

ROWING WITH THE HOMIES



A student races Alan D'Achille (junior-Industrial engineering) for a free "Penn State Crew" t-shirt Wednesday afternoon on the HUB lawn. The Penn State Men's Crew team will have their first match against Vassar College on Oct. 16 in Howard, Pa.

THON seeks new captains

By Vera Greene
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

The THON season is in full swing with captain applications due at 5 p.m. tomorrow.

Interfraternity Council/Panhellenic Dance Marathon captains are the people who oversee specific committees, organize their group and its members, as well as follow through with tasks the overall committee gives, said Overall Public Relations Chairwoman Jony Rommel.

Rommel (senior-philosophy) said these positions entail a lot of responsibility and should be taken seriously.

"We want people to understand that they are THON captains first in addition to their committee," she said. "You're applying to be a captain of THON, not a committee."

With about 315 captain positions available, Rommel said having the title is coveted. Describing it as a "privilege," Rommel said she ultimately wants to see people who have a passion for THON.

"They have to understand our mission of conquering pediatric cancer and be dedicated to its cause," Rommel said.

Overall Communications Chairwoman Elaine Tanella said applicants don't need to be a president of a club but should embody the characteristics of a leader who wants to take initiative and bring new ideas to the table.

"Definitely apply," Tanella (senior-bioengineering) said. "It can't hurt to apply and get your ideas out there."

The process of becoming a captain includes an online application that also needs to be turned in as a hard copy to 210 HUB-Robeson Center by 5 p.m. Friday.

There is also the potential for an interview.

Someone applying to be a captain doesn't have to fit a certain mold — Tanella said it's mainly about being eager to learn.

As a sophomore, Katie Moffitt got involved in THON. One year later, she's set her sights to be a captain.

"It was the best decision I ever made to join the communications committee," Moffitt (junior-journalism) said. "I don't think I've

"This is not a position that should be taken for granted."

Jony Rommel
THON overall public relations chairwoman

ever felt so inspired — it just makes me want to get more involved and do anything I can to help expand the amazing things that this dance marathon does."

Moffitt said she's confident she can take on the challenges of being a captain and, above all, a leader.

"It takes a lot of work, but all good things do," she said.

Though being a THON captain is difficult, the rewards outweigh the difficulties, Rommel said.

"It's great knowing all your work is ultimately giving back to the Four Diamonds Fund and the kids and their families," Rommel said. "All the work is going toward one cause and it's important for our volunteers to keep that in mind as they're working throughout the year."

In addition, Rommel said captains grow as people and as leaders.

Because the time commitment is so large, captains learn how to efficiently budget their time and further their leadership skills as they dedicate the upcoming months to establishing a working committee and a good group dynamic.

"This is not a position that should be taken for granted," Rommel said. "And ultimately THON wouldn't be possible without every one of the captains who work so hard throughout the year."

There's no greater feeling than interacting with the Four Diamonds families and hearing them express their thanks, Tanella said.

"That's why we're here," she said. "And it's so rewarding."

To e-mail reporter: vhg5003@psu.edu

To view the THON captain application and apply, visit us online: psu.collegian.com

Climate causes concern

By Matt Scorzafave
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Climate experts — including professor Michael Mann of the recent "Climategate" controversy — expressed concerns about recent environmental change in a press conference Wednesday at Schlow Centre Region Library.

The conference presented a number of concerns regarding this summer's heat waves across the globe and how future problems could negatively affect the planet.

"We want to alert the public that we are heading for a future they're not going to be comfortable with," said Ed Perry, the outreach coordinator for the National Wildlife Federation's Global Warming Campaign.

Perry has presented across the state for the last three years and said he saw firsthand how people can be negatively affected by extreme weather.

Perry said his research shows that 50 percent of residents in both Pittsburgh and Philadelphia do not have air-conditioned homes and that people in the State College area sometimes fail

to realize how the weather affects others.

"We're in fantasy land with an easy climate to handle, as we leave our air-conditioned homes and drive our air-conditioned cars to our air-conditioned offices," he said.

Perry said some people in lower financial classes who cannot afford luxuries like air conditioning are not so lucky.

"We don't know what the future holds if we don't take action against the climate now," Perry said.

Mann, a meteorology professor, said there is a connection between global warming and recent climate change.

"The heat waves that have broken out are taking place within a globe that's warmer than it has ever been," he said. "There is a connection."

While a direct connection between recent heat waves and climate change cannot be made with complete confidence, Mann said he believes humans' actions in harming the environment are playing a role.

"We cannot ever look at one event to prove that global warm-

ing is present, but we're tilting the odds of these events occurring more frequently," he said.

Sylvia Neely, a history professor and speaker at the press conference, discussed a national group called Interfaith Power and Light.

The group, made up of people from different religious affiliations, tackles the issues surrounding climate change with a moral approach.

"This is a special response to how climate is being destroyed that includes the moral and ethical issues involved," she said.

Neely discussed potential consequences that humans' actions are having on both the Earth and its people.

"In the U.S., we omit more greenhouse gases per capita than any other country in the world, other than Australia," she said.

Perry said this can create problems for people across the planet and urged action now.

"We still have time to get off dirty fossil fuels, and onto renewables," Perry said.

