

## Students lobbying for fee run polls

By Dana Crudo  
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 fee's passage.

However, of about 10 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 75 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 Bajema, 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.

Bajema said many times the computers would not log 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, Bajema said.

While Bajema 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

See FEE/9

## TO FEE OR NOT TO FEE



DAVID HARDEN/Arizona Daily Wildcat

Civil engineering freshman Megan Megann casts her vote yesterday for the ASUA activity fee as ASUA senator Nick Bajema looks on, at a voting center (two laptops and a cart) in the canyon of the Student Union Memorial Center. Most students said the voting center was convenient, while others said the presence of the ASUA members made them uncomfortable while voting. Bajema estimated about 200 students had voted in the two hours after they set up.

## Minority groups upset by fee plan

### ASUA claims funding allocation reflects will of the student body

By Natasha Bhuyan  
ARIZONA DAILY WILDCAT

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

Eighty percent of the money generated from the proposed \$30 fee would go toward entertainment on campus, but minority club leaders said more should be used for cultural programming and other events.

Student leaders defended the allocation of funds, saying it reflects 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 unnaturally 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 Panhellenic Council, which oversees minority-interest greek organizations, said minority students will not benefit from the fee because the entertainment will be geared toward popular culture, and minority students have different interests than just

See MINORITIES/18



CLAIRE C. LAURENCE/Arizona Daily Wildcat

Dendroarchaeologist and research specialist Dr. David Street explains the morphological signs of re-growth on a sample taken from a burned Sequoia tree. The tree ring lab will be moving to a new space after being stationed underneath the Arizona Stadium for over 50 years.

## 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 be situated beside the Dennis DeConcini 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 Sutter, 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 facilities 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 ceilings won't be 30 feet high like it is here."

The new building for tree-ring research and its partnership with the USGS should help forge a strong relationship between the UA and USGS, Sutter 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 Hanna, chief of communications for the USGS

See TREE-RING/10

Student Activity Fee: Did ASUA jump the gun?

PAGE 5



## Huskies swat Jackets

PAGE 11

UCONN wins men's hoops  
NCAA championship

Bush defends  
record on  
economy, war

PAGE 6