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SGA issues report on Station Road businesses

by Joet Kolano
staff writer

The results are in from 36 students who answered the SGA student life survey. Tim Smith, SGA Vice President, introduced the report stating his disappointment in the "lack of student participation in the survey." The following information was gathered from the survey:

Of the students who responded, ten live on campus and twenty six live off campus.

32 of the students have access to a ride at all times, four do not.

8 of the students said that they felt isolated while 28 of the students either do not feel isolated to the campus or just did not answer.

34 students felt that commercial development would attract prospective students, two did not.

23 students felt that the lack of development is a factor in the number of students who transfer to Main Campus, 13 did not think this way or did not answer.

35 of the students were in favor of alternative places to eat other than Bruno's or Dobbins.

34 students were in favor of commercial development off campus.

Video rental, fast food, take-out, eat-in, and convenience stores were among the choices that students supported for Station Road. Some other suggestions included a Subway and nightclubs.

The Student Life Committee has contacted several local businesses about locating near campus and are awaiting their responses. SLC has also been trying to work with Bruno's

or to Reed for a movie. Many students feel that with added businesses, the campus atmosphere would drastically improve.

Several Behrend students commented last night about the possibility of business and store development near campus. Shawn Benson, 10, Mechanical Engineering, said that "there should be more of a variety instead of only one bookstore, and one

or near campus?"

The statement that "anything is better than Housing and Food Services!" was made by T.J. Dye, 04 Business Economics.

Largent also stated that "it feels like Housing and Food Services makes you drop your drawers and touch your toes." Dye responded to this statement by saying, "Housing and Food Services, why you riding mine?"

Kevin Andryc, 04 Biology, said about commercial businesses, "it's a great idea. It (more businesses) would create some competition which would, in turn, lower the prices at Bruno's." He also said "I want racquetball, a bookstore with more supplies, and a little grocery store on campus."

Katie Jiles, 02 Biology, felt that it needed to be known that "our library sucks! I don't know how to find anything." She added, "we need another bookstore."

SGA president Mike Zampetti said that, "Although not many people responded to the survey, those who did responded well."

"It feels like Housing and Food Services make you drop your drawers and touch your toes."

Don Largent
10, Mechanical Engineering

in lowering the prices by encouraging value meals and other programs. For anyone interested in giving suggestions concerning Bruno's, there is a "Bruno's Meeting" every other Wednesday at 7:00 PM.

Students seem to be interested in seeing the Behrend College and its surrounding community grow with more business and recreational options. There is a general desire for something to do besides going to

place to eat."

Todd Benson, 02, DUS, felt that "there needs to be a place on campus to buy cigarettes."

Don "Juan" Largent, 10, Mechanical Engineering, exclaimed, "Definitely! More businesses would definitely be worth it!"

Another student, who wished to be anonymous, asked "would we be able to use our meal cards at a place such as a McDonalds if it were erected on

