

THON hosts 24 for a cure dance

Students raise money for pediatric cancer

TOBY KELLER
assistant news editor

Behrend students stayed awake for 24 straight hours this weekend, a feat that is not unusual with the excessive partying and decadence associated with college life.

What makes this accomplishment really special, however, is the fact that those who participated danced for those 24 hours, non-stop, in an effort to raise money for kids like Rylee Dorer, a nine-year-old whose pediatric cancer is in remission. 24 For A Cure was hosted by THON and raised nearly \$1,500 in their 24 hour event.

The proceeds will go directly to the Four Diamonds Fund which directly benefits those suffering from pediatric cancer, as well as their families, through things such as laboratory research, hotel rooms for families who need to stay close to their child during treatment and aid with medical bills.

Jennifer Slane, Chair Member of THON, was not the only one to see the importance of the event.

"There is no failure in THON," Slane said. "We could have raised five dollars from this event and I still would have been happy. Of course we want to raise money, but it's more of the action that matters. It was people coming together for 24 hours all for the same cause, for the same fight."

The battle cry was fierce and Behrend stu-

dents responded.

"We had 14 dancers for the event along with numerous moralers and security," said Marla Whitney, who ran the dance alongside Jess Durbin said. "We had activities, dancing, games, sports, and themed hours throughout the whole 24 hours. Some of the themed hours that we had 'Toga Olympics' and a Luau hour where we limbo'd and listened to Jimmy Buffet. Also throughout the event, we had several organizations come and provide some sort of entertainment or relief for the dancers."

With the clocks falling back on Sunday, it meant that many students around campus got a much needed extra hour of sleep, study-time or a chance to catch up on Sunday NFL Countdown.

Some, however, saw it as a chance to fight back against something dreadful and awful, and to raise money for those who are in desperate need. It was a cause dearest to Dorer, one that she got the best of, and those who know her story share that feeling.

"Every single minute of those 24 hours was a fight for her," Slane said. "Every time I would see one of the dancers in pain, I would just tell them to think of Rylee and you would just see a smile on their face. If that nine-year-old girl could beat her battle with cancer, we could beat our battle with the pain."

"It was a good bonding experience for everyone involved and I am so proud of every single person who walked into Erie Hall."



Contributed photo / Aaron Morelli

Above: students at 24 for a cure danced a group line dance every hour on the hour

Dance held in McGarvey for disabled adults

CAROLYN ZAFFINO
senior reporter

Every year the Barber National Institute holds six Expanding Social Opportunities (ESO) dances.

The dances are hosted by Behrend, Edinboro, Gannon, and Mercyhurst colleges. The ESO dances are held for adults with disabilities between the ages 18-35.

This was the second dance this year hosted by Behrend, the first one was a Halloween dance that was held Oct. 8, and over 170 guests and volunteers came and dressed up.

The dance on Nov. 5 had about 105 guests, not including volunteers, and the majority of them never sat down.

"My daughter has so many friends because of these dances that I have to force her off of the phone," said Nancy Mulson, the mother of one guest. "This has revolutionized her social life. She looks forward to every dance."

Volunteers for the dances come from the four colleges that host it as well as those who answer fliers, or even the community service fraternity Alpha Phi Omega. For a number of reasons, personal or charitable, these students come out to help organize the event.

"I heard about this through Megan Myers and I work at the Barber National Institute," said Caitlyn Cybulski, a sophomore English major at Penn State Behrend. "My brother has down syndrome, so I come to these dances anyway, but this time I got to help out."

Megan Myers is a psychology major that also volunteered her efforts to organize the dance.

"We are always looking for volunteers, and this is a great way to get involved in the community," said Myers.

"Plus it impacts these peoples' lives for months. They talk about this dance until there is another one that they can talk about."

This is the tenth annual dance.

"These dances are a great way to get those with disabilities, as well as those without disabilities, to get to know each other," said Joyce McDonnell, an employee for Barber National Institute. "The perspectives of the students who help out are forever changed by these."

Volunteer duties include not only watching over the refreshment table, but they keep an eye out to make sure no guest is unsafe. Another duty if the volunteers is to mingle amongst those attending and to dance with the guests. Parents are often happy to see all the volunteers on the dance floor, socializing with their children.

"It's amazing to see the students that come to every dance that is held and dance the whole time with the guests, it makes me very happy," said mother Diane Pietkiewicz.

There was a three dollar charge to attend, but that money goes right back towards the refreshments, the sound system and music, prizes, and even gifts for the Christmas dance.

Plans begin right away for the next dance, often the morning after. The committee went over what worked and how they could make the next one better.

"The dances are always fantastic. My daughter looks forward to them and then just dances entire time," said Joyce Vallimont, another parent.

The next dance is Dec. 8 at Mercyhurst. Prospective volunteers can call the Barber National at (814) 453-7661.

Academic and Career Planning Center event

CONNOR SATTELY
editor-in-chief

Most students know their intended major - but not many know what the hell to do with it.

Next week's "What Can I Do With a Major In..." event, hosted by the Academic and Career Planning Center (ACPC), could help that.

According to Mary Beth McCarthy, director of the ACPC, says that the event will hold practical information on "what students can

do, and how they can do it."

"We collect data on where students have gotten jobs back to 1996," she said. "A lot of those jobs are ones that you wouldn't immediately think of as a student with a certain major."

McCarthy lists off strange major-career combinations: economics majors that have gotten involved with publi-

cation companies, and many more.

For any job, whether or not it is "in the norm" for that major, the fair will present information on how to get there.

"We don't just want to set up advisers with information on what classes to take," McCarthy said. "We want to give them an absolute ton of

information on what jobs are out there and, most importantly, how to get them."

That advice can include the details of what students should do immediately to set up their college careers. Sheets of information for students can give them specific advice. For an economics major looking to get into the Bureau of Labor Statistics, for example, one step to take is to try getting involved in student government. This advice is available across every major.

Wednesday November 17
McGarvey Commons
11-2pm

Lunch will be provided for those in attendance

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