



# The Fourth Wall



Omnes vocem habent

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## THON Helps Conquer Childhood Cancer

By Julia Ritchey  
Associate Editor

Since 1972, The Four Diamonds Fund has helped over 2,000 families monetarily and spiritually. The Four Diamonds Fund was created in memory of Christopher Millard, a boy who suffered from cancer and received treatment at Milton Hershey's Medical Center.

The name of the fund represents figuratively the traits that Millard believed could help him beat cancer. Millard wrote a story about the diamonds for an English assignment just before his death at age 14.

The story is a noble tale of a knight that defeats a villain by collecting four diamonds during his challenges. The traits he describes in his story are courage, wisdom, honesty, and strength. The tale

inspired the fund's name and gives hope to the children today fighting cancer.

Penn State Mont Alto is highly involved in helping The Four Diamonds Fund. Since the beginning of the Fall 2007 semester, members of THON have been raising money for this year's dance marathon.

THON is the largest student-run philanthropy because of the many Penn Staters that keep raising money for the organization. Last year's THON raised over \$5 million.

The money brought in by Penn State students and high school students that do mini-THONs goes toward a number of crucial supports. The three main components of the fund are the medical expenses and treatment support for the families, medical team support, and research



Each year Penn State's THON grows larger and larger with its student population. With last year's efforts raising over \$5 million, this year can only shine upon bigger and brighter ambitions.

support.

Milton Hershey Medical Center focuses on the needs of the

patients in a unique way with the help of The Four Diamonds Fund and Children's Miracle Network.

With a medical team of pediatric

see THON page 2

## 2008 Candidates Address Tuition Costs

By Tim Kaufmann  
Staff Writer

According to the Penn State Tuition Cost Calculator, tuition cost for a Pennsylvania resident freshman with an undeclared major at Mont Alto is \$5,503 this semester. A student who lives on campus will have to pay up to \$9,957 for tuition and room and board. The next presidential election is less than a year away, and many younger voters who are starting their college educations are particularly interested in how each candidate plans to address the cost of education.

Several of the presidential candidates have promised to increase financial aid for college students, but few have a solid

implementation plan or any projections for how much aid their plans will provide. Republican candidate Mike Huckabee favors awarding extra aid based on military or volunteer service, while Mitt Romney is devising a plan that bases financial aid on the type of career a student plans to pursue after graduation.

Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama, however, have attempted to develop in-depth plans for increasing the amount of government aid awarded to college students and have provided projections about the amount of money their plans will be able to bring to students.

Clinton's proposed changes to college financing include doubling tax credit for students from \$1,650 to \$3,500, as

well as increasing the amount of money awarded by the Pell Grant and creating a graduation fund to assist students in four-year programs. Her plan also includes investing \$500 million into job training and apprenticeship programs. In addition, students who are an active AmeriCorps volunteers will receive up to \$10,000 in tuition assistance, which is more than twice its current award of \$4,725 for full-time student.

In addition, Clinton also plans to eliminate yearly FAFSA paperwork by allowing students to apply for financial aid through their income tax return forms.

Obama proposes a similar plan. His plan calls for the creation of an American Opportunity Tax

see Tuition page 2



With college tuition prices on the rise, it is imperative that every college student make it their agenda to vote; it could help them out in the long run.