

OPINION

A hearty thank you to the THON committee President's Corner

By **CRAIG DEWALT**
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Dear Editor,

I would like to take this time to thank each and every individual who made Penn State Harrisburg THON a complete success. The effort began in early August when I was recruiting committee members with the hopes of making an impact on our campus.

After creating an Angel group and filling it with eager students, I set the bar high with a goal of raising \$10,000. This goal would almost double any total that Penn State Harrisburg had ever raised throughout one THON season, but I had high hopes.

The THON season started immediately after the fall semester had started. The first meeting was filled with many smiling faces all with the same goal in mind, to raise as much money as possible for the kids.

At the initial meeting we discussed the history of the Four Diamonds Fund as well as some brief facts about THON. I then announced my ideas for the year, and gathered many great ideas from the committee. It was from that day forward that the hard work and dedication would kick in.

The first canning weekend brought in fairly decent results. A few groups went out to various locations in the area and managed to raise just over \$1,000. This was the positive start that we were looking for.

Shortly after the first canning weekend was the first big THON event, the Date Auction. The Student Government and the Black Student Union joined forces to host a night of pure entertainment. Many students were auctioned off and some received bids of \$100 and up. The total amount raised at the Date Auction was just over \$1,400.

With the momentum rolling the THON committee went into the second canning weekend with hopes of tacking on another grand to the total.

The cold weather limited our canning time, and the competition of the Salvation Army was too much to handle. I mean seriously, do you think Matt Sarver can compare to cute girls with candy canes? Didn't think so. We managed to gather a few hundred dollars.

It was at this time that some members of the THON committee began to mail out letters and were receiving donations through the mail. Approximately \$2,700 dollars were raised in personal donations/corporate donations. This was a great addition to our total.

The next big event was Bowling for Kids. I decided to host Bowling for Kids because it was a huge success the previous year when we had it with the IT Club. This year's Bowling for Kids was a little bit of a disappointment but we still managed to raise a little over \$1,300.

With our two big events out of the way, all of our energy was left for the final two canning weekends. The third weekend we sent out more groups and managed to raise \$1,200. It was ridiculously cold but it didn't stop our canners from devoting their weekends for the kids. This was our biggest canning weekend yet, but we still had one more to go.

At this time we began to start selling tickets for two raffles. The first raffle was one that was organized by University Park. The grand prize was a Pontiac car, and other prizes included a trip to Paris, and an Apple Notebook.

The second raffle was for one of two autographed footballs. Jordan Norwood of the Nittany Lion football team was kind enough to get Joe Pa and the guys to sign two footballs for us to raffle. We

managed to raise a few hundred dollars between these two raffles.

It was time for our final canning weekend and Kappa Sigma decided to jump on board for the kids. Once again it was very cold, but that wasn't going to stop us. A few groups went out from the THON committee but Kappa Sigma dominated this weekend. They were at various locations throughout the Harrisburg area and managed to bring in some serious cash. The final count for the weekend was close to \$1,800 which was our best weekend yet.

After all was said and done, our total for the year was \$12,604.23, which more than doubled any number that Penn State Harrisburg had ever raised. People at University Park were

even commenting to me about how involved we were this year.

We sent a group of students on the Hershey Medical Center THON tour for the first time and next year we will be able to send four dancers to dance at THON. This will be the first time that Penn State Harrisburg is allowed more than 2 dancers to dance at THON.

I would like to thank the wonderful committee of great people that helped out this year. It was the largest, most productive THON committee that Penn State Harrisburg has ever had. Each and every person who helped out in some way, shape, or form should be extremely happy with the end result.

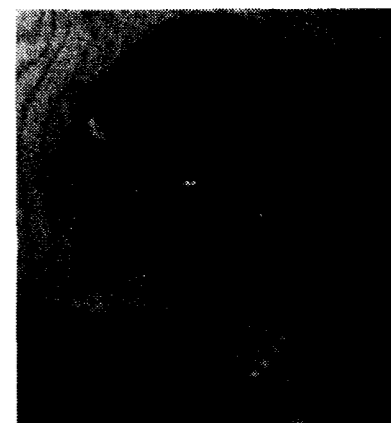
Breaking the \$10,000 goal was a great moment, but I think we

really reached out and spread the awareness of THON on our campus. I hope that many of you will join the THON committee next year and double this year's total.

After being a Four Diamonds child myself, I know what it feels like to be one of those kids. Trust me, each and every Penn State THON student is a hero in his or her eyes.

THON is the best weekend of their lives, it's something to look forward to, something to keep their minds off the treatments, something to put a smile on their face, something bigger than any one individual.

