

ARIZONA DAILY WILDCAT

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The University of Arizona, Tucson

Students protest PC disposal

By Natasha Bhuyan
STAFF WRITER

Students decked out in Hazmat suits on the Mall yesterday had a mission: to show their peers that computers could kill.

The students, who wore the Hazmat suits to protect themselves from "toxic computer parts" on a nearby table, were members of the Arizona Student Recycling Association, and the suits were used to attract attention to the national Computer TakeBack Campaign.

Rob Wild, president of ASRA and a physics senior, said many students aren't aware of how toxic discarded computers are to the environment.

Alex Perwin, a pre-business junior, said the suits were worn to demonstrate that computer waste is dangerous.

"Education is the biggest way to help change," Perwin said.

Members of ASRA asked students to sign a petition, and wore the hazardous material response suits to protest the disposal of computers. The petitions and the suits will be sent to Michael Dell, chief executive officer for Dell Computers.

Wild said Dell Computers, along with other computer companies, sends old computers to agencies that ship them to foreign countries where they are improperly discarded.

Emily Kara, an environmental science senior, said the restrictions on computer disposal are not as stringent in developing countries, and various toxins end up in the water supply.

As a result, Laura Showalter, vice president of ASRA and biology sophomore, said citizens of other countries are dying.

Wild said the petitions will hopefully get Dell to produce less toxic computer parts, recycle responsibly and take back computers from users for free, rather than charging consumers a \$15 fee.

Wilson Hughes, a waste reduction planner for the City of Tucson Environmental Services, said proper computer disposal is a labor-intensive process, and is done overseas at a cheaper cost.

"But the toxins in computers are not benign chemicals," Hughes said.

According to an ASRA handout, overexposure to the mercury from the light bulbs in a computer's flat display panel may result



Geography junior Cullen Cramer signs student recycling group president Rob Wild's Hazmat suit yesterday on the Mall as part of a petition the group was circulating for the Computer TakeBack Campaign.

in brain and kidney damage, while barium in the front panel can cause brain swelling, muscle weakness, and heart, liver and spleen damage. In addition, each computer monitor contains 4 to 8 pounds of lead, and

chromium on the steel plates can cause DNA damage and asthmatic bronchitis.

Alana Levine, program coordinator for Recycling and Waste Management and

See RECYCLING/3

Activity fee taken off March ballot

Student leaders say too many loopholes in plan

By Dana Crudo
STAFF WRITER

Student leaders decided yesterday not to ask students to vote on the activity fee until April, saying they need more time to determine the fee's structure.

The Associated Students of the University of Arizona Senate was going to vote on whether to put the student activity fee on the March ballot, but the initiative was struck down.

Instead, a special election will be held for the fee in April. Student leaders on the Collaboration Board originally proposed that the fee be between \$5 and \$15 per semester.

ASUA Sen. Nick Bajema, who worked on the proposal, said there were too many loopholes and that they did not want to rush the fee only to see it fail down the road.

"We don't want students to vote on a work in progress," he said. "We want it to be perfect and solid."

Bajema said it is important to get the fee passed this semester because next year's student leaders may not have the dedication to continue with the project. The idea of a student fee has been discussed for the past decade, and students this year have the initiative to do something about it, he said.

"Student leaders are together now. If it is going to happen, it's going to be this year," he said.

ASUA Sen. Sara Birnbaum said that student input is still a necessity.

"We would love to hear the opinions of the students," she said.

The Collaboration Board includes representatives from ASUA, the University Activities Board, Panhellenic Council, Interfraternity Council, Residence Housing Association and Graduate and Professional Student Council.

Students back tuition hike, want more aid

By Jeff Sklar
SENIOR WRITER

More UA students supported than opposed a possible tuition hike during a forum with regents yesterday, and most agreed that tuition hikes must be packaged with financial aid increases.

Students from a variety of backgrounds told regents they'd support a tuition increase, which would likely be between \$400 and \$490, as long as it's combined with better financial aid for undergraduates and graduate students.

"You must be willing to support these efforts in a financially bold manner," said Graduate and Professional Student Council President Jani Radebaugh, speaking about the need to grant free

See TUITION/8

'Passion' debuts to mixed reviews

By Mitra Taj
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The most controversial film of the year, "The Passion of the Christ," debuted yesterday to long lines of moviegoers, including UA students and religious scholars, who had mixed reviews.

Ed Wright, the head of the Judaic studies department saw the film yesterday and criticized it for offering a literalist interpretation of the film that neither Christians nor Jews would agree with.

"The Passion of the Christ," a film directed by Mel Gibson, depicts the last 12 hours of Jesus' life.

Wright, a Christian, originally did not want to see the movie, calling it "completely uninspiring."

"Violence is the whole movie. The story of the passion itself is only a fraction of it," he said. "Gibson's forcing one view on the community."

But many Christian students who saw the film last night said they believed the portrayal is historically accurate.

"It was very violent and bloody, but it was just telling it as it was; the portrayal was no more than that," said Jennifer Anderson, a math and education junior who left the movie theater teary eyed last night. "It was very realistic, very heart touching."

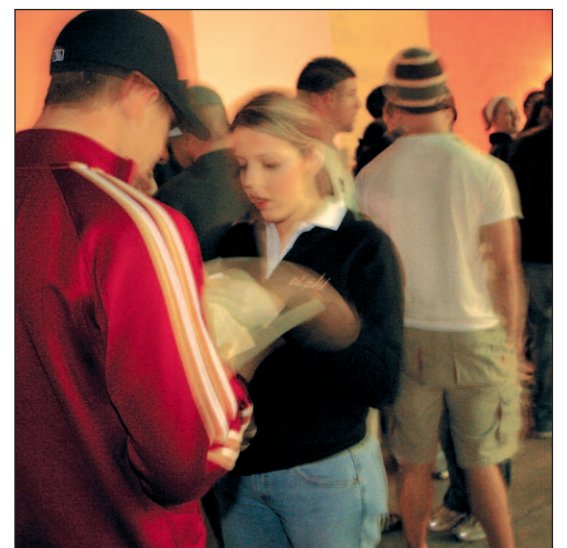
Other Christian moviegoers found the film to be an emotional and spiritual experience.

"It made me cry," said Patrick Klein, a physiology sciences sophomore. "The beating scenes — which were like 90 percent of the movie — were unbearable."

Klein said he hopes the film will inspire others to share his beliefs.

"I hope it'll open people up," he said. "Maybe they'll see this and then seek the next step."

See PASSION/8



Pre-business freshmen Nicholas Steffey and Jennifer Pratt wait for the 9 p.m. showing of "The Passion" last night at the Century 21 theater at the El Con Mall. The line nearly stretched to the parking lot.

Hoops looks for revenge tonight against UW

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Director Brazilian nominated for 'City of God'
tries for Oscar gold

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NAU sex column brings blowup

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