Program on hate raises awareness for third year

By Ashley Cole
Asst. News Editor

The Office of Housing and Residence Life and the Office of Multicultural and Minority Affairs hosted their third annual Haters program on Oct. 26 in the UC Annex.

The 25-minute multimedia presentation displayed photos and cartoons of various types of hate crimes.

Many of the crimes depicted were against African-Americans, Jews, Latinos and gays. Some of the images showed victims of sexual assault, President Obama and swastikas painted in a Jewish cemetery.

“[W]e had the luck with the images because some of them were just so sickening, but some of the images I chose were still sickening,” Oak Hall Residence Administrator Ed Wittenberg said.

Images

Some of those sickening images included two African-American men hanged from a tree and an aftermath picture of being hanged from a tree. Wittenberg said, “[T]hese were still sickening,” but some of the images I showed were just so sickening, “I had to be picky with them.”

While the photos were being shown, Dr. Martin Luther King’s “I Have a Dream” speech was playing in the background.

“I wanted to try to create a situation where you’re hearing one thing but you’re seeing something different and you try to reconcile them,” Wittenberg said. “You realize that even though we’ve come a long way, we still have a long way to go.”

The presentation ended with the question, “Are you a hater?”

The Director of OMMA Robert Canida initiated a discussion about the presentation and about hate.

Canida asked what the disturbing, one student said she was disturbed by the photo of the lady who was doused with acid, while another student noticed that Obama was targeted a lot. None of you should have to live in fear of being hated on,” Canida said.

Canida ended by asking the audience to not be ignorant and to ask questions if they don’t know something about a particular group of people. “If you want to know something, ask. Why do you sleep with the same sex? Why do you pray five times a day?”

Wittenberg got the idea for the Haters program from a website he came across. “This was a program that was done at a university out west by a resident administrator just as a floor program,” Wittenberg said.

“He basically used still photographs that he passed around the room and then had his residents talk about it,” Wittenberg said.

Wittenberg took that idea and made it into a multimedia presentation. He also brought in Canida to facilitate the discussion after the presentation.

After three years of holding this program, Wittenberg is still finding ways to improve.

“I am still finding areas of hate to explore. There’s just so much that I can pull. I’m already thinking about next year’s programs in terms of how I want to go,” Wittenberg said.

“I’ll be working with Canida throughout the entire process, he’s really instrumental in making this work,” he said.

Grad Finale provides convenience for seniors

By Kelly Mayo
News Editor

For more than 10 years, UNCP’s bookstore has sponsored Grad Finale twice a year to help seniors be ready for graduation.

Other university offices participated in the event held in the UC Annex Oct. 19 and 20 to help seniors fulfill necessary graduation requirements.

Expectant graduates picked up caps, gowns and announcements, and cleaned up financial considerations at the semi-annual event.

Myia Reyes of the Office of Financial Aid said many seniors use Grad Finale to get the paperwork for the Zumbathon on Oct. 26 in the UC Annex.

“Seniors are busy. They can see how much they owe and the terms and conditions,” Reyes said.

Reyes said seniors with federal loans must go through exit counseling before graduation so they can review the terms and repayment policies of their loans.

“They can see how much they owe and the terms and conditions,” Reyes said.

Brenda Buffard represented the Career Center at Grad Finale. She offered students resume tips sheets, copies of John Cham’s magazine and the Graduate School Guide and a survey for them to map out their post-graduation plans.

UNCP junior Kristina Sanchez worked the Alumni table at the event.

Sanchez offered students a chance to record a change in address so UNCP can inform them about a particular group of people. “If you want to know something, ask. Why do you sleep with the same sex? Why do you pray five times a day?” Wittenberg got the idea for the Haters program from a website he came across. “This was a program that was done at a university out west by a resident administrator just as a floor program,” Wittenberg said.

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A student signs his name to the list of fall graduates. The fall graduation ceremony will be held Dec. 10.

Aware organization hosts its first Zumbathon

By Ashley Cole
Asst. News Editor

Students looked on in intriguingly as Aware, UNCP’s peer education group, held their first Zumbathon on Oct. 26 in the UC Annex.

Students participated in the Zumbathon under the direction of Da’Ville Girlz.

Aware advisory assistant Brett Sanchez worked the Alumni Association table at the event. Sanchez offered students a chance to record a change in address so UNCP can inform them about a particular group of people. “If you want to know something, ask. Why do you sleep with the same sex? Why do you pray five times a day?” Wittenberg got the idea for the Haters program from a website he came across. “This was a program that was done at a university out west by a resident administrator just as a floor program,” Wittenberg said.

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