



SAUL LOEB/Arizona Daily Wildcat

Philosophy sophomore Crystal Missimer sits in a mock dorm room as part of a Tunnel of Oppression skit about the perfect — or not-so-perfect — body image for girls Tuesday night in Kaibab-Huachuca Residence Hall. The Tunnel of Oppression ends tonight.

## Tunnel of Oppression exhibit brings violent reality home

BY SARAH NIXON  
Staff Writer

"God hates you, faggot. You queer, you'll burn in hell," a cluster of enraged protesters screamed at students who were walking down a dark walkway.

Some students began walking briskly to escape the yelling; others smirked nervously. One protester shouted, "What the fuck are you laughing at, you freak of nature?"

The students filed into a basement area where they witnessed an abusive boyfriend push and slap his girlfriend for studying with a male friend.

"You're such a slut — look how you're dressed. I bet your friend likes those trashy clothes," raged the boyfriend, as he violently threw books across the room.

After seeing several scenes depicting racism, body image-problems and violence, the majority of students were

straight-faced and numb with reality.

But the protesters were actors.

The fifth-annual Tunnel of Oppression began Tuesday at Kaibab-Huachuca Residence Hall, 922 E. 4th St.

The walk-through exhibit of scenarios, images and statistics is an in-your-face portrayal of the violence and prejudice some people experience every day.

"I thought there would just be

See **OPPRESSION**, Page 6

## State takes over worker healthcare

BY STEPHANIE SCHWARTZ  
Staff Writer

Change is on the horizon for almost 9,000 UA employees who use the state-provided healthcare program.

Healthcare premium providers may change starting Oct. 1, 2003, when the state will become self-insured and act as its own insurance company. The state will decide specifics regarding healthcare by February or March.

The change could mean very little for state employees at first, said Republican state Sen. Edward Cirillo, who heads a committee on healthcare for public employees.

But eventually, the change could mean employees could get to choose from more healthcare providers and physicians, he said.

The big difference with the change is that the state will assume the risks for the 8,848 employees under the plan, rather than CIGNA, said Marcia Chatalas, associate executive director of human resources.

For example, if a UA employee has surgery, currently CIGNA healthcare would pay. With the new program, the state would pay, Chatalas said.

This means the state will establish its own benefits packages and assume the risk of paying claims.

The state-run program includes dental and medical needs, including some type of mental health coverage, said Kris Kreutz, director of administrative services of Campus Health service and part of the committee representing UA employees.

The state will probably still contract with a healthcare provider for the new plan. This could continue to be CIGNA or a different provider, Cirillo said.

In an effort to get input from all those the change may affect, the Legislature asked UA employees and retirees to complete a survey about their healthcare needs. Over 2,350 people completed the survey.

The two biggest changes in healthcare UA employees would make, according to the survey, would be to have more flexibility in choosing providers and in choosing pharmaceuticals, like opting for generic drugs over brand name drugs.

Cirillo said the legislature hopes to take the surveys under consideration.

"Once we digest the changes and start looking at options, we would hope to look at the surveys to see what employees prefer," Cirillo said.

The Arizona Department of Administration asked for the proposals of the healthcare programs to be in place by mid to late November. The state will then look for providers and networks and see what bids they get, Kreutz said.

Decisions regarding the exact money changes should be decided by February or March.

"As we go forward in the future, we will look at

See **INSURANCE**, Page 6

## Degree unites science, business

BY BRITTANY MANSON  
Staff Writer

A College of Science master's program meshing business and science for a tailor-made degree specially designed for the needs of the scientific industry graduated its ninth student last semester.

The Professional Master's Degree program was developed in response to industry leaders' interest in hiring highly educated students who understand the connection between science and business, said Alaina Levine, director of special projects for the College of Science.

The program, which currently has 26 students and 9

graduates, allows students to choose from three tracks: applied and industrial physics, applied biosciences and mathematical sciences.

Each track consists of five parts: core science courses, business courses, lectures from industry professionals, internships and final projects.

The business courses include foundations of business for scientists, which covers marketing, accounting and business ethics, among others, and project management, which includes processes and applications geared toward the science and industry sector.

The colloquia feature

professionals from organizations and businesses like the Los Alamos National Laboratory, Intel Corporation and IBM. Leaders from different companies also visit mixers to recruit students and tell them about the career options available to them.

The program helps its graduates obtain jobs in various fields like consulting, commerce, patent and regulatory affairs, research management and technology transfer, which is how a idea or innovation goes from an individual, company or university to the public, said Levine.

She explained this program is a professional pro-

gram, which carries the credibility and reputation as a doctorate program.

The Sloan Foundation funded the program through a national initiative in 1997. Alfred Pritchard Sloan, Jr., then president and CEO of General Motors, established the foundation in 1934.

Students choose between doing a master's thesis and a report based on their internship experience as a final project.

Levine describes the program and the idea of combining science and business as a "revolutionary approach to graduate students in sciences."

See **SCIENCE**, Page 8



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Chemistry professor Michael P. Doyle speaks about the various options available to students after graduation in the biomedical field yesterday afternoon in the Physics and Atmospheric Sciences building.