



Ryan Ullsh/Collegian

Children participate in the Easter Seals' Walk With Me charity walk on Saturday afternoon. The event started on Burrowes Road.

'Walk With Me' benefits program

By Jessica Wabara
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

For Elizabeth Case's son Anthony, Easter Seals helps him do the impossible.

On Saturday morning, Easter Seals — an organization that strives to provide opportunities for people with disabilities — hosted the second annual Walk With Me charity walk with the help of Beta Theta Pi fraternity. The event raised about \$1,300 for children with disabilities.

"It is important to support Easter Seals because they make a key difference in the lives of children," said Elizabeth Case, whose son is in a wheelchair.

Elizabeth Case said the program allows Anthony to participate in recreational activities he otherwise could not do. The walk introduces Penn State students to the diversity in the community and enables dialogue between students and locals, she said.

"A disability is only a small part of who the person is," Elizabeth Case said.

About 150 children, parents and Penn State students gathered outside Beta Theta Pi, 220 N. Burrowes Rd., and held signs before beginning a 2.5-mile walk around campus.

"This walk is important because it brings awareness to what the program is and people

"A disability is only a small part of who the person is."

Elizabeth Case - Walk With Me participant

can see what the program is doing for children with and without disabilities." Central Pennsylvania Easter Seals Chairman Spyros Degleris said.

Before the walk, attendees gathered inside the fraternity to enjoy a light breakfast and to meet the children and their families.

"It gave everyone an opportunity to put faces to those they are raising money and walking for," said Will Sheehan, the fraternity's community service and philanthropy chairman.

Outside the fraternity, the walkers gathered around the children and their families holding signs. Three of the signs were the children's names written in glitter. "It is important for students to realize the importance of what they are doing to help children and to gain awareness," said Kyle Lorenz, junior-political science and media studies, an associate member of Beta Theta Pi.

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Conference fosters democracy

By Cassie Wiggins
FOR THE COLLEGIAN

Scholars and students alike discussed the music industry, media censorship and capitalism at the 2010 Union for Democratic Communications conference this weekend.

The Union for Democratic Communications held its 2010 conference, "Democratic Communications, Equal Rights and Global Justice," at the Days Inn, 240 S. Pugh Street from Thursday to Sunday.

The four-day conference began Oct. 14 and featured 28 separate panel discussions and about 100 domestic and international speakers.

Ronald Bettig and Jeanne Hall, both College of Communications associate professors at Penn State, helped coordinate the conference.

The conference aimed to bring together researchers, professors, policy analysts, journalists, media producers and activists who are

dedicated to democratic communications and are strongly against corporate controlled media, Hall said.

"When we get our news information from entertainment and corporations — which the main purpose is to get profit — that shapes the kind of news we get and the decisions we can make," she said.

The conference featured two main speakers Peter Hart and Robert McChesney and also speakers from across the country.

Hart, who spoke on Friday, is the activism director at Fairness and Accuracy in Reporting, a national media watch group that offers criticism of media bias and censorship.

On Saturday, the conference featured McChesney, a communications professor from University of Illinois, as its keynote speaker.

McChesney said the conference was a success.

"Sometimes when you go to a conference, it can be flat or boring," he said. "But this conference

had a fantastic range of concepts, and they were all extremely interesting."

Mike Niman, a professor at New York's Buffalo State College and a panelist in the conference, said the conference had a great outcome.

"We came to argue, and we weren't afraid to do it either," Niman said while sporting a Project Censorship T-shirt.

"We respect each other. We got to exchange and explore many different ideas. It was a great time."

Aaron Heresco (graduate-mass communications) was a panelist in the conference and said it was a great experience for students like himself.

"[The conference] was a fantastic opportunity to have it here in our own backyard," Heresco said. "It gave an outlet for students and their frustrations about the media and our communications system. It gave many of us the chance to insert ourselves into a larger dialogue."

Families 'Jump-Start' fall activities

By Anita Modi
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

State College families and Penn State students were treated to two fall festivals Saturday, one of which was planned by students from the Schreyer Honors College.

The Leadership Jump Start Fall Family Day aimed to foster town-gown relations and encourage families to partake in outdoor activities in the State College area.

Alex Gilliland, one of the program participants and event organizers, said he and his classmates were assigned the task of designing and completing a group service project in early September. His group decided to hold a fair-type event at Orchard Park, with an educational component — raising awareness of local environmental centers.

Shaver's Creek and Centre Wildlife Care representatives were invited to the event to speak to visitors about wild and domesticated animals that can be found in the borough.

Apart from informational booths, the event hosted Penn State student groups like the Nittany Lion Kids Club and the Penn State Student Red Cross Club, as well as community

organizations like the Boy and Girl Scouts.

"Organizing such a huge event during our first semester of freshman year was challenging," Gilliland (freshman-broadcast journalism) said. "We were all leaders in high school, so it was hard to realize that working with five other leaders is different from working as one leader with a bunch of followers, but we emerged the best of friends from the experience."

About 12 miles and 20 minutes away, a similar sense of community mingled with the crisp autumn air as families toured Way Fruit Farm's apple orchard, picked pumpkins and savored warm apple dumplings.

Sharon Way, co-owner of the farm, said the festival has grown since it was first held in 1982 to include not only wagon rides and pumpkin picking but also a miniature Central Pennsylvania Festival of the Arts as well. More than 30 crafters set up booths in front of the farm's main store to sell incense, wood carvings and hair accessories, with some booths for children to paint or make their own jewelry as their parents browsed.

One couple, Melvin and Emma Westernman, set up a variety of homemade goods, from crabap-



Kelley Rootes-Murphy/Collegian

Olivia Gassner, 3, of Bellefonte, Pa., safeguards her pumpkin.

ple jellies to carved jewelry boxes. This was their seventh year at the Way Fruit Farm's Fall Festival, Melvin Westernman said, and they enjoy seeing family and friends come out.

"We've got Happy Valley Syndrome," said Melvin Westernman, a Penn State graduate and former librarian for the Pattee Library. "We went to school here, met here and stayed here."

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