

Eye on Campus

GSA Book Sale A Fabulous Success

By Evan Kroboth -

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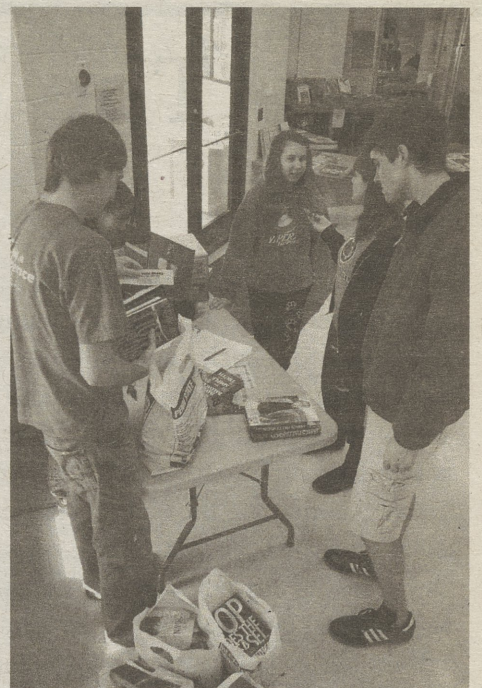
From the 6th to the 8th of March, Penn State Brandywine's Gay Straight Alliance, or GSA held its first annual book sale in the commons. During the course of the sale, the GSA raised a little over \$1,300, sold over 4,400 books, and had over 250 people stop by including one PSU student who made the largest purchase of the sale with a total of \$47.50 for 8 bags of assorted books.

According to freshman, soon to be American Studies major, and GSA President Rob Ewing, "Going into this as blind as we were, I really did not know what to expect. In the back of my mind I had a goal of about \$500, and maybe selling 2,000 books. The response we had was phenomenal, more than doubling both of those numbers which surprised us all. So much, in fact, that we've already made plans for a second sale this fall with a whole new stock of reading materials!" After the success of its fundraising efforts students and staff should expect to see the GSA increasing its presence on campus. "The GSA, resurrected just last September has been basically penniless since. I came into this with a defunct bank account, dwindling roster, and hardly anything to show we even existed." Students and staff may recall the GSA's activities last semester during National Coming Out Day when GSA members manned a table in commons handing out packages with skittles, pride pins, and the ever popular free condoms. "With the funds we raised, we'll be able to do a much better job with this year's Day of Silence event in just a few weeks, (April 16th) as well as other LGBT events we have planned for next semester. This includes offering custom Day of Silence T-shirts for only a few dollars, versus the high prices in years past."

The setup for the sale involved quite a bit of effort as junior, HDFS major, and GSA Co president Dana Colosimo put it, "Setting up the book sale was hard work. There were over 10,000 books which needed to be moved into the commons building, and we did it all by hand. There was definitely a lot of lifting involved!" Heavy lifting aside, she added that the sale "was a lot of fun, and definitely helped bring the community in and help make them aware of our cause." During the sale GSA members placed bookmarks with "Celebrate Diversity!" on them in customer's bags. "We were so happy to have the support of the campus and the community with this sale."

After the sale the GSA also donated a little over 1,000 books to the Susan G Koman foundation for breast cancer and also donated some to the Delaware County Prison for the Books through Bars association.

The Penn State Brandywine GSA "would personally like to thank everyone in the campus community for their generous donations of materials to the sale. Also, we'd like to extend an extra thanks to our sponsor Gently Used Books, in Douglasville Pa, whom donated nearly 80% of our stock. Without you, this great success would have never been possible. And as always, the famous orange bins will be out again soon, so please continue to help us Recycle through Reading Used!" The GSA has made plans for a second sale this fall.



Scenes from A Sale (clockwise from top left) Tables and tables of books are available for purchase; Selling and organizing; Bags of books are donated; PSU Brandywine students take advantage of a beautiful spring day to garner business; A sale is made. (photos by Evan Kroboth)



SAF Fee (cont'd from page 1)

However, the meetings of the committee have gone largely unnoticed by many—if not most—of the student body. How are those outside the committee (the members have been selected through the Student Leadership program) supposed to any influence over the usage of funds? Luckily, that opportunity has been afforded to the students by way of the "Penn State Brandywine Student Activity Fee Proposal" Form, which can be found at the Penn State Brandywine website. The forms, which must be turned in two weeks before the SAFAC meeting at which they are to be discussed, are not going to be terribly helpful at present, and according to Matthew Shupp, Director of Student Affairs (and co-chair of SAFAC), the committee has "allocated almost all of the funds for the 2009-2010 academic year." That, however, should not keep our students from brainstorming and preparing ideas which can further enhance the collegiate experience for those on campus.

For assistance with the SAF Proposal process, e-mails can be sent to daniel.j.taylor (djt5036@psu.edu), SGA President Brittney Walker (bv5024@psu.edu), or Director of Student Affairs Matthew Shupp (mrs32@psu.edu).

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