

Having a ball on Valentine's day

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Though it was a cold and windy day, the hearts inside the Middletown Home Chapel were warm and pleasant. Eight lovely residents had the pleasure of being escorted to the Valentine's Ball at the home by some of Penn State Harrisburg's finest gentlemen.

The eight lads, Matthew Mahoney, Andrew Dale, Sean Stanton, Jim Dougherty, David Potts, Pete Clarke, Brian Spackman, and Ryan Collins, all arrived dressed in some of their finest clothes, ready to put smiles on the ladies' faces as well as their own.

The Middletown Home telephoned Laurie Dobrosky, advisor to the Lion Ambassadors, who in turn passed the event down to Katie Fike, one of two community service chairs. Fike and the club were excited to do the event, but found they lacked a bit in the male department. So they reached out to Circle K and the SGA to find a few more good men to round out the eight.

After posing for a few pictures in front of the Nittany Lion, the group was escorted to the home where they met Shelley Janicelli, director



The escorts pose for a quick picture before heading for the ball. From left: Sean Stanton, David Potts, Pete Clarke, Brian Spackman, Matthew Mahoney, Ryan Collins, and Andrew Dale (Not Pictured: Jim Dougherty).

of activities. Janicelli led them into an activity room where she paired each young man with the name of a happy date.

Janicelli told each escort to knock on the door, introduce himself to the waiting date, and then escort her to the chapel where the ball was being held. She also gave them a few simple instructions in how to interact with the lovely ladies and then, with pink carnations in hand, the gentlemen left to pick up their dates.

As each gentleman arrived in the

beautifully decorated chapel with an equally beautiful date, they stopped and posed for pictures for Steven Hevner and then escorted them to the hors d'oeuvres table. Most of the ladies were dressed in ball gowns that Janicelli purchased at various consignment stores, though a few chose to wear something from their own wardrobe.

Shortly afterwards they all took seats and passed the minutes away. Stanton happily chatted almost nonstop with his date, while Mahoney, paired with a woman named Tink, was all ears in listening to his date's stories. "I thought that she was a very happy woman and the fact that we all came there really brightened up her day," Mahoney said. He also learned that she was confused when she heard of the dates because she was uncertain whether the gentlemen would be Penn Staters, or men from the State Penn [Penitentiary]. Incidentally, she was pleased to learn it was the former.

As the residents enjoyed the sounds of Dan Dropkin, an entertainer specializing in 30s and 40s music that he plays on his acoustic guitar, Fike said, "I am so glad that they [the males] volunteered to do this. It shows a lot of courage."



Matthew Mahoney poses for a picture with his date Tink. Tink loved meeting the young men from Penn State and enjoyed their company.

Winter sun can also be fun

By **BRIANNA GUYER**
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The winter months may seem dark and desolate to many students at Penn State Harrisburg, but others find it to be the most exciting time of the year. This is the feeling for many because of the activities such as skiing, snowboarding, snow tubing, and ice skating that they can participate in. Central Pennsylvania and its cold winter temperatures are excellent for all of these fun winter activities!

Ski Roundtop is a popular location for both skiing and snowboarding in this area as it is located in Lewisberry, PA, a short 30 minute drive from the campus. This resort offers different slopes for the beginner and advanced skiers and snowboarders. Never skied or snowboarded before? No problem. You don't have to be headed to the Winter Olympics to go to Ski Roundtop.

They offer numerous ski packages that will help you become a pro. The First Class Learn to Ski or Snowboard package costs \$49 and includes a lift ticket on the beginner lift, a lesson, and equipment rentals.

Those who purchase this package have access to the slopes from five to ten in the evening. If you want to try something a little more advanced, then the All Mountain Package is another option.

Skiers and snowboarders will receive a lift ticket for all of the lifts as well as a class lesson and use of rental equipment. This option is a little on the expensive side as it costs \$535.00 for a season pass or \$299.00 for a night club pass. If you're not ready to invest a lot of money a

single night pass will let you ski or snowboard from 5 to 10 p.m. and costs just \$32.00 per person during both the midweek and weekend.

Ski Roundtop also offers another fun option for those who tend to shy away from the slopes called snow tubing.

Snow tubing is much like sledding. You travel down a large hill at high speeds, but instead of riding a wooden sled or saucer, at Ski Roundtop you plummet down a large icy hill on an inner tube. While this may sound scary, it is actually an extraordinary amount of fun because it is hard to predict just how your tube will go down the hill.

Want even more fun? Gather a group of friends and travel down the hill as a chain. One of the best parts of tubing at Ski Roundtop is that instead of having to trudge up the hill again in your snow boots, you can attach your tube to a lift and it will carry you back up for another ride back down.

