Spitter terrorizes UA women

By Holly Wells

When a UA student was walking to class two weeks ago, she got an unpleasant surprise from a man hanging around a UA building.

Gina, who doesn’t want her last named used because she fears the man might try to find her, said she was walking to class on April 12 when a young man walked by and spit on her.

“I saw him walking toward me, and at first I thought he was spitting on the ground, but the spit hit my foot, and he turned around and called me a tramp,” she said.

In the past few weeks, several female students have reported being spit on and verbally assaulted by an unknown man who hangs around the Physics and Atmospheric Sciences building.

According to police reports, three weeks ago, an incident similar to Gina’s occurred when a female student walking by the PAS building was spitten on and called a slut.

The report stated the man described by the student was also suspected of harassing several female students on previous occasions.

Gina said she was too stunned at first to say anything to the man, but she thought about the incident all day.

“No one’s ever called me a tramp before. I was just puzzled by it,” she said.

Gina said the next day, she found out the same thing had happened to one of her friends who had been walking in the same area. Both Gina and her friend had the same description of the man.

Gina said she then decided to report the incident to police, although she did not want to press charges.

“I thought someone should know about it since it’s happened more than once,” she said. “I just want police to find him and tell him to stop; that would be an appropriate action.”

Disability center celebrates opening

By Thuba Nguyen

The Disability Resource Center in the Highland Commons building celebrated its grand opening yesterday, and officials at the ceremony said they hope the new center will improve the quality of academic life for UA students with disabilities.

President Peter Likins, speaking at the event that drew about 100 people, said this center will help disabled students overcome obstacles by offering resources that they cannot get elsewhere on campus.

“This facility is going to become the gold standard of what disability resource centers should look like across the United States,” said Saundra Taylor, senior vice president of campus life.

Taylor said she appreciates the hard work and effort put into making the center accommodating and accessible for disabled students.

“We provide reasonable accommodations to disabled students, like sign language, interpreters, readers (and) note takers,” Kroeger said.

The center also has a fitness gym for athletes and disabled nondisabled, she said.

The DRC serves 1,300 students and a couple hundred staff members on campus.

Equipment in the fitness gym allows disabled students to work out while sitting in their wheelchairs.

Students can do pull-ups, bicep curls and bench press-es from their wheelchairs, said Bryan Bartner, DRC disability specialist.

“The best thing to do is listen,” Harnden said. “We would all be more effective at communicating if we talked to each other.”

New council aims to improve ASUA, club communication

By Dana Crudo

Student leaders have created a new council they say will improve communication between clubs and ASUA, but club representatives question how effective the new initiative will be.

Sara Birnbaum, Associated Students of the University of Arizona executive vice president-elect, created the constituent councils for next year, which she says will help increase club representation on campus.

The councils will consist of a senator, a club advocate and an Appropriations Board member who meet monthly with approximately 40 club representatives.

Each senator will oversee a council to ensure that more than 400 campus clubs are represented.

“It’s a way to get representation to clubs,” Birnbaum said. “It will give clubs access to express their concerns.”

And club leaders said that is exactly what they plan to do at the council meetings.

Mike Harnden, Mock Trial treasurer, said his club has had a rough year getting funding from ASUA.

He said he has worked with two to three club advocates at a time, and the club advocates never knew what had been said previously.

He said this lack of communication caused all the club’s paperwork to be lost and for the checks to be delayed.

“Constituent councils would help because there would be one constant person representing us,” Harnden said.

“Would we all be on the same footing?” Birnbaum said Harnden’s concerns are exactly what she wants to hear from clubs at the council meetings.

“I absolutely want them to focus on their issues,” she said.

“But the best thing to do is listen,” said Dan McGuney, Phi Alpha Delta pre-law fraternity president, and he is not confident that the constituent councils will be effective.

“It’s a good idea, but it’s more club relations than anything else,” he said. “It has very little to do with actually changing anything.”

He said clubs will feel as if they are being heard but that nothing will change.

“Ideally, senators would like to make changes and help clubs, but what can ASUA do to really help club funding?” he said.

He said he will send a representative to complain if there is a serious problem, but he won’t expect some sort of remedy.

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