

Playground

A skewed look at your arts options

Picks of the week

The good

Japanese Animation Festival — Check out kitten-brained androids and homicidal robots at the Penn State Science Fiction Society's Japanese anime-fest this weekend. The special-effects marathon lasts from noon to 8 p.m. Saturday in the HUB Reading Room.

The ugly

One Hot Minute — The latest Red Hot Chili Peppers release, *One Hot Minute*, is just one more step down for the peppers. Even with former Jane's Addiction guitarist Dave Navarro, the Peppers' recent mellowed-out, whimpering sound lacks the energy and funk of the band's salad days.

Celebrity dirt

NEW YORK — Howard Stern has gone too far this time — too far even for one of his biggest promoters.

Stern's editor, Judith Regan, nixed two doctored O.J. Simpson photos from Stern's new book — including one of Simpson supposedly instructing the shock jock on how to slash the throat of Stern's wife — as "beyond tasteless."

But Regan let one in: Stern's wife, Alison, her neck slashed, her body being run through a meat grinder by Stern as Simpson gives a thumbs-up.

Regan said in Thursday's Daily News that the meat grinder photo did not offend her because it was a parody of militant, feminist anti-pornography pictures.

Regan runs her own book imprint, Regan Books, for HarperCollins. She edited Stern's hugely successful first book, "Private Parts."

Stern marveled at Regan's reasoning as he read the story on the air.

"The other two were offensive, but the meat grinder one is OK," he said, expanding on the description of the photo to reveal that it also shows a cat eating the meat coming out of the grinder.

Stern said he wanted it as the cover of his new book, "Miss America," which hits stores next month, but Regan killed that idea, too.

Band competition

Battle of the Bands

Musician magazine is accepting entries for its 1996 Best Unsigned Band Competition. Deadline for entries is Dec. 31.

This year's judges include Steve Winwood, Pearl Jam's Stone Gossard, Juliana Hatfield, Adrian Belew, Matthew Sweet, Jimmy Jam and Pat Metheny.

Interested musicians can get more information by calling 1-800-BUB-7096.

Arts Palette

If you know of an event to be listed in Weekend Recess or covered by the arts staff, stop in at The Daily Collegian, 123 S. Burrows St., and pick up an arts palette form.

Top Ten

Reggae tracks

1. "Boombastic," Shaggy (Virgin)
2. "Til Shiloh," Buju Banton (Loose Cannon)
3. "Natural Mystic," Bob Marley & the Wailers (Tuff Gong)
4. "Scent of Attraction," Patra (SSO Music)
5. "Tougher than Love," Diana King (Work)
6. "Free Like We Want 2 B.," Ziggy Marley (Elektra)
7. "Lyrical Gangsta," Ini Kamoze (EastWest)
8. "The Struggle Continues," Super Cat (Columbia)
9. "A Mi Shabba," Shabba Ranks (Epic)
10. "Here Comes the Hotstepper," Ini Kamoze (Columbia)

The Playground is compiled by Collegian Staff Writers and the Associated Press.

Expressionism

Trio doesn't just play but embraces music

By JESSICA TETRAULT
Collegian Arts Writer

James Lyon's face was as expressive as the music he played on his violin. Each weeping strain seemed to pull on his features as he moved his bow across the violin's strings.

Next to him, Kim Cook swayed to the music coming out of her cello. And behind, Marylene Dosse sat behind her piano with perfect posture, creating grand swells of music to blend with the violin and cello in a performance of the Castalia Trio, Wednesday night at the School of Music Recital Hall.

It seemed like the performers were the music, rather than just playing it, their bodies and faces moving to the melodies. "We experience music a certain way. Your audience can't ever experience it that way," Cook said after the performance.

They played three pieces; the Trio Pathétique in D Minor by Mikhail Glinka, the Trio in C minor, op. 101 by Johannes Brahms and the Quartet in C minor, op. 15 by Gabriel Faure. The crowd held a variety of students and community members.

Sula Kaufman, has been listening to the trio since its birth in 1991. A personal friend of the trio members, she said they have a rapport that lends them their beautiful sound.

This compatibility makes the trio one of the best, said Donald Hopkins, a viola player who accompanied the trio. The way the members adapt to each other's ideas and understand the

music makes them perform well together.

