

The Concert Committee

by Karen Murphy

There are many feelings towards the performance of a band after a concert. If they were good, praise fills *Cardinal Points* the following week. All of the compliments are directed towards the band, and we all seem unaware that there is a lot more to a good concert than just the band. The people who organize, set up and take down the equipment spend endless hours on the phone should be given credit, for without them there would be no concerts at PSUC.

The Concert Committee is composed of a very involved group of individuals which does more than just book a concert. Their work entails numerous activities, which only begin with the booking. Virtually every day they are in contact with their agent, located in Massachusetts, to find out who is on tour and available, when and all the other seemingly trivial information which enable them to keep on top of what's happening. The voluntary group takes care of such tasks as reserving the field house, setting up security (both uniformed and student), and setting up the stage, which many believe comes with the group, but is actually ordered in advance by the committee.

It's not easy putting together a concert, where we can all gather, listen to the music, smoke some and, if lucky, drink our unfiscated beer. There are many

technicalities for which the committee is responsible. Months in advance preparations are being made for a one-night concert. Is it worth it? Well, as students we find it worthwhile if it's a good band and a good performance, but what about the committee? Why do they labor long hours for our pleasure? According to Ed Leach, a senior and one of the three chairpersons who head the committee, "It's a rewarding experience. Before the band begins, you go out in front of the stage and look at the audience -- it's a pretty good feeling." When asked why they put on concerts, Ed's reply was very simple and honest, "Because students want to see concerts."

The Concert Committee is also responsible for the mundane tasks such as setting up dressing rooms in the field house getting a piano tuner for the group and adjusting the spotlights. A note of interest to campus students who are subjected to the food services meals--the band also eats food obtained from the food service. The committee receives with the contract a form called a "rider" which stipulates, among other things, the concert committee's responsibility for getting the spotlights, the stage size requested and the food desired.

On the day of the concert there is much excitement, as well as anxiety in the field house. One of the committee's crew sets up the stage, which takes about three hours of work, and when the road crew of the band arrives, our crew helps unload, position speakers on the stage and generally get things in order so everything will run smoothly. It's not uncommon for the committee to be at the field house twelve hours or more, from about 8 a.m. until 2 a.m. They are responsible for helping the band, setting up, feeding the band members, and being available in case something goes wrong.

As soon as the concert comes to a close and the house lights go on, the committee members once again are involved in a laborious activity -- that being the strike. The strike can go on until the early hours of morning; during this time the members disassemble everything, pack up the stage, take down the speakers, equipment and the lights. Everything is then loaded into trucks and vans, while the band, by this time, is either sleeping or enjoying a few drinks somewhere.

The PSUC Concert Committee is composed of about a dozen dedicated individuals, who are the underlying reason why we are able to enjoy concerts. So the next time we applaud the band, or give a standing ovation, remember - the committee deserves a hand too!