



The Lion's Eye

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Delco 'Multicultural Day' mixes it up!

Students of different ethnic backgrounds come out to pledge allegiance to their heritages

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Just ten minutes outside Philadelphia, "The Lights Went Out, But the Show Went On" during the fashion show portion of Penn State Delco's annual Multi-Cultural celebration.

Complete darkness fell upon the gymnasium, created by the violent hurricane force winds outside. The crowd put down everything in their hands. Their palate ready fork fulls, singled from slices of cream cheese pound cake, spring rolls and barbecue chicken legs. And to begin rhythmically clap for those - gorgeous, awe inspiring, culturally fashionable, women and men - like Nancy Le dressed in her fitted, traditionally red and black Vietnamese dress. Jeril Phillip, a native of Kerala, India sporting his white Corta with gold trim - to keep strolling the runway.

Who would have known that the crowd's kinetic energy was so powerful to turn the lights back on in only five-minutes. Thank them for it, because without lights, we would have never been afforded to enjoy the performances of the talent show like "The Rice Story". An international insight into something thought to be so simple (rice), yet historically complex.

"It was so orderly. A very creative performance, it reminded me of a story you would tell a child, because of how cute the people were dressed."

Upon first glance, anyone wouldn't second guess that the Philadelphia area campus is the most cul-



All Photos by Office of Student Life

turally diverse in the Penn State University system. There are a myriad of flags that represent native born students attending the campus. So many flags that there's not enough poles to post them all, but that didn't stop those wonderful volunteers from using them to decorate the gym for Multi-Cultural day. And then there are the posters advertising the Writing Center that say, "No Matter What Language You Speak, The Writing Center Will Listen."

So to host a celebration where the annual theme is to celebrate the diverse cultures that keystone the campus

is inevitable. One must praise all the student and faculty volunteers like Mallory Anthony, for her enthusiastic passion to promote interest and understanding in all cultures. They sacrificed their personal time to do things like; cut florets from broccoli for the Vietnamese style rice and spread that orgasmic walnut crumb atop Ms. Knoll's pumpkin dessert, to say the least. It is obvious a lot of time went into this event.

"Even though all I had was pizza and ice-cream, (Why didn't they get more than five boxes!) I heard the Indian food was delicious. And Nancy looked beautiful," said Malissa Ha.

Ethnic food was probably the main attraction, but Ms. Diane Shorter, a beautiful woman in the Student Life office said,

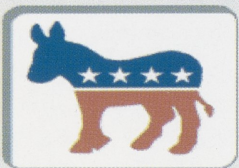
"It is an effective tool in helping students realize they're not the only ones out there."

Being aware of the international resources on campus in aspects of customs and traditions is beneficial in perspectives of all majors. Rajai Dias, a native of Palestine, and participant in the fashion show said that,

"Learning different cultures is something you need, especially in America, because of the diversity here. It teaches you how to behave respectfully when in the company of different cultures."

At PSU Delco's campus you don't have to assume about a culture, there's a student who was born there who could tell you the facts. A success their event was, celebrating the different cultures through food, dance and fashion.

Stimulating conversation about countries the students usually wouldn't even think about, and all because of another word for party called Multi-Cultural day.



The Democratic Agenda
pg. 3

INSIDE

Lion's Eye Recipes..... Page 2
Iraq Study Group.....Page 3
Fireside Music Series..... Page 5
People Poll..... Page 6
Mr. Penn State's Address.....Page 7

ACME Prez visits Delco.....Page 8
Charity Concert.....Page 9
Coach's Column.....Page 10
Sports..... Page 11
Photo Collage..... Page 12