



ARIZONA DAILY WILDCAT

Friday, February 21, 2003

SERVING THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA SINCE 1899

wildcat.arizona.edu

SHOOTINGS REMEMBERED

Honoring slain professors

Three trees bring new life
to College of Nursing lawn

By Bob Purvis
STAFF WRITER

A week after a disgruntled student shot and killed three UA nursing professors, a Native American shaman came to the college to share his condolences.

During his visit, he shared a vision with Marjorie Isenberg, dean of the College of Nursing. He foresaw a positive future for the school in which the school would be surrounded by many small trees that would one day grow high above the rooftops, giving the school sanctuary and protection, Isenberg said.

Yesterday afternoon, four months after the deaths of professors Cheryl McGaffic, Barbara Monroe and Robin Rogers, the shaman's vision was realized as three trees were planted in the grass west of the building where the nurses were slain.

Grey skies hung overhead as nearly 200 students, colleagues, friends and family members of professors gathered for the planting of three trees in their memory.

Rain soon forced the crowd indoors where deans from the Colleges of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Engineering and Mines and Science explained their decision to donate the trees and a memorial plaque to the College of Nursing.

"We at the UA want to reach out and say 'We support you' to our colleagues in the College of Nursing," said Joaquin Ruiz, dean of the College of Science.

Ruiz and other speakers said the trees were a fitting symbol of remembrance for the slain professors.

"When I think about trees I think about nurturing and growth. I think about a monument to these three women who did their job properly and paid with their lives," Ruiz said.



DAVID HARDEN/Arizona Daily Wildcat
Rachel Rogers, daughter of Robin Rogers, looks to her boyfriend Mike Deal for support yesterday after a ceremony in which three trees were dedicated to the three professors who were shot.

The three college's deans had each considered planting the trees, but the plan did not become a reality until they randomly met in a hallway.

"When I talked to the deans, we all agreed that the trees symbolized new growth and healing and moving on," Isenberg said.

"We will always remember," Isenberg said. "We will be long gone but those trees will still be there."

The three Mexican orchid trees are the only specimens of their kind on UA grounds. They will grow large enough to offer shade from the summer sun and sprout a "striking pink bloom" in the spring, said Libby Davison of the campus arboretum.

As the service ended, the clouds cleared and the rain ceased, temporarily allowing people to gather around the trees and exam-

See NURSING/3

Troupe pushes limits

Comedy Corner integrates
racial humor into shows

By Jeff Sklar
SENIOR WRITER

When a student comedy troupe tried some terrorism-related humor at one of its weekly performances, its members learned that topical jokes sometimes hit a nerve.

In the Comedy Corner sketch, a paranoid white man was sitting on a plane next to an Arab man. When the Arab man reached into his bag to pull out a Walkman, the other man became unnerved and distraught.

"I don't think anybody laughed the entire time," said Comedy Corner member Justin Thomas.

He thinks some people would laugh if they tried the sketch again today, but it may have crossed the line at the time — just after Sept. 11, 2001.

In an often philosophical, often humorous discussion yesterday, Thomas, Comedy Corner director Zach Landis, local playwright Silviana Wood and *Arizona Daily Star* cartoonist David Fitzsimmons addressed racial humor, political correctness and their role in shaping society.

Speaking to an audience of about 40 people, the four panelists agreed that racially tinged humor can be appropriate, but that the ethnicity of the speaker matters in determining whether a joke is racist or simply funny.

"We can say it but we don't want

See HUMOR/10

Group protests alleged UA link to private prisons

By Devin Simmons
STAFF WRITER

Through the use of funding allocated for students, UA is perpetuating the incarceration of people nationwide while reaping benefits of its own, according to protesters from the Students Against Sweatshops.

Members of SAS assembled in front of the Administration building at 12:30 yesterday afternoon to demand that the university stop doing business with those who do business with private prisons.

"We will not tolerate our money being pushed into companies that condone and capitalize on unnecessary imprisonment and inhumane

conditions," said Erica Watson, a journalism and creative writing freshman and an SAS member.

In a letter from SAS to President Pete Likins on Jan. 30, SAS opened the debate by outlining the university's relationship with Lehman Brothers, an international bond-underwriting firm.

Lehman Bros. has underwritten bonds for the university in the past, according to SAS, including an \$18.6 million contract in 1999 for parking and student housing facilities, and a \$93.1 million contract in 2002 for system revenue refund bonds.

Lehman Bros. is also one of the leading bond-underwriters for the private prison industry. According to the letter, Lehman Bros. single-

handedly bailed out the Corrections Corporation of America in 1999, giving it a waiver on a credit agreement to keep it out of bankruptcy.

The Corrections Corporation of America is the leading private prison industry in the country and the sixth-largest corrections system overall, with 60 facilities in 21 different states, according to the company's Web site.

The Corrections Corporation of America has three facilities in Arizona housing up to 5,405 inmates, including criminals from Alaska and Hawaii. Two of the facilities are in Florence and with another in Eloy, according to an overview

See SAS/3



WILL SEBERGER/Arizona Daily Wildcat
Arthur Richards, undeclared freshman, satirizes UA President Pete Likins in a Students Against Sweatshops protest.