



Brian Wade Heritage/Collegian

Students look through a variety of posters during the annual sale at the HUB-Robeson Center on Tuesday.

Sale provides quick fix for decor

By Leah Gillen
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Year after year, students flock to Penn State's poster sale to deck their whitewashed walls with everything from the threatening mugs of mobsters to Van Gogh's "Starry Night."

"Van Gogh's 'Starry Night' we'll have forever, and it always sells," poster sale director Eric Erdoes said. "We used to carry a lot of 'Pulp Fiction,' but now it's 'Twilight,' and 'The Hangover' and 'Inception.'"

The sale — running through Friday — offers a selection of posters from art to movies, Kristy Cowfer (senior-criminal justice and sociology) said.

"They pretty much have everything," she said. "It's good because you can decorate your apartment for cheap. It's really great they do it every year."

Run by the Pyramid America Company and sponsored by the

Penn State Bookstore, the poster sale helps students design their dorms or apartments at affordable prices.

Erdoes is a tour director with Pyramid America Company and helps organize poster sales for the company at different college campuses throughout the country.

Students can find posters ranging from \$4 to \$12 under a white tent on the HUB lawn and also inside the HUB-Robeson Center.

Some upperclassmen return to the poster sale year after year, like Brian Gray (junior-agricultural systems management).

"It's just convenient," he said. "I go pretty much every year, even if just to stop by. Just by the turnout it looks like a lot of people like it."

Pyramid America Company sends out poster sale tours to different campuses in the nation. Erdoes' particular tour spends six weeks traveling to schools like Penn State, the University of

Michigan at Ann Arbor and Ohio State University.

"The students love it," Erdoes said. "They all have empty dorm walls and they like to personalize their space and make it their own."

Erdoes, who has worked at the poster sale for 11 years, has seen a flux in the theme of posters over the years.

The students themselves, though, don't change as much as the posters, he said.

"I get a year older every year," Erdoes said. "But they always stay 18 to 22."

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If you go

What: Poster Sale
When: Wednesday-Friday
Where: HUB lawn and inside the HUB-Robeson Center

Fundraisers planned for flood victims

Devastating floods in Pakistan have students scrambling to reach out.

By Eddie Lau
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Until she knew they were safe, Penn State student Sidra Maryam said she was worried about her family members from Northwest Pakistan — an area recently affected by flooding.

"I couldn't get in touch with them in the first few days," Maryam (junior-industrial engineering) said. "Their phones, electronic devices — everything was not working."

Maryam said that fortunately, her husband's family was able to relocate to a relative's house. But their home in Nowshera, a city on the northwest side of the country, was completely destroyed.

With more than 20 million people affected by Pakistan's worst flood in 80 years, the Pakistani Student Association (PSA) at Penn State said it will organize fundraising activities soon to ensure the victims can receive some necessary aid.

"They lost everything that they had," PSA President Yasar Awan said. "They are in need of a lot of support."

Awan (senior-science) said the floods turned the mud houses in northwest Pakistan into a sodden mess — and many small villages were inundated.

The floods started in late July after a monsoon struck the area, Awan said, and it has affected about one-fifth of the country's territory.

So far at least six million people are homeless, and 20 million people have been affected overall, according to the latest United Nations report. The current death toll stands at about 1,500 people.

Hafsa Haseeb, Class of 2009, said though the floods didn't directly impact her Pakistani fam-



Mohammad Sajjad/Associated Press

Pakistani flood survivors struggle for food in a displaced-persons camp.

ily, her cousin's babysitter lost her house along with many other valuable possessions.

"It's really devastating," she said. "The effects have been more severe than the tsunami, more than Haiti — because it affected a [greater] number of people."

Haseeb said she is sad because the floods happened in the most technologically underdeveloped area of the country, where many people don't have any connection to the outside world.

"It's a region that wasn't fully built. It didn't have any basic infrastructure to begin with," she said.

Awan and Maryam, both PSA board members, said they will hold the first fundraising event in the coming weeks, but the exact date has yet to be confirmed.

PSA is working closely with two humanitarian organizations to provide financial relief. Mahvash & Jahangir Siddiqui Foundation and Pakistan Youth Alliance, Awan said.

The number of people suffering from the most recent floods could exceed the combined total of people afflicted by the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami, the 2005 Kashmir earthquake and the 2010 Haiti earthquake, according to a U.N. report.

In the first few weeks of the crisis, international aid flowed relatively slowly to Pakistan, according to a U.N. report.

