

Lesbopalooza: a celebration of women and diversity

Lesbopalooza organizer senior Betsy Hershman was proud to see her hard work pay off when students and people from the surrounding area got up to dance to Melinda Di Maio.

"I was really happy to see the diversity among our population between the older people and the students," Hershman said.

In Saturday's mild autumn weather, the first Lesbopalooza in two years hit the campus at Collins Center. Pushed back to 12:30 p.m. and running until 7:00 p.m., Lesbopalooza entertained between 400 and 500 people to the music of its bands, the humor of its comedians and the camaraderie of the event.

"It went really well," said sophomore David Johnson, the Lesbopalooza location coordinator. "We had a really good turnout."

Tables were lined in an arch with a veranda at its apex, which was used as a stage for Lesbopalooza's many performers. Students and Bloomington citizens mingled in the courtyard.

Senior David Hutson, a Lesbopalooza production coordinator, said Di Maio was amazing.

"She was funny, had a great voice and she was definitely a crowd pleaser," Hutson said. "She was from New York, so she had a lot of interesting stories to tell."

Hutson also said Tracy Drach had "one of the most beautiful voices heard for a long time."

Upstart, a local group, attracted the biggest crowd and gave Hutson and Johnson vision for a possible Lesbopalooza future.

"Hopefully, we'll get sponsoring earlier, and we'll try advertising on a larger, maybe national, level," Johnson said.

As for next year's location, Hutson said, "We would have no problems holding it at Collins, but we'll probably hold it at Dunn Meadow."

Hershman, while looking forward, isn't forgetting Saturday.

"Community sponsorship was really amazing, definitely we owe our thanks to them."

“Community sponsorship was really amazing, definitely we owe our thanks to them.”

BETSY HERSHMAN
LESBOPALOOZA ORGANIZER

”

from IDS reports



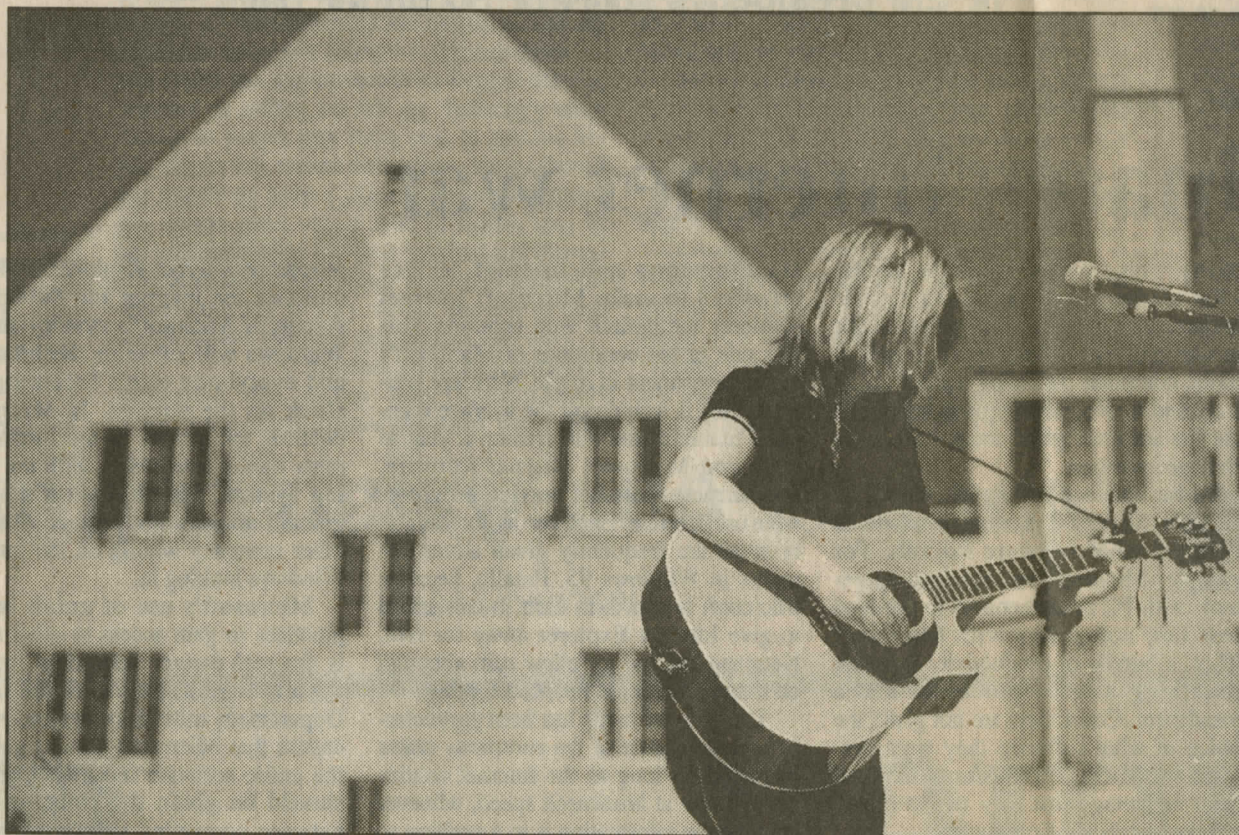
from IDS reports



ABOVE: Songbear Burke creates his own diversion while Stewy Lualdi watches the stage during Lesbopalooza Saturday afternoon in the Collins Center courtyard.
MICHAEL MONAR • IDS

FAR LEFT: Bloomington residents Eric Wittner and Brian Hertz ponder what they might do with some items from the Pitiful Bootlicker booth Saturday at Lesbopalooza in the Collins Center courtyard.
JJ CANULL • IDS

LEFT: Graduate student Neil Carnes views the world via a handmade leather item from the Pitiful Bootlicker booth Saturday at Lesbopalooza in the Collins Center courtyard.
JJ CANULL • IDS



FAR LEFT: October Cristafi, a 28-year-old song-writer from Chicago, warms up the crowd Saturday at Lesbopalooza in the Collins Center courtyard.
JJ CANULL • IDS

LEFT: Kathy Pollock and Nacy Crowe make their way through the crowd to browse the many booths Saturday at Lesbopalooza in the Collins Center courtyard.
JJ CANULL • IDS