

FROM FRONT PAGE

THON

to find food for the dancers. Behrend was there supporting their dancers for a great cause.

Rizzo and Hovis didn't complain much during the grueling process, only when probed with 'how are you feeling' did they utter a grievance. Hovis remembered who she was dancing for to keep her going.

"Seeing the kids was the best part of THON. They are in such high spirits and it's great to see that," said Hovis.

Everyone was tired, everyone was sore, but they all knew that they were doing this exhausting task for the kids. THON this year raised \$3.6 million for the Four Diamonds Fund, which helps kids with cancer and hopes to someday aide in finding a cure.

The emotion involved in this 48-hour long testament of caring came to a head near the end. "The last four hours really make you understand THON," said Rizzo.

Early on in the program, legendary Penn State football Coach Joe Paterno apologized that he would not be able to attend the program and wished the dancers luck, and thanked them for what they were doing.

But around 3 p.m. an old man started making his way through the crowd without escort, shaking hands and offering thanks. Paterno decided to make an unexpected visit.

The coach's words breathed a new life back into the exhausted crowd. He started by joking about how he would be down there dancing if it wasn't for his bad knee. He then got serious and said just how important this event is, and how important student involvement is to help the community.

Near the end of his impromptu speech he said that when people say, "We Are Penn State," this is what they are really talking about. The crowd went crazy and the feeling of pain and exhaustion was temporarily relieved.

A little while after Paterno left, there was a talent show done by the kids with cancer whom the dancers were supporting. By this time Rec Hall was filled to capacity. An estimated 4,000 students in Rec Hall witnessed the end of THON. Of these 4,000, very few were able to keep dry eyes as the kids sang songs like Michelle Branch's "Everywhere," Billy Gillman's "One Voice," and the Dixie Chicks' "Cowboy Take Me Away."

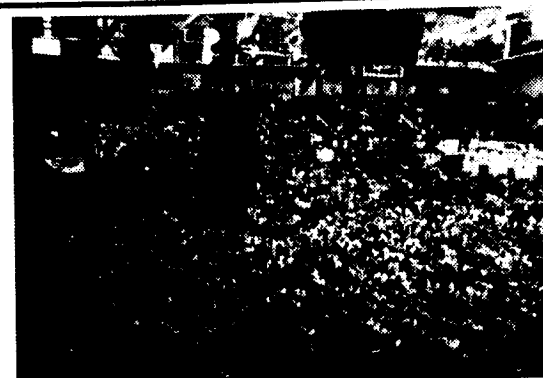
After the thunderous applause for the children died down, a video tribute was put on the two big screens. The tribute was to a group of brave Four Diamonds children who lost their battles with cancer. One of them was a child who had been given an award at the previous year's THON for his courage. By the time this video had ended, there was not a dry eye to be seen.

Family hour was next, where many of the Four Diamonds families came onto the stage, and three gave short speeches thanking the students for all that they have done. One of the speakers was a young girl who was diagnosed when she was young and beat cancer with the help of the Four Diamonds Fund and THON.

After a little more dancing, the time finally came for the dancers to sit down and wait for awards to be handed out. After the long list of awards to schools had been read, the total was announced. Penn State had raised \$3.6 million for the kids. All of the pain and tiredness had paid off.

Behrend raised close to \$10,000 of this massive amount, by the time all was said and done. Between the hard work of the THON co-chairs Sutter and Rizzo, and the determination shown by Rizzo and Hovis, THON was a big success for Behrend.

Hovis encourages as many people as possible to go in years to come. "It's hard to put into words what it is like to be there, it is something that everyone should experience because once you do, you'll never be the same. THON on!"



ALL PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Got Tan Lines?

Behrend Students

**Bring your I.D.
for Great Savings!**

10 Tans - \$21
15 Tans - \$31
1 Month - \$30

• Aussie Gold
 Lotions
 • Wolff Beds

**Buy 1
month,
get 2nd
month
1/2 off!**

Eriez Electric Beach

4702 East Lake Rd.

314-0089
504-0041

INTERESTED IN RESEARCH IN THE
BIOMEDICAL
SCIENCES?

University of Pittsburgh
School of Medicine
Biomedical Graduate Studies

**SUMMER UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH
PROGRAM**

Choose from 6 programs!

- Biochemistry and Molecular Genetics
- Cell Biology and Molecular Physiology
- Cellular and Molecular Pathology
- Immunology
- Molecular Pharmacology
- Molecular Virology and Microbiology

Independent project in a faculty lab will expose rising juniors and seniors to graduate school life.
\$3500 stipend for 10-week program.
 Applications due March 1, 2003.

Program description and application available at: www.gradbiomed.pitt.edu

Questions? Contact Carol Williams 412-648-9003 or cawillia@medschool.pitt.edu