But when U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki Moon visited the region and urged other nations to pitch in, donations started to increase.

Pakistani officials said Tuesday in a press briefing that flood victims will each receive 20,000 rupees — equivalent to \$230 — as "initial assistance."

The flood aid is desperately needed, Maryam said, because the situation requires a lot of time and money to rebuild.

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Drive pushes for new blood

By Mike Hricik
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

The American Red Cross will host its first on-campus blood drive of the fall semester Thursday in a campaign to increase blood supplies after a summer of operating at near-emergency levels.

The blood drive will be held from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Hintz Family Alumni Center.

Wendi Keeler, donor resources field representative and club adviser for the Penn State Student Red Cross Club, said high schools and colleges account for about 32 percent of yearly totals in the region.

Donations will go to the Greater Alleghenies Blood Services Region that distributes blood supplies to 100 hospitals in areas ranging from central Pennsylvania to northern Kentucky.

Though Penn State holds classes during the summer, donations collected are not enough to keep totals below near-emergency levels, Keeler said.

The fall campaign kickoff offers patients aid, especially from freshman students who donated in high school.

"Donors are very willing to do something they're familiar with," Keeler said. "Freshmen are most familiar with blood donation, especially at events in East Halls. People know what it's all about."

The supply goal for the alumni center drive is 45 units of blood, which equals about the same amount of pints. Blood types A negative, B negative, O positive and O negative are needed the most, Keeler said.

Those interested in donating must be at least 110 pounds and 4 feet 11 inches.

They also must not have traveled to countries with high malaria risk or have received tattoos within the last year, American Red Cross donor client specialist Krystyna Gentry said.

During Hurricane Katrina, blood supplies were also sent to affected areas, Keeler said.

The American Red Cross will host another blood drive from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on August 30 in the HUB-Robeson Center.

Several blood drives will be held in September with a goal of yielding 1,000 units. Keeler said with the help of students, this goal should be exceeded.

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If you go

What: Penn State Red Cross Club blood drive
When: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Where: Hintz Family Alumni Center
Details: Donors must meet eligibility requirements



Bebeto Matthews/Associated Press

Matt Sky shows his support for the construction of the Islamic Center.

Students respond to NYC Islamic center

By David Bodin
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

The planned construction of a 13-story Islamic center about two blocks from Ground Zero has prompted controversy nationwide — and those in the Penn State community come down on both sides of the aisle.

Some say the center's construction is constitutionally supported under the First Amendment, but others say sensitivity to 9/11 victims' families should be the real concern.

Ahmed Hamed, former president of the Muslim Student Association (MSA) at Penn State, said people have the right to be confused by the proposed construction plans.

Still, he said, they should consider that the majority of Muslims firmly disapprove of the killings that took place on Sept. 11, 2001.

"[Muslims] are people just like everyone else," Hamed (junior-industrial engineering) said. "People associate Islam with the attacks on 9/11, but I don't associate members of the KKK with Christianity."

Hamed said non-Muslim students at Penn State should pursue open dialogue with Muslim students to prevent intolerance.

Current MSA president Zaid Albulushi (senior-civics) said communication between students on opposing ends of the debate is crucial to fostering greater understanding of the complexities of the issue, as well as of Islam's religion and culture.

Albulushi encouraged stu-

dents to attend future MSA events to accomplish this goal.

Some of the center's opponents say its construction is constitutionally legal, but ethically flawed.

College Republicans Vice President Anthony Christina said the center's backers preach tolerance, but the whole idea comes off as disrespectful to the families and victims of 9/11.

"Sensitivity is key here," Christina (sophomore-political science) said. "It is a real smack in the face to 9/11 families to build this mosque."

Debra Burlingame, co-founder of 9/11 Families for a Safe & Strong America and the sister of the pilot who was on board the plane that struck the Pentagon, said the ongoing discoveries of the remains of those killed in the collapse of the Twin Towers has disoriented families.

That's the reason many affected by the tragedy are opposed to the center's construction, she said.

"That is why it is so sensitive for families and people who lived through 9/11," she said. "The pain is pervasive."

Burlingame said the reported 70 percent of Americans who do not want the center built are not being intolerant of Muslims.

"If we were 'Islamophobes,' we would want all mosques [near Ground Zero] to be removed," she said. "This is not the case. We do know there are peaceful Muslims, but please have sensitivity and respect for those who have lost loved ones."

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