

# State names its idol

By Hannah Rishel  
FOR THE COLLEGIAN

Though America has a few more weeks to wait until the next American Idol is named, Penn State determined its own during Blue-White weekend.

Chelsey Pagana won Penn State Idol on Friday evening at the Blue-White Carnival in front of a packed crowd.

The winners of the HUB head-to-head challenges held at noon Monday through Thursday — Pagana (junior-kinesiology), Shannon McCoy (freshman-health and human development), Stephen Millett (junior-music) and Ali Zambanini (junior-biology) — competed in pairs.

Millet, singing "Signed, Sealed, Delivered" by Stevie Wonder, faced off against Zambanini, who performed "Alone" by Heart. Pagana, who sang "Don't Stop Believin'" by Journey, went up against McCoy, who covered "Cowboy Casanova" by Carrie Underwood.

Ultimately, Zambanini and Pagana moved on to the finals. Pagana sang the disco anthem "I Will Survive" by Gloria Gaynor, while Zambanini channeled "American Idol" winner Jordan Sparks, singing her song "Battlefield."

Instead of facing a panel of judges like they did in the HUB for



Christine Reckner/Collegian

**Penn State Idol winner, Chelsey Pagana** sings "Don't Stop Believin'" at the Blue-White Carnival on Friday next to Beaver Stadium.

the head-to-head challenges, the contestants had to rely on audience support to win. Onlookers overflowed from the bleachers to the grass surrounding the stage.

Two graduate students studying acoustics measured the decibel levels of the crowd's cheers the same way. The hosts cautioned the crowd that booing would count toward the decibel level as well as cheering.

Linda Nguyen said she didn't agree with the way the contest was judged.

"They should use a different method," Nguyen (senior-communication sciences and disorders) said. "Some people were pushing and shoving family members out of the way to get closer to the microphone."

Both Pagana and Zambanini had strong fan bases in the crowd, which made the final result very close. Pagana beat Zambanini by only half a decibel.

According to the hosts of Penn State Idol, the cheering was only

about 10 decibels below the sound of a jet engine.

"I'm extremely excited [about winning]," Pagana said. "The unbelievable support from my family and friends has been awesome."

Drew Kinek, who described Pagana as one of his best friends and his idol, was one of her main supporters in front of the stage.

"[Penn State Idol] wasn't a big deal for her," Kinek (junior-advertising-public relations) said. "She's a great girl."

Along with the title of Penn State Idol and a trophy, Pagana was awarded a \$300 cash prize and free textbooks for the fall semester of 2010 from the Penn State Bookstore. But Pagana said her favorite prize, without a doubt, was the one free pizza per week for a year from Domino's Pizza.

"All of my friends have been saying, 'We really want you to win because of the pizza,'" she said. "So that's the thing I've been looking forward to the most."

# SOMA to put on final show

By Kathleen Loughran  
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

At 7 tonight, there will be no need for students to turn on their stereos — Students Organizing the Multiple Arts (SOMA) is holding a free concert in the Paul Robeson Cultural Center's Heritage Hall.

Tickets are free and will be distributed on a first come, first serve basis. Students need to show student identification, as they will be given priority over non-students. Non-students must also show photo identification to be admitted.

After both Los Campesinos' and Cymbals Eat Guitars dropped out of the show last week, SOMA was left scrambling to find a headliner for its final concert of the year.

The group managed to book two, Man Man and The Apples in Stereo will co-headline the show.

Despite the last minute change, SOMA President Danny Michelson said he thinks the concert is going to be the best show the group has put on thus far. "They both put on such a unique live show," Michelson (senior-film) said. "This is going to be different than any other show that SOMA has put on before."

It's not the first time Man Man has performed at PSU. Last May, the band played at the State Theatre, 130 W. College Ave.

Charlee Redman said she went to see Man Man's per-

formance there last year.

"I haven't listened to The Apples in Stereo much, but I saw Man Man last year when they came to State College, and it was one of the best performances I've seen," Redman (sophomore-English and French) said.

SOMA member Marissa-Paige Smith said she is excited for the concert, especially to see Man Man perform because she likes the band's genre of music.

"I like the band Man Man a lot, and I hear they were really enthusiastic last year when they came," Smith (freshman-communication, arts and sciences) said.

SOMA's concert will give attendees the chance to dance around, which they were not able to do at the State Theatre, Michelson said.

"Man Man is so interactive, and they go all out, so they're going to be really exciting to see live," he said.

Overall, Michelson said he has gotten "amazing" feedback from the new lineup, even more so than the bands that were originally scheduled to perform.

"People have been saying 'thank you' a lot, and I wasn't getting the same feedback from the original show we planned," he said.

