

Arts Festival crime rate goes down

By REBECCA FISHKIN
Collegian Staff Writer

The 26th Annual Central Pennsylvania Festival of the Arts was one of the busiest weeks of the summer in State College. And for local police, it was a time of minor crimes and alcohol-related incidents.

"It was probably our busiest weekend this summer but when you consider it in terms of how many people were here, it's still very reasonable," said Tom Harmon, director of University Police Services. "We got a lot of calls, but you have to keep it in perspective."

Most incidents were alcohol-related, Harmon said, adding that although there were a few minor thefts, crime at this year's festival was not as bad as last year.

"Last year there were a number of serious incidents that marred the festival week," he said. "This year it was more of the kinds of things you'd expect."

An armed robbery at one Office of Housing and Food Service Operations tent and a \$17,000



Nimai Nitai, a member of Clowns That Care, entertains families at the Arts Festival. Although last year's festival suffered from some major crime, State College police said the crime rate went down this year.

Collegian Photo/Lisa Fulton

jewelry theft were among last year's serious incidents, Harmon said.

"Another thing out of the ordinary was that someone got a hold of a forklift, drove it downtown and attempted to overturn vehicles,"

Harmon said. "But last year was hopefully an aberration."

But the festival this year also kept State College Bureau of Police Services officers on their toes.

From Wednesday morning to Sunday night during the festival

week, State College police received 384 service calls — 144 of which were in the festival area, said Lt. Carmine Prestia.

"I felt we were awfully busy, but the figures show that our activity was actually down," Prestia said.

Designers, disabled trying to make center accessible

By SCOTT ANDRON
Collegian Staff Writer

Designers of the Academic/Athletic Convocation and Events Center are working to make the new arena accessible to disabled people.

The center's architects are struggling to deal with new regulations associated with the Americans with Disabilities Act, John Haas, an architect working on the center, said. The act was passed in 1990 and requires new structures to be accessible for disabled people.

Disabled students and residents met with University officials on July 21 to discuss handicapped accessibility at the center.

"I thought we got a lot of useful input," Haas said.

Haas and his colleagues explained plans for disabled access at the center before opening up the floor to questions and comments.

The administrators were very receptive, said Joan Lee, a member of Citizens for Barrier-Free Living, an advocacy group for disabled people.

"It was a good exchange of

information," Lee said. "I was pleased."

But learning to accommodate the needs of people with different kinds of disabilities is an on-going process, Lee added.

"They are addressing the access needs of the visually and hearing and mobility impaired," she said. "It's a learning experience."

Another of the topics discussed at the meeting was wheelchair seating.

Plans call for wheelchair-accessible seating on the center's events floor and in four boxes on the center's concourse level during basketball games, Haas said.

This is an improvement on earlier plans, said Don Smitley, a retired architectural draftsman. Previous plans only called for wheelchair seating behind backboards during games, Smitley said.

Smitley said he is guardedly optimistic that the University will comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act, but he still has reservations.

Center planners and representatives for the disabled agreed to hold a follow-up meeting in September.

MEET THE 1992-93 "MEN OF PENN STATE"!

Where? *The Student Bookstore (SBS)*
330 E. College Ave.

When? *Saturday, August 29*
1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Why? *You voted for them in the fall, now meet them in person! The 1992-93 student models will be autographing the calendar - posters to thank you for voting!*

Calendars are \$4.50 each.

Proceeds benefit the American Lung Association.

SPONSORED BY ALPHA XI DELTA SORORITY

Get a taste of

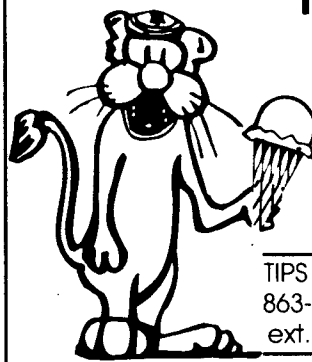
At our first event of the new school year an **Ice Cream Social**

TONIGHT in 301 HUB

from 7-9 pm

It's a great opportunity to meet fellow Jewish students and get involved!

DUES ARE \$18 IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO JOIN



TIPS Line
863-1234
ext. 260

For more information about membership, look for our booth at the Student Involvement Fair September 2-3, in the HUB. Or write us at . . . Penn State Hillel
111-115 Eisenhower Chapel, University Park, PA 16802 Or call, 814-863-3816

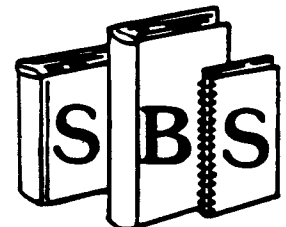


THERE ARE

- ☞ 37520 Students Wearing BLUE
- ☞ 22 BLUES Singers In State College
- ☞ 120 yards of BLUE Grass in Beaver Stadium
- ☞ 6 BLUE Water Towers

But Only
1
BIG BLUE
ON THE CORNER

**THE STUDENT BOOKSTORE
DOWNTOWN**



Books For All PSU Classes!

SAVE 25% Buy Used

Everything You'll Need From A Bookstore

- 3 Floors of STUFF
- 19 Registers
- Open Over 100 Hours This Week

Cash, Check

