

# ARIZONA DAILY WILDCAT

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Monday, February 23, 2004

The University of Arizona, Tucson

## ASUA candidates set to debate

By Dana Crudo  
STAFF WRITER

Students who want to learn about the ASUA presidential candidates should make a trip to the union today to watch the first non-ASUA sponsored presidential debate.

The *Arizona Daily Wildcat* is directing the debate today from noon to 1 p.m. in the UofA Bookstore in the Student Union Memorial Center.

Daniel Scarpinato, editor of the *Desert Yearbook* and a panelist, said the debate will give students the chance to see why they should care about

who is their student body president next year.

Scarpinato will moderate the debate with Jeff Sklar, two-time editor in chief of the *Wildcat* and an administration reporter.

"Hopefully students who come will see through our questions why the elections are important," Scarpinato said.

He said for as long as he can remember, candidates have been running campaigns, saying they want to make students more aware of

what student government does.

He said this is a good opportunity for students to see which road candidates want to take ASUA on.

Scarpinato said the debate would give students the chance to see the personalities of the candidates.

Saul Loeb, editor in chief of the *Wildcat*, said the debate will provide an opportunity for students to meet the candidates and hear what they are all about before the

**LOW DOWN**  
ASUA presidential debate, today, Noon — 1 p.m. UofA Bookstore, Student Union Memorial Center

See ASUA/11

## Students writing own letters of reference

### Some professors allow students to write own recommendations

By Natasha Bhuyan  
STAFF WRITER

Writing a letter of recommendation for a student requires a professor to do a fair amount of homework, but some professors say they don't have the time.

Instead, professors are letting the students do the work.

Elena Plante, an associate professor for speech and hearing sciences, said she allowed a student to write her own letter because the deadline was quickly approaching.

Even though the student wrote most of the letter, Plante said there were parts of the letter she had to enhance because she noticed that students underestimate their own abilities.

"I think doing this is fine because I will only sign a letter if I agree with it," Plante said.

Graduate schools across the country said as long as the professor's signature is authentic, they also do not see a problem with the practice.

Mary O'Rourke, the director of admissions and student services for Johns Hopkins School of Nursing, said if the signature matches, the letter is valid.

"We take a variety of factors into context and consider every piece," she said. "A bigger problem we have is that some students don't write their own essays."

Joan Dim, managing director of the office of public affairs for New York University's school of law, said she was not aware professors did this, but also does not see a problem.

But Joe Ford, the assistant director of admissions for Michigan State University's school of business, said he highly discourages students writing their own letters, even if the professor does edit for content.

"The letter of recommendation can give us insight into

See RECOMMENDATIONS/10

## CARRY ME



KEVIN KLAUS/Arizona Daily Wildcat

Communication sophomore Shannon Kolder participates in a team-building experience for her INDV 102 class, in which a group attempts to pass individuals through a web of string with different-sized holes at the ropes course next to the Rincon soccer field. If one of the students makes contact with the string, a bell will ring and both that person and the previous person would have to go through the web again.

## Smoking ban gets boost at UA discussion

By Andrea Kelly  
STAFF WRITER

Smokers who want to break the habit may find it easier if an Arizona smoking ban that is being debated at the Legislature is passed.

On Saturday, legislators, professors and health advocates gathered to discuss the topic, "Is Arizona ready for smoke-free workplaces/public places for all?"

According to statistics from the Centers for Disease Control, 18 percent of Americans smoke, and 70 percent of them are trying to

See SMOKING/9

## Prof sees light at end of death's tunnel

By Sarah Stanton  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The existence of an afterlife is a mystery that has plagued religion, philosophy and psychology since their conception — until now.

For seven years, Gary Schwartz, a UA professor and director of the Center for Frontier Medicine in Biofield Science, has been conducting afterlife experiments and research that he believes prove the survival of human consciousness after death.

"When you look at the totality of the data, the simplest and most parsimonious explanation that accounts for the largest amount of data is the survival of consciousness hypothesis," he said.

The experiments are performed in

a lab with a medium, a sitter and Schwartz. A medium is someone who believes that he or she can communicate with the dead, and a sitter is a person who wishes to gain knowledge about a deceased loved one.

The medium receives messages from the dead and then relays them to the sitter, who tells Schwartz if the information is correct or incorrect. These messages can include the deceased's cause of death, memories that include the deceased and the sitter and "signs" for the sitter that indicate the deceased is around him or her.

After the experiment, Schwartz analyzes the data and determines the accuracy of the medium's reading.

In this process, he rules out information that the medium got about the deceased before the experiment or that

See AFTERLIFE/11



KEVIN KLAUS/Arizona Daily Wildcat

Gary Schwartz, a UA professor and director of the Center for Frontier Medicine in Biofield Science, holds a cap used to measure brain waves. Schwartz is conducting a study on the effects the human heart of one person has on another person.

Quest started for UA Equestrians

PAGE 13

Conquered once again

PAGE 15

Hoops loses 90-84 at Oregon State



Students learn hands-on at Legislature

PAGE 3