For the Kids,
Craig Dewalt



By **ARIEL O'MALLEY**
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For those of you who do not know, we are in the season of Lent. It is a time when it rained for 40 days and 40 nights during the story of Noah. Lent is a period of 40 days that symbolizes the time spent by Moses and Elijah in the wilderness (not at the same time). One other symbolization is to show when Jesus was in the wilderness and fasted for 40 days. There are other things that the 40 days of lent may symbolize; it all depends on what your faith has shown you to follow.

During this time many people choose to give up something for 40 days. Many people give up sweets, some give up red meat. Other people choose to attempt to give up swearing, sexual intercourse, or smoking. For those of you who are giving up something that is truly challenging for you, I wish you the best of luck because I will be right there with you!

Now onto some THANK YOUS. I would like to say thank you to everyone who went up to University Park to support both Matt Sarver and myself. It was truly amazing to look up into the stands and see a sea of red there. It was wonderful! The other campuses were jealous of all the support we had. I am so proud to say that I am part of Penn State Harrisburg after this weekend! You were all fantastic and I would not have made it through THON without all of your support, kind words, hugs, and piggyback rides!

Now since so many of you have been asking me about my THON experience and what it was like I have decided to share what my time was like. Friday at 4:00PM Matt Sarver and I walked into the Bryce Jordan Center where we would be the first group of dancers to participate in THON in this building. Walking into the BJC I could not have been more excited! The stands were already beginning to fill up and the energy within the building was unbelievable.

After putting all of my stuff away I had to go back out onto the floor and sit for what seemed to be hours while we waited for 6:00PM to come around. Finally it came around, all of the dancers got to their feet for what would be the most amazing 46 hours of my life. We learned the infamous THON line dance and had an endless amount of entertainment.

I had the great opportunity to spend a large amount of time with the children of the four diamonds family. Despite all that these children have been through they are the most optimistic, happy, thriving children that I have ever seen. They are truly an inspiration and I will never forget a single hug or loving word that I received from any of them!

Eventually Sunday came. I wish for one moment that I could explain to you the amount of pain that I felt throughout my body. I have never felt a pain that intense in my entire life. My feet burned and ached to the point where I could barely stand on them and they were swollen to the point that they nearly did not fit into my sneakers. I began to have flashes where everything would go black and I felt as though I would pass out.

This was by far one of the scariest moments in my life. I really wish that you could all feel the amount of pain that I did, even for just a moment, so you could truly feel what it was like. Finally 4:00PM came around and we were allowed to sit down. I have never been so happy to sit in my life. The pain was so hurtful that I began to cry. But when they raised the THON total of \$5, 240,385.17

God and Man at PSH

By **MARK ROSENSTEIN**
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It has been 56 years since William F. Buckley Jr. penned *God and Man at Yale*. The book was groundbreaking, as it exposed partiality in the academy.

It would be nice to imagine that academic bias ended after Buckley's book was published. Sadly, it has not.

When was, one wonders, the last time that the esteemed faculty at the Pennsylvania State University, Harrisburg read HR64?

I know that most are asking, "What is HR64?" The policy, initiated on November 27, 1950 (revised on January 30, 1987), states:

The faculty member is entitled to freedom in the classroom in discussing his/her subject. The faculty member is, however, responsible for the maintenance of appropriate standards of

scholarship and teaching ability.

It is not the function of a faculty member in a democracy to indoctrinate his/her students with ready-made conclusions on controversial subjects.

The faculty member is expected to train students to think for themselves, and to provide them access to those materials which they need if they are to think intelligently.

Hence, in giving instruction upon controversial matters the faculty member is expected to be of a fair and judicial mind, and to set forth justly, without suppression or innuendo, the divergent opinions of other investigators...

No faculty member may claim as a right the privilege of discussing in the classroom controversial topics outside his/her own field of study.

The faculty member is normally bound not to take advantage of

his/her position by introducing into the classroom provocative discussions of irrelevant subjects not within the field of his/her study.

(www.guru.psu.edu/policies/OHR/hr64.html#F)

This letter, however, is not intended for the professorate; rather it is for my fellow students. The student body should accept nothing less from our faculty than a discourse that is honest, bias-free, and on-point.

This "protection of the truth" is endowed to us by HR64... commit this, my compatriots, to memory.

We must heed the words of Abraham Lincoln, "To sin by silence when they should protest makes cowards of men."

Cordially,

Mark J. Rosenstein

Celebrate Life

By **HILLARY ISLEIB**
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My Team in Training coach says that running is 90% mental. After my first week with Team in Training, I have discovered that being mentally prepared and mentally focused are at the core of everything in life.

Preparation in anything improves the probability of success. But, when I registered for Team in Training, I had simple walking shoes and cotton yoga pants for athletic gear—not exactly the wardrobe of a marathon runner! Without at least something warm to wear, I would be flushed out of the first practice for sure. I set out to buy some running shoes this week and running clothes but when I walked into the running store I felt more like I'd been pushed into the deep end of a pool! Arch supports, power gels, running socks for the left and right foot—I knew absolutely nothing as I sought out someone at the store who could help me.

