

Horizons: Gentle Thursday's replacement prepares for its 2nd showing

By ROY STEUTEVILLE
Collegian Staff Writer

Spring Term is a time of fun and games. But this year, like last year, there is something more to look forward to — a festival that not only offers a good time, but a chance to learn, to be exposed to diverse cultural activities, to become more aware of what the community has to offer and possibly even to share talents with the community.

That event is Horizons, scheduled for May 6 to 8.

Horizons Director John McCauley said Horizons is a "smorgasbord of awareness." About 50 University organizations contributed to the events last year, he said, and it attracted thousands of participants.

Horizons started out last year as a replacement for Gentle Thursday, but it has very little in common its predecessor on the HUB lawn, said Chris O'Brian, Horizons co-chairman.

"It is more in line with enlightening people," he said. "It is educationally-based — as opposed to strictly entertainment such as Movin' On and Gentle Thursday."

"Gentle Thursday started out as a great idea — a day of sharing," he said.

But it developed into a rock festival with the inherent problems, such as excessive litter and cutting classes, he said, and a group of people realized they didn't want that so they developed Horizons instead.

McCauley identified a deeper reason for the development of Horizons, a need that existed before the festival was created. Groups such as Free University, Eco-Action and Colloquy needed a forum to make

people aware of what they were doing as organizations, he said.

"I look upon this as an awareness festival, to let students gain a better awareness politically, socially and ecologically," he said, "and as an opportunity for various student organizations to increase student awareness of what they are all about."

"But just because we are trying to make people more aware doesn't mean it is not fun," he said. "There will be no saching — it will not be overbearing. The whole idea of the program is for you to bump into something new, forcing you to make a decision about it — yes you like it or no you don't — this makes you more aware of yourself."

The programs that people can expect to bump into this year, McCauley said, range from exhibits, lectures, seminars, workshops and films during the festival's first two days to entertainment activities scheduled for the last two nights.

The entertainment activities will probably include mime and theater and classical, folk and jazz music, with a de-emphasis on rock music, he said.

"This is getting back to the idea of alternative programming," he said. "Most students have a steady diet of rock music. What these people need is to be exposed to alternative forms of music."

Also, Eco-Action is planning a health alternatives day again this year, said O'Brian, who is a representative from Eco-Action. The program, which will be held on May 6 in the HUB fishbowl, will encompass the health of the mind and body and will let people see other lifestyles, he said.

"It's a holistic approach," he said, "in-

volving health foods, vegetarianism, yoga, different exercises and possibly natural childbirth."

Eco-Action is planning an alternative energy exposition for May 8, O'Brian said, where there will be various displays on solar and wind power — "things people can go up and touch."

Recreational activities included bike hikes and nature walks, and new games featuring an earth ball on the HUB lawn were also held, she said. Many educational lectures, displays and art exhibits were also featured, she said, in addition to music throughout the festival, including folk, blues, jazz, rock, classical, '50s music and a square dance.

Comparing this year's Horizons to last year's, Sherk said, the festival will be similar, except it will last for three days instead of four and will be more consolidated.

"Last year it was spread out too far all over campus. This year we're trying to limit it a little," she said, by keeping the locations of the events closer together and being more decisive and selective about programs "especially in the movies."

problems, race relations and general classes such as "Casablanca" were shown, she said. Also, exhibits on dance, karate, yoga, fencing and juggling and demonstrations in pottery, weaving, silkscreening and other crafts took place last year, she said.

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—John McCauley, Horizons director

The Undergraduate Student Government is planning a wide-ranging awareness exposition of a different sort, said Steve Ripp, USG North Hills senator.

"On Friday (May 7) in the HUB fishbowl USG will be sponsoring a Political Awareness Day," he said.

"It will be the political side of USG, as well as local, state and national government. What we mostly want is to educate people on how everything functions (politically), so they can make an impact in decision-making and learn how things affect them."

Most of the proposals, however, for this year's Horizons are still being received and processed, so information about them cannot be released yet, said Diana Sherk, Horizons co-chairman.

Last year, films on health and energy

"Last year we had so many movies that at times it was one person, one movie," she said.

McCauley said the festival was reduced to three days so a rain date could be provided, which would make it easy to move events up one day.

"We needed to do this because it was so late in the term. If we had events on both Saturday and Sunday, and one of them rained out, there would be no back-up."

Sherk, McCauley and O'Brian agreed that one of the best things about Horizons is the way it involves many student organizations and presents many aspects of student life.

"We provide the structure and take care of the financial end of it," O'Brian said, "and all they have to do is get an idea together and give it to us."

