

# THON 2003: Hope Surrounds PSH Dancers

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Yes, folks it's that time of year again. THON is just around the corner. Time to pull out your wallets, donate some money, and participate in the activities here at Penn State Harrisburg.

For those of you not familiar with THON, it is the largest student-run charity in the world. Donations are collected year round for a 48 hour no sitting, no sleeping event that happens February 21 - 23 this year with Parule

Luthra and Lee Cutchall as PSH dancers. Since THON was started back in 1973, \$20 million has been raised for the Four Diamonds Fund, which benefits kids with cancer. There are over 230 organizations that partake in the dance marathon including 700 dancers. Four thousand students from all of Penn State's campuses participate in the fundraising effort.

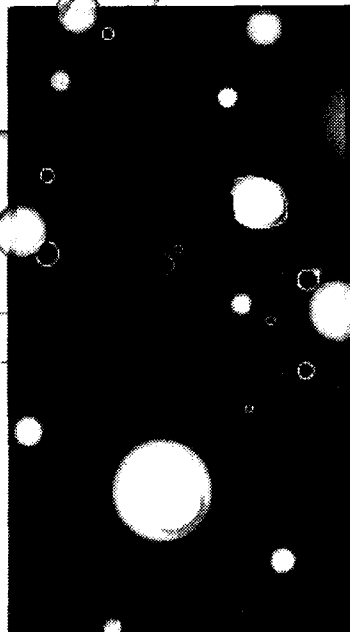
Here at Penn State Harrisburg, \$4,986 has been raised so far through many different measures. Volunteers at Borders bookstores raised money by gift wrapping various items for people. There were other volunteers who stood outside on the streets in the blistering cold collecting money from anyone passing by. The Capital Times sold T-shirts in which all \$1,300 in proceeds donated to THON.

There will be one more weekend of raising money through

canning and the Bachelor/Bachelorette event on February 4 is sure to bring in some mad bling. There are many top contenders that should go for a decent price. Can collecting will also continue this weekend along with pledge books where an individual or organization can donate money straight out and be billed after the event.

According to Parul Luthra, SGA President, THON itself will be packed full of activities. Besides dancing, throughout the event there will be such things as water gun battles and at some point powder will be poured onto the floor which turns Rec. Hall into a big Slip 'n' Slide. However, there are some strict rules to follow if you plan on attending this year. For one, no caffeine products will be allowed. People are known to get over exerted and there have been some times where students had to be carried off in stretchers. Also, the dancers are not allowed to have devices that tell time; this includes such things as watches, cell phones, pagers, or digital cameras.

This year's THON is sure to bring in a huge sum of money for the Four Diamonds Fund. There are at least 15 people from Penn State Harrisburg attending. If you know of anyone or see someone attending, be sure to show your support.



This is THON 2003's logo reminding us that "Hope Surrounds Us"

## HE SAID, SHE SAID

Dan Storm

Staff Reporter



**My boyfriend and I have been serious for more than 3 years, but we are graduating in May. Where do we go from here?**

Signed  
Hopeless

*He Said:*

*Dear Hopeless,*

*As graduation draws closer, couples all over college campuses will be contemplating their relationships. Some will get engaged, and others will go their separate ways.*

*If the two of you have talked about the future and are serious enough to think about marriage, then evolving into a long-distance relationship seems like the right choice. Even if he moves halfway across the country, true love will prevail.*

*However, if you are not that serious or only one of you is serious, then going your separate ways is the better option. You cannot make a relationship work if both people are not equally committed.*

*If it is meant to be, then two years is insignificant compared to the rest of your lives!*

*As always, there are options to consider. You could continue to date your significant other. If you both end up taking jobs far away from each other then you will be miserable, lonely and afraid. This scenario is similar to a long-distance relationship and will turn into one if you are not careful.*

*A long-distance relationship is no way to live life. But I guess you both could be faithful and wait for each other. Then you two could get married and have three kids and a mini-van.*

*The other option is just to let the person off the hook and explore your options. Your graduation will let you embark on a new journey where you will make new friends and engage in new activities. You will get out of the rut of college life.*

*Keeping this other person around will hurt you both in the long run if it ends up being a long distance relationship! Although, if it is meant to be, then two years is insignificant compared to the rest of your lives!*



Sarah Elkalban

Staff Reporter

*She said:*

*Dear Hopeless,*

*Well it sounds like you see a potential roadblock in the future or otherwise you would not be asking this question. Is the problem going to be distance or possibly you, your boyfriend, or both of you are questioning how the quality of your relationship will be once you enter the real world of eight hour work days, full-time responsibilities, and basically a whole new existence that far differs from college life.*

*Either way, it seems that an element of change will be introduced into your lives that may possibly threaten your relationship. Personally, I think it's great to have a serious relationship with someone for two years, especially one where you are there for each other throughout your college experience. I do, however, think that graduation brings about many new and exciting possibilities and maybe you should concentrate on adapting to your new life for a while. Your boyfriend should do the same thing.*

*Focus on your degrees that you worked so hard to earn, but still be there for each other. If you two are really meant to be together, each one of you will understand the other's need to establish a career and adapt to a new lifestyle. This, like distance, is one of the biggest tests that a serious couple can go through and you know you are meant to be with each other if both of you wants the best for the other. Spread your wings and fly, explore. Only when you are both happy doing what you want to do can you be truly happy together and not question what the future will hold.*

**Disclaimer:** Dan Storm and Sarah Elkalban are not licensed psychologists or relationship therapists, just very opinionated students. Their advice is offered for entertainment as a sharing of personal experiences. All questions will be made anonymous. "He said, she said" is an advice column that will answer readers' questions about anything from relationships to advising.