

## Knepper jury still deciding

Trial resumes today after jurors break for weekend

By Devin Simmons  
STAFF WRITER

The jury has yet to come to a decision in the case of a former UA student who lost his eye when he was shot with a beanbag round after a riot broke out on North Fourth Avenue.

Jeff Knepper, 21, and his lawyer have suggested an award of \$2.1 million for medical costs, pain and suffering after he was shot on April 2, 2001, moments after the UA men's basketball team lost to Duke in the NCAA championship game.



Jeff Knepper

Tucson police, assembled in riot gear, fired several beanbag rounds from flex batons into the crowd. One of the rounds, which Knepper's lawyer, Carl Piccarreta, said was fired by Detective Michael Mare, struck Knepper in the eye, completely blowing it out.

Attorney Daryl Audilett, representing the city, suggested an award of \$192,000 as a more reasonable sum.

Audilett told jurors that Knepper was in the best position to prevent his injuries by choosing to leave the area, instead of remaining on scene to watch several rioters take part in vandalism, fights, and the setting of fires.

He went on to ask the jury if it was fair that Knepper stayed willingly to watch the riot but is now there "with his hands

See KNEPPER/3

## CINCO DE MAYO



DANIELLE MALOTT/Arizona Daily Wildcat

Tucson residents Vanessa Celaya and Heather Camolli perform with the Escaramusa Flor de Primavera during yesterday's Cinco de Mayo celebration at Tucson Bargain Center on East Irvington Road and Interstate 10.

## Cinco de Mayo festivities begin

By Cara O'Connor  
STAFF WRITER

This weekend many UA students put down their books and picked up 99-cent Coronas to celebrate Cinco de Mayo, but few knew what they were celebrating.

Cinco de Mayo does not honor Mexican Independence Day, as many students think; rather, it marks the anniversary of the Mexican victory in 1862 over Napoleon III's French army at Puebla, Mexico.

But some students said they don't pay

much attention to the history behind the celebration.

"Really, people just use it as an excuse to get drunk and not to embrace the actual relevance of the battle," said Cliff Mason, an interdisciplinary studies junior.

"It's another excuse to party, just like St. Patty's Day," said undeclared sophomore Urian S. Pickett.

And party they did.

Saturday night, the line at El Charro Café on East Broadway Boulevard went halfway through the parking lot and the wait was more than an hour at 11 p.m., said hostess Brenda Trujillo.

"Cinco de Mayo is always big for us," she said. "We have a huge Cinco de Mayo."

The festivities will continue tonight, but some students said they plan to stay home and study.

"I would love to celebrate it. However, it falls on a Monday right before finals, and sometimes you've just got to be responsible," Mason said.

El Parador Mexican Restaurant manager Brian Stegall said the restaurant will not hold its usual Cinco de Mayo celebration simply because it's a Monday.

See HOLIDAY/3



CHRIS CODUTO/Arizona Daily Wildcat

Physiological sciences senior Peter Bowman lost his much of his hearing at the age of two due to chickenpox.

## Hearing irregularities don't hinder students

By Tessa Hill  
STAFF WRITER

Like many other children growing up, Peter Bowman caught chicken pox. Unlike other children, however, the virus left him with more than a few scars.

At the age of 2, Bowman lost more than half of his total hearing capacity because the virus damaged several of his auditory nerves. The doctors said the damage was irreversible.

Now a physiological sciences senior, Bowman said he has relied on hearing aids, lip-reading and front-and-center seats in class to make it through four years of college.

"I rely mostly on reading lips," said Bowman, who said the biggest obstacles he has faced in the classroom were professors with thick accents or soft voices.

"I integrate (lip reading) with sounds I

hear and then figure out what they are saying," Bowman added.

Although Bowman wears an invisible hearing aid to class and in other situations where it is especially important to hear clearly, his hearing loss requires neither interpreting services nor captioning devices, but patience and confidence.

While Bowman has lived with his condition since childhood, other UA students just learned of their hearing irregularities this weekend during a free screening offered by the speech and hearing sciences department in honor of Better Speech and Hearing Month.

Thomas Muller, audiologist and clinical instructor for Speech and Hearing Sciences, was on hand at the event and said that although only a few of the estimated 200 attendees were students, hearing impairments can really affect the lives

See HEARING/9

## Adoption ads aid would-be parents

By Sarah Wadsworth  
STAFF WRITER

Nestled in the newspaper between advertisements for acne cream and "hot singles" is an ad addressed to pregnant women looking to place their child with an adoptive family.

Couples who cannot conceive due to fertility or medical issues place ads as an alternative, or in addition, to more conventional approaches to adoption in an attempt to reach as many women as possible.

"It's like fishing in a lot of different fishing holes," said Lisa Pain, 44, a Phoenix woman who placed an ad in the

See ADOPTION/10