In addition to the two headliners, two local bands will open: Zak Sobel Band and Kalob Griffin Band.

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# Flobots celebrate PSU, Earth Day at music festival

By Kathleen Loughran  
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

A red and white beach ball was tossed around as a small crowd waited in anticipation for the Flobots to perform at the inaugural Celebrate State music festival Friday.

At about 7:15 p.m., the Flobots came on stage as one of its lead vocalists, Stephen "Brer Rabbit" Brackett, told listeners to prepare for a party.

Amy Zeller, a festival organizer and a member of The Daily Collegian's Business Division, said about 400 people came to the

day-long festival, and about 300 stayed for the concert, which cost more than \$25,000.

But Brer Rabbit said he was surprised by how many people showed up to see the show.

"I was kind of surprised how many people were here because it's such a packed weekend," he said. "The energy and vitality on this campus is apparent. It was a pleasure, and we'd love to come back."

"Handlebars," "Mayday" and "Stand Up" were among the songs the band performed.

Flobots violist Mackenzie Roberts said she enjoyed

performing for Penn State.

"Everyone's been really friendly and nice," she said. "The show was really good. People have a lot of energy. It was really fun."

During the performance, Flobots thanked Celebrate State for hosting the event and wished everyone a happy Earth Day, even though Friday was the day after the holiday. Brer Rabbit also gave a shout-out to campus activists, dreamers and peacemakers.

"You have the talent, the dreams and the abilities to fight for a better tomorrow," he said.

James "Jonny 5" Laurie, one of the band's lead singers, stressed

the importance of working together to achieve a common goal.

"It's fun to be together, but it is also important to be together because it's only when people get together that things get done, and people stand up," Jonny 5 said.

Michael Collins, a Penn State multimedia specialist, said the concert was "awesome" and his favorite song was "Rise Up."

"Aesthetically, it's just a great-sounding song, but I actually feel like they have a lot of good messages in their lyrics," he said. "No matter who you are, you can identify. It's all about togetherness for me."

David Payne said his favorite song was "Mayday."

"I like the message behind it," Payne (sophomore-hotel, restaurant and institutional management) said. "Stand up and do something, be proactive about life."

Zeller said she was pleased with the outcome of the event. Celebrate State is planning to hold another festival next year.

"It went really well," Zeller (senior-economics) said. "We had a good crowd. I think the band was really into it."

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# Juelz Santana raps to support cancer research

By Renée Guida  
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Juelz Santana was in the building — but rapper DJ Supernova said he wouldn't come to the stage until the audience earned it.

DJ Supernova prompted a competition Saturday night between students from Philadelphia and students from New York, asking each group to make noise. He said Santana wouldn't approach the Paul Robeson Cultural Center's Heritage Hall stage unless he could hear he was at Penn State.

Students representing New York — where Santana is from — won the competition, prompting the rapper to take the stage and perform "I Wanna Rock" freestyle. Kappa Alpha Psi, Inc. hosted

Santana's performance. The free concert, featuring Santana and DJ Supernova from Forensic Unit, was held to support St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital, the fraternity's national philanthropy. The pediatric treatment and research hospital accepts all patients, regardless of their family's ability to pay, according to its website.

Just before Juelz Santana appeared, Kappa Alpha Psi, Inc. fraternity members approached the stage to directly bring awareness to the purpose of the benefit concert.

Fraternity vice-president and event coordinator Austin Miller said he wanted to promote awareness for St. Jude's and provide entertainment at the same time —

Juelz Santana was a good way to do it.

"He's a very versatile artist. I think he's one of the rare artists that can cater to both males and females," Miller (senior-journalism) said. "It's a good diversity."

Before the show, the HUB was packed with a line of students — which went from Heritage Hall's doors all the way to the bottom of the center stairs — to see the show. Joseph Ortiz (freshman-engineering) said he came to the concert because he grew up around rap and because Santana is a popular artist.

"We like the way he flows with his music," Ortiz said. "I mean, he's a big name."

Ortiz said his favorite song right now is Lloyd Banks' "Beamer,

Benz Or Bentley," which also features Santana.

Saadi Javadi (freshman-pre-med) said before the show that it would be "poppin'."

During the performance, Santana said he wanted everyone to have fun and frequently addressed the "independent ladies" in the room. At one point in the concert, Santana stopped everything in the middle of a song.

"I don't think they're ready," he said, referring to the audience. "Wait, let me look at my watch. I think they're ready."

Cue "Clockwork," a song in which Juelz Santana spurted lyrics like, "Tick-Tock, around and around and around the clock."



Tyler Sizemore/Collegian

**Juelz Santana** raps Saturday to support St. Jude's hospital.

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