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.”

How does it feel?

Brian Boscione, 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 UAMall 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

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

Veteran UA cop hangs up nightstick

The on-campus service, which helped 368 callers and visitors last year alone, 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 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 profession- al involved in addressing their prob- lems 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 identi- cal. We non-judgmentally assess each call individually with honor and respect,” D’Albini said. “With so many policies and procedures at the universit- y, some students are guided to"

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BY JESSE GREENSPAN
Staff Writer

When Dan Shapiro, an assistant professor in the psychiatry department, was diagnosed with cancer in 1997, 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 the active ingredient of THC, a chemical that kills pain and is also

the active ingredient in marijuana. “Mariol 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.

The initiative, which is sponsored by “The People Have Spoken,” would legalize medical marijuana in Arizona. There’s nothing to lose by calling Ombuds.

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