

# The Lion's Eye

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## 48 hours on their feet ... and still spry



KATHLEEN IACI  
and JOHN COYLE

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More than 700 students danced for 48 hours the weekend of Feb. 21 with only one cause in mind — a cure for childhood cancer.

The dance marathon at University Park is what THON is all about, and many from the Delco campus were fortunate enough to stand with Delco's two dancers, John Coyle and Kathleen Iaci.

The dancers arrived at University Park's Recreational Building — known as Rec Hall — around 5 p.m. and preparation for the long 48 hours began.

Delco's duo sat down for the last time until the marathon was over. The countdown began, all 700-plus dancers rose to their feet, and THON 2003 officially began.

During the event, cancer patients walked around, played ball with dancers, and got into water-gun fights with dancers. There

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was also entertainment from many bands, including The Collective (see review, Page 7) and Green Eggs. The organizers made sure there was plenty for the dancers to do to keep them entertained during their 48-hour quest.

Staying on your feet and dancing is no easy task, and all of the dancers, and espe-

cially Coyle and Iaci, deserve a lot of applause and admiration; admiration for their spirit, their endurance, and most of all, for their hearts.

Many people who have never done it before say dancing is easy.

"Staying up for the 48 hours is the easy part," Iaci said, "The toll that it takes on your body is what is hard to deal with."

By the end of the two nights, like many dancers, Iaci had both ankles taped and very sore legs.

The dancers do not attempt the feat by themselves.

Penn State football coach Joe Paterno gave a speech in which he said that if his football players all showed the same spirit, endurance, and dedication that the dancers showed that weekend, he would win the national championship every year.

Iaci got a piggy-back ride and back-rub from MTV's "The Real World" actors Blair and Malik. Delco students made sure that their dancers were not alone. Students  
See THON: Page 4

# Auditing the books

## Campus store proves to be no bargain

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With ever-increasing tuition costs, students may also find it harder to pay for textbooks.

Some students at Penn State Delco pay up to \$500 or more for one semester on books alone. Even considering that they re-sell books to the bookstore after the semester, students receive only a small percentage of what they had originally paid.

One option is buying used books at the campus bookstore, operated by the Barnes & Noble chain. However, used books at the campus bookstore are discounted just 25 percent of the cost of new books. Also, some books are not available used, and, if they are, sell out quickly.

So ... are there any other options for students to cut book costs?

To find out, the *Lion's Eye* staff conducted research of online stores and bookstores. The prices of 10 specific books, chosen at random, at the campus Barnes & Noble store, were compared to those at online book sites and bookstores.

Our research found that online sites such as Amazon.com and Half.com have the lowest book prices, followed by retail stores like

Book Title	Campus Bookstore	Half.com	Amazon.com (new)	Amazon.com (used)	Barnes & Noble	Borders
<i>Writing Talk</i>	\$57.15	\$12.50	\$50.00	\$9.65*	\$43.75	N/A
<i>The Longman Reader</i>	\$50.75	\$31.95	\$47.33	\$14.00*	\$47.33	N/A
<i>History of Art</i>	\$76.00	\$42.54	N/A	N/A	\$60.00	N/A
<i>Microeconomics</i>	\$85.00	\$39.99	\$89.15	\$63.95*	\$28.75	\$61.50
<i>The American People</i>	\$42.70	\$26.00	N/A	N/A	\$35.75	N/A
<i>Management Information Systems</i>	\$77.00	\$39.95	\$120.70	\$56.99*	\$100.00	\$55.00
<i>College Algebra: Concepts &amp; Models</i>	\$105.00	\$22.00	\$76.75	\$13.49*	\$76.50	N/A
<i>The Art of Public Speaking</i>	\$85.00	\$30.00	\$66.75	\$13.00*	\$62.75	\$60.75
<i>Chemistry: The Central Science</i>	\$133.95	\$39.95	\$125.00	\$39.95*	\$120.00	\$119.35
<i>Psychology: Themes &amp; Variations</i>	\$97.50	\$20.00	\$91.95	\$22.98*	\$60.95	N/A

\*starting price

Barnes & Noble and Borders.

The post poignant finding, though, was that Borders and off-campus Barnes & Noble stores consistently sell books needed for classes here at Penn State Delco at less expensive prices than the campus bookstore.

Borders, which carries only four of the 10 books selected, had the lowest prices on average. Barnes & Noble had all 10 books available, and was undersold by the campus bookstore on only one instance. The cam-

pus store sells "Management Information Systems" for \$77. Barnes & Noble lists the book at \$100. Borders lists it at \$55.

At Half.com, only used books were available. Amazon.com sells both new and used books.

For the most part, Amazon's new books were cheaper than the new books the campus bookstore.

Amazon had the cheapest used book prices. However, while their starting prices were the lowest, not every used book

was available for the same price, because they're sold by individuals. Half.com has consistent prices for each book.

The Half.com Web site still offered very low prices compared to the campus bookstore.

Although books from Web sites cannot be resold at the campus bookstore, the Web site research concluded that you still save more money at Half.com and Amazon.com than you would save by buying them at the campus bookstore and reselling them.

While the Web sites feature used books, retail stores are another option of buying new books at a lower price.

Almost all of the books were less expensive at the retail stores listed on the chart than at the campus store.

If these stores and sites are not options for you, there are alternatives, such as buying books from upperclassmen who have taken the same courses, trading books with friends, or selling them yourself to incoming students.