

What's up with THON?

By JOHN DiBUONAVENTURA
and DENA FISHER
Special to the Lion's Eye

Imagine you were the parent of a child afflicted with cancer. Imagine the stress and the sadness that would come with that discomfiting situation. Now imagine if there was a cause that relieved some of the stress from heavy medical bills and paid for research on cancer patients.

Your fellow Penn State students are doing just that.

In the past 29 years, Penn State University has raised nearly \$14 million to help kids fight cancer. That makes it the largest student-run philanthropy in the nation.

The Penn State Dance MarATHON takes place the weekend of Feb. 16-18, but

the THON crew of Delco and many other Penn State organizations throughout the commonwealth raise money year round.

Here at Delco, THON has been an especially active organization in the past several years, recently taking off to a whole new level.

During the 1999-2000 year, Delco's THON raised \$6,000, contributed to the overall total of \$3.4 million raised by the university as a whole. This year, the new and improved THON crew has already raised more than \$11,000, and is gaining noticeable ground on their \$20,000 goal.

"My goal in the summer was to take THON at this campus to a new level by increasing involvement and raising more money," said John DiBuonaventura, president of Delco's THON. "This year's term has certainly achieved that."

So how can you help children with cancer at the Hershey Medical Center?

- Come to the Lion's Den information desk and ask to fill out a pledge. Hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday.

- Throw some spare change in the donation cans located in the bookstore and the cafeteria.

- Give any spare change when you see a fellow student canning for money on the streets of the Tri-State area.

- Come support this year's dancers (Mike Bowers of West Chester and Dena-Marie Fisher of Lewes Delaware) during THON weekend, Feb. 16-18.

- Come out to THON events throughout the year.

- If you have ideas or comments, contact John DiBuonaventura at (610) 892-1240, or at jxd372@psu.edu.

Dance marathon

Join students at Penn State's main campus the weekend of Feb. 16 for a 48-hour dance marathon. The event starts at 7 p.m. Feb. 16 at Recreation Hall, main campus.

There's a bus leaving from Penn State Delco at noon Friday, Feb. 16, and returning at 11 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 18. Accommodations will be provided at the Days Inn, and the trip has a total cost of about \$15.

Come and cheer on Mike and Dena in this great Penn State event. It will change your life when you see this great cause in action, as well as those special young children.

Penn State mourns Francine Stackhouse

By ANTEIA CONSORTO
Editor-in-Chief

Francine Stackhouse wasn't in the limelight. But it was her behind-the-scenes work with Penn State Delco's CEO Dr. Edward Tomezsko that made her invaluable.

On Dec. 19, Stackhouse died from a massive heart attack.

"This is a terrible loss of a good person," said Tomezsko, "she will be greatly missed."

Indeed, Stackhouse was Tomezsko's right-hand woman, serving as his administrative assistant for many years.

A memorial service to honor her life will be held at 12:30 p.m. Feb. 21 in the Classroom Building student lounge.

Born in Bridgeport, Montgomery County, Stackhouse lived in Ridley Park. She was a member of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church in Bridgeport.

