

A dancer's perspective of a 30 year tradition

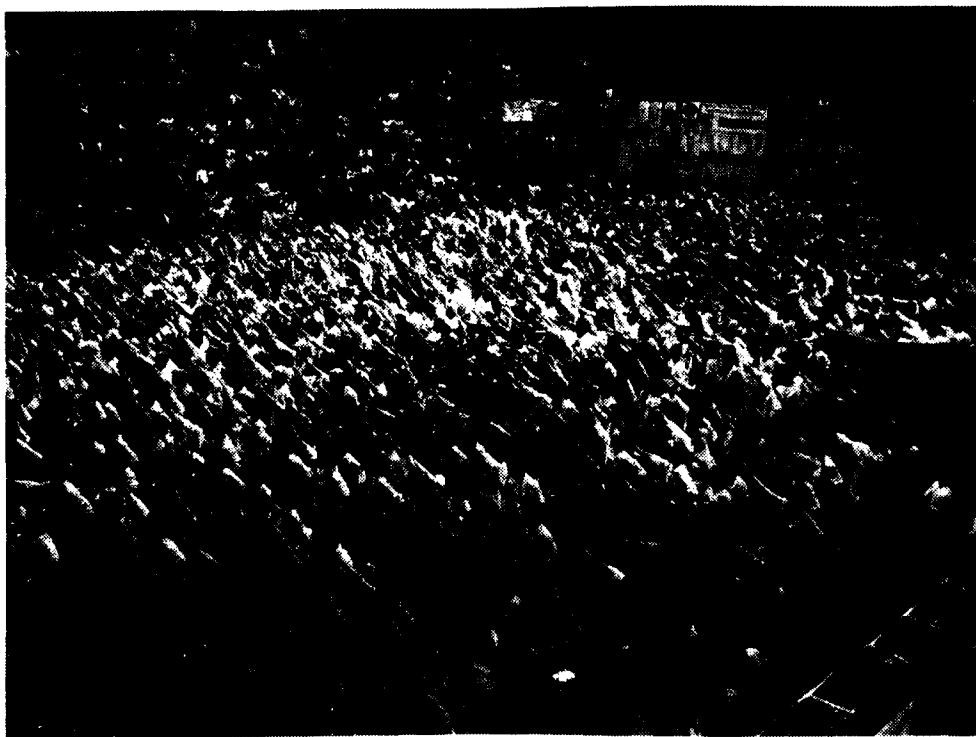
By ERIN MOSKALCZAK
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Ten thousand Penn State students, faculty, alumni, and supporters pack into the Recreation Hall at University Park each February. This has been a thirty year tradition of Penn State known as THON. By now, I would hope that you all know what THON is. Last year Penn State students just like you helped raise \$4.1 million dollars to help pediatric cancer at the Hershey Medical Center.

THON is not just a Penn State event, it involves the communities we live in. While fundraising, the THON committee on campus as met many individuals who have been helped by THON.

THON helps our families, neighbors, and sometimes even ourselves. It is truly inspirational for the THON volunteers to meet people who have been helped by THON. We are not just raising money and not seeing where it goes. We actually have met some parents who their child has cancer, and through THON, Penn State has helped with their medical expenses.

In recent years the money raised helped to cover treatment costs, however, THON has shifted its focus to long-term projects. The first project was the establishment of the Four Diamonds Research Institute at the Penn State Children's Hospital. The original pledge of \$5



The thousands of dancers who will participate in THON this year will be dancing for 48 hours. Every hour on the hour, they will perform the THON line dance in unison.

million was made in 1999 and was to be paid over four years, but the organization did it in only two. In 2004, \$10 million, to be contributed over six years, was pledged to create a Pediatric Cancer Pavilion at the Hershey Medical Center. While the current facilities are completely modern from a medical point-of-view, treatment areas are scattered all over the hospital, and many of the facilities are not designed for the

treatment of pediatric patients. The Pavilion's design will consolidate all of these functions and include design features - like wide hallways and water fountains appropriate for a child's height, designed specifically for its young visitors.

I first encountered THON when I was a senior in high school. I was traveling to Pittsburgh to visit my cousin at school. On the ride, traffic seemed to be backed up. We soon

realized that Penn State students were collecting donations by "canning" (standing outside with a can for people to drop donations in) for THON in the middle of the highway (which is extremely stupid and illegal). Before this trip I have heard about THON by local news stations covering the story. Last year, as a freshman here, I was excited to learn more about THON. However, the THON committee was not very active, in fact, I do not even think there was a THON committee.

That all changed this year, thanks to Maruja Rosario, our current THON chair. This year, THON has been organizing fundraising activities since October. We might be a small committee, but we are a strong one! If you happen to walk past the Student Government Office lately, the windows say, "THON ON, Erin and Steve." Steve O'Holla and I have been chosen to represent

all Penn State Harrisburg students at University Park during THON weekend. We will be participating in a no sleeping, no sitting dance marathon.

