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ARIZONA DAILY WILDCAT

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The University of Arizona, Tucson

A MICKEY MOUSE 'MAKEOVER'



Mickey Mouse and a team of volunteers kick off the first day of filming for "Extreme Makeover: Home Edition" at the University Medical Center's Blood and Marrow Transplant Unit yesterday morning. Cassandra Okvath, seen at lower left on a cell phone, nominated the transplant unit for the makeover.

KEVIN B. KLAUS/Arizona Daily Wildcat

8-YEAR-OLD'S WISH GETS UMC AN 'EXTREME MAKEOVER'

By Alexis Blue
ARIZONA DAILY WILDCAT

A University Medical Center transplant unit is getting an "extreme makeover," thanks to the wish of one of its 8-year-old patients.

Mickey Mouse and a team of about 35 volunteers in yellow hard hats arrived at UMC yesterday to kick off the first day of filming of an episode of the ABC reality

show "Extreme Makeover: Home Edition" that will feature the UMC's Blood and Marrow Transplantation Unit.

The BMT unit was chosen for the televised renovations after Cassandra Okvath, who spent several weeks in the unit as a patient, sent the show's producers a videotaped wish that the white walls of the transplant area be brightened up.

This is the first time that the television show, which specializes in renovating houses in need of a facelift, has done work

in a hospital.

"We were so inspired by Cassandra," said Diane Korman, coordinating producer for "Extreme Makeover: Home Edition." "She could have asked for anything, but she asked for her hospital to be made over."

Okvath, who was diagnosed in 2003 with neuroblastoma, a type of cancer that appears mainly in children, has under-

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Internet survey to take input on tuition

Administration, ASUA seek students' views on tuition

By Natasha Bhuyan
ARIZONA DAILY WILDCAT

Students concerned about prospective tuition changes have the chance to tell top administrators how they would like to see tuition revenue spent, through a tuition survey available on Student Link this week.

The Associated Students of the University of Arizona President Alistair Chapman, who initiated the survey along with student leaders, said the survey results will be presented to administrators Thursday, four days before they must release their tuition and mandatory fees proposal to the public.

"This is an opportunity for us to get quantifiable results on how students would like to see their tuition dollars spent," Chapman said. "Administrators are very interested in seeing those results."

Chapman said he strongly encourages students to take the survey, as it will have a significant impact on the tuition proposal student leaders draft, which will be released to the public Feb. 14, the same day administrators release their tuition proposal.

UA President Peter Likins said that although the survey will not influence the dollar amount of the administrative tuition proposal, it will be significant in gauging whether students are interested in paying additional mandatory fees.

"The survey will be very helpful in assessing the desirability of an information technology fee," Likins said. "It won't have much impact on the tuition question, but there is a separate question as to how interested students are in paying an additional fee that's revenue would be restricted (to) information technology."

The survey includes a question regarding where students would like to see tuition revenue spent, such as class availability, library service enhancements, child-care, campus safety, financial aid or graduate assistant tuition remission, while another question asks how

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Trio of UA student groups awarded for political activism

By Anthony D. Ávila
ARIZONA DAILY WILDCAT

Following the Associated Students of the University of Arizona's effort to invoke civic engagement during the presidential election, the group received a new award created specifically for their work.

ASUA, The UA Young Democrats and the UA College Republicans were all presented with the award at halftime at Thursday's men's basketball game.

F. Ann Rodriguez, Pima County recorder, presented the first Young American Award, because their efforts this year were unparalleled in Arizona history, Rodriguez said in a press release.

"We should all be proud of these young people for their efforts in presenting their

viewpoints to Arizona citizens. They demonstrated passion in their political beliefs," Rodriguez said.

ASUA was given the top honor, and the College Republicans and Young Democrats each received an honorable mention.

Rodriguez said she created the award to commend political activism and leadership applied by student groups on campus.

Rodriguez said the groups earned the recognition through months of dedicated work, including planning details and bringing political discussion to campus.

The student government worked with Rodriguez, who oversees all Pima County voting sites, before the fall semester to get an early voting site on campus for the Nov. 2 elections, said Alistair Chapman, ASUA president.

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From right, president of the UA College Republicans Danielle Roberts, president of the UA Young Democrats Alicia Cybulski and student body President Alistair Chapman receive the first Young American Award as a result of their efforts to increase civic engagement on campus.

EVAN CARAVELLI/
Arizona Daily Wildcat