

CLUB NEWS

SGA Update

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SGA gets little accomplished and this article is going to have the same facts with minor improvements. Refer to the SGA minutes, which are not updated on the Web site to anyone's surprise.

SGA holds \$17,201.62 in their restricted accounts, \$4,703.41 in their unrestricted accounts and \$3,195.72 in their FAA account.

The SGA president was not accounted for, due to a doctor appointment, but the meeting still went on with the vice president taking responsibility.

Oct. 18 was the last day SGA treasurer Sheila Ongeru would accept the polo money orders.

Canning weekend was Oct. 19-21. Thanks to the people who helped out.

Canning also went toward the senator's office hours. They canned near 2nd street, the Hershey Outlet and the Palmyra Wal-Mart.

THON is hoping to reach \$30,000 this year, the total amount of money raised at the past canning weekend was \$2,045.51.

Family and Friends Day, the open house that allows incoming freshmen to see the Penn State Harrisburg campus, went great. Kids Corner went well.

There were arts and crafts for elementary school kids. Kappa Alpha Psi won the paint-a-pumpkin contest.

Senator Oliver Eisler is revising the SGA constitution because of grammar mistakes and incorrect information.

There were not enough senators for a voting session and the meeting almost came to a quorum.

SGA did not go over any new information and the ASL Proposal will be voted on during the next meeting.

Fall Fest went well though they ran out of materials.

Pictures an SGA member took are posted on the SGA Web site. Thanks to all who helped out.

SGA allocated \$119.22 to the Engineering open forum, which was open to all students during Fall Fest. They did not order enough food and more professors than students showed up.

In the Gallery lounge, a forum for Burma was held. SGA allocated \$100 from the RA account funds to host the event.

Only seven people showed up the first day; they were all SGA members.

Students should support their schools by going to events.

Middletown food drive needs canned goods.

The cell phone drive needs old cell phones, which the YWCA will give to women who are in danger of domestic violence.

Turn cell phones in to Donna Howard at the Student Activates office.

The impeachment letter was read on Oct. 11 and given to Chief Justice Paul Fogle a week before the meeting.

Senators asked for copies of the impeachment, but the executive board is not sure if they want to give the impeachment to all of the senators due to fear of allegations of Marques's actions being leaked to the student body. Charges were presented last Thursday.

The impeachment is still in investigation. Students are not given enough information to be able to discuss the impeachment process.

Show off your diamonds at PSH

By **ADAM PORTER**
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The THON 2008 slogan "Hope finds a way" could not have more true meaning for Craig Dewalt (senior-marketing). Dewalt was first diagnosed with Rhabdomyosarcoma when he was only 11 years old.

"I noticed an unusually large mass growing on my uvula, the thing that hangs down in the back of your mouth," said Dewalt.

After a biopsy, he and his parents heard the words they feared most: It was cancer.

The cause of this fifth most common childhood cancer is still unknown, but has a 70 percent long-term survival rate when treated with surgery followed by chemotherapy and/or radiation, according to the Penn State Children's Hospital's website.

After a grueling seven hours of surgery to remove the cancerous cells, Craig awoke to "the friendly face of my Four Diamonds Specialist, Jennifer."

With a calming presence during an impossibly stressful time, Jennifer explained that the Four Diamonds were there to help.

"My parents wanted to spend all the time they could with me, so they needed time off of work," said Dewalt.

This would have left his parents in extreme financial strain. Some of the chemotherapy treatments can cost several thousand dollars each. But the Fund is able to cover any medical expenses that a parent's insurance will not, largely through donations to THON.

What the Four Diamonds provides is not all financial, though.

"Not only did the Four Diamonds help me financially, they helped me emotionally as well. I formed a tight friendship with Jennifer as well as



Photo by courtesy of **CRAIG DEWALT/Capital Times**
Craig Dewalt was a four diamond child himself, but now helps other children at THON

That's right, first battle.

"My cancer came back when I was 13, but I had a more pleasant outlook thanks to the Four Diamonds Fund. I knew that I would have friends at the hospital, and I knew that I would get the best medicine possible, regardless of the amount of money my family had."

