

Students to celebrate 100 Days 'til THON

By Megan Rogers
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

In 100 days, THON dancers, committee members and supporters will descend onto the floor of the Bryce Jordan Center, transforming the arena into a sea of color as they dance to cure pediatric cancer.

To begin the countdown to Interfraternity Council/Panhellenic Dance Marathon weekend, the annual 100 Days 'til THON event will be held from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. today on the ground floor of the HUB-Robeson Center.

Attendees can sign a pledge to perform a random act of kindness each day until THON weekend.

If you go

What: 100 Days 'til THON
When: 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. today
Where: HUB-Robeson Center's ground floor
Details: A silent rave and group photo will follow the event.

create kid mail, watch performances from student groups and participate in other activities, public relations captain Colleen Hanrahan said.

The next 100 days will fly by. Special Relations Overall Chairwoman Mary Dowd said —

today's event is one of the big milestones for THON. As fundraising is going strong, the community's excitement is mounting, she said.

"The excitement is evident," Dowd (senior-marketing) said. "THON is in full swing right now."

The top five finalists from the first-ever THON Idol will perform today, Dowd said. The top three idols — who will be chosen through online voting and judges — will get the chance to perform at THON 2011, she said.

The countdown to THON will really begin with today, Public Relations Overall Chairwoman Jony Rommel said.

"Students will find that it's a lot

"THON is in full swing right now."

Mary Dowd
THON Special Relations overall chairwoman

like THON weekend," she said. "It's a preview of what they can expect to see at THON."

A THON family will share its story around 2 p.m. and remind the community why people participate in THON, Hanrahan (senior-advertising) said.

"It's a great way to remind everyone why we're putting so much time and effort into this," she said.

But THON won't be contained to the HUB.

For the first time ever, THON will sponsor a Twitter scavenger hunt, Rommel said.

THON will tweet a location from its account and the first student to reply via Twitter with a picture of themselves at the place will be featured on the account, she said.

Following the end of the events in the HUB, a silent rave will be held on the Old Main Lawn, Rommel (senior-philosophy) said — and afterwards, participants will spell out "FTK" for an aerial photo.

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Officials discuss fence on Atherton

State College Borough may construct a fence to prevent jaywalking on Atherton Street.

By Colleen Boyle
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

State College Borough officials are considering installing a fence along the 100 block of Atherton Street in an effort to prevent mid-block crossings — or jaywalking.

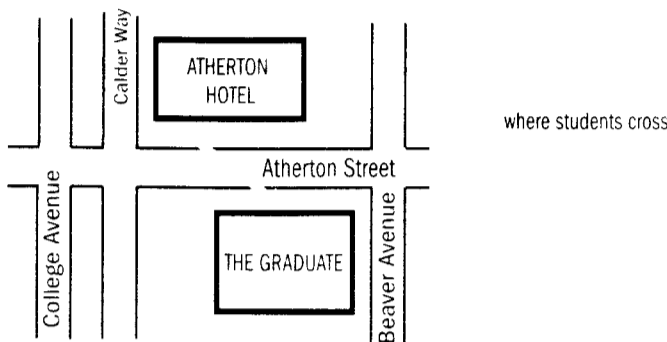
Pedestrians frequently cross the street from in front of the Atherton Hotel, 125 S. Atherton St., making a diagonal line toward The Graduate apartment building, 138 S. Atherton St., landscape architect professor Dan Jones said in a presentation to the State College Transportation Commission Tuesday afternoon. He described images of students standing in the middle of the road on yellow lane lines while cars race past.

"We do have this block between Beaver and College Avenue where people cross mid-block just casually, and studies indicate that there have been a lot of accidents here," Jones said. "You probably can't totally prevent anything, but the idea is to discourage these mid-block crossings."

A similar fence currently prevents pedestrians from jaywalking on the campus side of College

Fence may prevent jaywalking

The State College Transportation Commission is considering installing a fence on Atherton Street to prevent pedestrian danger.



