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The Daily Collegian

ARTS FEST

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Strudel stand retains strong traditions

By Kathleen Loughran
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

A young boy with a YMCA T-shirt and a smile on his face screamed "Strudel!" as he passed the yellow and red striped-tents of Helmut's Strudel, located by the intersection of Allen Street and College Avenue.

He wasn't the only one enthusiastic about the venerable Arts Fest food vendor.

Dottie Bird, of Bellefonte, said she has bought food from the stand before.

"I like German food," she said. "I like the pretzels, and probably before the week is over, I'll buy some of the almonds and of course the strudel."

Over its 29 years at the Central Pennsylvania Festival of the Arts, Helmut's Strudel has become a



fixture at the summer festival.

"Back then there were only four food stands... when there were little houses [on the street] instead of those buildings," owner John Dailey said.

Dailey decorates his tent with a pair of German flags, and offers more than just strudels.

The tent sells frosted banana-berries and strawberry smoothies, in addition to hand-twisted pretzels topped with melted butter.

Their signs also boast German almonds roasted in cinnamon

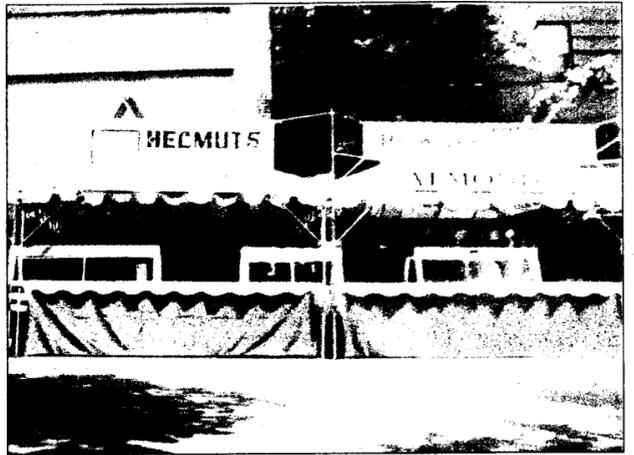
sugar — a scent that trails Allen Street for blocks.

Dailey said Arts Fest is the "most challenging" event he does.

"Between the heat and the rain, you never know what to expect," he said. "It takes a very large crew to do it, and the crowd changes the items that sell. Kids love the pretzels, and moms love the strudel."

Though Helmut's Strudel has visited other arts festivals in the past, Dailey said Arts Fest is now the only arts-related festival at which he sets up stands and sells his German food.

"It's the only [festival] that has such versatility," Dailey said. "It's a party. It's one big celebration. Anytime anyone says Arts Fest to me, I say 'You mean Penn State, right?'"



Steph Witt/Collegian

Helmut's Strudel has been a crowd favorite for the past 29 years. Located on Allen Street, the booth stands out with its German flags.

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Festival supported by donors

By Megan Rogers
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

It costs more than \$600,000 to put together both the Central Pennsylvania Festival of the Arts and First Night, but festival officials say community support makes it all possible.

The festival is funded through sponsorships and gifts from corporations and individuals, said Diane Bloom, director of development.

Bloom said sponsorships brought in a little more than \$100,000 for the festival this year. Individual donations totaled about \$35,000.

State grants are also an integral money source for the event.

This year, the festival was given three grants from state and local governments, said festival director Rick Bryant.

The grant from the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts (PCA) is between \$10,000 and \$20,000 this year, and is expected to decrease in the future, Bryant said.

"The PCA's funding has been subject to serious budget cuts in the last couple of years, so we look for our grant to decrease as the agency experiences budget cuts," he said.

The final grant is from the Visitors' Bureau in Centre County, he said — it's an annual grant that varies, but this year the festival was awarded a \$40,000 grant.

People have various reasons for donating to festival, Bryant said.

"Some people are willing to support the festival, some people believe in the adage why buy the cow when you get the milk for free," he said.

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Dreamers twirl, dance despite heat

By Paul Osolnick
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With batons, flags and grace, several groups of young twirlers took the stage on the Old Main lawn yesterday.

