

EARTH DAY 2003



DANIELLE MALOTT/Arizona Daily Wildcat
Mark Scartezin, drummer for the band Mae Ploy, plays on the mall for yesterday's Earth Day celebration. Over 40 organizations took part in the festivities, which focused on saving the environment. See PAGE 14 for story.

Student leaders look to aid sick

Resource center would provide support groups, other services for chronically ill students

By Tessa Hill
STAFF WRITER

With an idea that would be the first in the Pacific-10 Conference, two UA students are hoping to make being sick a little easier.

Their plan is to develop a resource center for students who suffer from chronic illnesses ranging from allergies to Crone's Disease.

"There are a lot of students who have illnesses and need to cope with them, as well as being a regular stu-

dent," said Associated Students of the University of Arizona Senator and communication junior Jason Poreda, who, with the assistance of his senate aide, came up with the idea.

Poreda said the resource center would serve as a support group, as well as a place for information.

"Sometimes students need to take the semester off or start new treatments, and sometimes that can be scary and hard to deal with," said Poreda, who suffers from Crone's Disease, an intestinal disorder.

"It's something that no one has really thought of yet," Poreda said.

Working alongside Poreda on his quest to develop the resource center is his senate aide, industrial engi-

neering junior Amanda Meaker, who also suffers from a chronic illness.

"We started looking at other universities to see if they had a program like this already implemented, and unfortunately none of them did," said Meaker, who has hypoglycemia, a condition that requires her to eat on a schedule that relates to her blood sugar levels.

"We would love for it to start at the U of A," said Meaker, who added that most of the universities she contacted expressed an interest in the program.

The proposed center would be student-run, with the help of medical officials, and would have

State asks UA to cut additional \$3.7M

UA will bear \$8 million in cuts next year; ASU, NAU slated to split \$16.3 million

By Cyndy Cole
LEGISLATIVE CORRESPONDENT

PHOENIX — Republican legislators released a new proposal yesterday that would cut UA's budget by 2.5 percent in 2003-2004, eliminating money to hire new instructors as enrollment grows.

The Republican lawmakers proposed cutting beyond what they proposed in late January — \$3.7 million more — to bring the funding UA receives from the state's general fund down to \$308,555,100 from this year's \$316,546,300.

House Speaker Jake Flake (R-Snowflake) said the move wasn't a plan to cut universities, per se.

"We're working very closely with the universities on this. We're working with them and not against them," Flake said.

The UA would receive an \$8 million cut next year under this proposal. Arizona State University and Northern Arizona University would share the rest of the \$16.3 million cut to the universities.

UA enrollment has grown by an average of less than 1 percent per year over the past 10 years, according to the UA Fact Book. Usually the state legislature sends funds to hire new instructors and staff as enrollment grows.

UA lobbyist Greg Fahey said this proposal was worse than

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'Excellence' mergers don't stray far from January plan

By Devin Simmons
STAFF WRITER

Administrators are sticking with plans for seven program mergers that were proposed in January, according to an update released yesterday.

News of the administration's recommendation to merge the departments of German studies and Russian and Slavic studies came as a complete surprise to faculty members who thought they were in the clear.

"We were under the impression that we were off the hook," said Tom Kovach, German studies department head. "We thought that reason had prevailed, but now it just feels like we are in the twilight zone."

The announcement came in Financial Planning Bulletin 25, which was released to the UA community yesterday. The bulletin detailed the status of mergers that have been proposed by the President's office as part of Focused Excellence.

Focused Excellence, unveiled at the beginning of the school year, is President Pete Likins' plan to narrow the university's

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