Another one of the great features of snow tubing is its low cost. During the week it costs \$11.00 per person and on the weekend it is \$13.00 for an hour long session.

For information regarding skiing, snowboarding, or snow tubing at Ski Roundtop or to get directions, go to their website at www.ski-roundtop.com or call (717) 432-9631.

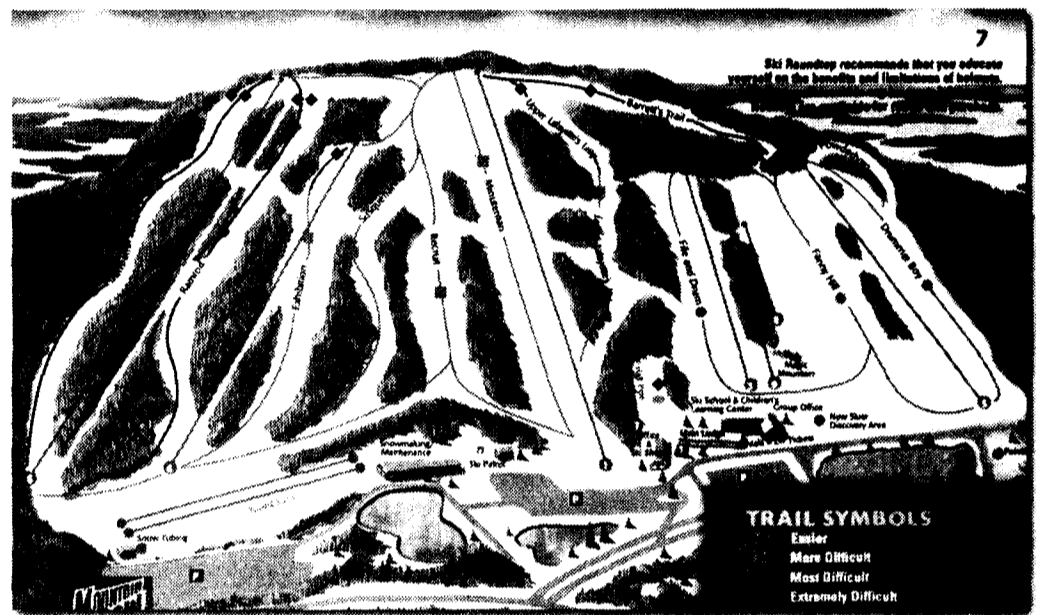
Another option for something fun to do in the winter is to go ice skating. Indoor ice skating is offered at Twin Ponds East located off the Union Deposit exit in Harrisburg.

If you've never skated before, Twin Ponds East offers adult skating classes. Both new or experienced skaters are welcome, as are both hockey and figure skates. Skate rental is available for \$2.00 for person and classes are held Mondays from 7:15 to 8:15 p.m. for \$10.00 per session.

If you are more skilled and want to skate at your own pace there is also open skating. "Cheap Skate" is on Wednesday from 12:00 to 2:00 p.m. During that session it costs \$4.00 per person. Regular skating is during open skating times and costs \$6.00. Skate rental for both sessions costs \$2.00.

For open skating times, directions or for more information, go to www.twinponds.com or call 717-558-POND.

So next time you're wondering what to do on a cold winter night, don't run indoors and turn up your heat, turn up the excitement in your life as you experience all the great winter fun that Central Pennsylvania has to offer!



A diagram showing all the trails that are right for skiing at Ski Roundtop. With varying degrees of difficulty, everyone from the novice to the expert can enjoy the mountain.

The myths of the Irish

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Saint Patrick's Day is a time when green is on the scene and many are proud to boast their Irish heritage, but many fall into the myths of Saint Patrick's Day!

This Irish themed day is a religious holiday that is celebrated throughout Ireland and many parts of the world. The holiday is named after Saint Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland, and is celebrated on March 17. This is because that was the day St. Patrick passed away in 460 AD, and when his annual religious feast day was held in his honor.

One misconception about Saint Patrick is because he was the patron saint of Ireland that he was Irish also. In actuality, Saint Patrick's personal accounts reveal that he was born in southern Britain and was a Celtic Briton.

Another myth is that Saint Patrick used the shamrock to teach about the Trinity. One of the most popular tales surrounding Saint Patrick is that he used a shamrock to explain the Trinity, using the three leaves to represent the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

This myth cannot be verified because Saint Patrick never documented it in his records. It has been suggested that the legend derives from an earlier Celtic tradition of using the shamrock as a metaphor for the saying, "trust I your soul", "believe in your heart," and, "have faith in your mind."

