Students create gift bags and memories

By Mackenzie Byerlee
Features Editor

Students enjoyed free gifts, pizza and fun drinks at the "Sanrio Soiree" in Adanti Student Center Room 217 on Nov. 4.

The Programs Council daytime committee held this event for students to bond over their shared interest of the Sanrio company. Health science major Christae Cassamajor, a junior and senior programmer, had the opportunity to execute this event.

"Ultimately, the goal was to create a fun, welcoming environment where students could connect over something that we all know and love," Cassamajor said.

The event started off with a quick presentation in which the daytime programmers introduced themselves and ProCon's mission overall.

This gave students a better understanding of not only the event that they were attending, but also more that they could enjoy in the future.

Students were then encouraged to make their own Sanrio inspired gift bags. This included the bags themselves, slime and notebooks. All were themed after the beloved franchise.

Elementary education major Mia Cruz, a sophomore, shared that she enjoyed all that the event had to offer.

"I enjoyed seeing Hello Kitty on campus and I love seeing the amount of people that love Hello Kitty," Cruz said.

Feeling seen and understood is a big reason that ProCon holds events that students with a variety of interests would enjoy.

Cassamajor shared that this was not the first Hello Kitty related event that ProCon has put on. However, it still differed from other years.

"The biggest change this time around was expanding the focus beyond just Hello Kitty to include the entire Sanrio franchise," Cassamajor said. "We wanted to highlight other fan-favorite characters like Kuromi, My Melody, Pompompurin, Cinnamoroll and so many others."

While Hello Kitty may be what Sanrio is most known for, showcasing more of their characters and appealing to the interests of more students was a big goal for Cassamajor and the other daytime programmers.

The event also had pizza, cupcakes and drinks made with sprite and strawberry syrup for students to grab.

For students such as health science major Hannah Dayton, a senior, this was an opportunity to take a break during her busy day.

"I was hoping to get some cute stuff and a little break from my classes," Dayton said. "I had an exam today so I needed some decompression."

Events like these serve as a reminder that all students deserve a break. Being able to stop by, grab some food and make a gift bag is a simple but effective way to get students involved and doing something fun.

"Sometimes it's the smaller, lighthearted events that bring people together," Cassamajor said. "I want people to feel like they have a place where they can come together, express themselves, meet others and simply enjoy the things that make them happy."



PHOTOS | LILY RAND

Sanrio themed items for students to take on Nov. 4 .



Students lined up to make gift bags at 'Sanrio Soiree.'.

Roberta's is more than just a convenience store

By Mackenzie Byerlee
Features Editor

For students, feeling a sense of belonging at the university is imperative. Roberta's serves as a place where students feel appreciated and seen.

Manager of Roberta's, Roberta Read, is the reason that the convenience store is a place students enjoy going to.

"Roberta is genuinely an amazing person. I think for students to come in and see a friendly face means everything," North Campus Graduate Intern Desirae Ferrara, said.

Located on the first floor of North Campus Midrise, Roberta's sells products such as ice cream, frozen meals, laundry detergent, toothpaste and so much more.

Having a store on campus where students can purchase items for their dorms is convenient and accessible.

However, Roberta's did not start in North Campus.

"We started in Conn in 1991 and we were there for 11 years," Read said. "They decided that we should make this a store and they asked if I wanted to come over here."

Having run the store for 35 years, Read understands what students are looking for when they come in.

Read also shared that other than the location switch and some added products, not much has changed since her opening.

Speech, language and hearing sciences major Ashley Donahue, a senior, shared that going to Roberta's with her guide dog Bitsy shaped her experience.

"I feel like I have a really good relationship with Roberta," Donahue said. "I would go in with Bitsy, and Roberta would spend her own money on dog treats for her."

As far as the future of Roberta's is concerned, Read only has one goal.

"Whoever takes over after me, I hope they're as friendly and helpful to students," Read said.

Finding a welcoming environment in an unlikely place helps students create connections in addition to just picking up the necessities.

Another factor that draws students in is the fact that they are able to pay for items with their food loot.

This is one way for students to use the money in their accounts and makes for an affordable option.

Roberta's is open to all students, not just those living in North, allowing anyone to come in.

Having been open for several decades, the influence that Read and Roberta's as a whole has had on the university community is something that other establishments would not be able to recreate easily.

While other stores are just places that students walk into and do not think about again, Roberta's shows that the faces behind the business are what makes the entire experience.

"It's not just convenience, it's community," Ferrara said.



PHOTO | MACKENZIE BYERLEE

Manager of Roberta's, Roberta Read, in front of her store sign on Nov. 2.

Owls Decide: Sunrise or sunset?

By Mackenzie Byerlee
Features Editor



PHOTOS | LILY RAND

"Sunrise because you get more motivation."
- Psychology major Latrell Reynolds, a junior



"Sunrise because it's a beautiful start to the day."
- Elementary education major Ella Maloblocki, a junior



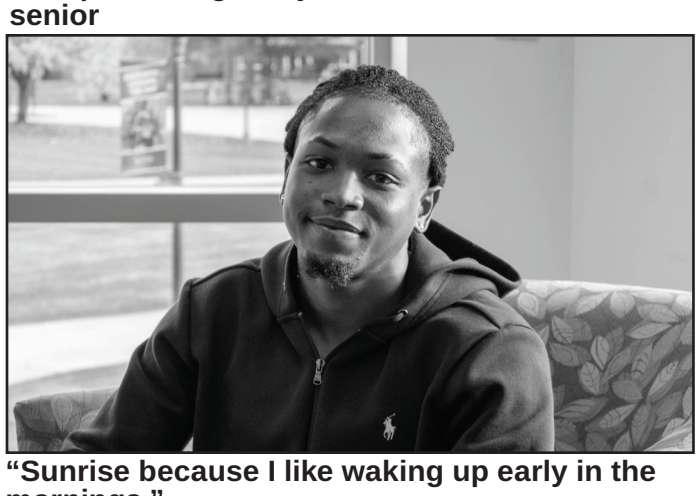
"Sunsets because I'm not usually awake early enough for sunrise."
- Graphic design major Amelia Sementilli, a senior



"Sunrise. I think it's extra special because you're not usually awake."
- Biology major Nathan Trumbley, a senior



"Sunset because it's the only one that I'm awake for."
- Interdisciplinary studies major Avonlea Clemmensen, a sophomore



"Sunrise because I like waking up early in the mornings."
- Business administration major Dante Riley, a senior