

Folk music makes ideal festival

By REGINA ANDRIOLO
Collegian Staff Writer

Despite the late cancellation of the Arlo Guthrie concert, this weekend's Folk Festival backed up the adage "There's never too much of a good thing." The festival's organizers, performers and audience seemed to feel the program was one of the most outstanding projects of its kind.

Festival Supervisor Ted Giatas said he felt the event came as close to an ideal festival as could be expected. "There was some question as to whether we should have mixed traditional folk music with contemporary folk sounds, since there were two

distinct audiences, yet I felt everyone was satisfied," he said.

Most of the performers were acquainted with one another, and this led to a comfortable and natural feeling in their performances and especially showed in the workshops. Each workshop led to open discussion and audience participation into aspects of folk music.

Evening concerts featured traditional European folk music Friday night and American folk music Saturday. The British group Steeleye Span seemed to capture the Friday audience and Giatas said there is a good possibility the group soon will return to Penn State. Taj Mahal was in control

Saturday night and joyously encouraged the crowd to "jump and shout and shout and jump" to his music. The square dance following the Saturday shows, with music by the New Lost City Ramblers, gave Rec Hall a country atmosphere encouraging many people, including Taj Mahal, to stomp their feet and swing their partners.

Festival organizers said beginning 1:30 p.m. today at the HUB \$1.50 will be refunded for the Guthrie concert. "We felt the audience took the news quite well," Giatas said. "But we think the other talent and the various workshops more than made up for the cancellation. We expect that even more people will be eager to perform at and attend the next folk festival."

The next festival of this size is not planned for the next two years but organizers promise many of the performers will return in individual concerts.

If you're still looking for a place to live the chances are you haven't been reading the Collegian Classifieds!

'Music belongs to the people'

Taj Mahal: country man

By KEN RUTKOWSKI
Collegian Staff Writer

It may be hard to believe Taj Mahal the tall, imposing man who seems so much a part of the traditional country blues he sings, was born in New York, raised in the New England countryside and received a degree in animal husbandry from the University of Massachusetts.

The fact that he was "raised away from my people" led Mahal on a search that started with Negro blues and continues today with the composition and performance of the soundtrack from the movie "Sounder."

At an interview before his Folk Festival performance, Mahal offered some clues to what the person behind the music is like.

Asked about his role as a musician, he said, "I begin to feel that by now people should be getting the message. Music should be more concentrated on what it's doing for each person. Right now there's a lot of people who like you as a performer because you're something that they can say they have. They don't think of you in human terms. They hear your name,

everybody else is talking your name, so therefore you are proven. So you find that you have to get away from the very people you want to play for.

"A lot of the people I used to play with still haven't changed because they were only in it for the money, and you can't make it that way because you're not playing music," Mahal said.

Asked if he considered himself lucky to play the music he wanted and make a living from it he said, "I don't know if I've been lucky. You pay for everything you get. In order for me to play the kind of music I do, I give up a whole lot of things that probably aren't obvious to someone who's looking in on my life — which is what

people are doing when they hear me."

Mahal said he plays different music to black audiences than to white ones. "It isn't something that I choose, it's just that the feeling is different. With the black audience it's more of a friendly atmosphere, where with the white audience it's more of a frenzy, a fanatic atmosphere."

SGA branch presidents protest Senate elections

By ANDY ISAACS
Collegian Staff Writer

Commonwealth Campus Student Association presidents Saturday issued a statement condemning the University Faculty Senate elections.

The resolution was sponsored by Joseph Kaplan, Ogontz SGA president, who said the confusion during the elections reinforces his position that branch campuses should have their own student representatives in the Senate.

This year, the first that Commonwealth Campus students participated in the Senate elections, all voting was held University-wide within the 10 colleges. A Senate constitutional amendment now under consideration would give branch campus students their own senators regardless of college.

Kaplan said branch campuses had insufficient time to tell students of their chance to run, to set up election apparatus and to publish candidates' qualifications.

He said, the campuses received no information from the colleges of Agriculture; Arts and Architecture; Health, Physical Education and Recreation; Human Development and Earth and Mineral Sciences.

The College of Earth and Mineral Sciences had only one candidate running and decided not to hold elections. The colleges of Agriculture, Health, Physical Education and Recreation, and Human Development held their own elections on the branch campuses independent of SGA.

A mimeographed statement by Kaplan said Mary Kay Plantes, Academic Assembly chairperson, called Kaplan March 7 to tell

him branch campus students could submit nominations. Kaplan's statement said even if campuses received his notice by March 12, they had only four days to publicize the elections and gather nominations before the March 16 deadline.

Kaplan's statement said Kaplan received the names of candidates and biographical data March 29 and had to make 18 copies of each sheet and send them to each campus in the four days before the election. Most campuses, did not receive data before the April 4 election day, the statement said.

Plantes said the Academic Assembly was told "March 2 or 3" that the elections must include branch campus students. She said the Assembly decided it was better to risk communications breakdowns than to delay the election and risk students' not getting on committees.

Kaplan said he told Plantes March 16 that Paul Haze (6th-accounting) of Ogontz planned to run for the College of Business Administration Senate seat. "I followed the instructions I was given," Kaplan said.

Haze's name did not appear on the University Park ballot. Business administration student council president, Sam Starr, said Haze's formal letter of intent and biographical data were written March 24, postmarked March 26 and received March 28. The college's elections began at University Park March 27.

Plantes said when she received no data other than Haze's name she assumed he was no longer running. Kaplan said he never given a deadline for biographical data.

Haze and Kaplan both have requested new elections. The Senate Election Commission is considering their demands.

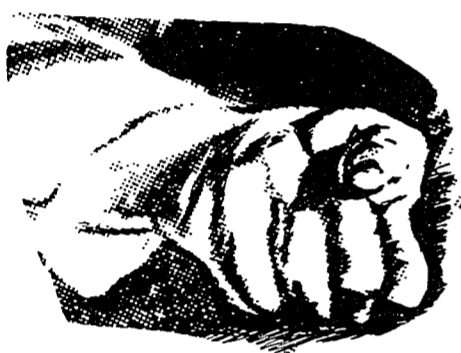
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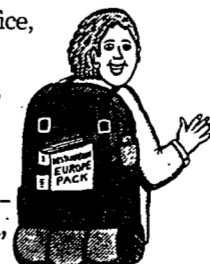
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