The deadline for proposals is today, but McCauley said proposals that don't require finances will be accepted until April 15.

Anybody can submit a proposal, he said, but it must be co-sponsored by a University organization and then accepted by the Horizons Steering Committee.

The steering committee is made up of representatives from Horizons' sponsors

— Eco-Action, Free University, Colloquy, USG and Yachad.

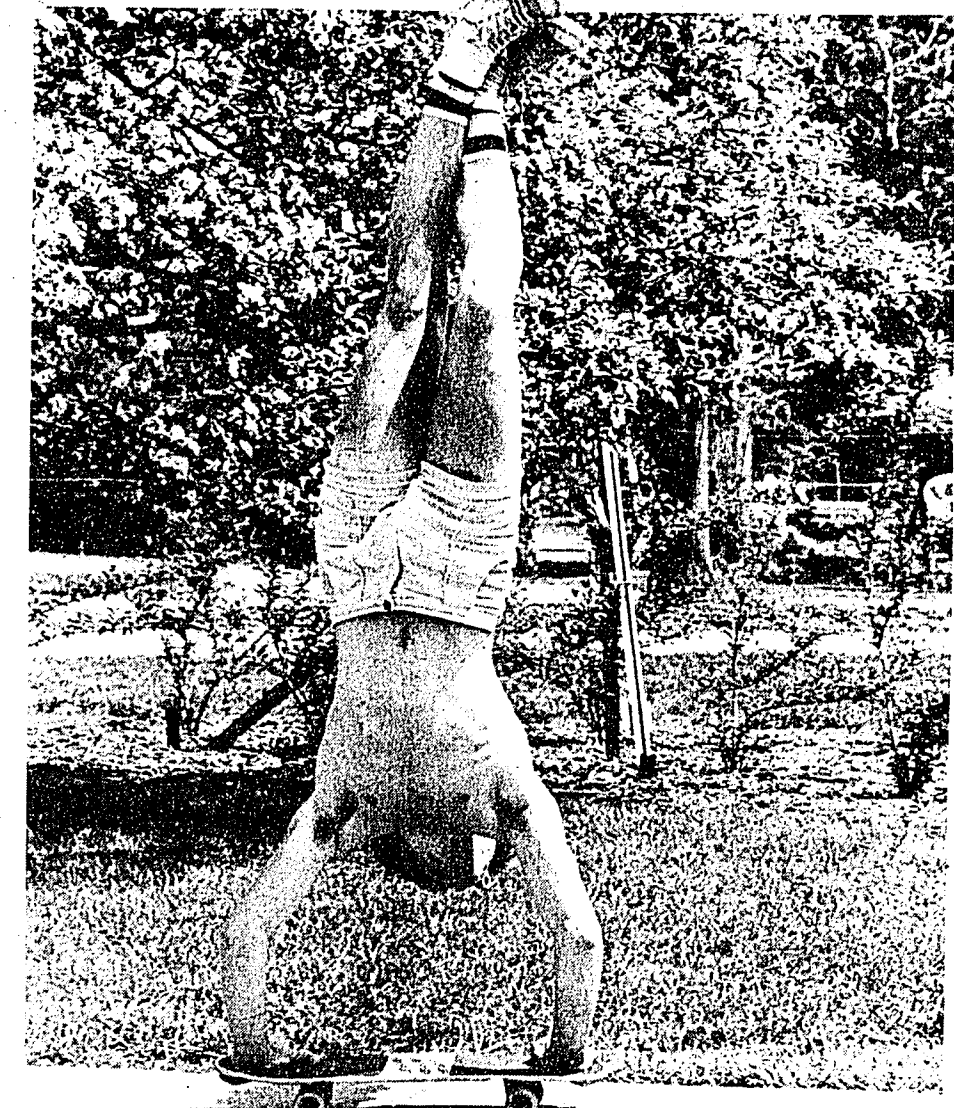
McCauley said Horizons is the only event he knows of where so many "diversified student groups do happen to come together and agree on programs" for such a large festival.

Because of the size, Horizons needs volunteers, Sherk said.

"There are so many aspects to Horizons — we need a lot of student help," she said. "We can always use people on our committees — promotions, art and entertainment, education and audio-visual scheduling. People who volunteer will only be working on what they volunteer for. They won't have to go to other meetings that don't involve their specialty. It will be good experience."

McCauley summed up the experience of Horizons, whether one is working as a volunteer or just participating in the events, by saying, "It can mean a different thing to every person who takes part in the festival."

"No person can take the whole festival in," he said. "We provide the opportunity for each person to increase their awareness, but it is up to the individual what they want to increase their awareness of."



A skateboarder performs at last year's Horizons.

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