower provides students recreational challenge at weekend celebration

Nicole Lynn Meck
Staff Reporter

Just how tall is 35 feet?

Ask 10 year old Tristian Saunders. He climbed to the top of the rock climbing tower at the Rites of Spring held this past weekend.

"Kind of scary when you get up there," Tristian said.

He said felt "daring" and "might even try it again."

The rock climbing tower - which was sponsored by the Cabaret Committee this year - is owned by Lazer Runner of Lancaster.

Jerry Kaye - who operates the amusement ride - said he has a regular job during the week but does the tower for fun.

"I just get a kick out of it," Kaye said.

He said he did it himself and that is what got him hooked. His company, Lazer Runner, does over 150 such events a year.

The Penn State Nittany Lion also got hooked on Kaye's tower which he climbed for the entertainment of Rites of Spring participants.

The mascot said it was an exciting experience.

"You can see all of Penn State,"

he roared.

Shannon Przyuski, a psychology student, said she did not think she was afraid of heights until then.

"It was an exhilarating experience," she said - but she does not think she will try it again.

Throughout chilly April afternoon, other students - like Student Government vice president Stacie Wentzel - considered climbing, but the cold weather made them reconsider.

"I want to climb it - but it's too cold and I don't want to take my coat off," Wentzel said.

Tristian's little brother, Garret Saunders, decided he had to climb the tower too "because my brother did it"

Karen Saunders, Tristian and Garret's mother, didn't need to climb the tower today - finding the courage to let her sons do it was excitement enough she said.

Bands battle the elements

Matt Watkins
Contributor

It was four bands pitted against the elements on Saturday, the 19th.

Rites of Spring's main act, Battle of the Bands, was going on full gale regardless of the weather.

Battle of the Bands was planned to be the main attraction to this year's Rites of Spring fest. Unfortunately, rain, sleet and gusting winds kept attendance to the fest at a record low.

The band, Please, from New York City, was the first band to kickoff the day's chilling festivities.

The independent rock band performed six songs off their newly released CD, "Sentimental Watermelon" for a handful of people standing in the Capitol Union Building's parking lot. Charles Caranova, the band's keyboardist, said, "I really thought Penn State had die-hard student's who showed up for anything."

As rain turned to intermittent pelting ice, Mr. Ed and A.F.S., cranked up the volume to play original punk and ska tunes.

Members from both bands are students at Middletown High School.

The lead singer of A.F.S. said, "Its good to be here, performing this empty parking lot!"

10 of 9 was the final band to perform in the howling wind. They played popular cover songs by artists such as Soundgarden and KISS.

Waiting around to be the concluding act to the day's wintry venture proved to be a profitable for 10 of 9. They walked away with first place and \$250.

Second place went to A.F.S. who were rewarded with \$150 and Mr. Ed soaked up third place and a plaque of thanks from the Student Government Association.

