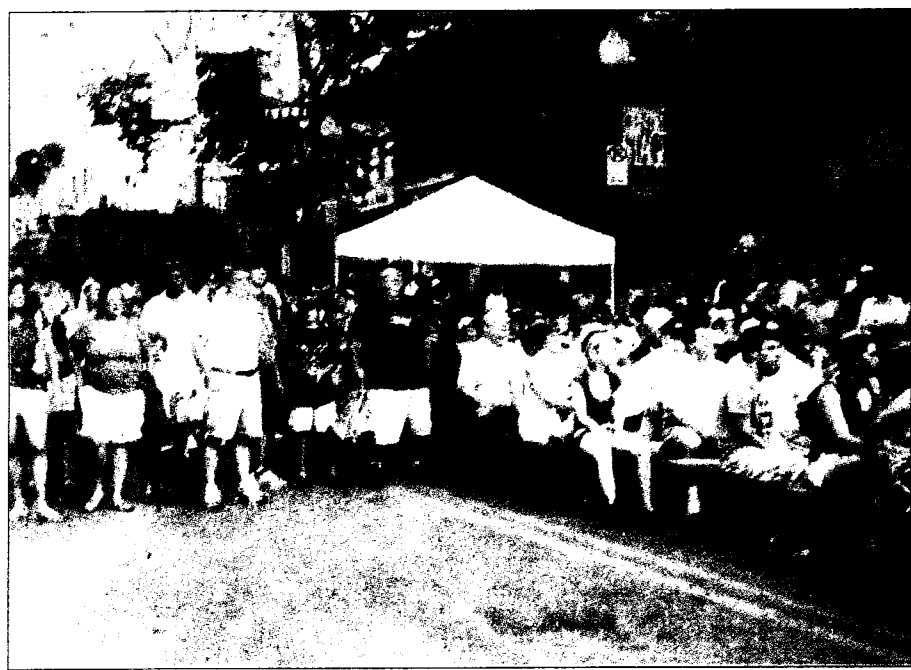


# DAY & NIGHT



Steph Witt/Collegian

A crowd gathers on Allen Street to watch J.R. and Natalie perform on Thursday night.



Steph Witt/Collegian

People gather at Bill Pickle's Tap Room, 106 S. Allen St., for a drink on Thursday night.

## Arts Fest straddles two distinct worlds, cultures

By Brendan McNally  
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

For some Penn State students, nighttime is when the real "Fest" begins.

While alumni, parents and children take in the sights, sounds and smells of Arts Fest weekend during the day, those students will be waiting anxiously for the sun to go down.

But visitors like Mary Lewis have been coming from out of town year after year to see what the Central Pennsylvania Festival of the Arts is really all about — art.

"I'm just walking around looking at all the art," Lewis, of Salamanca, N.Y., said. "I think it's great. I've been here every year."

In all of Lewis' days at Arts Fest, she said Thursday may have been the hottest. The State College Police Department said it expects to handle medical emergencies related to the heat and is prepared to handle any surge in calls.

But the heat didn't seem to keep anyone away from the festival. People swarmed around hundreds of white tents lining the streets of State College — scurrying into one tent, popping out of another.

All the while they were scavenging through paintings, sculptures, glassware, clothing and handicrafts looking for a

great find to take home with them.

The heat might not have kept anyone from visiting, but it certainly drew people to find something refreshing, and fresh-squeezed lemonade seemed to be a favorite.

Besides lemonade, refreshment stands were selling just about any festival food imaginable: funnel cake, snow cones, kettle corn and gyros.

"Well, I always get the chicken on a stick," Charlie Kroboth, of Bellefonte, said. "But the food is usually pretty good all over the festival."

Just a few hundred yards from the refreshment stands on Allen Street was Rich Cermak, who was waiting at the Allen Street Stage to hear some live music.

Cermak, of Boalsburg, said he enjoys the broad range of music at Arts Fest, some of which is free of charge.

"[The music] is excellent," he said. "Most groups have a good local flavor but sometimes you'll see something that gets close to a heavy metal sound. You really get the best of both worlds."

Listeners seemed more than willing to brave the beating sun well into the evening to hear some of that "local flavor."

