Students lobbying for fee run polls

By Dana Cradel
Arizona Daily Wildcat

As voting began yesterday on a student fee referendum, some of the people managing polling booths on campus were the same students who have spent recent weeks lobbying for the fees’ passage.

However, of about 15 voters questioned during a half-hour near student union polling places, only two said the fee supporters’ presence unnerved them, and student government officials defended the poll workers’ objectivity.

The Associated Students of the University of Arizona elections code prohibits campaigning within 25 feet of an established polling place.

Fee supporters, however, didn’t consider their action campaigning because they were helping fix a technical problem as well as encouraging people to vote.

ASUA Sen. Nick Rajtman, who helped create the fee proposal, said he was helping students log in and out of the voting Web site, which is accessed through Student Link.

Rajtman said many times the computers would not let students out of Student Link, and he was making sure the process was completed before another student attempted to vote.

The computer problem has been fixed, Rajtman said.

While Rajtman said he understood that being so close to the voting stations could make people uncomfortable, he, along with other fee supporters, were simply encouraging students to vote.

“We are encouraging students to vote,” Rajtman said.

See FEE9

MINORITY

to fee or not to fee

COMMENTS

Minority groups upset by fee plan

ASUA claims funding allocation reflects will of the student body

By Natasha Bhuyan
Arizona Daily Wildcat

Louders of minority groups say they are worried about the distribution of facilities fee revenue because most of the money will go toward mainstream entertainment.

Eighty percent of the funding generated from the proposed $36 fee would go toward entertainment on campus, but minority club leaders and more should be used for cultural programming and other events.

Student leaders defended the allocation of funds, saying they respect the will of the students. But advocates on both sides of the issue acknowledge that the results of a survey on which they based their decision seemed questionable.

“The results did seem unusually high to us, so it’s not completely accurate,” said Associated Students of the University of Arizona Sen. Matt Harris, who worked on the fee proposal. “But it gave us a rough estimate of what students wanted.”

Dega Farah, treasurer of the National Pan-Hellenic Council, which oversees minority-interest Greek organizations, said minority students will not benefit from the fee because the entertainment is geared toward popular culture and minority students have different interests than just seeing a movie or playing a sport.

MINORITY

See FEE9

Tree-ring lab to be uprooted

Lab’s new home opens in 2006

By Zach Colik
Arizona Daily Wildcat

The largest tree-ring research lab in the country will be uprooted from its home in Arizona Stadium and transplanted to a new location by 2006.

The UA’s Laboratory of Tree-Ring Research, which has called the stadium home for the past 67 years, will move to the Environment and Natural Resources building, two, which will sit beneath the Dennis DaCosta Environmental and Natural Resources building on North Park Avenue near East Sixth Street.

In the new space, the UA and the United States Geological Survey will collaborate to form the Earth Surface Processes Research Institute, which should bring about 100 new jobs to campus by the time the building is completed in 2006, said John Suter, chief scientist of the USGS Western Region Earth Surface Processes Team.

Jeff Dean, professor of anthropology and dendrochronology for the tree-ring research lab, said the new modern facility would also consolidate the facility, which is split between the stadium and the other at the Mathematics East building.

The laboratory analyzes tree rings through dendrochronology, which measures climate changes by studying tree-ring growth.

But if the move didn’t occur, Dean said the stadium facility has more than enough space to house the massive amounts of tree-ring samples already in storage.

“The advantage of this place is that it has room for storage probably in excess of the millions that you wouldn’t get anywhere else,” Dean said. “The ceiling won’t be 36 feet high like it is here.”

The building, for tree-ring research and its partnership with the USGS should help forge a strong relationship between the UA and USGS, Suter said.

“I think it’s going to be an excellent relationship and I’m proud that the UA is looking to build great research opportunities,” said Stephanie Farmer, chief of communications for the USGS.

See TREE-RING

Student Activity Fee: Did ASUA jump the gun?

Huskies swat Jackets

UCONN wins men’s hoops NCAA championship

Bush defends record on economy, war