When they rehearse, each member brings strong ideas about the music. The process is somewhat improvisational. When a certain arrangement works well, they perform it.

The trio members are in their fifth year together, usually giving about two performances a year on campus. But they have also taken their act to places like France and Vienna. It is hard for the trio to travel extensively because the teaching load is heavy, said Lyon, who, like Cook, is an associate professor of music. Dosse is a full professor of music and piano.

Rebecca Clauhs (senior-music education) said the trio impresses her as an ensemble because the performers work so well together.

Theresa Scheer (senior-music education) agreed, saying that each member brings a high level of musicianship to the performance.

But Clauhs said it is mostly music students and community members who fill the seats. Because non-music major students aren't exposed to classical music, their attendance at such concerts is low, said Clauhs.

"Classical music is a little bit of an acquired taste," said audience member Andy Clark, explaining why few students were at the concert. But he said the trio draws larger crowds than other performers because they have an extensive repertoire. "Penn State's very fortunate to have them here," he said.



Cellist Kim Cook performs Wednesday night at the School of Music Recital Hall with the Castalia Trio. The performance was a faculty recital that featured compositions by Mikhail Glinka, Johannes Brahms and Gabriel Faure.

WPSU's Purple Rabbit gives gays and lesbians a local voice

By MARIE PATRICOLA
Collegian Arts Writer

It's purple. It's a rabbit. But it's not something you can curl up with before you go to sleep on a Friday night. Unless, of course, you turn on your radio.

WPSU-FM's "Purple Rabbit" radio show began in 1992 when host and creator Kimberlie Kranich decided that the voices of lesbians, independent women and gay men should be heard over the airwaves.

"The main philosophy," Kranich said, "is to give an opportunity to individual artists, including lesbians, to speak for themselves in their comedy and their news."

The "Purple Rabbit," said Kranich, was modeled after a women's music program called "Sophie's Parlor" that now airs in Washington, D.C.

Kranich said she calls the show, which airs from 9 to 10 p.m. Fridays, the "Purple Rabbit" because of the symbolism associated with the words.

"I wanted something catchy — something that was a conversational piece," said Kranich, who added that the color purple is often associated with the gay and lesbian movement.

"It has connotations with gay and lesbian rights," Kranich said. "And the rabbit is just odd — it is something that is not heard everywhere else."

The "Purple Rabbit" features music, comedy and news about topics that are of a concern to the gay and lesbian community. Kranich, who is in charge of running the show, said the issues discussed on the show relate to local and national topics. She said she wants to take the local issues at the University

and relate them to what is happening in the world.

The type of music that Kranich plays relates to the issues faced by the gay and lesbian community.

"I mostly feature those who are making the music and producing the music, usually lesbians," said Kranich, citing local musicians Hot Mamas and Rene Campbell. "And the music has a message."

Kranich's show recently featured Phyllis Horne, whose specialty is torch songs — songs about people wrongfully treated or abused who still stay with the person committing the maltreatment or abuse.

"She uses the theme and takes it further by saying I deserve better than that — I don't deserve to be treated as a doormat," Kranich said.

Kranich said Horne takes that theme — voicing her opinions

about violence against women — and incorporates it into her jazz music.

Kranich featured Ani DiFranco, a singer who has produced seven compact discs through her own record company.

Kranich featured a show about National Coming Out Day. People came on the show to talk about coming out and to read poetry about what it means to be lesbian or gay in today's society.

"We are presenting our issues in a truthful and affirming way," Kranich said. "The people are speaking for themselves."

Kranich includes a multicultural array of opinions in her guest choices on the show.

"I also feature women in other countries — in Africa and Central America. Their music tell stories of struggles and persecution."

Although Kranich said she has

gotten a generally good response from the program, she occasionally gets a letter or caller who disagrees with the topics or dislikes the idea of a radio program focusing on gay and lesbian issues.

"I am focusing on gay and lesbian groups because of the recent backlash that has been occurring against the lesbian and gay society," she said.

"A lot more negative things are being said. People are speaking things that are untruthful."

Catharine Buck (junior-women's studies), social-educational co-director for the Lesbian Gay and Bisexual Student Alliance, said she likes to listen to the show and enjoys the variety of music — from salsa to Melissa Etheridge.

"(Kranich) supports lesbian and gay concerns so we like her a lot, but we (the LGBSA) don't sponsor it," said Buck.

