

# Contest to tackle college costs

By Katrina Wehr  
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

MTV and the College Board have joined forces to create the "Get Schooled College Affordability Challenge" — an effort to encourage college students to come up with innovative ways of making financial aid more accessible.

MTV is asking college students across the nation to create new ways to get the word out about the different financial aid options available to college students today, said Jason Rzepka, vice president of MTV Public Affairs.

Students can submit their ideas by completing a concept proposal form, which can be found online, and submitting it to MTV through its website. Three finalists will be chosen in early 2011, according to the website, and an online poll will determine the overall winner.

The best concept will win \$10,000, and the winner will have the opportunity to work with MTV to develop their idea with a \$100,000 budget.

U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan joined College Board President Gaston Caperton and Rzepka on a conference call Monday afternoon to

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Gaston Caperton  
College Board president

talk about the college affordability initiative.

Difficulty paying for school is one of the key reasons many college students fail to graduate, Duncan said, making what MTV and its parent company, Viacom, are doing tremendously helpful to Washington's efforts in achieving the highest college graduation rate worldwide by 2020.

"To get where we need to be, we need an all-hands-on-deck approach," Duncan said. "This contest will unleash some of the fantastic creativity and innovation we're seeing on college campuses across country."

With MTV bringing attention to the subject of college affordability, Caperton said he expects to see resources going into education reform that haven't been there in the past. He said the contest is exactly the type of effort necessary to ensure college students have the money to complete their education.

"The financial aid maze can be very difficult, we know how desperately the country needs those college graduates," Caperton said. "This is a great start."

Rzepka said that while every state has individual policies it can improve on, MTV will be looking for ideas that are relevant to the entire country in the contest.

College affordability is a topic on nearly every student's mind, Rzepka said, but there is still \$70 billion worth of financial aid funding that goes untouched by students.

Part of the reason is that nearly two-thirds of students say they have difficulty applying for financial aid.

"Bring us interesting and innovative ways to help us tackle that," Rzepka said. "It could be a video game, a website, or a whole new way to approach it. It's totally wide open."

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Collegian file photo

Greeks dance during last year's Air Bands performance. This year's show will feature a talent show with acts including singing, dancing and skits.

# New talent show to debut tonight

By Megan Rogers  
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

## If you go

Though the Homecoming Airbands has been replaced with a talent show, audience members can still expect to see some lip-syncing at tonight's "For the Glory" talent show.

But as opposed to shows in past years, which featured only airbands, tonight's event will feature acts like singing, dancing, juggling and skits, Panhellenic Council Associate Vice President for Homecoming Colleen Smith said.

"From what I've seen so far, each organization has spent a lot of time and energy in creating these performances — some are really impressive," Smith (junior-history) said.

The Airbands competition morphed into a general talent show after responses at a feedback session indicated that many organizations felt Airbands and the Greek Sing competition were too similar, said Carter Satterfield, Interfraternity Council associate vice president for Homecoming and talent show organizer.

Because of the similarity, many greek organizations were only able to focus on one of the performances, he said — so the Homecoming executive committee went back to the drawing board and decided a general talent show would be the best solution.

Despite the change, about 60 percent of the 24 registered organizations will remain faithful to the event's roots and perform an airband performance, Satterfield (senior-energy, business and finance) said.

**What:** "For the Glory" Homecoming Talent show  
**When:** Tonight at 7  
**Where:** Eisenhower Auditorium  
**Details:** Tickets are free and are available at Eisenhower

Last year was the first year that Homecoming split the talent show competitors into two categories — greek and independent — and the categorization will continue this year, he said.

Tickets for tonight's show are free and available at the Eisenhower ticket center. Homecoming Public Relations Director Caitlin Rush said. Because the Big Ten Network is in the area filming their tailgating show, they may also be taping the talent show. Rush (junior-marketing and public relations) said.

The Homecoming Court and prominent campus leaders like THON Overall Chairwoman Kirsten Kelly, THON adviser Barry Bram, women's volleyball captain Alyssa D'Errico and two representatives from the Big Ten will judge the competition. Homecoming Competition Director Gen Goldsmith (senior-psychology) said.

Kelly said she's looking forward to the event. "I'm honored to be one of the judges," Kelly (senior-marketing) said. "I'm looking forward to seeing some of the student groups show their Penn State pride through their acts."

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# Students to revive ACLU chapter

By Mike Hrickl  
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

A newly re-formed group of Penn State students wants to play an active part in protecting Americans from civil liberties abuses.

The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) will invite students to its first fall meeting tonight at 8 to introduce members to the organization's work and to prioritize issues to work on in the coming months.

The group — part of a nationwide network — became reorganized in spring 2010 after a period of inactivity since 2008, ACLU adviser Lori Bedell said.

Bedell, a lecturer in communication arts and sciences, said she was approached to become the new adviser for the group by one of her students, former ACLU President Chadd Williams.

Current ACLU President Brian Flowers said it is a necessary for students to get involved in government policymaking.

"Government's not just going

to give people more freedom. It's a constant fight to uphold our civil rights. It's something that involves constant effort," Flowers (junior-computer science) said.

Flowers said the Penn State ACLU chapter has four distinct goals: to educate and inform the local student body and community about their civil liberties; to advocate for protection of civil liberties locally, statewide and nationally; to discourage civil liberties violations; and to act as a point of contact between community and the ACLU at large.

Bedell said the ACLU has a reputation as a "crazy left-wing group." On the contrary, she added, the organization holds libertarian attitudes.

"ACLU wants to protect everyone from a gay man who wants to be in the military to Rush Limbaugh," Bedell said.

Flowers said defending civil liberties can range from participating in a rally to writing letters to state representatives.

Proposals of interest to the

## If you go

**What:** First ACLU meeting  
**When:** 8 p.m.  
**Where:** 112 Thomas Building

ACLU in the past have included the State College "nuisance gathering ordinance" and the U.S. Senate's DREAM Act, Flowers said.

Bedell said simple awareness of civil liberties can make all the difference.

"Awareness means an awful lot. Just a basic awareness of what one's rights are will provide you with a lens of what should be permitted and what should not be permitted," Bedell said.

Flowers stressed the importance of feedback from new members at tonight's meeting in directing group initiatives.

"We want to keep it as democratic as possible," Flowers said.

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