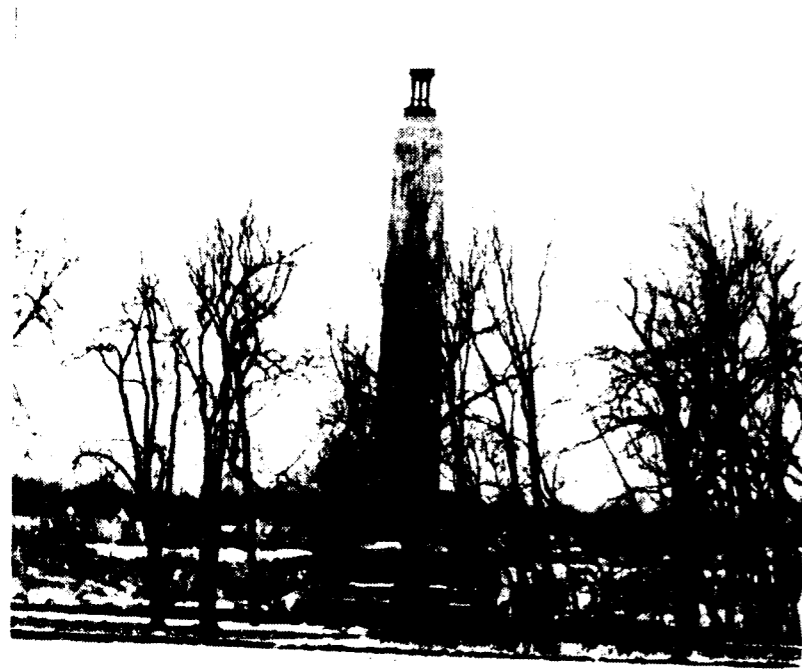


photo by Jason Blake

Perry Monument at Presque Isle State Park. Feature story and photo essay on Presque Isle on page 8.

Delany reads fantasy and fiction

Will Jordan
staff writer

"I am Black and I am Gay." Science Fiction author Samuel R. Delany read passages from three of his books last Thursday. Delany has written over 30 books. Delany is a Professor of Comparative Literature and is a four-time winner of the Nebula Award.

Assistant Professor of English Alan Parker introduced Delany. Parker said that in Delany's books, "gender is fluid and race is mixed." Delany opened by saying that about 20 to 25 years ago he started a project. That is when he began writing "sorcery stories." An example that he used to describe his writing was "Conan the Conqueror" where the story is placed in the past instead of the future. The work that he spoke of was "Tales of Neveryon."

Delany then proceeded to say that part of him is within each of his stories. "I am Black and I am Gay", Delany said as he spoke of what was in his stories. He then said that "Tales of Neveryon" filled up four volumes. Delany also said that he did speak on

the topic of AIDS in some of his stories; however he uses a fantasy form to talk about the topic. Delany wrote one of his first novels on AIDS. The story is about 3 young people. He read a few passages from this story, set in 1984. One of the passages read, "AIDS is not a disease. It is connected with sex and blood. Suddenly the body gives up." Delany also used the phrases "conceptual turbulence" and "mid twentieth century orthodox Freudian" in his story. The majority of the passages he read dealt with sex, age, and sexual orientation.

Delany's next reading was not fiction. It was called "The Motion of Light and Water." It was his biography. This story tended to jump around from year to year. Delany simply said, "I have a thing for jumping around between places." The first passage that he read took place in "Camp Woodland" which was a summer camp he attended when he was a young boy. In the story, Delany said, "I knew that I had come to a magic place." He mentioned the name of one of the camp directors, "Mary."

He then jumped ahead in time to when he was a teenager in Harlem, New York. This next passage spoke about the "Jewel Box Review" which consisted of "female impersonators at the Apollo." Delany used the term "stately queens" to describe the female impersonators. The show was composed of 30 people and only one of them was a real woman. The idea was to figure out which one was the real woman by the end of the show. At the end of the show the master of ceremonies came out on stage and asked the audience which one was the real woman. After a while the master of ceremonies revealed that she was the real woman all along. The irony was that the Master of Ceremonies was the same person as the Camp Director, "Mary." Delany then read that he "never mentioned to anyone in his family that he had gone."

The third story that he read from was "Atlantis" which was different from the other two stories. This story was set in 1924 and was about a father and his gay son. The father had come to New York City at the end of

1923. The main character was named "Sam." The story takes place in both North Carolina and New York City. In the story the son reveals to his father that he is gay, the father acts prejudiced toward the fact that his son is gay, then at the end the father repents.

The final piece from which he read passages was an essay that he had written about teaching in a creative writing class. It was titled "The Life of Writing." In his essay, Delany referred to love and Freud. He referred to a student who had written an essay as the "unsuspecting Sophocles." In the essay, the student had written an essay about an experience that he had on a beach. However, the student had totally exaggerated the whole thing. Delany had told the "unsuspecting Sophocles" that "There is nothing wrong with lying in fiction, that is what it's all about."

