



photo by Jeff Warren

Despite wind chill factors of minus 20 degrees, Penn State Harrisburg (PSH) students and members of the local community stayed warm by dancing to music of the Harrisburg-based band Fuel last Thursday. Fuel's performance, which was held in the Capital Union Building gymnasium (CUB), featured popular alternative music including the group's own songs from their recently released compact disc "Porcelain." The concert was the first of several events planned by the campus Thon committee to raise money for the Four Diamonds Fund. A second concert is scheduled for Friday, Jan. 24 at 9 p.m. at the CUB, and will feature alternative rock band Mr. Green Genes. Friday's concert is sponsored by the Psychology Club. Admission is \$5; \$3 with student I.D. The proceeds from both events will benefit the Four Diamonds Fund.

## PSH participates in "Thon" activities

"It's an incredible experience that you can't put into words."

Stacie Wentzel  
PSH Thon committee co-chair

### Amy Reeder Staff Reporter

Throughout Pa., Penn State students anticipate the gathering of university campus representatives at Main campus' White Building, Valentines weekend.

Fraternities and sororities in State College fight the cold on street corners to raise money for the 48-hour Inter-fraternity Council/Panhellenic dance marathon, made possible by a 14 year old boy who fought cancer for three years.

When Christopher Millard wrote his short story entitled The Four Diamonds, undoubtedly he was unaware of the effects that this story would have on hundreds of children and their families battling cancer.

The "Four Diamonds" was given life by Christopher Millard when he was fourteen years old.

While attending Elizabethtown Middle School he was given an assignment by his eighth grade teacher to write an autobiography. Millard, who had been fighting cancer for three years, could not write his life story because it would become a constant reminder of his illness.

So his teacher allowed him the freedom to write on whatever he wanted.

His inspiration for the story came from a coat of arms given to him as a gift from his grandmother.

This was the beginning of the unforgettable story of the forgotten knight at King Arthur's round table, Sir Millard.

Sir Millard had possession of the four diamonds: courage, wisdom, honesty and strength. These were the

qualities that he needed to ward off the evil witch who had cast a spell on him.

Ironically this story symbolized Chris's life.

Chris didn't live on in glory, as Sir Millard does in his story, but, because of him, many others living with cancer are given the chance to live.

In 1972, several months after Chris's death, the Four Diamonds Fund began. Fulfilling a dream they always had, Charles and Irma Millard, (Chris's parents), began a fund that would provide financial assistance to families whose children were being treated for cancer at Penn State University Children's Hospital at the Milton S. Hershey Medical Center.

The money raised by the Four Diamonds Fund is used to support other programs.

Among the programs is the assistance of two social workers who work with the families to help them talk about the illness.

Siblings and the cancer patients can find encouragement through the Child life department.

Nursing support is offered for long-term care and allows the children a high quality of care.

The main source of funds is raised at a dance-a-thon. This is an annual event at State College and is responsible for 73% of the money raised.

On Valentine's weekend, 250 dancers, and hundreds of supporters will converge on the White Building and for 48 hours, they will dance to raise money for this

See Thon pg. 2

## Art exhibits stolen from Gallery Lounge

Debbi Mallek  
Staff Reporter

Two paintings were stolen from the Gallery Lounge during finals week last semester. The paintings, titled "Bad Skin #10" and "Bad Skin #12," are valued at approximately \$750.

The paintings were part of a collection by artist Matthew Lawrence entitled "The Revenge of the Blob." Both paintings were approximately the size of a notebook. Investigators believe

that someone slipped the paintings into a bookbag and left the Gallery Lounge unnoticed.

"The Revenge of the Blob" features "combinations of cartoon icons intermingled with racial and sexual overtones," according to the artist.

Lawrence's work, which was displayed in the Gallery Lounge from Nov. 4 to Dec. 21, 1996, is printed onto painted canvas and pinned to the walls, without frames.

The featured artist was awarded his BFA from Brighton University in England, and his MFA in printmaking from Tyler School of Art, Temple University.

He was awarded a 1995 Endowment for the Arts grant and has exhibited in juried and invitational exhibitions in the United States and Europe.

The artist says that he often relies on the same images that people experience while they watch television.

Lawrence will speak at the University of the Arts in Philadelphia on Wednesday, March 27 at 7 p.m.

Police Services is conducting an ongoing investigation into the theft.

If you have any information regarding the theft of the Matthew Lawrence works, contact Officer Kuklinski at Police Services (717)948-6232.

## Fall 1996 graduates experience more changes in commencement ceremony

Melissa A. Jago  
Staff Reporter

Graduates of Penn State Harrisburg (PSH) not only remained seated through "Pomp and Circumstance," but didn't receive their diplomas at the Sat., Dec. 14 commencement ceremony held at the Hershey Theater.

The 182 summer and 320 fall graduates were the second graduating class to experience a change in PSH commencement tradition.

For the first time in PSH history, graduates were seated prior to the ceremony and had to wait until Jan. to receive their diplomas by mail.

According to Alumni and Special Events

Coordinator James Malm, by moving Fall commencement to the week of finals, "...we were able to capture more students..."

He explained that "by moving up the graduation date, we could get more students to attend," their own commencement due to expiring dorm contracts, moving and job opportunities.

Further, Malm said that the date change didn't allow for students to receive their degrees during commencement because PSH was unable to verify grades and print diplomas in time for the ceremony.

However, students still walked across the stage and had their name read

aloud.

Malm admitted that not having a student processional was a unique format.

"This commencement format may not be used in the future." He emphasized that, "student voice is very important."

According to Malm, a questionnaire will be sent to all graduates, asking them what they liked, disliked and would have changed about the ceremony.

"Students come first," he said. We want to make sure the students are happy with their graduation."

According to Joy Maatman, humanities/communications graduate, "I would See Commencement pg. 3



photo by Jody L. Jacobs

Fall 1997 Penn State Harrisburg graduates Jodic Hartman, Joy Maatman, Trudy Mourey and Amy Palilla are shown seated in the Hershey Theater as they wait for the commencement ceremony to begin. Traditionally, the graduates would have entered the ceremony in a student processional.