Day of Silence

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Student organizations take part in second annual ‘Day of Silence’

Members of several student groups came together to organize the Break the Silence dance party, to bring attention to the Day of Silence, a day of awareness for the effects of LBGT bullying and harassment.

"The Day of Silence is a national movement started by students at the University of West Virginia in 1996 as a way of protesting discrimination against the LGBTQ community in a creative outlet. It has since spread to high schools, colleges and universities across the nation, and is marked on the same day every year. This is URI’s second year observing the day of silence, according to Sit.

“We tried to model ourselves on some of the good practices employed by other schools on this day,” he said, explaining that the Break the Silence dance party was based on a queer prom put on at the end of the Day of Silence by Brown University.

This was the first year that URI held something beyond a small discussion to celebrate the end of the Day of Silence.

“Really, the purpose is to provide a celebration because that silence can feel oppressive,” Russell said. “There have been some people who have said we should have a day of discussion.

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The Day of Silence was organized by the Gay-Straight Alliance, and the party was co-sponsored by the LGBT Center.

"The GSA worked hard to bring this national movement to URI's campus, to give voice to those who are silenced and shed light on that silence," Russell, who is also the faculty advisor for the Gay-Straight Alliance, said. "It really is about telling people to have a voice."

No fiction Pulitzer Prize given for first time in 35 years

NEW YORK (AP) — Unable to choose a fiction winner, Pulitzer Prize officials made a decision guaranteed to satisfy no one.

They passed.

For the first time in 35 years, no fiction award was given.

Readers will have to look to other awards to decide which book was the year's most notable literary work. Booksellers will have to hope that other winners announced Monday, including the late Manning Marable's biography of Malcolm X, will attract some of the customers who might have sought the fiction winner.

Pulitzer judges had narrowed the field to three finalists, including David Foster Wallace's "The Pale King," a novel assembled from notes he left behind at the time of his suicide in 2008. Also cited were Karen Russell's "Swamplandia" and Denis Johnson's novella "Train Dreams."

"It's wonderful that the Pulitzer nominating committee recommended 'The Pale King' to the judges," the book's editor, Michael Pietsch of Little, Brown and Company, wrote in an email. "Anything that brings readers to David's brilliant novels, especially his post-novel 'Infinite Jest,' is welcome."

Pulitzer judges have withheld the Pulitzer 10 times before, according to Gissler, most recently in 1977. Among eligible books that have been bypassed: Thomas Pynchon's "Gravity's Rainbow," James Dickey's "Deliverance" and Kurt Vonnegut's "Cat's Cradle."

Quaranta Alegna Hudes' play "Water by the Spoonful," which centers on an Iraq war veteran's search for meaning, won the Pulitzer for drama. Hudes previously wrote the book for the Broadway show "In the Heights," which won the Tony Award for Best Musical in 2008. Her play "Elliot, A Soldier's Fugue" was a finalist for the Pulitzer in 2007.

"Water by the Spoonful," produced last fall at Hartford Stage Company in Connecticut, was called an "imaginative play..." by the Pulitzer Prize judges."