

You'd have to be foolish to see "Fool's Gold"

Are you happy in your genes?

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Ted Kijeski



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Ted Kijeski grew up in Pottstown and Limerick, Pa., with two older brothers and two younger sisters. So far in his life he has visited 46 different states. He enjoys New England the most, especially Vermont, where he vacationed frequently as a kid.

As a child, Kijeski was interested in TV and radio, and always thought that he would become an actor or performer. The possibility of teaching, however, soon surfaced, as he realized that it would be a good career.

Kijeski juggles two teaching jobs: Here at Penn State Harrisburg, he teaches public speaking (CAS). At Temple University (in Philadelphia) he teaches an advanced level public speaking course for second semester sophomores.

He said these different classes offer a "good balance between the campuses," making it less of a hassle to drive the two-hour commute every other day. Kijeski used to be only one of two public speaking professors here at PSH.

The situation involving his arrival to PSH is interesting. In 2006, a friend of his taught the CAS courses here, but due to unforeseen circumstances couldn't hold onto the job anymore. PSH was in great need of someone, and told him if he took the job, it would be worth his while. He took the job and found he "liked it quite a bit."

Before his teaching jobs, he worked at a kid's theatre group.

As a youngster, Kijeski was very active, and participated in different activities in school. He had a column in his school paper, which he described as "mostly me being sarcastic."

Kijeski was also into basketball, soccer and theatre. He went onto college at North Carolina Chapel Hill, where he continued to pursue an involvement in theater.

Unfortunately, he had a "terrible GPA" and left school after two years. After his two-year stint at North Carolina, he took two years off before returning to finish his degree at Penn State University Park.

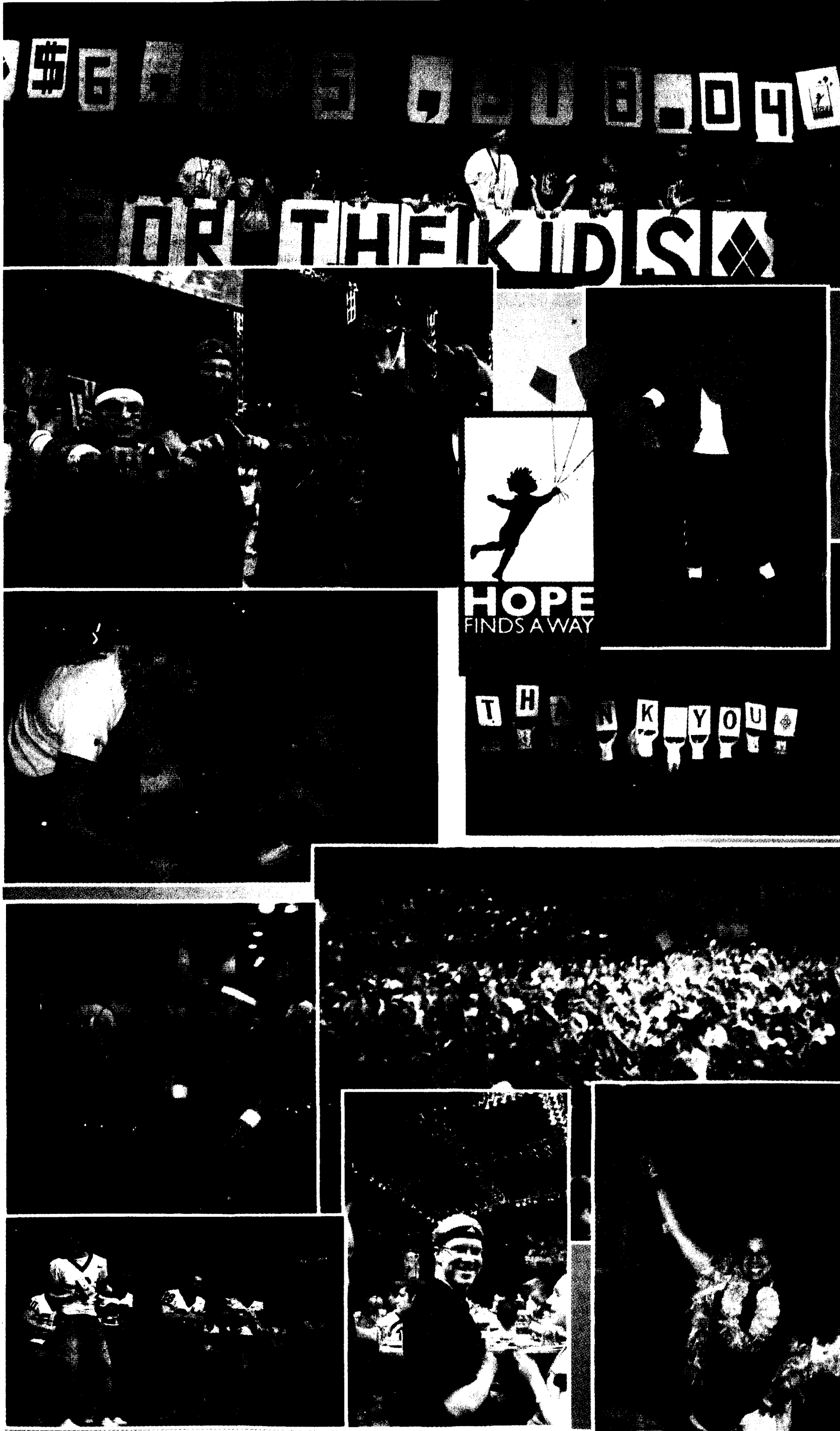
Throughout these years, he worked part-time as an intern at a radio station and was the president of the Baptist Ministry.