There are other myths that surround Saint Patrick's Day that have little to do with the saint himself, but are

associated with the holiday. An example of this is the belief in leprechauns.

While leprechauns make for a great marketing idea for cereal such as "Lucky," the cute leprechaun character advertising for Lucky Charms cereal, our view of leprechauns doesn't bear any resemblance of those in Irish mythology. An Irish philosopher once wrote that they were "nasty, brutish, and short" and that the grumpy elves worked as cobblers and stingily guarded their treasures.

And who knows of the treasures that the leprechauns guarded since the next myth to be busted is that of the supposed pot of gold at every rainbow. While most people know that this is only a myth, few know how this legend came to be. A popular Irish legend tells of a poor couple who captured a leprechaun and forced him to give them his gold. To reprimand them for their greediness, the leprechaun places his gold in a pot at the end of a rainbow. The story concludes by saying that the couple never found the pot of gold but will be condemned to search for it for eternity.

While Saint Patrick's Day is a holiday surrounded by myths and folklore, many people will continue to celebrate it. After all, what's more fun to believe in, a leprechaun or the Easter Bunny?



THON: Making a difference

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opening countdown was, "Sh**, this is it," she said. With high energy, PSH, along with all the rest of the Penn State family, began to dance.

Early into the first few hours, the dancers took the time to learn the 2006 THON line dance, a THON tradition since the early 90s. The line dance highlights current events from the past year focusing heavily on Penn State events and THON, but also taking cues from entertainment, sports, and news. Some of this year's lyrics are: "Orange you glad to be a Nittany Lion, livin' la vida JoePa." "Laguna, and O.C. Both are scripted, duh, obvi!" "We dance for Hershey, H-E-R-S-H-E-Y"

Early Saturday morning at 5 a.m., Augie Bravo, Ariel O'Malley, Mahoney, and Rosario arrived to represent the campus during "All-U Hour". The four helped run a photo stand along with SGA President Michael Edwards and found the dancers still in high spirits. By this time, Rosario and the rest of Harrisburg had adopted Stephanie Ferraro and Rob White from Worthington Scranton as another pair of dancers since they had received minimal support from their own campus.

Late Saturday evening, Rec. Hall was packed with spectators. They had come in order to watch the infamous THON Pep Rally, which featured members of the Blue Band, cheerleaders, the Orange Bowl Champion football team, the men's golf team, men's and women's soccer, women's volleyball, women's gymnastics, women's lacrosse, women's field hockey, the Lionettes dance team, and PJ Maierhofer, the Blue Sapphire. The teams competed in a dance competition for the entertainment of the dancers, and though they were good enough to be Orange, the football team lost to a heavily favored golf team, who performed "I'm Too Sexy" by Right Said Fred and even undid a few buttons.

Afterwards, the athletes hung around on the floor and gave a few autographs, pictures, and piggyback rides to the dancers. "I got to



Erin poses with offensive line backer Paul Posluszny of the PSU football team.



Maruja and Matt danced their hearts out helping keep the dancers spirits alive. They spent nearly 30 hrs of the 48 with the dancers.

meet Paul Posluszny and I got his number," Moskalczak beams as she thinks back on meeting her favorite Nittany Lion.

The dancers were never left alone for longer than a few moments. If one of

hallucinations. Bravo remembers O'Holla hearing things and then forgetting he heard them, while Moskalczak was taking advantage of the balls and massages as much as possible. Still, they were in fine form throughout "Family Hour", the hour that remembers the THON kids that passed away as well as highlighting stories of families that attended THON.

The final hour approached and Moskalczak, O'Holla, White, and Ferraro all successfully completed

Erin and Steve pose with their moraler Gaelyn Neely. Both dancers were grateful for her countless hours of support while they danced.

the many students from PSH weren't around offering support, their assigned moraler, Gaelyn Neely, would constantly bounce around and be around, even when it wasn't her shift. "I would have died if it wasn't

for Gaelyn," O'Holla said.

As the final hours of THON slowly ticked away, O'Holla and Moskalczak were facing the demons that came in the form of constant shearing pain and

THON with PSH and the thousands in Rec. Hall cheering them on. Even though THON was supposed to end at 7 p.m., the dancers could only take a seat after about 7:15 p.m. Even so, they did not sit long, as they all jumped to their feet when this year's THON total was announced; \$4,214,748.18.

THON 2006 was an amazing experience for everyone involved. PSH certainly had an amazing THON year, and looks to repeat and increase their successes next year. And as far as standing for 48 hours without any sleep, Moskalczak had this to say; "I would do it again in a moment. I'd fight the pain again." For The Kids!