Source: mapquest.com

Angel Perricone/Colegian

"Given the speed on that street and the quantity of cars, I personally think it's great."

Kate Delano
Transportation Commission chairwoman

Avenue, but Atherton Street, which has more traffic lanes and a higher speed limit than College Avenue, has been identified as a high-risk area for accidents.

"It almost behooves us to do this," commission chairwoman Kate Delano said. "Given the speed on that street and the quantity of cars, I personally think it's great."

If a fence were placed on the west side of Atherton Street by The Graduate apartment building, the current Centre Area Transit Authority bus stop would need to be relocated. Commission members said this concerned them because many community members and students use the stop. Aaron Fayish, an employee of Stahl Sheaffer Engineering, said the fence could be built on one side of the street, leaving the bus stop area unaffected, resembling the design that is currently on College Avenue.

There are many variables to consider in the potential fence design including the height of the fence, its distance from the curb and whether to integrate planting or other streetscapes with it.

Commission member Joseph Haloua asked if the borough could instead place a crosswalk and a traffic light at the intersection of Calder Way and Atherton Street to limit unsafe crossing. But due to PennDOT restrictions, placement of a traffic light in close proximity to existing ones would not be permitted.

After the commission passes a concrete plan, it will be forwarded to PennDOT. If approved, the plan will be submitted to the State College Borough Council.

Potentially, construction of the project could be completed in 2011.

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Striking workers' union pursues legal litigation

By Mike Hricik
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Thirteen days since picketing against "unfair" hiring procedures began, the union representing striking workers at the \$215 million Millennium Science Complex is pursuing legal litigation.

Representatives from the International Union of Painters and Allied Trades of Monroeville, Pa. said details of the case will remain confidential for the moment.

IUPAT District Council 57 Business Manager Tom Tyger said progress is being made.

"We'll release information when our lawyers think it's appropriate," Tyger said.

"All the proper steps are being taken."

He said Penn State is not involved with any legal action.

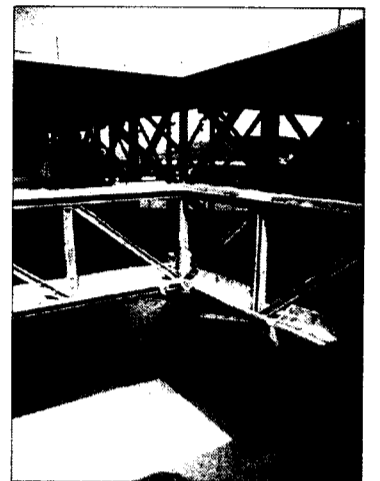
Office of Physical Plant spokesman Paul Ruskin said Penn State officials are not concerned with the situation and will continue a position of neutrality.

"At the moment we are just focusing on getting the building built. There is plenty of time to catch up to meet the final deadlines," Ruskin said.

If a contractor falls behind, the university will step in, he said.

Union workers with IUPAT began picketing against employment of non-unionized and out-of-state workers two weeks ago after Tyger said labor negotiations disintegrated with project subcontractor Allegheny Interiors and Drywall of Cresson.

Since then, work has continued on the complex with the absence of union workers picketing projects managed by Allegheny



Tom Ruane/Colegian

Unionized workers are striking at the Millennium Science Complex.

Interiors, including the Gary Schultz Childcare Center at Hort Woods and Moore Building at the project's two entrance gates.

Whiting-Turner Contracting Company, of Newark, Del., is managing contracting for the Millennium Science Complex.

Altoona-based contracting firm Leonard S. Fiore, Inc. hired Allegheny Interiors as a subcontractor for the project.

Representatives from both LSF and Allegheny Interiors offered no comment.

Scott McMahon, vice president of Whiting-Turner Contracting and project manager for the Millennium Science Complex, also said he could not comment.

Located at the intersection of Bigler and Pollock roads, the 290,000 square foot Millennium Science Complex is slated for completion in summer 2011.

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