The Nittany Dreamers Baton Corps — about 15 girls ranging in age from kindergarten to high school — performed Wednesday on the Festival Shell Stage.

The twirlers performed to the song "Down" by Jay Sean.

As the music started and the performances commenced, the crowd that totaled 35 people started to grow to about 75 with interested people who were passing by.

The mid-day heat caused some twirlers to drop their batons.

"One thing you have to watch out for is when you wipe your face and touch your baton," twirler Allison Gasperich said, explaining how sweaty hands can affect grip. "You don't do that."

Despite the day's heat, the twirlers made the best of it.

"We're really used to the heat because we do parades and it's really hot most of the time," twirler Sasha Scherlinsky said. "You just got to work around it."

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Steph Witt/Collegian

State College resident Maddox Leitzell, 4, gets a basketball painted on his nose at the painting booth at the Old Main Lawn.

Kids kick-off Arts Fest

By Kathleen Loughran
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Noah Johnson is three and three quarters, and he likes turtles.

Though he sold wooden swords with his brother, Eli Johnson, 9, at this year's Central Pennsylvania Festival of the Arts' Children and Youth Day, Noah said he wants to sell wooden turtles next year.

"[I want to sell them] because I like turtles, and I only want to get more money," he said. "I only have three bucks."

For the children who did not sell crafts, Children and Youth Day provided activities such as clowns, marionettes, performances and the Grand Procession at 4 p.m.

A performance by the Dance Academy closed the day.

Noah and Eli Johnson were only two

of the several hundred children who sold their crafts at the festival.

Katie Ziegler, 12, said she has been selling at the festival for the past three years. Her friend Gwen Moore, 13, joined her two years ago. Among other items, the girls sold flower-shaped pens made of duct tape.

"I've been into duct tape lately, so I made a flower," Ziegler said.

Bly Persell, 16, is no rookie to the Children and Youth Day Sidewalk Sale. He said this is his seventh year selling ceramic sculptures at the festival.

"My parents both do it, so it was a big influence on me," Persell said. "[Arts Fest] is a fun place to exhibit my wares."

Though Cade Fortney, 10, and Trent Fortney, 13, have sold their products at other art festivals before, this is their first year at Arts Fest.

The brothers use images they find in nature to create letters people can then use to spell out various words.

"I guess we're pretty creative because we saw a flamingo and made an 'S' out of it," Cade said.

Cade said they initially got the idea for the project after seeing an adult sell photographed letters.

It took the duo three years to collect the whole alphabet, he said.

Rachel Stuber, 9, also got her inspiration from seeing the craft someplace else.

Stuber makes bottle-cap necklaces and decided to sell them at her first Arts Fest after her mother told her about the sale.

"I like it, although it's very hot," she said.

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Women compete for title, award

By Zach Geiger
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Six different performers took to the Allen Street Stage on Wednesday as part of the Centre County Outstanding Young Woman Scholarship Program — an Arts Fest performance that served as preparation for the main competition in October.

The performers — comprised of current contestants and alumni of the program — sang, danced and played musical instruments for a crowd that braved the afternoon heat at the Central Pennsylvania Festival of the Arts' Children and Youth Day.

The program looks for well-rounded contestants to compete in different categories such as talent, academics and interview skills, said Suzie Shoffner, a 2010 contestant.

Shoffner, a junior at State College Area High School, auditioned with the trumpet,

sang and tap-danced. For her performance, Shoffner sang and played the trumpet for the crowd.

"The performance helps to get the jitters out," said Linn Ripka, program director for Centre County Outstanding Young Woman.

Only two of the 15 current contestants performed at Children and Youth Day, with the other four performers consisting of alumni and past winners who were invited back, Ripka said.

The program is beneficial to the young women involved because it teaches confidence, maturity and responsibility, Ripka said.

"It's really relaxing because of all of the kids running around," program alumna Mary Elizabeth McCulloch said. "It wasn't as nerve-wracking as being onstage with all the judges staring at you."



Steph Witt/Collegian

Sarah Glerhart, a sophomore at Temple University, performs.

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