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Students call UAPD racist

Protesters accuse officers
of violating civil rights

By Devin Simmons
STAFF WRITER

Nearly 40 students assembled in front of the Administration building yesterday afternoon to protest what they called a history of racist actions in the University of Arizona Police Department.

Protesters deplored what they considered a “disturbing trend of racial profiling and brutality” in the police force.

“Police have been going after Africans and harassing minorities everyday,” said Rachel Wilson, a UA employee and activist.

Katie Daubert, an anthropology sophomore who spoke at the protest, provided five examples of what she called “severe civil rights violations” that have occurred over the past four years. Two of those incidents involve questionable police treatment of two African-born faculty members, professor Irene d’Almeida and professor Julian Kunnie.

The group called for the immediate dismissal of both Officer Robb Fountain and Officer Thomas Hawke, who were involved in the detainment of d’Almeida and Kunnie, respectively. They also recommended the creation of a citizen’s review board to oversee the police and an immediate end to the policies of racial profiling.

The call for the officers’ dismissal drew many cheers of support from the gathering audience.

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CHRIS CODUTO/Arizona Daily Wildcat
President Likins addresses a group of students accusing UAPD of racism yesterday.

ROAD TO DISCOVERY



DEREKH FROUDE/Arizona Daily Wildcat
As science and technology takes off across the board, UA takes a special interest in the field of biosciences. With a new biosciences research area in the works for the university, local scientists have high hopes for UA’s future contributions to the growing field.

Revolutionary research

Editor’s note: This is the first in a two-part series on UA research in biosciences. Tomorrow will feature the economic impacts of that research.

By Jeff Sklar
SENIOR WRITER

More than 50 years have passed since two British scientists discovered the structure of DNA. Their finding marked the first step in what has been a half-century-long process of unlocking the molecule’s mysteries.

Now, scientists have mapped the human genome. Research is leaping beyond learning DNA’s structure, and scientists around the world are searching for ways to apply their newfound genetic knowledge toward



improving quality of life.

And UA wants a piece of it.

Within a few years, scientists say, research conducted at UA could allow patients with a difficult-to-diagnose illness to check into a hospital for treatment based on their specific genetic makeup, rather than the one-size-fits-all medication they might get today.

The field that will turn this dream into a reality is known as biosciences, and aside from the implications it could have on human health, it is also one of the fastest-growing and most profitable in the nation.

But researchers and administrators say that if UA will make it to the forefront of the biosciences field, researchers across the life sciences will need to reevaluate how they do their jobs.

Advancing medical science

Imagine going to the doctor with a bone disease and being told that a new machine could re-grow your bones. A local company started by two UA researchers is working on a machine that the company’s scientists expect will do just that.

At Focal Point Microsystems, which was started by Joe Perry and Seth Marder, two faculty members with joint appointments in the chemistry and optical sciences departments, researchers are using technology that allows them to create three-dimensional microstructures.

You almost have to squint to see the tiny chips they create, but because they’re three-

See **BIOTECH/10**

Mall grass will cost a lot of green

By Bob Purvis
STAFF WRITER

Nathan Bell remembers the first time he set eyes on the UA Mall.

Bell, a computer engineering and science sophomore, visited UA when he was a high school junior, and he remembers standing on the grass, watching the Mall come to life as students threw a frisbee around and laid out in the sun.

But now Bell eats his lunch on the lawn in front of the Administration building, 100 yards away from the place where he stood that day. From there, he can see the

mangled and almost bare stretch of land that was once the center of campus life.

“I have been waiting years for them to get the Mall together,” Bell said. “Hopefully, they will get it right this summer.”

Associate Director for Facilities Management Chris Kopach said, however, that the wait for grass on the Mall is almost over.

Kopach said that immediately following the May 17 commencement ceremony, the area stretching from Old Main to the Joseph Wood Krutch cactus garden will be covered in rolls of new sod.

The 50,000 square foot lawn will cost

nearly \$30,000 to re-turf.

According to grounds supervisor Janine Corbin, the bulk of the grass was killed by heavy foot traffic during construction of the Student Union Memorial Center when students were forced to use the Mall as a detour.

As part of the rebuilding process, Swinerton Builders, the contractors of the new union, reseeded the Mall in the fall.

However, Corbin said that by reseeding the lawn just weeks before the semester began, Swinerton didn’t allow enough time for the grass to take root.

See **GRASS/3**