But as the sun set and the air cooled,

police said they had to switch from worrying about the heat to covering a completely different problem — parties.

"In the past, [Arts Fest] has been used as a kind of homecoming event or a mid-summer get-together," State College Police Lt. Chris Fishel said.

And with all those Penn State students converging on State College from their hometowns, police said they are expecting a busy weekend.

Police brought in additional staff and are getting assistance from the state police and other Centre County law enforcement agencies, police said.

But eager freshmen didn't seem to notice.

"Well, I'd like to go into town and see the crafts," Tyler Pilarski (freshman-communications) said. "But I've heard that there are some crazy parties this week as well."

Pilarski said most students probably look forward to parties at night more than the art during the day.

Kate Kafonek (freshman-psychology) said partying isn't all that students care about.

"I think that's why a lot of students are excited," Kafonek said. "But that's not the only reason I am."

Arts Fest is the first time freshmen get to experience a big event on campus, she said, and it gives them a chance to explore downtown and get a feel for the community.

Christian Ragland, University Park Undergraduate Association president, said he doesn't think Arts Fest has to be all about drinking, either — and he points to Rahim Blocker as proof.

Blocker (junior-African and African-American studies) has planned a dry fraternity party at Theta Delta Chi, 305 E. Prospect Ave., to show freshmen that they don't need to drink to have fun over Arts Fest weekend.

"I wanted to throw a party — a real good one — that says we're gonna dance and scream and yell," he said. "We're not gonna drink, but we're gonna have a good time."

Drinking or not, it seems that just about every Penn State student is excited to have a good time at night during Arts Fest.

"I don't know what to expect," Kafonek said. "So I'm looking forward to seeing people get excited for all the activities."

Still, Kafonek said she had a particular type of activity in mind.

"Parties," she said.

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## Chalk artists imitate masters on Hiester

By Kathleen Loughran  
and Megan Rogers  
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

For Abigail Cramer, Arts Fest was enough to cut her honeymoon short.

The elementary school art teacher from Pennsburg, Pa., has participated in the Italian Street Painting Festival at the Central Pennsylvania Festival of the Arts for 10 years.

At the intersection of College Avenue and Hiester Street, Cramer will spend the weekend adding some Penn State pride to the street with an Old Main building recreation in the style of a famous Pennsylvania artist.

Cramer, who a few years ago left her honeymoon early to participate in Arts Fest, and the other street painters endure the majority of the festival kneeling on 104-degree pavement. To beat the heat, artists kneel on cardboard boxes and wear ice water-soaked bandanas around their necks.

For the eleventh year in a row, Hiester will become home to chalk

renditions of paintings by artists like da Vinci, Picasso and Delaunay. Since it first began, the street painting festivities have grown from four paintings to 24 images that are four feet by six feet, event coordinator Holly Foy said.

Victoria Herr, a senior at State College Area High School, has returned for her second year. This year she is using chalk pastels to recreate "Eiffel Tower" by Delaunay.

"I chose it because of the colors, and I really like the contrast in value," Herr said. "It was a lot more my style of art than the piece that I chose last year to do."

Emma Nord, 6, and Jane Biddle, 8, spent Thursday morning working on a "Picasso face," Nord said.

"It just kind of came off my mind, and we didn't have any other ideas," Nord said as she added color to her 18-inch square.

The pair and other youngsters drew their masterpieces in the young artists' alley. For \$5, patrons can buy a square and chalk pas-

tels, Foy said. By the end of the weekend, she expects the entire street to be a collage of color.

Kya Tomashefski is one of many local high school students participating in the street painting. For her design, she's creating an ode to pop music.

"I always do a piece that was originally mine," she said. "[This one] is based off of Michael Jackson's song 'Smooth Criminal,' and since he died last year, I thought a lot of people would appreciate it if I did something attributed to him."

The best part about street painting is you get to watch the artists in action, Foy said.

The paintings will be washed away come Monday, Foy said — so she advises visitors to stop by and watch the artists in action.

But it's not just all watching, she said. Festival-goers can stand in designated circles to be positioned perfectly for a picture of them holding a leaping chalk frog.

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Steph Witt/Collegian

State College Area High School students Sarah Chang and Miranda Holmes recreate Leonardo da Vinci's piece "Angel", with chalk.

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