

# Penn State's Bookstore Readying for Holidays

By Rob Coyle

As the holidays rapidly approach, many people have already begun shopping for their love ones and not-so-loved ones. The holidays are a time of giving, and to give you need to spend; And that means spending hours and hours in shopping malls, fighting through lines that appear to be millions strong. Don't you wish there was an easier way? A place where you could go that was not only convenient, but affordable as well? Well, shoppers, there is: the Penn State bookstore is not just for books.

Not only does the bookstore

have the sweatshirts, hats, and tee-shirts they've always had, they also brought in many items especially for the holiday season. You now can also purchase plush PSU teddy bears, gigantic coffee mugs, special holiday books, and even a Gear polo shirt all at the bookstore's always competitive prices. Bookstore manager Meghan Gibbons is calling this sale the "Deal of the Season," and a deal is exactly what you get.

So before you head out to battle the long lines of traffic, and insurmountable lines, head on down to the bookstore between classes, and save yourself a lot of time and money.

# Turn Your Books Into Bucks When Finals Are Through

By Rob Coyle

Classing are coming to an end and finals are beginning to show their ugly heads, which means its also time to begin thinking about selling back your books.

Starting after the Thanksgiving break, students can return their books to the bookstore. As an incentive, the bookstore is offering a free five minute phone card and a free coupon booklet

for each time a book is returned, while supplies last. The coupons are redeemable in the bookstore only and can be used in conjunction with purchases of \$25 or more. The coupons can not be used on purchases of books, candy, or software.

Upon returning a book, make sure to have your Penn State ID ready to save time. You will receive the normal amount of half of the book's original value.



The PSU Bookstore kicks off the holiday season with its "Deal of the Season" sale. Photo by Lea Anne McGoldrick

# Finals: A Time of Pain

By Paul Basilio

It's that time. Time for cramming, jamming, and coffee. Finals week is here again, and the Learning Center is offering help.

In order to boost test scores and give students confidence about their final exams, the Learning Center will offer two "Focus on Finals" programs, one on December 4 and 11, from 2 p.m. until 7 on both days. Tutors, tutees, and faculty members will spread out over the entire first floor of the library, covering everything from English 4 to Computer Science.

"We're going to help the students prepare for finals and finals week, and help them get organized," said Norma Notzold, Director of the Learning Center.

The idea of planning for finals week and the week before is often overlooked. Dave Fleming (1st DUS), commented on the importance of extra help in this case. "Poor planning on the students part constitutes an emergency on the tutors part."

"We want a collaborative relationship between students and faculty, not an adversarial one," added Notzold, who will be helping the students during the workshop.

"Professors want to help students, not prove them wrong."

Sharon Manco, Education Specialist, says that an ideal way for a student to prepare for a test is to "try to predict the test questions that the professor will ask. Look at old tests and quizzes to guide you." She added that going to the last week of class is a must for any student who wishes to succeed.

Some workshop participants will learn the "Eight Day Cram" method, which breaks studying techniques into chunks in order to maximize studying efficiency. This method involves only 50 minutes a day of reading and re-reading your notes. Students may prefer this to the "night before" method, which often is ineffective.

Justin Mayfair (5th Telecommunications), now a student at University Park, commented, "It is technically impossible for me to cram for an exam in one day. I wish I went to the Finals Workshop when I was here."

Anyone interested in the workshop can contact the Learning Center, located on the first floor of the Library. Food and music will be provided.

# Are you ready?

In and around  
the Learning Center

(room 109  
Vairo Library)



FOCUS  
ON

2- 7 pm

Dec. 4 and  
Dec. 11

FINALS

# PSU Off-Campus Retreat: Relaxation and Revelation

By Ryan Boldosser

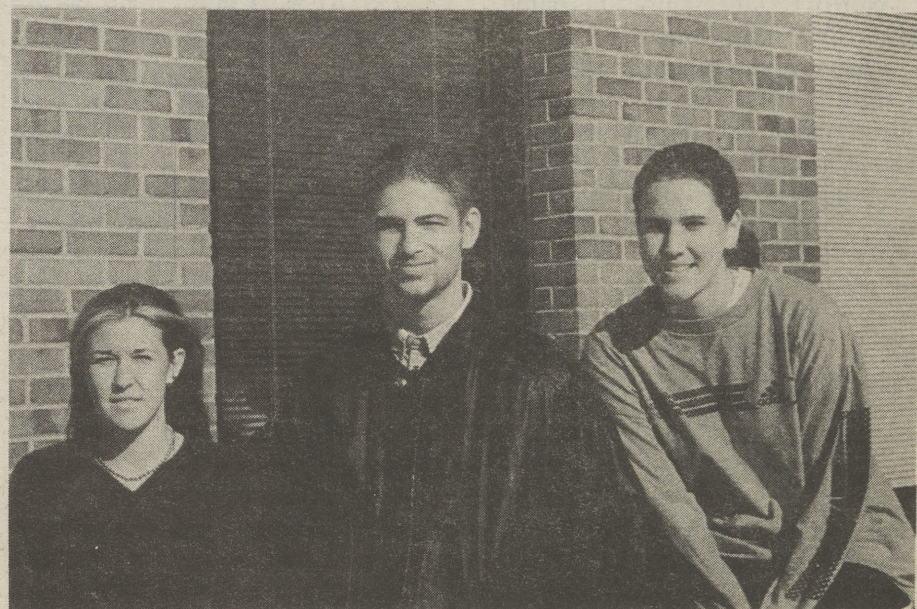
January 1998 will start a new year for everyone at Delco and will also mark a new beginning for the 4th annual Off-Campus Retreat. For the past three years the retreat has been held at Oberod conference center in Delaware and has focused on building a climate of respect on campus. "The retreat was a great way to interact with other students and faculty," explained JoAnne Johnson (SGA officer, 3rd semester). "Being together for the whole day pulled us together as a campus and left us feeling more like a community."

On January 29 this campus will continue the retreat tradition and address the theme of respect and diversity. The committee involved in planning this retreat are packaging the program differently to provide an

element of change. The committee hopes to find a location off campus rather than Oberod to house this retreat so that the students, faculty, and administration that have attended in the past, will attend again and come away with a new experience.

The admission to the retreat is free and anyone interested is encouraged to attend. A catered lunch is included in the retreat and refreshments will be served. The day begins around 8:30 a.m. and ends somewhere between 3:30 and 4p.m. This year the day will be dedicated to engaging more of the audience emotionally and will achieve this through a dynamic theater experience. The retreat includes a keynote speaker who will discuss the lifelong challenge of living and working with people who are different than us racially, sexually, and culturally.

# Ready for Finals?



Taking a break from preparing for finals are (L-R): Marissa Cangen, Paddy Berner and Kate McCusker. Photo by Lea Anne McGoldrick