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Prop. seeks to legalize medical pot

BY JESSE GREENSPAN
Staff Writer

When Dan Shapiro, an assistant professor in the psychiatry department, was diagnosed with cancer in 1987, he tried to take the pain without the use of drugs.

Once it became too much, he tried Marinol, which is usually found in pill form and contains high concentrations of THC, a chemical that kills pain and is also

the active ingredient in marijuana.

"Marinol was an unrelenting chemical high, whereas with marijuana, I could smoke very little and get the effect I wanted," he said.

With Proposition 203 set to appear on the ballot on Nov. 5, people like Shapiro may no longer have to grow marijuana in their backyards to relieve their pain.



Arizona.

"It's ludicrous that physicians have drugs like morphine and Percocet (at their disposal) and don't have something far less addictive," Shapiro said.

Besides requiring the

The initiative, which is sponsored by "The People Have Spoken," would legalize medical marijuana in

Department of Public Safety to distribute marijuana free of charge if a person's physician supplied written documentation, Prop. 203 would also decriminalize marijuana for personal use.

A "yes" vote would require only a \$250 fine for people caught with less than two ounces, and the fine could be waived if the person agreed to complete a court-approved education program.

In addition, Prop. 203 would

increase the penalty for violent crimes committed under the influence of drugs, while the minimum sentence for non-violent offenders would be eliminated.

But there is strong opposition to Prop. 203.

"It's real simple," said Tony Ryan, a public information agent for the DEA in Tucson. "There is no such thing as medical marijuana."

See **MARIJUANA**, Page 6

Ombuds want more opportunities to help

Campus volunteers work with UA community to solve problems ranging from academics to work conflicts

BY SARAH NIXON
Staff Writer

Conflicts in school, work, family life and personal relationships can be overwhelming at times.

Midterms are here.

The workweek is never long enough to finish everything.

Tensions between friends, coworkers and family can run high.

One group on campus wants to help faculty, staff and students deal with day-to-day problems and questions early on.

The UA Ombuds Committee seeks to minimize conflict, resolve confusion, misunderstandings and misconceptions by facilitating communication between members of the UA community on confidential grounds.

They handle a broad range of social problems, conflicts between members of the UA, and more.

Faculty, staff members and students can call the Ombuds Committee for problems and questions ranging from academic policies to conflicts with coworkers.

"Ombuds is like having a best friend you can say anything to," said Ombuds program coordinator Claudia D'Albini. "There's nothing to lose by calling Ombuds."

Initially, callers speak with the program coordinator, who assesses what the problem involves, then contacts the most apt ombud to speak with the caller about the specific issue.

The on-campus service, which helped 368 callers and visitors last year, is comprised of 12 faculty, 14 staff, 14 personnel and three student members. The staff is ethnically diverse, because each ombud represents a myriad of individuals at UA, D'Albini said.

Each ombud was nominated by their peers and appointed to ombuds by President Pete Likins on the basis of their knowledge of UA policies and procedures and their experience in mediation.

The volunteer assistants are not professional counselors, but under certain situations may refer a caller to an expert. Sexual harassment and domestic abuse cases, and other illegal actions a caller reports will be reported to authorities, with the caller's permission.

Ombuds volunteers help people assess the risks of getting a professional involved in addressing their problems and organize a method of action that empowers a student or employee to handle the situation on their own.

"Each contact is unique. In 11 years, it is rare for two incidents to be identical. We non-judgmentally assess each call individually with honor and respect," D'Albini said. "With so many policies and procedures at the university, some students are guided to

See **OMBUDS**, Page 8



DEREKH FROUDE/Arizona Daily Wildcat

How does it feel?

Brian Bocchino, a classics junior, and Eric Barleen, an undeclared freshman, take some time out of their class schedules to participate in Rolling Stone magazine's campus tour music trivia show on the UA Mall yesterday around noon. The expo featured a lounge, a What's That Track Contest and a quiz center.

Veteran UA cop hangs up nightstick

BY DEVIN SIMMONS
Staff Writer

"Dependable" is the word that comes to most people's minds when asked about 23-year University of Arizona Police Department veteran Corporal Larry Forchione.

In his time patrolling the streets, Forchione has cracked a number of cases, mentored other officers and formed a family — figuratively and literally — on the force.

There was the time he recovered \$25,000 in costumes stolen from backstage of the Broadway production "Les

Miserables" when the play came to Centennial Hall in 1999.

All of the stolen property was later found in an apartment and returned to the production, thanks in no small part to Forchione's persistence.

"When he got the case there were absolutely no leads," detective Rolf Averill said. "But he never gave up. He stuck with it and got it done."

Averill has worked with Forchione for 14 years, three of them as his supervisor.

Forchione, who has been in investigations since 1992, decided to hand over his badge after the department reassigned him to patrol this past summer. He said

that the department was looking to get some younger, new blood in the investigations section.

"Cops want to be street cops; they don't want to be administrators," Cmdr. Sam Ragland said. "They love the excitement of the field. But you get to a point where you realize that you are not as fast as you used to be. Larry can look back on a wonderful career with great memories."

The UA has grown to be so vast compared to the community Forchione patrolled when he started and Forchione said campus doesn't feel small enough

See **RETIREMENT**, Page 15

Cor. Larry Forchione holds a retirement badge presented to him at his retirement party yesterday afternoon. Forchione was with UAPD for 23 years and had been with investigations since 1992. He was reassigned to patrol this past summer, prompting his retirement.



ALYSON E. GROVE/
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