

# The Asylum brings alternative bands to town

by Peter Rambo

The Asylum, a student-run music club that organizes punk, hardcore and other independent music shows on campus, brings "bands you've never heard of" to Penn State.

Asylum has brought big names in the underground scene here in the past and is the only campus group consistently bringing independent bands to Penn State. The Bryce Jordan Center books only the biggest names that come with the biggest ticket prices. The bar scene is dominated by cover bands, and HUB Late Night brings only "radio friendly" bands that do not appeal to some students. Armor for Sleep and Scary Kids Scaring Kids will play an Asylum show Oct. 22 in the HUB on the Penn State campus.

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Most of the shows they put on feature bands that are playing for gas money or less. News of shows travels via word of mouth and campus flyers.

Two years ago The Asylum managed to get an appropriation of about \$2,500 from the University Park Allocations Committee (UPAC) and brought the Bouncing Souls, the Casualties, and the Disasters to the HUB. They were supported by local band Caught Like Fire, which featured some Asylum members. The turnout was great—people came from all over Pennsylvania to see the show. Energetic music led to green-haired kids moshing and spiked-hair kids crowd surfing. All this fun made for a lot of anxious security guards. They complained, and The Asylum ended up on bad terms

with UPAC. For the past two years, the club has been relegated to Pollock Commons and has had virtually no budget. Sometimes there has not been enough money to print flyers.

This year's president, sophomore Eric Meyers, worked through the summer to convince the president of UPAC that The Asylum is an important club. Meyers succeeded and was given Alumni Hall for a show on Saturday, October 22, along with an impressive budget to work with. He says Armor for Sleep, the headliner, has "broken a million plays on PureVolume."

PureVolume provides a way for independent bands to make their music available to the masses. Any band may upload three songs to PureVolume servers for free,

and the site tracks how many times a song has been played. This helps promoters and labels know how a band sounds as well as how popular a band is, at least on the Internet.

Two smaller shows are tentatively scheduled for Oct. 20 and Nov. 12, in Pollock Commons. Club president Myers reported that The Asylum has been assigned a room in the HUB for the spring semester. The Asylum meets on Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. outside EE East.

## Upcoming Concerts

Thursday, Oct. 20, 2005  
Marigold, In Pieces and Pandemic  
Pollock Rec Room

Saturday, Oct. 22, 2005  
Armor For Sleep, Scary Kids  
Scaring Kids, Sunday Driver  
Go to [www.clubs.psu.edu/theasylum](http://www.clubs.psu.edu/theasylum)  
for more information.

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