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Journalism 1

Culture Shock was hit by rain once again on Saturday, leaving students not only annoyed, but wondering: why does this keep happening?

It seems to be an annual tragedy: Culture Shock is announced, the lineup is posted, the students are eager, when—*kapow!* Rain strikes, and everyone is forced to move inside the Stood.

This would be a fine solution, if not for the capacity limitations. The outdoor space that Culture Shock is set to take place in doesn't have a capacity limitation. However, when it rains and everyone migrates to the Stood, there is a capacity limitation of 900 people, including Stood staff and the performers themselves. To put this in context, Purchase College has just over 3,200 total students. This means that less than 1/3 of the student body can actually attend Culture Shock's main event when it is on a rain schedule.

Naturally, some things started to bottleneck, particularly the line to enter. "I've been here for two whole hours. *Two whole hours!*" said sophomore Dariel Ynoa. "I've been waiting for so long I honestly might just turn around and go home."

He was not alone in this frustration. "Seriously," chimed in sophomore Liam O'Dell. "I just watched the entire baseball team cut the line. People are getting rambunctious. We can't get in. I could leave and watch Paul Blart: Mall Cop and come back and I'd still be waiting."

Some people did end up leaving. Antonio Latella said while heading home, “Look, I don’t even go here. I just paid the money to get in with my boys and see Cash Cobain. It’s to the extent of like, money-wise, I paid a lot for this. It’s bullshit, for real.”

Latella’s situation highlights another concern: guests paid \$15 for a day pass and \$25 for a weekend pass. If the guest paid for a day pass on Sunday, there was no guaranteed entry—they were essentially paying for a concert without being let in.

It’s even worse for alumni: The Stood claimed in an Instagram post that alumni would not be allowed in whatsoever on a rain schedule.

Stood worker Bernie Manzolillo described the night from his perspective: “Well, we weren’t at capacity the whole time, but at a few points in the night we were. When that happened we just did what we always do. We let people in based on how many people leave. Because some people leave after the set they wanted to see finishes up.”

But doesn’t it always seem to rain? “Yeah, actually,” said Manzolillo. “Every Culture Shock has had to be partially indoors due to rain since Covid. It’s a real shame, too, I know the management side has been trying to get it outdoors for a while.”

In terms of solutions, Manzolillo suggests, “We could try moving it to a different time of year that’s less rainy, or even just keep it outside. I think the one critique I have is that we seem to immediately move it inside the second there’s rain. People can deal with a little drizzle. But I’m sure there’s some technical thing with the stage equipment where they need it indoors.”

Stood line-waiters agreed: “Dude, I’d rather just be outside with an umbrella or something,” said Liam O’Dell. “Or maybe even without an umbrella! The rain could be fun, as long as it’s not, like, a storm or something.”

As for the future of Culture Shock, only time (and the weather app) will tell.