

Editorial: Stand Up For Your Rights & Make a Difference

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CCSG Contributor

Let me tell you a story about a friend of mine that went to a commonwealth location. Elizabeth Vandale*, an extremely intelligent girl; first in her class in high school; and is the first in her family to ever attend college.

She started her Penn State career the same summer as me, studying diligently in her one true passion: architecture. She chose Penn State because the in-state tuition gave her a chance for a quality education, at a price that her parents could afford; her father has worked two jobs

since she was three, and her mother works in a factory 45 hours a week.

With the small scholarship she was awarded in high school, the part-time jobs she held, and the significant student aid she receives, she was able to afford Penn State.

However, by the end of her junior year, tuition at Penn State became unreachable due to the progressive tuition increases each year. She was forced to withdraw from Penn State in order to take a full-time job, and raise money herself for tuition.

Everyone reading this has the ability to make a positive difference in Elizabeth's life. Everyone reading this has been elected to a position that allows you to stand up for students, and fight a fight which is clearly yours.

How many of you are angered that tuition is SO HIGH? How many of you SAY that you are here to stand up for students rights?

Don't walk away and let someone else deal with severe tuition hikes. This is OUR year is to show the legislature we care. This is OUR year to fight

for students like Elizabeth. OUR year to set a positive precedent that will enable students across the State of Pennsylvania to have affordable higher education for years to come. You CAN make a difference; each and every one of you reading this article can stand up for what is right.

There are several ways to get involved, several ways to protect the students you represent, several ways to impact the future of Penn State students:

- Come to the Rally in the Rotunda in Harrisburg.

- Join the Penn State Grassroots Network, applications are available.
- Support your Governmental Affairs committee.
- Write a letter to your representatives.
- Meet with your administrators, and ask questions.
- Check the Governmental Affairs website.
- Join the Governmental affairs Angel page.
- Follow recent updates such as; <http://live.psu.edu/story/16011>

(*Name and major changed for privacy)

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hours straight? I don't know, but an amazing thing is these Thon dancers didn't even let the question enter into their minds.

Frank Friday from Penn State Delaware County said, "My legs are hurting pretty bad, but I feel good."

Tim Gaines, University Park Southeast Caucus Director, CCSG, and CCSG Thon Dancer, from Penn State Mont Alto, said "I'm doing good now, but I'm in this daze, like I'm seeing myself in 3rd person."

Adrenaline is the only thing that drives them now. They've reached a level of physical and mental commitment never thought possible and only found in movies. This is their finest hour.

I'm so tired I'm out of breath, but it doesn't matter how tired I am, because we're down to



the final hour...and still standing.

I bounced a ball with a little boy from a Four Diamonds family. I cried. Tears of joy, tears of pain, tears of sadness, and tears of love. They're all here; there all in each of us. But the thing that garners the most tears is the strength that these kids have. They don't cry. And hopefully one day, they won't have a reason to either. Until then, Thon will be here, because Together We'll Prevail.

Our THON Heroes

Beth Herbert
&
Mandy Whitsel