

# THON fundraising kicks off

By Megan Rogers  
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

For some students, Oct. 1 is a holiday.

THON's fundraising season begins today and some student organizations are excited for the chance to exercise their passion for the Interfraternity Council/Panhellenic Dance Marathon through some friendly competition.

As a kickoff celebration, three special interest organizations are hosting an arm wrestling competition.

ArmWrestleMania is sponsored by special interest organizations Atlas, Springfield and Ohana.

The event takes place this afternoon at 2 p.m. in Redifer Commons.

Attending students pay \$3 for their chance to partake in the competition.

Winners will receive Berkey Creamery gift certificates, Atlas Executive Chairwoman Meg O'Rourke said.

Ohana Executive Chairman

T.C. Cawley said the groups are hoping to fill all 64 spots in both brackets.

The event is more than just a fundraiser, he said — it's a kickoff party for THON fundraising, lasting all way to THON weekend.

There are separate brackets for men and women, Cawley (senior-accounting) said.

Members of the THON Overall Committee and even the Nittany Lion may be in attendance, O'Rourke said.

The event is a way to get students pumped for THON season, O'Rourke (senior-life science and psychology) said.

The three organizations worked on the event together to show their solidarity in support of THON, Springfield Executive Chairwoman Meg Barnett said.

"We really want to bring our organizations together to showcase that we're not totally competitive and are working for the same goal," Barnett said.

But Barnett (junior-marketing) said it's still a friendly competition.

"I've been joking that I'm going to win," she said. "But I'm extremely weak so hopefully nobody takes it seriously."

Starting today any alternative fundraisers, online fundraisers or fundraisers through THON can be credited to a group's organization total, THON Public Relations Overall Chairwoman Jony Rommel said.

Those hoping to earn spots as independent dancers can begin raising money as well, Rommel (senior-philosophy) said.

She said THON has seen other creative fundraisers — like talent and fashion shows — in recent years.

To e-mail reporter: [mer5200@psu.edu](mailto:mer5200@psu.edu)

## If you go

**What:** Arm WrestleMania  
**When:** 2 p.m. today  
**Where:** Redifer Commons  
**Details:** Cost to compete is \$3 and open to all students



Andrew Dunheimer/Collegian

Christopher Tomaszewicz, known as Farrah Knight from Long Island, performs at last year's Coming Out Week Drag Show.

# Dance, rally planned for Coming Out Week

By Jessica Wabara  
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

other people who share similar values.

Halloween and football games are not the only two events to look forward to in the month of October.

For more than ten years, the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Ally (LGBTQA) Student Resource Center has organized events for National Coming Out Week, which falls in the month of October.

And this year, officials from the organization said it's more important than ever for people to participate.

"Being a minority is important and it is important to have a time in the year to celebrate your minority status," said Julian Haas, vice president of Delta Lambda Phi, a fraternity for gay, bisexual and progressive men.

National Coming Out week will begin Oct. 9 and end Oct. 15.

The LGBTQA Student Resource Center will kick off the week with a coming-out dance.

"People can bring partners and not have to worry about being judged. It is a safe space and some people don't have that," said Allison Jones, Rainbow Roundtable president. "The event will give visibility to our community."

The main purpose of the week-long celebration is to provide the LGBTQA community and those still in the closet an opportunity to have fun and feel comfortable with

"We have a center but people think that by walking in they are automatically labeled as gay," Jones (senior-marketing) said. "We want to give students the voice and space to talk about their accomplishments and struggles about coming out."

One event will include a HUB takeover where gay students will display a large rainbow arch, in addition to a drag show hosted by Undertones.

There will also be a rally on the steps of Old Main.

"Anyone who is LGBT has come out thinking they are alone. These events let people come out and feel comfortable with themselves," said Kirstie Hartman (junior-marketing), a member of the Rainbow Roundtable and programming and events intern at the LGBTQA Student Resource Center. "You're not alone and we've all been where you are. When you're in the closet it is nice to hear there are other people who feel the same as you."

For the first time, the LGBTQA community will be participating in the homecoming parade with LGBTQA alumni. Jones said the LGBTQA community will be wearing T-shirts that say "We are...Family."

"No matter if you choose to come out or not, the LGBT family is here for you," Jones said.

To e-mail reporter: [jdw5284@psu.edu](mailto:jdw5284@psu.edu)

# New store reaches out to gamers

By Vince D'Imperio  
FOR THE COLLEGIAN

State College video game fans, rejoice: Gamers Arena will hold its grand opening today from 3 to 8 p.m.

The new store will allow customers to buy, sell and trade their video games, among many other services offered at the one-stop shop for everything games.

"Some of the things we provide give us a competitive edge," store co-owner Derek Canova said. "We hold tournaments here, as well as give our customers the ability to rent games."

The store, 421 E. Calder Way, also provides gaming console repair service, disc resurfacing and hosts private parties.

Free food from Arby's and Dairy Queen, game tournaments on large flat-screen monitors and prizes — including store gift cards and T-shirts — will be available at today's grand opening.

The event will also be broadcast live on B94.5 from 6 to 8 p.m.

Canova and Jeremy Gibson — the owner of computer repair shop PCQuickFix, 1318 W. College Ave. — are behind the new store.

Gibson, also a Gamers Arena co-owner, said PCQuickFix did some work in repairing video game consoles, but he wanted to make his business more accessi-

"The people that live here are always looking for ways to provide venues without alcohol."

Derek Canova  
Gamers Arena co-owner

ble to the average student living downtown, as his other store is located past Atherton Street.

He said Gamers Arena will fill a niche market not currently being met in the area.

"You can't buy or rent games anywhere in downtown State College," Gibson said. "Gamers Arena is in a great spot. Everything around here is student housing."

The store officially opened on Sept. 10 and was initially supposed to launch its grand opening in conjunction with the midnight release of Halo: Reach the following Tuesday.

But due to a distribution error, Gamers Arena did not receive copies of the new game in time and had to postpone its grand opening as a result.

But the shipping error did not prevent the Arena from holding a successful Halo tournament that night and other game tournaments in the week that followed.

Future tournaments will focus on Call of Duty: Modern Warfare 2 on Oct. 2, as well as a Madden 11 event on the following day.

Despite opening the store only

three weeks ago, Gibson and Canova said they're optimistic it will be successful.

They already have plans to open new stores in other college towns.

But for now, the storeowners said they're focused on ensuring the State College location will become popular with Penn State students.

"The people that live here are always looking for ways to provide venues without alcohol," Canova said.

"Gamers Arena gives people the option to have fun without the use of alcohol."

## If you go

**What:** Gamers Arena grand opening  
**When:** 3 p.m. to 8 p.m. today  
**Where:** Gamers Arena, 421 E. Calder Way  
**Details:** Free food from Arby's and Dairy Queen will be available. T-shirts and store gift cards will also be awarded.