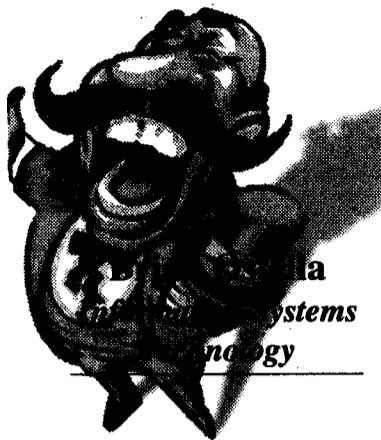
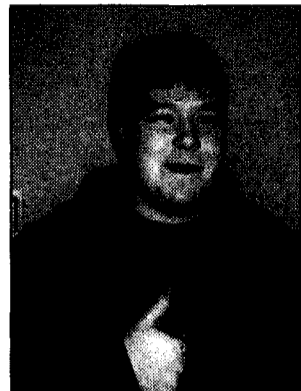


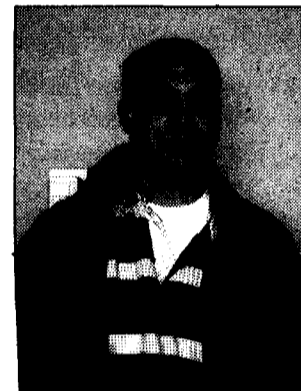


What are your plans
for spring break?



"Going to Daytona Beach."

Steve Barber
Finance



"I don't have any. Just going
home to Allentown.
Hopefully, party a little."

Beth Witmer
Accounting



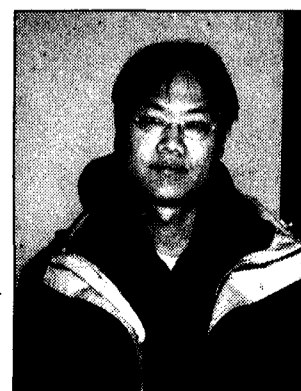
"Just working at
McDonald's."

Tony Bupp
Criminal Justice



"Drink a lot and get work
done."

Yukuang Liu
Computer Science



"My parents are coming and
we're going to New Jersey
and New York."

Penn State's THON:

Where does the money go?

By **KATHRYN HERR**
Photography Editor

Ever wonder where all the THON money goes after the 48 hours of no sitting and no sleeping? Well, it is all about kids who suffer from cancer.

The proceeds from the event go to the Four Diamonds Fund to aid in the fight against pediatric cancer. Any treatment or equipment that medical insurance refuses to pay is paid for by Four Diamonds.

The fund also helps families with living expenses such as rent, car repairs, travel costs, hotel bills, or household utilities, in cases where the welfare of the child may be in jeopardy. To qualify for support from the Four Diamonds Fund a family must have a child who is being treated for pediatric cancer at the Penn State Children's Hospital. There are no fees to maintain the status of a Four Diamond's family.

The fund also supports the medical and research teams that are battling childhood cancer, including the Four Diamonds Pediatric Cancer Research Institute.

THON is the largest student-run fundraiser in the country. The THON committee, chaired by Adam Duff, is responsible for organizing the event. The majority of the planning is done by students from Penn State's University Park campus. Each satellite campus also participates in the fundraising and is represented by student dancers.

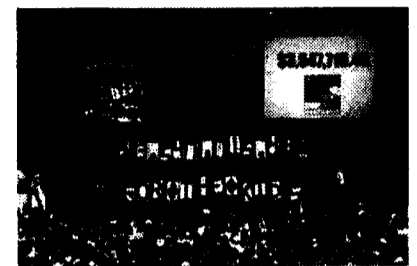
This year THON raised a whopping \$3,547,715.48 "For the Kids." The money from THON is the main source of funding for Four Diamonds, but the students must raise the money to pay for THON itself. To date, THON has raised \$29 million for kids with cancer since it began in 1977.

In addition to the money raised, students provide emotional support for the families. Each family is adopted through the "adopt a family" program by an organization within the Penn State system. Greek organizations (fraternities and sororities), independent organizations, such as the Penn State Blue

Band and student clubs, and Commonwealth campuses are the three types of organizations that adopt Four Diamond families. These organizations support their families by independently raising money, spending time with them, and staying in contact during the child's treatment.

Many of the families are very close with their adopted organizations. One dancer wore a T-shirt reading "If you can read this the dancer fell off," because he held his adopted child on his back for the first few hours of the marathon. This year, 130 families attended THON to support their organization's dancers. They helped the dancers stay awake by playing games and entertaining them. Many of the kids joined the dancers on the dance floor at various times during the marathon.

The relationship between the students and the families benefits all. While the students encourage and support the families, the children and their families are an encouragement for the students as well.



THON raised over 3.5 million dollars this year

"THON is the largest student-run fundraiser in the country."