Eisenhower readies for Chandalika

By JESSICA TETRAULT
Collegian Arts Writer

When Subha Maruvada tries to explain how she feels when she dances in Kuchipudi style, words escape her. She can only say she feels blessed to have learned the free-flowing, upbeat dance form.

But she has no lack of words to describe watching a performance. Terms like expressive and universal come to her mind. And audiences will have a chance to watch Kuchipudi dance when *Chandalika* is performed at 3 p.m. Sunday in Eisenhower Auditorium.

The Indian form of dance can be called dance drama, said Maruvada, who is responsible for bringing *Chandalika* to the University. It is like a play put to dance and music, she said, except the dancers don't sing. The play is about a girl who realizes through her societal encounters that she is treated inferior because of her low position in the Indian caste system.

"It's something that can be applicable to every single soul," said Kamala Reddy, the widely respected Kuchipudi dancer who trained her 26-member Pittsburgh-based troupe for performance.

People have all felt the emotions the dance drama portrays at one point in their lives, Reddy said. "It



Kamala Reddy will bring her Kuchipudi dance troupe to Eisenhower Auditorium Sunday night. Kuchipudi is an Indian dance form sometimes known as "dance drama."

reaches out to the heart," she added.

There are five other forms of Indian dance — Bharata Natyam, Kathak, Kathakali, Manipuri and Odissi. Each dance form comes from a different region of India, but all are based on an ancient Indian text called the *Natyasastra*.

"It's a lot of fluid movements. It's very fast, and at the same time you can get really emotionally involved," Reddy said.

"The dancer is basically telling the story with his or her hands, gestures and face," said Maruvada,

who has been learning Kuchipudi from Reddy for 11 years.

The dramatic element makes Kuchipudi different from other dance forms such as classical ballet. The costumes are also different from ballet because they are traditionally Indian and very colorful. Dancers also wear a lot of jewelry, with the women wearing heavy metal crowns, Reddy said.

Reddy has been dancing since she was 7 years old, learning everything she knows from a Kuchipudi master in India, said Vempati Chinna Satyam.

Japanese film festival scheduled for Saturday

By CJ CALO
Collegian Arts Writer

Robots will be driven to homicidal insanity and ninjas will be breaking up weddings at the HUB Reading Room tomorrow — but don't worry, admission is free.

It's all been carefully scheduled as part of the Japanese Animation Festival, presented by the Penn State Science Fiction Society.

PSSFS President Adrija Popovic said Japanese animation, or anime, is distinctly different from American animation in a number of ways.

"(Anime) takes animation, which has been relegated in this country to toy commercials, and makes it into a full-fledged, serious and sophisticated storytelling medium," he said.

Popovic said anime isn't just about gigantic robots or science fiction. He said that the anime industry in Japan takes the place of live-action films, which would normally be too expensive to produce.

"The animation that is being produced in Japan is as diverse in content and form as what our live-action film industry produces," he said.

Popovic added that animation in general is a much more fluid media than live-action, because film producers can achieve equally stunning visual effects on a much smaller budget.

"Do you know how much it would cost to have giant robots tramping

en masse in a live-action film?"

The filmfest starts at noon tomorrow with *Rupan III: The Fuma Conspiracy*, a film that PSSFS Secretary Matthew Smith classifies as an espionage film.

Smith (senior-political science), said the festival will feature other types of film genres, such as a stereotypical Dungeons & Dragons-type film, sci-fi movies, and even a few sit-coms.

A few of the movies that fall into the realm of situational comedy are definitely a far cry from "Three's Company." One film, titled *All-Purpose Cultural Cat Girl Nuku Nuku*, is about a kitten's brain that is implanted into the body of a high-tech android. The result is a robot that purrs and rubs up against your ankles, with pantherlike reflexes.

Ranma 1/2 is destined for comedy when a young boy is cursed to change into a girl whenever he is splashed with cold water.

On a more serious note, Popovic's favorite for the festival is called *Pailabor-The Mobile Police*. This film depicts a futuristic society where heavy machinery has been replaced by specialized robots.

By showing films that span different genres, Popovic said he hopes to make people understand animation's possibilities.

"I hope that (visitors) can get another perspective on animation and how it can be used to tell serious stories," he said.