

Nelly performing at BJC tonight

By Kate Levin
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Although the English department may not approve, Nelly is bringing his "Country Grammar" to town.

On tour promoting his 2004 double album release, Nelly's *Sweat/Suit* tour will be arriving in State College at 7:30 tonight for a performance at the Bryce Jordan Center (BJC).

The first hip-hop act to grace the venue in the 2005 season, Nelly brings his entourage of the St. Lunatics as well as a myriad of other rap artists with his do-ragged self.

The evening's show begins with five opening acts including Avery Storm, Taylor Made, King Jacob, Chocolate Tai, King Jacob and Prentiss Church.

Accompanying Nelly in the main act is fellow "Shake Ya Tailfeather" crooner Murphy Lee as well as rappers Kyjuan and Ali.

Suit and *Sweat*, the number one and two albums on the charts following their late 2004 release, range in style and mood.

Suit emerges as the smoother romantic dinner-type companion CD — the alternative to your almost-played-out Al Green

attempts to be the champion of seduction.

Sweat, on the other hand — its cover a dark black contrast to the cloudy blue one of *Suit* — is more club-oriented.

Those who are moved by the more soulful country-western influenced duet with Tim McGraw, "Over and Over," may think *Suit* is more enjoyable.

Whether a fan of *Suit*, *Sweat*, *Country Grammar* or *Nellyville*, the *Sweat/Suit* tour has got many people covered.

Dana Hartenstein of Event Resources Presents, a member of Nelly's publicity team, explained that while Nelly's set list will mainly draw from his two most recent albums, his old-school songs will still be played for fans at tonight's show.

"He's a new enough artist where about half of his songs will be new, but the show will cover most of his career," she said.

Nelly's visit to the BJC is the third stop on the *Sweat/Suit* tour and his second trip to the venue.

After receiving a great response to this 2002 tour promoting the album *Nellyville*, Bernie Punt, BJC sales and marketing director, said the Nelly camp was eager to have the per-

"It's going to be the big thing on campus this semester. ... Students are going crazy for this show and are completely embracing it."

Bernie Punt

Bryce Jordan Center sales and marketing director

former back in Happy Valley.

"He did very well in 2002," he said.

"It's going to be the big thing on campus this semester," Punt added.

Punt also said student ticket sales have been doing well for the show, but emphasized that many tickets are still available.

"Students are going crazy for this show and are completely embracing it," he said.

Arkansas State University (ASU) was among one of the earliest stops on Nelly's *Sweat/Suit* tour and, despite local controversy and protests against the rapper's scheduled performance, the show was still able to go off without a hitch.

"The protests didn't stop the show and we got a very positive response from the community," said Tim Dean, director of the ASU Convocation Center.

"We were only 200 tickets

short of a sold-out show," Dean added.

Punt said fans of rap and hip-hop shouldn't miss the show.

"A hip-hop show is a totally different experience ... it's very bare-boned, very interesting," he said. "If you're into hip-hop, this is the place to be."

Many \$15 student-discounted tickets are still available as well as \$36 general public tickets.

Tickets are available for purchase at the Bryce Jordan Center, Eisenhower Auditorium and the Penn State Downtown Theatre location.

If you go

What: Nelly with St. Lunatics

Time: 7:30

Date: tonight

Place: Bryce Jordan Center

Details: Tickets are still available and are \$15 and \$36

ARTS IN BRIEF

Cook to bring act to State College

Comedian Dane Cook will be coming to the Bryce Jordan Center on April 24 at 8 p.m. with Gary Gulman, Robert Kelly and Jay Davis. Cook has been named as Comedy Central's Favorite Standup Comedian and Stuff Magazine's Coolest Comic of the Year.

Tickets are \$10 with a Penn State ID and will go on sale Thursday at noon at the Bryce Jordan Center ticket office, Eisenhower Auditorium, the HUB-Robeson Center information desk and the Penn State Downtown Theatre location.

THE SCENE

Bar Bleu, 114 S. Garner St., will feature its Open Mic Talent Contest at 9:30 p.m. Specials include happy hour from 9 to 11 p.m. and \$5 Molson Canadian pitchers until midnight (237-0374).

Crowbar, 420 E. College Ave., will feature Sublime tribute band Badfish with Zox at 10 p.m. Specials include half-priced everything from 8 to 10 p.m. and \$5 Yuengling Lager pitchers from 8 p.m. to midnight (237-0426).

The All American Rathskeller, 108 S. Pugh St., will feature Dennis Fallon at 10:30 p.m. Specials include \$2 Blue Moon pints and happy hour from 10 p.m. to midnight (237-3858).

The Brewery, 233 E. Beaver Ave., will feature \$4.50 Miller Lite pitchers until midnight, \$1.75 shots and mixed drinks and \$2 white Russians from 10 to 11 p.m. (237-2892).

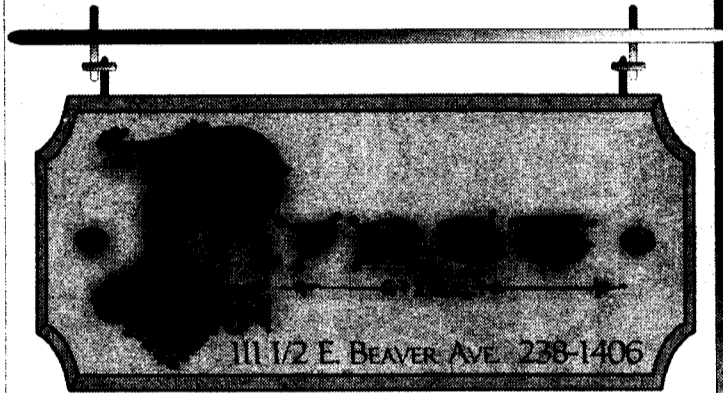
The Saloon, 101 Hiester St., will feature JP Mills at 10:30 p.m. Specials include happy hour from 9 to 11 p.m. and \$1 Miller Lite drafts until midnight (234-0845).

To have an arts and entertainment event listed here, e-mail Arts Editor Ann Doyle at aed155@psu.edu two days in advance of the event.

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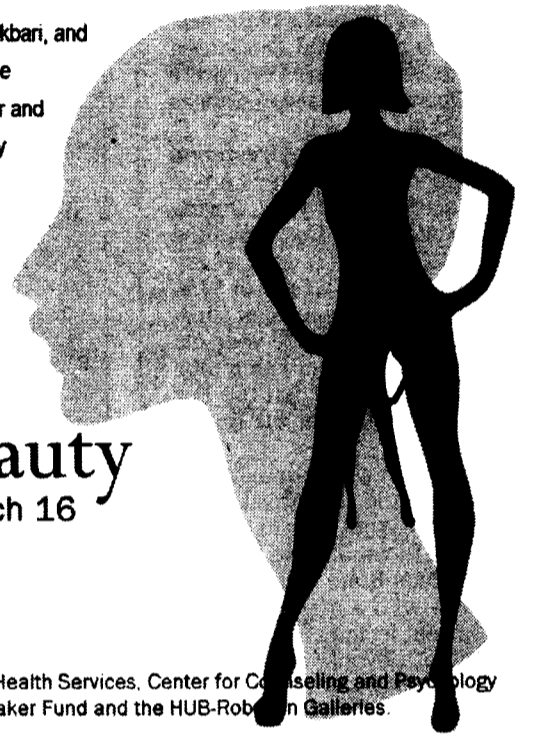
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