

# The Lion's Eye

Vol. XLI, No. 1

Penn State University, Delaware County

February 7, 2007



## THON: A Penn State Tradition

By **CHRISTINA FELIZZI**  
Staff writer  
clf5050@psu.edu

Are you ready to THON? Penn State Delaware County is and the event is not far away. From February 16-18, THON members will journey to the Bryce Jordan Center at University Park to endure 46 hours of a no-sitting, no-sleeping and all-dancing experience. Around 700 THON dancers will participate, bringing along with them thousands of family and friends, as well as over 300 organizations with 3,000 organizers and they will dance in hopes of finding a cure for pediatric cancer.

THON is the largest student-run charity in the world working every year raising money to benefit children with cancer. This year THON's new theme is "Many Hearts, One Home" in partnership with the new logo.

The two organizations that receive the proceeds of THON's fundraising are The Four Diamonds Fund and Conquering Childhood Cancer at the Penn State Children's Hospital in Hershey, Pennsylvania.

Since 1977, THON has been in partnership with the Four Diamonds Fund in aiding them of finding a cure to this horrible disease. Charles and Irma Millard established this fund after their 14 year old son, Chris, lost his battle with cancer in 1972. Before his passing, Chris wrote a story of a knight who searched for the four diamonds of Courage, Wisdom, Honesty and Strength so he could finally be released from an evil sorceress. Chris believed these were the traits needed to defeat cancer. In honor of him the fund was named after his touching story. Ever since 1993, the Four Diamonds Fund has



**"THON [has] risen over \$41 million over the past 34 years"**

granted \$200,000 to the Penn State College of Medicine and in 1999, THON raised a \$5 million commitment to the fund and continues to support it today. To date, the Four Diamonds Fund grants over 92% of the proceeds raised by THON to the diagnosed children and their families.

A fairly recent accomplishment of THON students was the pledge they made to create a new pavilion in the Penn State Children's Hospital. Three years ago, THON members pledged \$10 million over the next six years to construct the Pediatric Cancer Pavilion. Student members have already conquered half the battle.

Students of THON have risen over \$41 million over the past 34 years, which is not an easy task to achieve. How do they do it? Here at our Delaware County campus, THON members are holding many fundraising

events to help reach their goal of \$15,000.

On Wednesday, January 24th, THON held their annual Silent Auction. Items such as Blue Mountain ski resort tickets, Kimmel Center tickets, a quilt made by Dr. Laura Guertin, autographed photo of Bon Jovi, and a Peking Restaurant gift certificate were a few of the interesting and unique items that attendees had a chance to bid on and win.

Activities including air hockey, jousting, and "Pie the Prez", consisting of throwing whipped-cream pies in the face of SGA president Paul Hurych also helped raise money for the event. However, the most memorable event that night had to be the performance of Dr George Franz and his wife, Kammy Franz, singing the Penn State version of "9-5" as Willie Nelson and Dolly Parton, with bids rising in high amounts to prevent any encores. In the end, the evening was a success. THON surpassed their goal of \$5,000 by raising \$5, 270 instead.

On Friday, February 9th, THON will be sponsoring a dance from 7 to 11PM in the Classroom Lounge in the Commons Building. This is another great way to have fun while supporting THON in the process. It will be \$5 a person and \$8 per couple, so bring your friends and make sure you can attend this dance.

THON is Penn State and Penn State students have made THON what it is today. Students involved in THON have made a difference in pediatric cancer research, children with the disease, and their families and continue to do so. THON weekend is just around the corner, when students will dance to make a difference for the kids.

For more information about THON or to find other ways to benefit THON visit their official website at <http://www.thon.org>.

## The Blue and White Society

By **PETER SPIZIRRI**  
Special to the Lion's Eye  
prs148@psu.edu

For those who have not heard of us, the Blue and White Society is the student arm of the Penn State Alumni Association. The society allows students to network with other students as well as Penn State Alumni. Members show spirit for Penn State and help support the Penn State Alumni Association's service to the university as well as our local communities. Over 130 years old, the Penn State Alumni Association is the largest due paying alumni association in the world. You can easily become a member by visiting [www.alumni.psu.edu/GoBW](http://www.alumni.psu.edu/GoBW) and signing up. Members receive benefits and discounts including 10% off purchases made at the Penn State Bookstore (discount doesn't apply to software, sale items, or textbooks).

On November 14th, the Blue and White Society Chapter of Delaware County hosted their first event: the Blue and White Spaghetti Dinner.

Students, faculty, staff, alumni, and even members of our Delaware County Community gathered in the classroom building to feast on Italian style cuisine, prepared by our wonderful chefs on campus. Entertainment provided by DJ Devon set a jovial tone and, with candle lit tables, created a relaxed, blissful atmosphere. The Blue



and White society members would like to thank all those that attended the event and extend future invitations to students, faculty, and staff on campus.

Look for the Blue and White Society this spring as they host the first Blue and White Ball at Delaware County Campus. The event will be held April 21st in the Gymnasium. Look for signs posted in the upcoming weeks. For more information email Zonia James, B&W President, at [ZJJ103@psu.edu](mailto:ZJJ103@psu.edu).



Popular TV show impresses  
some, angers others  
The story on Pg. 3

**INSIDE**

Interview with FOX 29 intern..... Page 2  
Bush turns up the heat on Iran.....Page 3  
How Waiting Lists are a pain..... Page 4  
Community Update..... Page 4

Freedom Writers in depth .....Page 5  
Opinions/Editorials.....Page 6  
Ever been to Peru?.....Page 7  
Sports.....Page 8