To e-mail reporter: mrs5429@psu.edu

Ragland looks to subsidize test prep books

Student body president looks to Ohio State policy for cutting grad school study costs

By Alyssa Sweeney
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

For students who plan on burying themselves under truckloads of MCAT or LSAT prep books, a proposal pushed by the student body president may bring some good news: They won't be buried under bills.

University Park Undergraduate Association President Christian Ragland will meet with university officials in hopes that the Penn State will adopt a contract to subsidize costs of standardized tests such as the LSATs, MCATs, and GMATs.

Ragland said Ohio State University (OSU) officials offer this service to their students and

that it considerably cuts costs for their students.

"We're trying to mimic that," Ragland said.

Ragland said Penn State has never offered a program like this for students, but he plans to continue to research similar programs at other schools.

He said he doesn't know if subsidies will be given only to students furthering their education at Penn State, but he hopes all students will apply regardless of where they plan to attend graduate school.

Ryan Maerz (graduate-law)

took both the GMAT and the LSAT, as well as he'd really appreciate the extra financial help.

"The LSAT itself was \$250, and the class was \$1,300," Maerz said.

Even for students who opt to prepare for the LSATs, MCATs, or GMATs without a class, study guides can end up costing hundreds of dollars. There are also fees associated with the entrance exams and applications associated with graduate school.

Maerz said that though sometimes Kaplan provides need-based financial assistance to students, he didn't qualify. With the contract Ragland hopes to put through, subsidies would be given to all students.

"This is important because in the current economic situation, there aren't as many jobs for college graduates," Ragland said.

"A lot of students will be looking to go to grad school for this reason, so this will have a really big effect."

Ragland said he's looking into working with Kaplan or Princeton Review Prep to achieve this goal.

Kaplan did not return calls for comment by press time Wednesday.

Ragland first learned of Ohio State's contract with Kaplan when he met with other Big Ten student leaders at the Association of Big Ten Students conference in January, and he decided to bring the idea home to Penn State.

"I'm confident in regards to getting this service here at Penn State," Ragland said. "Another Big Ten school already has it, and this school has a very similar demographic to OSU where its working out really well."

Ragland said he will be attending a meeting to discuss the contract with officials in the coming weeks. "I think this is a good program, because PSU is very attractive as far as the quality of its academics. It produces a lot of graduate students," said Ragland.

"I'm really excited to work with administrators to get this on campus. I think this can be a win-win."

To e-mail reporter: ars5474@psu.edu

Retired Captain reflects on three decades with police

State College officials agree that retired Police Captain Dana Leonard will be difficult to replace.

By Casey McDermott
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Now the home of a parking lot on the 100 block of Fraser Street, the "station" retired State College Police Captain Dana Leonard reported to on his first day of work in 1978 was a far cry from the borough's current police headquarters, he said.

Inside of a converted house, officers would suit up in an attic-turned-locker room, hold briefing meetings in an aging cellar, and conduct most of their business in the building's small green kitchen, Leonard said.

Now serving as an accreditation coordinator with the Pennsylvania Chiefs of Police Association, after his retirement last spring, Leonard said the "home" of the police department wasn't the only thing that evolved during his 31-year tenure with the borough.

"The physical facility highlights the changes in the importance and the development of policing in State College," Leonard said, referring to the department's new home inside the State College Municipal Building, 243 S. Allen St.

He said he's also seen policing transition from days spent knocking on doors, making phone calls and manually tracking down witnesses to an age where databases and online resources are the new investigative norm.

In a profession that relies upon information gathering, Leonard said these new technological developments have been "a great aid" to law enforcement.

"The basic elements of investigation I don't think have changed," he said.

"But the tools used to accomplish it have changed dramatically."

And whether he was changing his work address, keeping up with the latest software or responding to any number of the chaotic situations he's faced over the years, Leonard's said his motto has been consistent: proceed in a calm and orderly manner, and make while the iron is hot.

"Captain Leonard was a tremendously valuable asset to the entire organization and to the entire borough."

Tom Fountaine
State College Borough Manager

"To me that really sums up what we are to do," Leonard said. "Our job is to restore order if order is not there, and our job is to bring calm to the situation."

Indeed, it was Leonard's ability to keep his cool and avoid "tunnel vision" in even the most stressful situations that set him apart during his time on the State College Police force, Chief of Police Tom King said.

Borough Manager Tom Fountaine praised Leonard's collected demeanor as well, also noting the former captain's ability to think broadly and develop creative solutions to challenging problems.

But at this point, Fountaine and King said they won't be seeking a replacement for the veteran law enforcer's former position, namely because of the borough's current budget constraints.

Instead, the officials said

Leonard's old responsibilities will be reassigned to others in the borough's police force.

King, Lieutenant Chris Fishel and State College's two other police captains, Tom Hart and John Gardner will all assume some of Leonard's previous duties.

Though King said the addition of Leonard as administrative captain was a valuable asset to the police force, he said the new structure is a return to one the department held prior to 2005, when there were only two captains.

Even if the borough had attempted to fill Leonard's position, Fountaine said the former captain's legacy would not be forgotten no matter who the successor.

"Captain Leonard was a tremendously valuable asset to the entire organization and to



Courtesy of Dana Leonard
Retired Captain Dana Leonard served the State College Police Department for more than 30 years. Leonard said police work used to involve manually tracking down witnesses, knocking on doors and making phone calls.

the entire borough," Fountaine said.

"He is going to be missed and would be very difficult to replace in any circumstance."

To e-mail reporter: cmm5773@psu.edu