

The wall along College Avenue became a marketplace for a few days as buyers and browsers examined the Arts Festival's sidewalk sales yesterday afternoon.

the daily Collegian arts

Limes, coconuts and Beatles

Rock band Ghost keeps high, funny spirits

By STEVE LESTER
Collegian Staff Writer

Silliness might not be the most sensible way to run one's life, but can be a good basis for a rock concert, as was proved by Ghost, a five-member band from Massachusetts, last night on Old Main lawn.

The group did selections by well-known artists like Steeleye Span, Jethro Tull and the Beatles while mime Anne Fulper captured the laughs of the audience with her stagefront antics.

The first set was a musical play in which the group struggled to find a gimmick in order to achieve international fame.

Following the Beatles song "Got to Get You into My Life," and a Ghost original "I Know You're Looking For Me," the fame seekers learned that their gimmick was located at the center of the earth.

They had a little trouble finding the center of the earth, however. (They

should have tried straight down.) First they wound up in Texas, which set the scene for the Steely Dan song "With a Gun."

Then they wandered into Mexico where one of the natives, Fulper, gives them the "center of the earth." It was actually a coconut. But a rather special coconut. It had a lime in it. As William Hunt, who played reeds and guitars, did a juggling act with limes and coconuts, the rest of the group played the Harry Nilsson tune "Coconut." Of course.

Next stop was at the Amazon jungle, where the discovery of a subway token brought on the inconquerable "Tokenwoman," played by Fulper in dark glasses and red tights.

After she said she could lead the band to the center of the earth, they performed Jethro Tull's "Bungle in the Jungle," with guitarist Jamie Shaler doing an excellent vocal imitation of Ian Anderson.

They finally made it to the center of

the earth, via the "Guadaloupe Triangle," where they chanced across "Captain O," portrayed by the bassist who calls himself "Fud" in real life.

Captain O, dressed in psychedelic space helmet complete with Bermuda shorts and wing tips, told the fame seekers the center of the earth had been moved to the moon and it was up to Tokenwoman to figure out how to get there.

The band performed David Bowie's hit "Space Oddity" and promptly landed on the moon only to find another coconut. But this coconut had in it the long sought-after gimmick—an Oreo cookie!

As Shaler gave the audience a sales pitch for Oreo cookies, the rest of the group threw dozens of them out to the audience to munch on during intermission, which immediately followed.

The second set had no plot, but through the brilliant mime acts by Ms. Fulper each song flowed from one to the next.

"Allison Gross," recorded by Steeleye Span, received the biggest ovation of all the songs last night. Other favorites included another Bowie tune, "Kooks," Jethro Tull's "Cross Eyed Mary," and the Beatles tune "Norwegian Wood," nicely seasoned with William Hunt's flute work.

Then the group embarked on a United Nations tour where about six nations were waging protests against the "United Snakes" for various reasons like the seizure of fishing boats and the placing of tariffs on French "dirty playing cards."

The "protests" ended, as did the performance, when the group played "Political Science" by Randy Newman.

"Let's drop the big one on 'em now 'cause they all hate us anyhow," they sang as the audience stood up and cheered.

Ghost vividly proved, as Steeleye has, that theater, mime, and rock music can work well together.

Folks from all over gather to share varied poems

Of all the skills brought to the Arts Festival, probably the least visual is poetry. Readings were offered two nights in a row this week at the Human Development Building, from poets ranging from winners of the festival poetry competition for elementary school to University professors.

Wednesday's reading was filled with variety. Many were travel poems of Peru and Scotland, others were about home. Mary E. Ishler of

State College read one such poem, "The Folk," which won first place in the open competition of the festival poetry contest. Margie Gaffron of Rebersburg won second place with a poem about her daughter entitled "Rebecca: On the Evening of Your Birth."

Throughout the evening, the audience heard satire, thoughts and imagery. They heard the reminiscent descriptions of Dorothy Roberts, the rhythmic poetry of Rick McMonegel,

Jack McManis's warm tribute to Leadbelly, the American blues singer, and reflections like John Haag's "no matter how you slice it, love just won't spread smoothly at room temperature."

Last night Robert Hayden (author of five volumes) read short portraits of his relatives. He also read many poems about the slum district of Detroit where he grew up and his experiences and impressions at that time. He said he wants to eventually

compile these into a collection called "Elegies for Paradise Valley," the sarcastic nickname of his childhood neighborhood.

"I rather wince every time I read these statements about poetry being play," he said. He called poetry more of a "spiritual play" and it is clear through his excitement and emotion as well as his poetry, that he takes it very seriously.

—by Debbie Sheer

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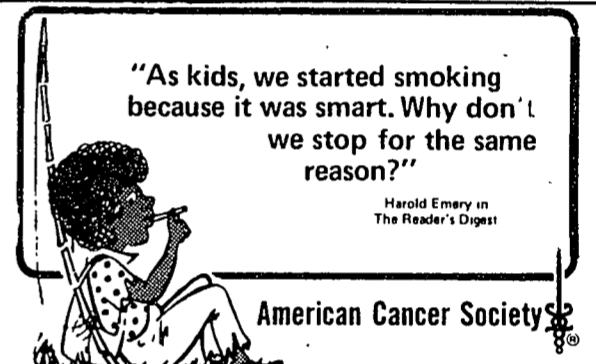
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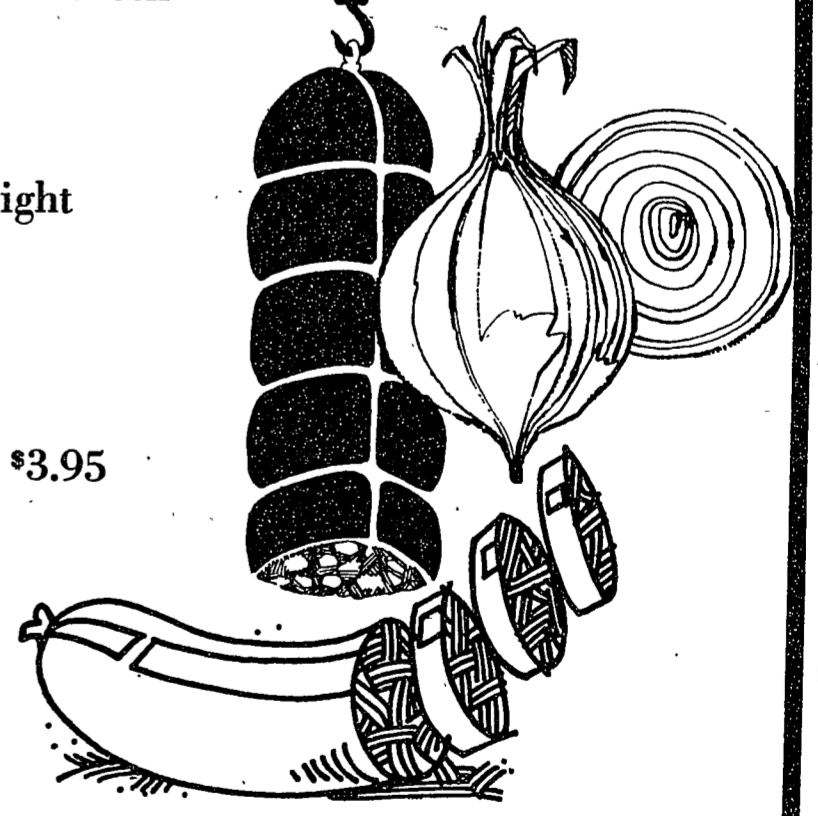
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