He acquired another 79 credits at PSU over a two-year period, and felt much happier than he had felt while in North Carolina.

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Hope has found a way

For more PSH pictures from THON visit psucapitaltimes.com



By **MARIN BENDORITIS**
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For 46 hours, four Penn State Harrisburg students stood on their feet without sleeping as dancers for the 36th Penn State IFC/Panhellenic Dance Marathon, or THON. This year, through efforts from fraternities, sororities, clubs and Commonwealth campuses, THON was able to raise over \$6.6 million dollars to benefit The Four Diamonds Fund.

From February 22-24, the Bryce Jordan Center was packed full of students and Four Diamonds families, all joining together for one cause. A sea of colors crowded the dance floor and the stands were full of screaming supporters, cheering on their dancers.

A pep rally that featured performances by the tennis, football and women's soccer teams, to name a few, entertained dancers, along with a Thriller performance by the Nittany Lion. Dancers and supporters joined together to learn the 2008 line dance, recapping the year's events and drumming up FTK (for the kids) pride.

The dancers, Adam Porter, Maruja Rosario, Augie Bravo and Matthew Mahoney, were the first group of four to dance representing PSH. Supporters came to stand and cheer on the four, holding signs and sporting matching blue t-shirts.

"It was something that I always wanted to do," said Porter.

Porter was active with his high school mini-THON and had a few friends involved with the Four Diamonds fund and felt that this would be a way to give back. Although he had his ups and downs during the 46 hours, Porter says that he would dance again in a heartbeat.

Before all of the dancers actually went to the Bryce Jordan Center, PSH students spent months fundraising to contribute to the overall total. They also had to fill out surveys, so their moralers, who spent most of the time with them on the dance floor, could get to know them better.

According to Porter, one of the questions on the survey asked what one feasible wish would be for this year's THON. Porter got his wish by seeing a six in the millions during the unveiling of the overall total.

Mahoney, a senior of Communications, has been involved in THON since 2006, but only as a supporter. He was glad that he was given the opportunity to dance, and sites family hour as his favorite part of this year's THON. Mahoney was given the opportunity to talk to a family who told him that they look at the dancers as real life heroes.

Even during his lowest point during the hours, when the pain in his feet was almost unbearable, Mahoney realized what THON was all about. "It finally hit home what everything was about- what I thought about THON and my experience meant nothing but the collective effort meant so much to the families. THON exists because of the dancers, and the dancers exist because of the kids." Said Mahoney.

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