"I'm not really a runner." I told the associate with a little embarrassment. But, I felt a little stir of indignation rise within me as I said those words. The first part of the mental game started right then and there. I had to believe in myself before anybody else could believe in me.

My first run with the team was later in the week and started out as one of those situations where ignorance was truly bliss. Had I known what I would experience in that first mile, I probably would never have made it to the starting

line. With temperatures below freezing and the remnants of a stubborn cold still lodged in my lungs, I showed up at my first practice with sweaty, nervous palms. I had all the right gear to be prepared, but mentally, I was still doubtful.

Coach went over some basic information, then we stretched and headed outside. Within minutes my lips were numb and the wind was blinding my sight.

"Ninety percent mental?" I thought sarcastically as the small pack of runners widened their distance from me. Coach circled around to run with me when he saw me lagging behind.

"How are you doing?" He asked. I thought, "What a mess I must be!" as my nose was running down my face, my lips were numb and flapping in the wind as I struggled to get any air into my lungs. My face was turning red from the huffing and puffing and I cursed the sun and snow and everything else about the running trail.

"How did I get myself into this program? Why? I never thought my lungs could hurt so bad. I never thought my lungs could hurt. Oh my gosh my lungs hurt!" I kept thinking to myself.

"I'm not really a runner." I replied to Coach between gasps of air in a feeble excuse to explain myself. "Yes you are." He replied. "You're running aren't you? And you're doing great by the way!"

Suddenly, the morning sun over the snowy fields looked slightly bearable and every runner, walker, jogger, and biker on the trail felt like a kindred spirit to whom I belonged. I wasn't much warmer and my lungs

never ached so badly in my life, but the mental game finally clicked and I had the confidence to finish my run.

"I am a runner!" I said to myself. "I can finish this marathon!"

The euphoria I felt after that run was something special. Of course I've learned since that first run that I have a long way to go (literally!). But, I learned this week the importance of self-confidence and allowing others to help me. It's okay to have help. Having my Team in Training teammates and coach to run with was the only reason I got out to run at all this week. And, without the motivation from all of the monetary donations, it's easy to forget why I was up so early on such a cold Saturday morning to begin with.

I'm running for all the patients and survivors of leukemia, lymphoma, and other blood cancers. I'm just running, but what makes the real difference in the lives of these cancer patients and survivors is all of the money that is collected to research a cure for these diseases. So, please make a donation. My website is <http://www.active.com/donate/tntva/tntvaHIsleib>. Please note that this is changed from last week's column as there was a technical problem with the last website.

This is going to be a long run, but a great experience. Whatever it is that you are doing, be proud of your struggles and your accomplishments, because they both work together to propel you forward. My Team in Training coach was partially right: running is 90% mental, but 100% self-confidence!

One Man Party

By **NICHOLAS ZIMMERMAN**
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Since the fallback in the Iraqi Freedom War, there has been lost faith in the Republican Political Party. Many American citizens feel that the actions of our President were what all Republicans would have done.

However, this is false. A look at the voting records for the approval of war was a mixed feeling among Republicans and Democrats alike.

Most people are aware that D-NY Senator and Presidential hopeful Hillary Clinton supported the war. While it can be argued why she supported the war, the fact is that no one person could have known how the war has turned.

I find it quite interesting that so many supported President Bush when he swore to seek out the terrorist that heinously attacked our country. Then when we trust in him to go about that the best way he sees fit, over half of his supporters turn on him.

Since that time, more and more citizens have been looking to Democrats to fix our country and the war. This is the same party that chose D-Mass. Senator John Kerry to represent them in the '04 Presidential election.

Whether you personally believe in the war or not, we all must support the troops. You would think a veteran at best would understand that. However, during a speech, Kerry said, "If you make an effort to be smart you can do well. If you don't, you get stuck in Iraq."

I wish I could remember a time during my life when the office of the United States President was held with honor and respect. When we all, Republican, Democrat or Independent, could say that we have an amazing President. That they are truly a grand example of what it means to lead the best country in the world.

However, my generation up to date has been robbed of that honor. Day after day there are people in our classrooms, dorms and work places that put down our Commander-in-Chief. Turn on the TV, you will find the same thing.

By no means do I wish to exclude any political party from their part in the decay of respect for our nation's leader, but it must be said. Liberals across the nation have been quick to insult and commit slander against our President and other government leaders.

Sure we all have the Freedom of the Press and the right to state our opinions about our government. However, at what point does this become counterproductive? When does our free press do more to inform and assist the enemy than protect our own citizens?

These are just a few ideas to consider next time you have negative opinions that you wish to spread across the airways and newspapers about any of our country's leaders.

Closing with a question we all need to ask ourselves before judging President Bush's actions, what would you do if a stranger came into your house, ate your food, then slapped your mother in the face before leaving?