Steve and I have been preparing for THON since Christmas. We had to eliminate all caffeine and sugar intake. Yes, two college students without caffeine! Having comfortable sneakers is also a must considering we will be on our feet for 48 hours. For all of you that know me, I am not a sneaker person. However, since we have returned from winter break, I have been wearing sneakers a lot. I do not even think my sneakers I got over four years ago are completely broken in.

Last year, Andrew Klaber from Princeton went to see what THON was all about. He then wrote an article about THON in The Daily Princetonian (the school newspaper). He wishes Princeton would someday do some type of event similar to THON.

He also went on saying, "The idea of students (Penn State students) here using several weekends throughout the academic year to raise money, spending countless hours preparing for a weekend's festivities and taking an entire two days from their lives

and completely devoting them to a wonderful cause in place of studying, watching reruns of Family Guy or preparing for I-Banking interviews seems almost unfathomable." This proves that Penn State has one of a kind experiences. Many try to be like us, but no one will ever succeed to mimic us.

Every college student is busy, I am just asking for your support for THON. Last year Penn State Harrisburg raised under two thousand dollars.

This year, our goal is ten thousand dollars. We need your help to reach our goal. You are going to be seeing THON cans on campus.

I ask you to please donate any spare change you find rolling around in your car to THON. After all, THON is Penn State, and we are all Penn State.

I am impatiently waiting for THON weekend. This is what I have been waiting for all year. I am dancing to find a cure, I am dancing for those who cannot be here, I am dancing for THON, and I am dancing FOR THE KIDS.

References: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Penn_State_Dance_Marathon, <http://www.dailyprincetonian.com/archives/2005/03/01/opinion/12183.shtml>

From hoodies to stilettos

By STEPHANIE DURBOROW
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According to the Webster Dictionary, style is defined as a "quality of imagination and individuality expressed in one's actions and tastes." Here on Penn State Harrisburg, we certainly have plenty of style.

The overall look of students is casual and comfortable. Walking around campus, I noticed hoodies exist everywhere. I own some hoodies myself, so I can see why they are so popular. They're warm, comfortable, and they are the perfect attire for a long day of classes.

Another style where one cannot go wrong is with classic jeans and a t-shirt. I spoke to Brian Spackman, junior, History Education, and he was wearing a grey t-shirt (designer logo) and jeans.

I asked him why he wears what he wears, and he said, "I'm really

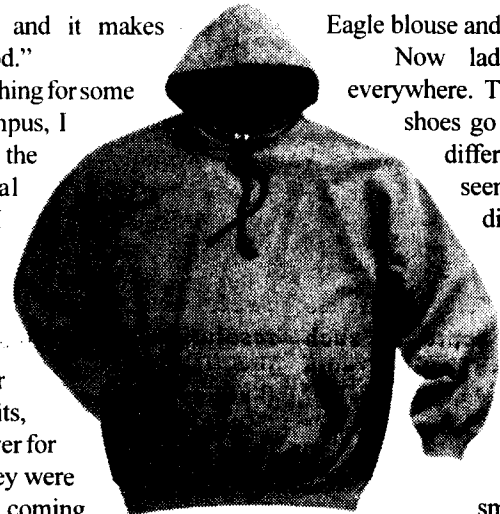


comfortable and it makes me look good."

While searching for some style on campus, I came across the professional look. I asked some students what was the occasion for their outfits, and the answer for most was they were going to or coming from work.

Some had presentations or were in the mood to get dolled up. Dave Potts, junior, Secondary Education, wore a nice sweater and dress pants. I asked him where his style came from and he simply said, "I like to look respectable."

Kerri Staub, senior, Marketing, said to me "I'm on campus for fifteen hours a week at least so I need to be comfortable, but at the same time there is fifteen hours where other people have to look at me. I wear what clothes make me feel comfortable and I like." She was dressed in a nice American



Eagle blouse and fitted jeans.

Now ladies, stilettos are everywhere. These sleek, pointy shoes go well with a lot of different styles. I've seen them in many different colors and patterns worn with capri pants, jeans, skirts and khakis. My question for those savvy stiletto girls: is the pain of smashing all your toes into those sharp tips worth the good looks?

You would think Ugg Boots would stand for ugly boots, but in fact they are quite trendy. These snow boot-like shoes are all over place. They are comfortable and very warm, so girls leave their jeans hang over the boot, or tuck their pants inside the boot.

Overall, PSH has some great taste. It seems our students are quite up to date with what the latest trends are. So whether we wear our clothes because we are expressing ourselves through fashion, or just like what is comfortable, I'd say we all look fabulous.

Slaying worries restaurant row crowd

By IRVIN KITTRELL III
The Patriot-News

Jason Saneverino became a little uneasy last night [Jan. 21] on Harrisburg's Restaurant Row when he was told a man was shot and killed early yesterday morning across the street from where he and his wife were standing.

"It's a little freaky," the Mechanicsburg man said as he puffed a cigarette across the street from the Second Street Garage.

City police said Ricardo Perez of Harrisburg was killed around 2:30 a.m. at Second and Cranberry streets as nightclubs and bars were emptying. Perez's age was not known last night, police said.

Police arrested two men who they say might have witnessed the killing of Perez, of the 1200 block of Derry Street. Each man, one from York and the other from Lancaster, was charged with carrying a firearm without a license.

