

# The Daily Collegian

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30 cents off campus

## Students ready to take over BJC

By Katrina Wehr  
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Jonathan Shuff, one of the 708 dancers who will be standing for 46 hours in the Bryce Jordan Center (BJC) at the Interfraternity Council/Panhellenic Dance Marathon, said he is just starting to realize the gravity of what he's signed up for.

"My family came up and dropped off supplies like socks and shirts, and that's when it really hit me," Shuff (senior-industrial engineering) said. "But I'm really excited."

And for other students preparing for this weekend, the days leading up to the dance marathon have been filled with well-wishing, resting and bonding.

Emily Cassidy, Atlas's family relations co-chairwoman, said Atlas THON members got together every night to prepare for THON 2010.

"We're always doing something for THON — from making booklets for dancers or having a potluck dinner," Cassidy (senior-English education) said. "We're just hanging out and spending more time together and doing THON stuff."



While participants are resting up for the 46-hour event, THON Overall Chairwoman Caitlin Zankowski (senior-industrial engineering) said THON preparations are going smoothly. And that is thanks to a lot of  
See BJC, Page 2.

### THON information

**Times:** The public will be allowed to enter the BJC at 4 p.m. on Friday and dancers will stand at 6 p.m. The final total will be revealed at 4 p.m. on Sunday.

**Transportation:** The Blue Loop will run around the clock from 4:45 a.m. Friday through 12:30 a.m. Monday. The White Loop will begin at 7:30 a.m. Friday and run through 12:30 a.m. Monday. More information is available on CATA's Web site.

## Love found at Med center

This is the last in a five-part series spotlighting the people and places that make THON what it is.

By Jourdan Cole  
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Love belongs 99.9 miles away from the Bryce Jordan Center, on the seventh floor of the Hershey Medical Center.

In each room, there are parents watching over their children, staff members who are willing to bring grilled cheese sandwiches in the middle of the night and doctors researching pediatric cancer — thanks to donations from the Interfraternity Council/Panhellenic Dance Marathon to the Four Diamonds Fund. Far from University Park, the Penn State Milton S. Hershey Medical Center mostly serves families from central Pennsylvania. Beyond the hospital's main entrance is a place THON families are familiar with: the Rotunda. In the middle of the room stands a Nittany Lion shrine, with a compass directing visitors built into the tile below it.

Taking the rotunda elevator up seven floors, and you'll find a place that gives THON its mission — the Penn State  
See **HERSHEY**, Page 2.

### BY THE NUMBERS ON 7 WEST

- 1 music therapist
- 2 full-time social workers
- 5 nurse specialists
- 9 pediatric oncologists
- 100 new cases of pediatric cancer a year



Chris Donadio/Collegian

Rob Sakovich (senior-journalism) of Springfield THON laughs as he gets his head shaved on Thursday night in Atherton Hall. Some members of the organization decided to shave their heads as a show of solidarity for THON children who lose their hair from cancer treatment.

## Springfield THON shaves 'FTK'

By Sarah Peters  
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Two chairs sat on the plastic sheet covering the tile floor of the Atherton Hall game room Wednesday night in preparation for Springfield THON's annual THON head shaving festivity.

Before the head shaving began, Springfield members chattered excitedly as the club's officers doled out the group's Interfraternity Council/Panhellenic Dance Marathon attire, t-shirts and sweatshirts adorned with hands in the shape of a heart on the back.

But it didn't take long for the head shaving to get underway. Ian Price (senior-biochemistry and molecular biology) was the first to go, patiently sitting in one chair with a black garbage bag draped over him, as another member of Springfield THON took an electric shaver to his hair.

Price said he used to shave his hair for swimming when he was younger, but this time it would be fun and for a reason.

"It's kind of a tradition," Price said. "It's a show of solidarity with the kids who lose their hair because of the treatment, because they don't have a choice."

A short time later Springfield THON's



To view a video of the Springfield THON students getting their heads shaved 'For the Kids':  
[psucollegian.com](http://psucollegian.com)

Communications Chairman Rob Sakovich took a seat beside Price, looking slightly uneasy. Sakovich (senior-journalism) said he said he'd partake in the headshaving tradition a few months earlier, then tried to back down, but his fellow Springfielders wouldn't allow it.

Sakovich twitched at the feeling of the hair from his head falling down the back of his t-shirt, and Springfield THON members cheered, encouraging him to take off his shirt. A few minutes later, he obliged and the hair continued to fall — but not for long. The sounding of the fire alarm interrupted the head shaving celebration.

About 30 members of Springfield THON onlookers had to evacuate, along with Price and Sakovich, who was left shirtless with one patch of hair on the back of his head, awaiting to be transformed into the four diamonds.

After everyone re-entered the building a short time later, the shaving continued, as the honorary barbers continued carving the four diamonds into the remaining patch of



Chris Donadio/Collegian

Ian Price (senior-biochemistry and molecular biology) poses for a photo during his haircut.

Sakovich's hair and lathered shaving cream on Price's head to finish off the job with a hand razor.

Sakovich said that he thought the kids of Springfield THON's Four Diamonds Fund  
See **SPRINGFIELD**, Page 2.

## Victim of robbery identified as student

By Laura Nichols  
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Authorities have confirmed that the man who was carjacked, robbed and assaulted last week is a Penn State student, as police continue to collect details of two recent armed robberies.

At about 9 p.m. Friday on Park Crest Lane off Martin Street, two men carjacked a Penn State student and drove him to Boalsburg, forcing him to take cash out of an ATM before repeatedly hitting him over the head with a handgun, police said.

The Ferguson Township Police Department still hasn't determined if the incident is connected to the armed robbery of a pizza delivery driver that occurred last Thursday outside of The Pointe apartment complex, 501 Vairo Blvd. While both incidents included two men armed with a handgun, the descriptions of the assailants are different.

Ferguson Township Police Det. Josh Martin said the only descriptions authorities have are from the two men who were assaulted and robbed.

No identifying information

### Timeline

**10 p.m. Feb 11:** A pizza deliveryman is robbed at gunpoint outside The Pointe, 501 Vairo Blvd.

**9 p.m. Feb 12:** Two men carjack a man near campus, driving him to an ATM in Boalsburg and beating him over the head with a gun.

**Thursday:** Police confirm the victim in the second robbery was a Penn State student.

could be released about the student because the investigation is ongoing, but police said the man was not treated for injuries.

Vice President for Student Affairs Damon Sims wrote in an  
See **ROBBERY**, Page 2.

## Feral cat advocates call for safe removal

By Casey McDermott  
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Penn State officials say a pack of feral cats roaming the area poses a risk because they can be "aggressive and adverse to humans."

But State College resident Shirley Fonda said she disagrees — for her, the administration's decision to oversee the relocation of the cats is "ridiculous."

In fact, she said wild cats are often afraid of humans, and she believes she can turn any feral feline into "a loving pet that can find a home."

Over the past 11 years, the 73-year-old State College resident said she has taken in 970 abandoned cats. She spent the 25 years before that as a wildlife rehabilitator for the Pennsylvania Game Commission, giving her a solid judgment of what threat, if any, is posed by the colony of cats near Penn State, she said.

Both Fonda and university personnel agree that feral cats are not a new problem at Penn State, but the sides differ on how to best control the animals.

University spokeswoman Jill  
See **FERAL CATS**, Page 2.