

Opinion

Rumor has it ...

By ANTEIA CONSORTO
Editor-in-chief

Scott Casey, the caped crusader against MBNA bank and credit card company, will reportedly eat one bug for every day until MBNA is banned from the campus. Casey's fight against the credit card giant was detailed in last month's Lion's Eye. Advice for the new bug man? Try the chocolate covered ones and avoid the big squishy ones.

Excess trash and abuse of equipment is still a problem at the Lion's Den. You may recall the lounge was closed before spring break for a few weeks for the same reason. Sources tell us the Den was cleaner and more manageable for about eight minutes. Then the same stuff happened. Is it going to take closing the popular lounge again before some students learn?

There's a rumor going around that the soda machines on campus will begin offering root

beer. Hey, we may not be able to drink alcoholic beer on campus but we can still get that frosty brewed taste.

Rumor has it that Ron Hill, manager of communications and university relations, liked his pink hair so much he's considering making it permanent. Ron was one of the good sports who did something crazy to help THON to raise money. We also hear Ron dug the hair change because of his deep devotion to musician Pink.

The Disabilities Awareness event put some top college officials in uncharted territory. CEO Dr. Edward Tomezsko sported a blindfold simulating blindness while academic affairs chief, Dr. George Franz had to use a wheelchair to get around. For some odd reason, Tomezsko wore his glasses over the blindfold (who knows, maybe he thought he'd see better.) The stunt prompted some to wonder if Dr. Tomezsko has his glasses sewn onto his ears. Hey, you'll

never lose your glasses. As for Dr. Franz, let's just say this, he's not going to be playing wheelchair basketball any time soon.

Okay, so part of this isn't a rumor it's true: Director of Student Life, Doreen Hettich, is expecting a baby. But we here it from reliable sources that the baby is a boy and will be born this summer. Congrats to Doreen and her husband!

Hey, did you know you could write for this newspaper and earn college credits? It's true! It's English 10 and it's being offered at 6:10 p.m. Tuesdays in the fall semester. Come learn how to write a news story, a sports story and/or an opinion piece. Sources say the adjunct professor likes students with opinions to share.

Oh my gosh... did you hear that there's going to be a professional photographer at graduation on May 12? 'Tis true. So, wear your best gown and smile lots.

The Lion's Eye

Vol. XXXIII, No. 4, April 24, 2001
Penn State University, Delaware County
Campus

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF Anteia Consorto
ASSISTANT EDITOR Anthony Kozlowski

STAFF

Joe Crisafulli IV, Brent Foote, Stacy Lawrence,
Connie Ringgold, Danielle Rossi, Kathy Smith,
Stephen Watson and Adam Wojciechowicz

ADVISOR Lyn A.E. McCafferty

The Lion's Eye is published monthly during the academic year by the students of the Delaware County Campus. Submissions are welcome from all students, faculty and staff. Material must be typed, double-spaced and submitted in the Lion's Eye mailbox on the first floor of the Main building.

The Lion's Eye is funded by the SGA and the Student Activity Fee

Word Find

Find as many words as you can in the puzzle.
Words can be down, across, diagonal or backwards.

p s d o k s z e m o t
a e e e u m l l a l r
t u n e s o e i c d y
e v m n o k l o l m a
r o a d s e o n a a n
b s l o o t c p b i t
o a l i f o a u b n r
b a t n a p s t e r y
m l i o n s e y e e n
a o z n a r f a r a g
r o b e r t p u r d y
c l a s s t u d y a m

Words to find:

Penn State, Tomezsko, Franz, Vairo, Paterno, Robert Purdy, Tix, Old Main, den, mall, study, beer, cram, smoke, truant, read, gym, tools, tunes, bat, roads, sos, Mac Lab, papa, cue, mob, try, desk, pear, ran, sue, ole, bald, pen, sail, yam

Summer jobs

YMCA Summer Day Camp in Lansdowne is looking to fill the following positions: Art, Sports, Nature, Music and Values.

Interested? Please contact Courtney Barry @ 610-259-1661

Answer key:

7 or fewer words: How did you graduate high school much less get into college?

8-12: Less narcotics, get hooked on Phonix

13-16: Maybe a trip to the Learning Center is in your future.

17-19: Pretty good. You're balanced emotionally and generally awake in class

20-24: You are the quintessential renaissance man or woman. You know what you want and how to get it.

25-plus: You know way too much about Penn State. Try reading a book, study for classes or better yet, get a life.

Commentary

A reading program to get us on same page

By ADAM WOJCIECHOWICZ
Staff Writer

If all of Delco read the same book... That's an instance being theorized in many communities around the nation. What if, in fact, every single individual in your neighborhood, your town, your university, your city, or even, for the sake of argument, your nation, had a simple little book in common.

Imagine the massive social impact upon such a community as both a whole and, consequently, in its individuals.

Many groups have already undertaken such an initiative. Most notably, it is standard practice for a number of prestigious universities (traditionally in the case of incoming students), but outside such an educational institute the practice has actually been tried in cities as large as Seattle. But among any such peoples, the repercussions to such a mental and intellectual communing would be undeniably substantial.

There would not exist a person among them with whom you could not instantly begin a conversation. And from there, the nature of learning being so naturally diverse (at a university such as ours in

particular), everyone would have something to teach, and everyone would have something new to learn - again, from every single other person.

Easily, the potential for knowledge gains is exponentially large. Of course though, such an ideal state remains as theoretical as a black hole singularity of infinite density.

A program of this nature is currently being outlined for our Penn State Delco campus. It would hopefully envelop all members of staff and the student body, seeking to have as many of those people as possible read one simple, innocuous book at roughly the same time. The inescapable bad news is that there are very real reasons why such an initiative can seem (or simply be) implausible, and even hazardous to an academic environment. Foremost is the question of how coordinators convince people to participate in the first step, reading a book.

Without motivation, the heart of the program is cut out. To make it completely voluntary is to invite apathy, albeit understandably so in college students who have their

own lives, both academically and socially. A voluntary system could be enhanced in many ways though, through

advertised campus support (such as this article, in its introductory words), teachers' endorsements in classes, and the availability/pricing of book copies for borrowing/purchase. Unfortunately, campus advertisements do not reach nearly everyone explicitly, professors have their own curricular agendas to accomplish, and books cost money, both from the school, or even worse, the students (who, as any will attest, are quite satisfied already with the costs of text books).

The alternative to a completely voluntary system, mandatory reading, presents its own complications. Since no university "grades" per se are issued to students outside of a classroom and its specific course, enforcement (as distasteful a word as it is) of the reading would fall upon teachers (an enforcement in itself), English professor or no. This obviously presents an even more intrusive circumstance than that of voluntary teacher endorsements. A mode for creating and executing a "campus curriculum" is simply not readily available.

Further questions abound in regard to the potential book itself. Will it be of interest to students and faculty? Who will choose it, assuring that interest? Should it be an entire book at all? A committee has been formed on campus to investigate these problems, and is still in the developmental stages of solving any of them. Any opinions or ideas (including candidate books) can, of course, be proposed to the committee, which is based mainly in the Learning Center, 203 Main.

Despite uncertainties herein brought to light, this writer is still a supporter of this campus readership initiative.

Why, you may ask, given the complexity of bringing an entire community together into the space found between the covers of a book? Because there is too much to gain, simply: there is a world to gain.

Where else can you find several thousand intellectuals like yourself (whether you like that prospect or not), and share with them the essence of not only a community, but of all the humanity that goes into one good book?

Please, students - help endow this program with a heart, and it will flourish beautifully everywhere you look.