

Memoir to benefit, inspire THON dancers

The Student Red Cross Club is compiling a book of THON memories to help motivate dancers.

By Megan Rogers
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

When Naila Rahman danced in THON 2009, it was the inspiring stories from friends and family that helped her get through some of the rougher hours of the weekend.

Now Rahman (senior-electrical engineering) and the Student Red Cross Club are compiling a book of Interfraternity Council Panhellenic Dance Marathon memories to help other dancers and the THON community members to always remember why they dance — even at 3 a.m. on Sunday morning during THON weekend.

Stories will range from inspiring to humorous, covering the entire THON season from canning to the

actual weekend, SRCC member Erica Friel (sophomore-mathematics and elementary education) said.

Anyone who wants to write a story is welcome, SRCC President Rino Sato said. So far the group has widespread representation in the stories submitted — from club members to THON alumni, Sato (senior-premedicine) said.

Rahman wrote a story about an encounter with an unexpected donor on a canning trip.

While she was canning, Rahman spotted two little girls reading the canners' signs, but she didn't think much about it. One of the little girls walked up to Rahman and handed her \$10. Rahman asked if she needed change and got a surprising answer.

"She just looked at me and said, 'No, we're just going to buy ten less candy bars,'" Rahman said.

The candy bar story is just one of the touching anecdotes in the book, she said.

Submissions for the compilation are due by the beginning of December, and the club plans to have the books available for purchase in the spring semester, she said. Proceeds from the book will benefit THON, she added.

Student Red Cross Club plans to market the book as a gift for moralers to give to their dancers, Rahman said.

She hopes dancers can turn to the book as their legs become sore and they need some motivation to continue.

"When you read a story about a THON child who got cured because the Four Diamonds fund helped his family, it gives you more perspective," she said.

But, Rahman said, anyone is welcome to purchase the book, which will cost about \$10.

The final pages of the book will be left blank for dancers to add their own THON memories, she said.

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Dancers participate in the line dance at last year's THON. The Student Red Cross Club will market a memoir book to keep dancers inspired.

Teams row for a cure

By Megan Rogers
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

The Penn State Men and Women's crew team wore pink and black uniforms at the Head of the Charles Regatta this past weekend.

But the colors weren't just a throwback to the original Penn State colors — they represented the cause the team was rowing for: breast cancer awareness.

The teams' participation in the Pull for a Cure event was inspired by their need to lend a hand after the mother of a former crew team member passed away from breast cancer, said Jamie Francis, coach of the women's crew team.

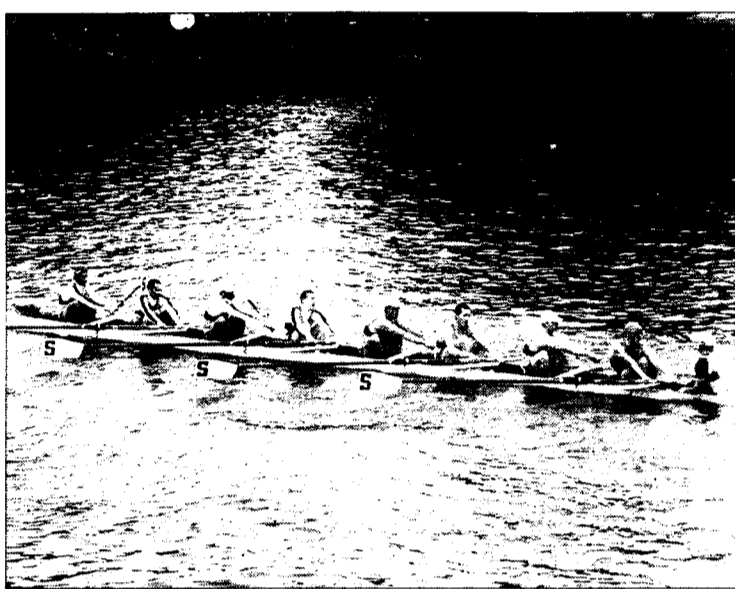
"The men wanted to honor [her] and chose to do so through the Pull for a Cure event," he said.

