

Student apathy strikes at SGA Clubfest

Lisa Malask
Capital Times Staff

The Student Government Association made an effort to lure potential members to the Clubfest by giving away pizza. The aroma of dough and sauce and cheese may have filled the room, but students sure didn't.

SGA President Michael Hermick, a senior majoring in public policy, looked over the room, where just a few students visited club tables.

"The Clubfest was publicized," he said. "Students complain about what's not going on, but every time I turn around, there is another event unattended."

The event took place in the Gallery Lounge on Jan. 16, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Kay Stohler, a junior majoring in information systems, enthusiastically represented her club, WPSH Radio. She was eager to explain the benefits of joining, but she said membership has been declining.

"Last semester, we had about 50 members," Stohler said. "Many have graduated, and now we have about 30."

Kim Gaskins, a senior elementary education major, said her club, the Black Student Union, has approximately 15 to 20 members. She emphasized that anyone can participate--membership "is not based

on color."

Senior Lori Graby, a literature major, said she thought more students would be receptive to Tarnhelm, the campus literary and arts magazine.

She said Tarnhelm is composed mostly of humanities majors, but anyone can join.

"It is open to anyone who wants to put something back into the campus," Graby said.

One student, Cory Delregno, said students are participating more actively in dormitory events. Delregno, a senior accounting major, is also treasurer of the Resident Student Council.

"The RSC provides activities for students living in the dorms and the Heights," he said. "Three-quarters of the people who sign up go to the events."

Penn State Harrisburg has a wide selection of clubs for commuter and resident students.

Clubs such as the Black Student Union, the Lion Ambassadors, Capital Iron, Citizen of the World Club, WPSH, Campus Compact, Resident Student Council, Capital Gospel Ensemble and Capitalite are just a few of the campus organizations which can provide students with both education and camaraderie.

It's not too late, club leaders say. Students who missed the Clubfest can still join.



Photo by Elin Marcel

Pierre Johnson, left, of the Capital Gospel Ensemble, shares a laugh with Kim Gaskins, right, of the Black Student Union, during Clubfest, held Jan. 16 in the Gallery Lounge.

Memories highlight King celebration

Sharon Barris
Capital Times Staff

Performers, speakers and friends assembled together in Penn State Harrisburg's Capital Union Building to honor Martin Luther King, Jr. with a celebration ceremony on Jan. 23.

The ceremony, entitled "Our Memories of Martin," was a collection of memories not only by individuals who knew King, but also by people who celebrate his achievements with civil rights.

A variety of performers presented poems, prayers and songs. Groups such as the Capital Gospel Ensemble and the Mount Calvary Church of God in Christ Youth Choir offered choral arrangements, while Felicia Brown-Haywood and Fran Arnold entertained with solos.

The 30-member youth choir sang out praises that had the audience rejoicing and clapping hands.

The audience participated musically,

singing the Negro National Anthem, "Lift Every Voice and Sing."

Melvin T. Johnson, a Penn State alumnus, shared his personal memories about life before King.

He recalled a time when he was a young boy, sitting in the park. He watched the truckloads of soldiers and tanks called in to enforce the integration of blacks and whites on the trolley cars.

Johnson described a day at Woolworth's lunch counter in Washington D.C., when the waitress spat on the counter, saying "No service!"

He remembered how hard it was to live at a time where "colored" water fountains and bathrooms were mandatory.

He also remembered how changes began, when one man stood up for the rights of the black man. One man fought to initiate a change.

"He was a motivator," Johnson said. "He could make you feel 10 feet high."

"When he spoke to us, we knew we

could whip lions, but Martin didn't want us to whip the lions," Johnson said. "That's very difficult to do."

Johnson challenged the audience to remember King and his accomplishments every day.

"Remembering Martin is not very

difficult," Johnson said. "But, being like Martin is very difficult."

Karen Nicholson, assistant professor of education, said a unified effort must be made by all for racial harmony.

"If we are going to overcome, it is going to have to be 'we,'" Nicholson said.

PSH professors discuss concerns about recession

Gia Witmer
Capital Times Staff

Two Penn State Harrisburg business professors said last week that although there are a lot of problems in the economy, they see light at the end of the tunnel.

Vedula N. Murti, chair of economics faculty, said the recession is not permanent. It's "a periodic fluctuation in business cycles; a period of decline in economics which usually occurs for 18 months," he said.

This is a "yuppie recession," said Murti, because it is the white collar workers who are unemployed. He said that very few people who lose their job will be rehired.

"Savings and investment is what we are lacking," Murti said, "and that is what the Japanese are doing right."

"No one is saving money in order to make good investments in technology and human capital," he added. "We also need a

program to cut the deficit."

Taxes are another issue. Many people complain that taxes are too high but that is not the case, said Murti, citing the high tax rates in western Europe.

Students are also feeling the impact of recession through an increase in tuition and supplies. "Students are finding it difficult to borrow money, and there are fewer scholarships available," Murti said. "So, students are working part-time jobs, which delays graduation, and some have to drop out of school completely."

"For the first time," Murti said, "There is doubt about this generation doing better than previous generations."

Many graduates have to pay back their school loans, and they may have trouble finding jobs. Jobless and in debt, they can't invest in stocks, bonds, or consumer goods; the things that help the economy grow, said Murti.

Although the economy looks grim, there is hope, Murti said.

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