Stackhouse was a 1971 graduate of

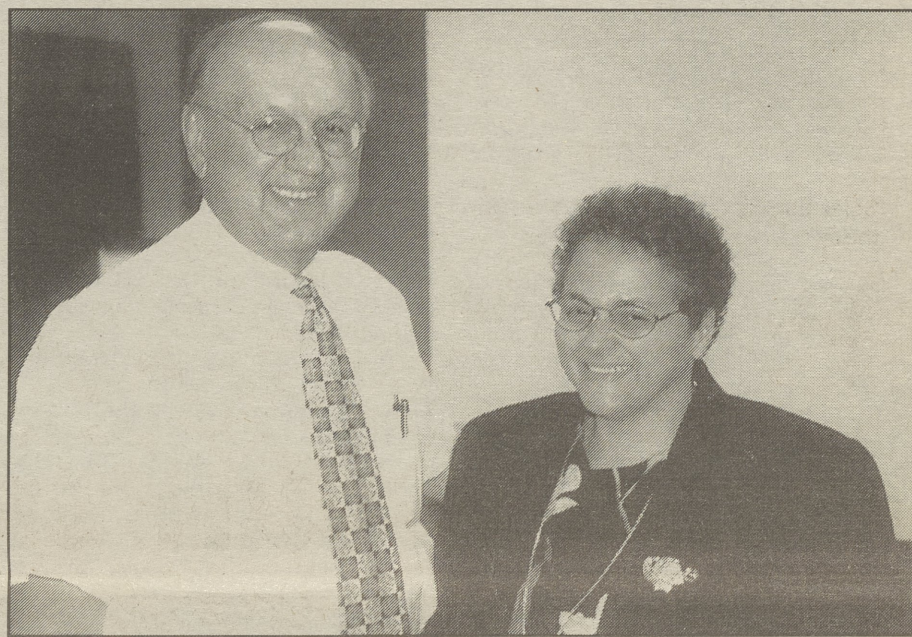
Upper Merion High School. She received an associate degree from Montgomery County Community College in 1973 and was working toward her bachelor's degree at Penn State.

Stackhouse was the daughter of the late Francis and Rose DeStolfo Murtaugh.

She leaves behind a son, G. Michael Stackhouse Jr., and a daughter, Christie Rose Stackhouse.

Services were held Jan. 23 at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church in Bridgeport. She was buried in St. Augustine Cemetery, King of Prussia. Contributions can be made in her name to the American Heart Association, 625 W. Ridge Pike, Building A, Suite 100, Conshohocken, PA 19428-1190.

Francine Stackhouse, right, with her friend and boss, Dr. Edward Tomezsko.



Hate smoking?

Here's how you can win \$250

Do you hate walking around campus inhaling second-hand smoke? Does the wall of smoke outside each building make you sick?

This campus seems to have a smoking problem.

Cigarette butts are left everywhere and there's no escape from second-hand smoke. It's time we came up with a solution to this problem.

This campus is offering a \$250 reward to the student group (i.e. two or more stu-



dents) who comes up with the best solution to this problem.

Written proposals should be submitted by April 1 to Dr. Tomezsko in the administration office in the Main building.

A panel of faculty and staff judges will decide on the winning proposal.

The April 1 deadline is fast approaching, so start thinking now about how to solve the smoking problem on our campus.

Keep your pants on guys & gals — dangers abound

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to one, or has any unexplained physical symptoms. Do not have sex if your partner has signs or symptoms of STDs, such as sores, rashes, or discharge from the genital area. Many common STDs have no symptoms but can still be transmitted to a sexual partner. If your partner has had sexual relations with someone else recently, they may have an STD, even if there are no symptoms. Therefore, do not have sex if you think your partner may have been exposed to an STD, even if they do not show any symptoms.

Get regular checkups for STDs (even if you show no symptoms), and be familiar with the common symptoms.

Abstaining from sex is the only 100 percent effective way to prevent the sexual transmission of HIV.

Many people don't realize that most STDs are readily treated, although because STDs are caused by a virus, there are no absolute cures. Like most other illnesses, the earlier it's treated and sex partners are warned, the less likely it will cause irreparable damage.

STDs disproportionately affect women, infants, young people, and minorities. In women, STDs can lead to pelvic inflammatory disease (PID), infertility, potentially fatal pregnancies, and cancer of the reproductive tract. STDs can result in irreparable lifetime damage, including blindness, bone deformities, mental retardation, and death for infants infected by their mothers during gestation or birth.

Throughout the world, an estimated 333 million new cases of sexually transmitted diseases occur each year among adults.

So my advice, just keep your pants on!

For more information concerning Sexually Transmitted Diseases contact the CDC National STD Hotline, from 8 a.m. to 11 p.m., Monday through Friday at: 1-800-227-8922, or find them on the web at: www.cdc.gov.

Prevention, statistics and all other information obtained from the CDC website.