Remembering his first trek to State College for the THON experience, Dewalt said, "I was very shy and very sick, so I didn't spend a lot of time at THON, but the time that I spent there was simply amazing."

Sharon Minnaugh, a mother of a Four Diamonds child, said, "It's on the calendar with Christmas. You have Easter, you have Valentine's Day, you have Christmas, you have Dance Marathon."

Expressing his desire for more involvement on the Harrisburg campus, Dewalt said, "I am one of many people in this world that can say the Four Diamonds helped save my life. I want each and every Penn State student to know that we are the backbone for the Four

Diamonds Fund. The money that is raised from THON goes straight to Four Diamonds and straight to saving lives."

Talking with Dewalt gives a person a real perspective on how lucky he or she is to be healthy and have family and friends. Facing the stark reality of a life-threatening disease, especially at only 11 years old was immensely difficult, and "without Four Diamonds, without THON and without Penn State students' dedication, I may not be here today," said Dewalt.

Nine years after his two battles with cancer, he finds it simply incredible that the Four Diamonds Fund is still keeping tabs and staying in touch. Last year Dewalt was able to give back to the organization that helped him and his family during such a demanding time.

He was Harrisburg's THON Chair, increasing the funds raised on campus by 238 percent.

"I only hope that we can continue to get the ball rolling, keep spreading the word and keep bringing in the money."

Greg, another specialist.

"During my first battle with cancer, the Four Diamonds Fund not only kept me alive, but kept my family alive financially."

Depression Screening Day

By **ROBERT KABATA**
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On Monday October 22nd, PSU Harrisburg held its Depression Screening Day, with over 50 students participating in the event.

Depression affects about 18.8 million Americans, with a majority of those in the ages of 18-45. It has no boundaries, affecting all races, economic classes, ages and both sexes.

The Depression Screening Day was sponsored by Counseling Services, whose offices are located in the Student Assistance Center, Olmsted W-117. The questionnaire and follow-up interview focused on screening for depression and also mania, or extremely elevated emotions.

"By the age of 24, one out of four people will have a depressive episode. That is something which occurs over a two week period involving changes in a person's mental state."

By the age of 24, one out of four people will have a depressive episode. That is something which occurs over a two week period involving changes in a person's mental state. Moods may change; a person may suffer a loss of interest in something that usually brings pleasure, or a disruption in a sleeping or eating pattern. A person may also suffer from a lack of concentration, an inability to focus, a feeling hopelessness, or a lack of energy. There are other signs, but basically any significant unexplained change should be noted and questioned.

Finding out if someone has depression is not easy since everyone is different, and everyone's normal values are different from the next person's. There is not one simple test for depression, unlike identifying high cholesterol - "Oh, your triglycerides are high, take this

pill.' Identifying depression involves the interaction of a person and a counselor, and the ability of an individual let one's guard down, to be open and honest.

Counseling Services' Maria Murphy headed the screening day



Photo courtesy of google.com

held in the Gallery Lounge.

The screening consisted of a person filling out the questionnaire, then a private meeting with a counselor to go over the responses and if necessary, a referral of the person for more counseling or possibly a physician's consultation.

Murphy said that the one of the goals of the screening was to, "Increase awareness and destigmatize, because any one of us at any time can be affected. Mental health doesn't discriminate." She also stressed the need for people to be honest with themselves and not to be afraid to ask for help.

If someone missed the screening day and feels that they may be depressed, there are plenty of options available to get assistance. The person can call Counseling Services at 948-6025, stop in the Student Assistance Center, or visit the Counseling Service's website at <http://php.scripts.psu.edu/dept/iit/hbg/studentaffairs/counseling.php> to get more information. The counseling is free of charge. They also have a list of organizations that provide services in the community, for those that may find it easier to seek help away from campus.

A screening day is a reach out to offer help, but it is only as effective as someone's willingness to accept it. There are many stressors in our daily lives, and no one should be afraid or embarrassed to have questions or want to talk to someone about what is going on. Remember that in a 12 month period, nine percent of college students considered attempting suicide. If you feel you need help, don't hesitate to ask.



Penn State Harrisburg
Gospel Choir
Tuesdays 9pm
Town Square