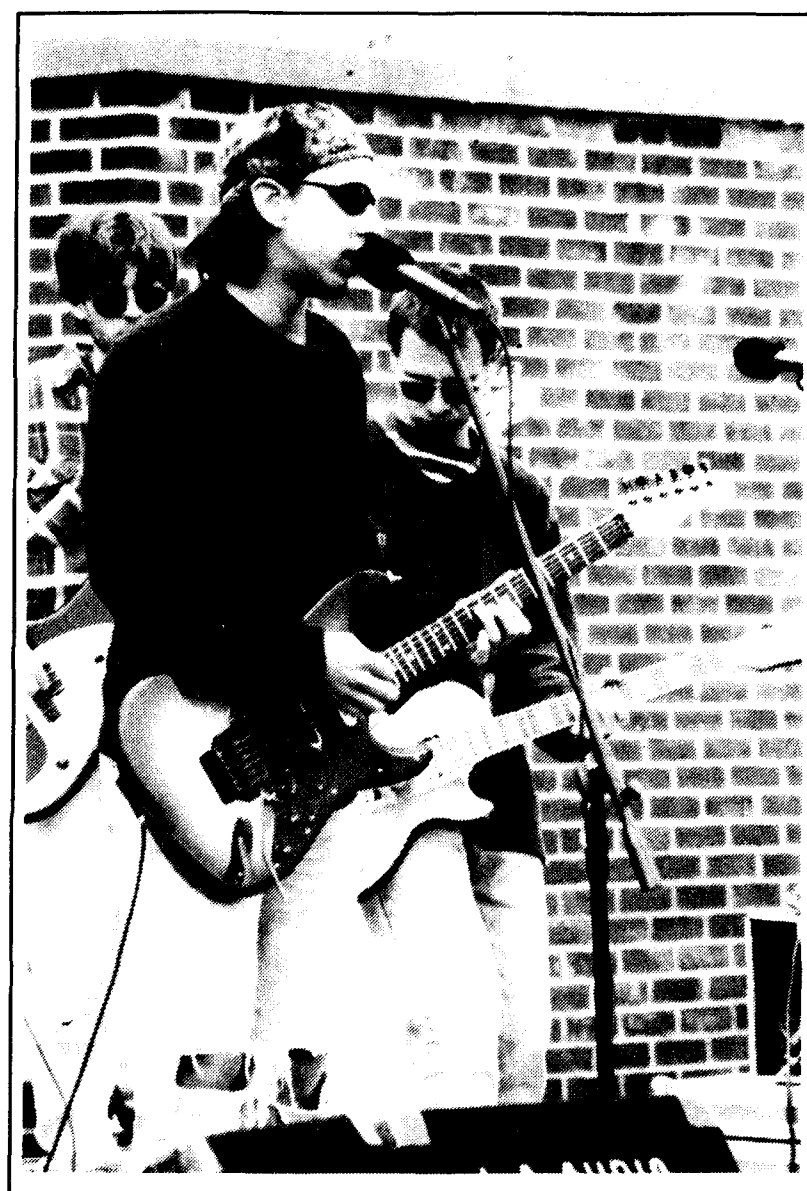


photo by Jeff Warren

Feature band Please plays to sparse crowd at Rites of Spring. According to event organizers, attendance was low at the outdoor concert due to winter-like temperatures

Runners compete to finish XGI 5K race

Michael Pericci
Contributor

Cold temperatures and vicious wind gusts didn't keep runners from participating in Chi Gamma Iota's (XGI) first-ever 5K race here on campus.

The race was held Saturday, April 19 with 23 runners attacking the 3.1 mile course.

"By having this race I'm trying to bring the community and Penn State Harrisburg closer together," said XGI President, Kirk Jacoby.

Though many races charge a registration fee, this race was a rare exception.

"We're not trying to make money. In return, however, we hope to earn respect," said Jacoby.

To some, having only 23 runners participate would be a disappointment, but not to Kirk Jacoby and the rest of the XGI members.

Jacoby noted that the Chocolate Chase, which draws over 500 runners in Hershey, started with only 30 runners in their first race. Jacoby was pleased with the input he received from the runners as well.

"Everybody kept telling me they loved the course. This was a good start for only our first race."

Jacoby added that the race can only get better in the future.

"Next year we'll be advertising the race well in advance," he said.

The overall winner of the 5K race was John Hargraves with a

watch as well as a trophy.

Trophies were also presented to second place, third place and fourth place finishers.

Medals were awarded to the top three male, female, seniors over 50 and children under 15 finishers.

Each participant also received a certificate verifying their participation. The first 20 registered runners received an XGI t-shirt as well.

OVERALL WINNERS

- 1) John Hargraves - 17:46
- 2) Michael Pericci - 18:25
- 3) Alan Kaylor - 19:12
- 4) Pete Catanese - 21:56

MEN'S MEDAL WINNERS

- 1) Sam McClintock - 22:39
- 2) Stephen Fetterman - 26:14
- 3) Mark Gordon - 26:34
- 4) Frank Divanzo - 27:16

WOMEN'S MEDAL WINNERS

- 1) Eva Maria (Natalie) Goodwicz - 25:20
- 2) Eileen Coleman - 29:41
- 3) Mary O. Yingst - 31:36
- 4) Donna Savage - 33:15

15 AND UNDER

- 1) Mathew Martz, 13 - 26:17
- 2) Rodney A. Jacoby, 10 - 15:01 (2 miles)
- 3) Adam Cambel, 11 - 10:00 (.5 miles)



photo by Jeff Warren

Eva Marie (Natalie) Goodwicz crosses the finish line at the XGI 5K race during Rites of Spring. Goodwicz placed first in the women's category

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From Rites of Spring pg. 1

Student Government provided food during the event, including 32 gallons of ice cream and toppings for free "make your own sundaes."

"We probably would have had a really good turn-out if the weather had been better," Nicole McNeil, Rites of Spring organizer said.

The cold weather, however, didn't seem to disappoint those who chose to brave the frosty temperatures. Several students were scattered across the parking lot, huddled together or wrapped in blankets in order to watch the Battle of

the Bands competition.

The band competition - with proceeds benefitting local high schools - featured four local bands and the band Please whose soundtrack was included in the movie "Empire Records."

In-between sets, the campus radio station, WPSH and 93.5 radio personality Randy Rock Johnson provided entertainment.

"Even though it's freezing cold, Rites of Spring is a great chance for students to relax and not think about classes," Chris Stotz said.