

Traveling 'Dead heads' follow their idols

By LORRAINE RYAN
Daily Collegian Staff Writer

They began gathering in front of Rec Hall yesterday morning at 5:30. They came from as far away as California, and arrived by car, motorcycle, van and thumb. They wore, for the most part, regulation faded jeans, long hair, blood-shot eyes and T-shirts bearing various symbols and slogans that have seen better days. They call themselves the "Dead heads."

The scene outside Rec Hall last night was like a carnival — a messy one. Scalpers were out by the dozens, trying desperately to sell their \$10 tickets at cost. "I'm not interested in making a profit, I just don't want to lose my money," one girl said. "One guy offered me \$15 for both of them, but I told him no, it'll get better later when people start coming late."

It didn't get better. Tickets were selling for \$5 and \$6 each.

People wandered around aimlessly, taking sips from brown paper bags, wine-skins and un-concealed beer bottles. Grateful Dead T-shirts were selling for \$6, Dead stickers for \$1. The steps and side walks in front of Rec Hall were strewn with cans, bags, wrappers and empty and half-full liquor bottles of every variety.

When asked why they liked the Grateful Dead so much, most people gave the same reasons.

"They're completely different from any other band. They're like a true religion," said Mark, a fan who has been following the Dead since their tour opened about seven months ago.

"They are like total nirvana. When they started in the '60s, people needed drugs to help them get by and to have a total experience. Now in the '70s, we're more into ourselves, and the Dead gives us our fix of enlightenment and outside energy. They're just a total energy band," said traveling partner Donna.

"I went, I enjoyed myself, and I went again," said Nancy, who also has been following the band since the beginning of the tour. Monday night, she and her friends saw the Dead in Easton. Before that, in Hampton, Va., Charlotte, N.C., and Philadelphia. "I'm following them right to Red Rock, Colo.," she said.

Bob from Long Island, N.Y., said the people who travel to see the band "are like families on the road. We get to know each other. We're friends."

But for the most part, Dead heads had a difficult time explaining to a non-devotee just what it is about the group that attracts such devotion and strong feelings. The Dead heads kept using words like acid test, life-style, space, consciousness and cosmic experience.

One former Dead head said he still likes the Dead

very much, but feels they're becoming too commercial.

"They used to be a lot better. Now they've become mildly more commercial and less personally appealing," said Ben from Long Island.

Non-Dead head Leslie said, "I like the Dead, but the Dead heads are all worn-out hippies come alive again. They're all so burned out."

Not all those who attended the concert were Dead heads. Many came out of curiosity, or because their friends were big fans who persuaded them to come. It seemed that most of the hard-core Dead heads were not Penn State students.

From what was observed, the police checking the doors seemed to turn a blind eye to all but the most blatant violations of the no liquor policy. However, police did perform spot checks on bags and backpacks, confiscating their contents.

"They were surprisingly calm. The first five minutes after we opened the door, there was quite a bit of pushing and shoving, but afterwards they were really calm and considerate," said Dwight, a ticket taker.

Standing in front of the open doors to Rec Hall, one could feel blasts of hot air, which reeked with the smell of burning joints, mingle with the balmy night air. "In the words of Jerry Garcia," said dedicated Philadelphia Dead head Gary, "optimism is another way of saying space."

Blacks find administrators unable to relate to them

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by three from 1976 to 1978, the number of Asian instructors rose from 68 to 75 during the same period, even though Asian students comprise approximately .5 percent of the undergraduate enrollment.

Asbury noted that the University's long-range black recruitment blueprint was not destroyed by last summer's Bakke decision. In that case, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that the University of California medical school could not refuse admittance to Alan Bakke while reserving 16 openings for black applicants in a class of 100 students.

"The Bakke case caused more psychological damage to black recruitment drives than legal damage," Asbury said. "The Bakke case said you can't have special admissions, but you can have special recruitment. In other words, you can't say you want 'X' number of blacks, but you can say you want to bring blacks into the total University pool."

Asbury said he believes that if the University heavily stepped up its black recruitment drives, it might face strong resistance from many white alumni and students. "There may still be people who'd stand up and say there shouldn't even be blacks at Penn State," he said. However, Asbury added that the University has exhibited signs of gradual change to the black community by establishing black recruitment and cultural centers.

On the other hand, a few black student leaders consider these moves to be less conscious signs of change than they were mere concessions.

"Ten years ago, black students were blacklisted, had grades dropped and

were thrown out of school when they fought for that (Paul Robeson) cultural center," said Takesha Dockery, newly-elected president of the Black Caucus. "They sacrificed a lot to get that center."

Dockery claimed the center is deteriorating, needs a paint job and is inadequately equipped for in-house theater productions. Other "concessions" that soured, she said, include black study lounges in several dormitories, which are constantly locked, and the Black Studies Room in Patten Library, which is poorly situated amidst the chatter and typewriter clatter of clerical employees.

"If you read black students correctly," Asbury said, "if they get through Penn State, they feel they've done so with more effort than white students."

Some black students, though, said their experiences at the University have been quite smooth. For example, Vicki Goins (3rd-mathematics) said she is accustomed to the racial imbalance at the University, as she was the lone black in her high school graduating class in Apollo, Pa. She says she likes meeting students at the tutoring center in Boucke where blacks and whites meet on a friendly, mutual-help basis.

Lorrie Fambro (9th-broadcast journalism), said she'd rather not attend a predominantly black school. "That would be a little too much social life," she said. "You learn to condition yourself here. It's a disciplined atmosphere."

The University may yet improve its understanding of its black population. But Asbury, at least, isn't optimistic: "The image here will never change."

Talmadge accuser's truthfulness questioned

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Daniel Minchew, Sen. Herman Talmadge's chief accuser, was given a mixed report on his truthfulness yesterday as the Senate Ethics Committee heard testimony from two more lie detector experts.

Of the three experts who tested Minchew on different occasions, two told the committee Minchew was truthful when he said Talmadge received cash

from a secret bank account. The third said Minchew lied when he said Talmadge knew of the account.

To further cloud the issue, the experts sometimes endorsed and sometimes disagreed with the results of examinations given by their colleagues.

The committee is holding hearings on five charges of financial misconduct against Talmadge, the most serious involving conversion of campaign funds

to his private use and obtaining reimbursement funds from the Senate for false expense claims.

Minchew, one-time aide to Talmadge, has said he set up a secret bank account — with Talmadge's knowledge — to launder \$39,000 in illicit funds, mostly for use by the Georgia Democrat. Talmadge has denied the charges.

The only actual conflict in the

questions centered on Talmadge's knowledge of the secret account.

FBI Agent James Murphy, the second expert to test Minchew, said Minchew lied when asked if he had been truthful in claiming Talmadge knew of the secret account.

Murphy ran three tests — two on Jan. 11 and one on Jan. 22. He concluded that in all three cases, Minchew was "deceptive in his responses."

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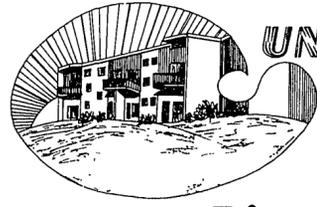
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