At last year's race, the team wore pink wristbands with her initials, team member Brian Nahas said.

But this year, they decided to up their involvement in the cause, Nahas (senior-architectural engineering) said.

And Pull for a Cure, which was started by the Brown University's men's rowing team, was the perfect outlet.

Team member Nicholas D'Imperio was training during winter break when he first heard



Courtesy of Stephanie Roberts

Both the Penn State Men and Women's crew teams wore pink and black uniforms at the Head of the Charles Regatta to show their participation in the "Pull for a Cure" event to benefit breast cancer awareness.

"We want to take it beyond our team to a university level."

Brian Nahas
senior - architectural engineering

about Pull for the Cure.

D'Imperio (sophomore-engineering) saw a rower wearing a pink uniform while working out at his high school gym and asked why he was wearing the color.

The rower, a student at Brown, told D'Imperio about the Pull for a Cure event their team had started that past year.

It had grown already to include several Ivy League schools, but Penn State was the first club team to get involved with the fundraiser, he said.

D'Imperio said he didn't think too much about the event, until the team was looking for a way to honor their friend's mother.

For their first year with the

fundraiser, Penn State crew set a goal to raise \$5,000, he said — soliciting donations from family and friends and holding a fundraiser in front of Walmart.

The team surpassed their set goal by a few hundred dollars, he said.

And next year they plan to expand the event and involve the campus in their fundraising efforts, D'Imperio said. The team has set a \$10,000 goal for next year's campaign, he said.

"We want to take it beyond our team to a university level and get the university support in future years," Nahas said.

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Students try luck at cleaning service

By Lynn Ondrusek
TOP FOR THE COLLEGIAN

When she was younger, Rachael Giordano's older brother would give her a few dollars to clean his room.

What started as profit from her brother has turned into a potential business for her. Giordano (sophomore-kinesiology) is ready to start cleaning apartments and dorms around Happy Valley, but she hasn't received any business yet.

"Students have a lot of expenses to devote their money towards, and cleaning services may not be a priority," Giordano said.

Giordano said she knows money is tight, as she decided to make the move from dorm living to apartment living this semester. Now she said she has extra expenses that have made her think about getting a job.

"I'm looking for a job, but my studies are important to me," she said. "But I can't do a commitment."

One person can't clean State College, though, Giordano said she has enlisted the help of her friend Brian Killeen. And the pair said they are pretty certain that they are ready to tackle whatever parties leave behind in students' apartments.

"I'm fine with [the messes]," Killeen (sophomore-aerospace engineering) said. "I'm used to it."

The good, the bad and the ugly is what Penn State alumnus Fred Matthews is all too familiar with. Matthews, Class of 1989, owns his

own cleaning business, Matthews Home Cleaning, 131 Owens Drive.

Matthews opened for business in October 2003 and has been serving higher-end residential clients, but he said he supports a student-run service, too.

"I can't think of a good reason not to [use the service]," he said.

Matthews said it may be a good thing for students to have a cleaning every two weeks, which would alleviate the messes that can accumulate throughout the semester.

"Sometimes students need the help — they can't do it themselves," he said.

"If they have the money for it, they should use it."

For the time being, Giordano is hoping her business has the potential to grow. Even though she hasn't cleaned an apartment yet, she said she has already had some interest from people she has talked to.

"It has the potential, but it's all going to rely on students' responses," she said.

Killeen said he is excited to be a part of a new business.

"Nowadays you see on the Internet that college students start up businesses and find businesses at this point," he said. "I expect at least a job or two a weekend, and to expand to different places."

Some students said the money issue could get in the way.

"I probably wouldn't use a cleaning service because I can clean my own apartment for free," Matt Baumann (journalism) said.

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