In the next segment of the lecture, Delany answered questions from the audience. One member of the audience asked why he chooses to write in the genre of fantasy. Delany answered by saying that he likes to write things that he would read. He said that he tries to write fantasies that no one else writes and to put in the things that other writers leave out.

Another member of the audience asked Delany what he is currently reading. Delany responded by saying that he reads "whatever is thrown in my face." He then said that he is currently reading Walter Pear. Another member of the audience asked Delany how much of himself does he put into his stories. Delany answered, "lots." He tries "not to have fiction imitate the real but up to the real."

After Delany's talk, Mandy Smith, 02 Horticulture, said, "I thought he was very interesting. The passages that he read made me want to read his books. His historical fiction book was very interesting; how the one guy Louis said how reading books and meeting people were his origins, not just Africa." Russell John-Baptiste, 02 Computer Science, said, "I thought that he didn't let the audience separate his homosexuality from his work. That may have made it harder for people to look at him and his work



photo by Ben Murphy

Samuel Delany reads from his recent work last Thursday in the Reed Commons

objectively." Jamilla Ortman 02 Accounting said, "I found his stories very surprising. I didn't expect him to talk about what he talked about. When he said 'I am Black and I am Gay,' it caught me by surprise."

The next day Delany was a guest in Dr. Parker's English 488, American Fiction Since 1945 class. The students were talking to him about their responses to his book "They Fly at Ciron." Delany said that "a book is like a balloon and the author is on the inside." Delany said that he grew up in Harlem. He went to Dalton School on Park Avenue which was a predominantly white school. Being from these two different backgrounds he was able to listen to different kinds of language. He also said that he wanted to be a nuclear physicist but there was an experimental physics class that he was a part of in high school. Delany

said that it was an absolute waste of time and he learned nothing. It was this class that made him change his mind. Delany also mentioned that he is working on a comic book called "Bread and Wine" which is due to come out in the near future.

Later in an interview, Delany said that his background has had a major effect on him and his writing. He has had a range of experiences and a broader experience of people which have been quite successful. His motivation for writing was that his parents did a lot of reading. His father grew up near St. Augustine's, which is a Black college. He has come from a family of teachers and reading that he says has rubbed off on him. When asked what he put in science fiction stories that other authors leave out, Delany said that in his stories, the hero is not always perfect.

Trigon becomes more active on campus

by Andrea Zaffino
editor in chief

Last Friday evening, in the lobby of Perry Hall, Trigon hosted a party based on the Lesbian Gay Bisexual Student Alliance (LGBSA) Pride Week that traditionally takes place at University Park. This year the Pride Week took place between March 29th and April 4th and included events like documentaries and student films, poetry readings and social mixers.

This past year Trigon has been very active, holding events like the Safer Sex Cabaret, luncheons, and a Christmas dinner at one of the group's advisor's house. These things have been taking place "to show support for the members of Trigon which is

what the group is for," said Dan Merson, Assistant to the Dean of Student Affairs, and the coordinator for Trigon events.

"Trigon is trying to coordinate with other campuses, especially University Park," Merson said. The plan was to have an event that would go along with LGBSA's Pride Week. The result was the Perry Pride Party. However, planning for the party didn't start until about a week and a half before it actually took place. This along with the fact that many other activities were going on that same night hindered attendance to the event. "We were hoping we'd get a lot of people, but about a dozen went," Merson said of the event.

Despite the lack of participation in the last event, Trigon plans to hold another get together before the end of the year. Right now a "Beach Ball" is planned for Tuesday, April 28th in the Picnic Grove.

"What we're really trying to do is increase the membership by the Fall semester," Merson said. Next year the group is planning to hold a forum addressing religion and sexuality, which will be cosponsored by the Human Relations Programming Council (HRPC). They also want to send out an on campus mailing to all faculty and staff in the Fall to explain what the group is all about and give out stickers for people to display to show their support.