"It's a shame a life was taken; it's a shame it happened close by," said Nick Laus, who owns Cafe Fresco, which opened about six months ago across the street from the garage. "When it's that close, you hope it won't affect business."

Bobby Thiemann, a manager of Fisaga, also across the street from the garage, was concerned that a

killing in downtown Harrisburg could halt the success Restaurant Row has enjoyed.

"It's going to hurt all the businesses," he said. "We're trying to get people



Restaurant Row, 2nd St., in downtown Harrisburg.

into the city, not to scare them off."

When the shooting occurred, officers were crossing the street toward a crowd that had gathered in front of the garage, police said. As they crossed the street, shots rang out from the crowd, and police found Perez on the sidewalk.

An ambulance crew took the man to

a hospital, where he was pronounced dead, police said.

The motive for Perez's killing was unclear last night.

William Brandon, 35, of Queen Street in York, was arrested and charged with disorderly conduct, illegal possession of a firearm and carrying a firearm without a license. Curtis Diego, 24, of Lancaster, was charged with carrying a firearm without a license and hindering apprehension.

Brandon kicked and punched Perez before he was shot, police said. He and Diego had come to Harrisburg together in a car driven by Diego, police said. Officers said they found two handguns in the car.

Both men awaited arraignment last night in night court.

Police are looking for two other people who might have witnessed the shooting. The two were seen leaving the area.

Anyone with information about the shooting is asked to call city police at 255-3131. Dauphin County Crime Stoppers is offering a reward up to \$2,000 for information that leads to the arrest and conviction of the shooting. Callers, who remain anonymous, may call (800) 262-3080.

The homicide was the second in Dauphin County this year, following last year's total of 13.

Pennsylvania State grants

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The first of January is a time when most people around the world are celebrating the start of a new year and creating New Year's resolutions. For college students, that date is also the one that signifies the first day that a student can begin filling out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, or FAFSA.

Not only is the FAFSA the application for federal financial aid to attend a post-secondary school anywhere in the United States, it is also the application for the Pennsylvania State Grant program. One organization that closely works with grant programs is the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency, or PHEAA.

PHEAA was created from humble beginnings. In 1964 they began as a small student loan guarantor, serving only 4,600 students. Since that time PHEAA has had an extremely large growth.

Their website, www.pheaa.org, states that, "Today, PHEAA manages more than \$56.5 billion in total assets and serves millions of students and thousands of schools nationally through its state grant, guaranty, servicing, and financial aid processing systems."

PHEAA is strongly dedicated to making higher education affordable and accessible to students and their families. The agency has made many strong efforts to find ways to ease the financial burdens of borrowers by developing many different programs. This is something that

Penn State Harrisburg's student aid

adviser, Carolyn Julian, was quick to recognize.

She said, "PHEAA has the student's best interest in mind. They are always developing new products and programs to help students further their education."

One such program is PHEAA's longstanding Zero Guaranty Fee Policy. This policy waives the 1-percent guaranty fee normally charged by federal guarantors to insure student loans. This action saves students across the nation more than \$20 million each year in up-front costs.

PHEAA's Keystone family of low-cost student loan programs is another way that they have helped make higher education more affordable. According to PHEAA's website, "The Keystone Family of Loans - which includes Stafford, PLUS and private loan programs - has not only helped lower the cost of student loan borrowing, but it has also increased efficiency, flexibility and lender choice within the financial aid community."

Some of the loans that are involved with the Keystone Family of Loan Programs include Keystone Stafford Loans, Keystone BEST Loans, Keystone PLUS Loans, and the Keystone EXTRA loan. Keystone Stafford Loans are available to Pennsylvania students and residents who have a family income of less than \$21,000. PHEAA will help to pay the fees on both subsidized and unsubsidized loans on behalf of students.

A Keystone BEST Loan is a discounted Stafford Loan that is made available to Pennsylvania residents and out-of-state residents

attending a Pennsylvania school who borrow from a participating lender. To get involved with this type of a loan, visit aesSuccess.org to see a list of participating lenders.

A Keystone PLUS Loan is one that helps a student's family help to the difference between the actual cost of their higher education and the amount covered by the student's aid package.

The final type of loan included in the Keystone Family of Loan Programs is the Keystone EXTRA loan. This is a private loan product that provides Pennsylvania students with a private supplemental loan that can be used to fill the "gap" in their education costs.

While this can be a helpful loan, it often can be more expensive in the long run in terms of interest and other fees. These loans are just examples of the many different programs that PHEAA has to offer.

Along with the many types of loan programs that PHEAA offers, they also offer a wide range of basic services on their website, www.pheaa.org. The website offers help for those students filling out the FAFSA and has many informative links that can help students weigh their options for financial aid such as loans and work-study programs.

To get in touch with PHEAA access their website, pheaa.org, call 1800-692-7392, or e-mail loanhelp@aesSuccess.org or granhelp@phess.org. If additional assistance is needed or you want to talk to someone in person, Carolyn Julian in Room 70 of the Swatara Building is able to assist. Ms. Julian can also be reached at 717-848-6307 or at czb3@psu.edu.

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