

ARIZONA DAILY WILDCAT

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The University of Arizona, Tucson

DON'T HATE ME



Theater arts freshman Lisa Gernak acts as a homeless person in the Tunnel of Oppression, held in the Student Union Memorial Center grand ballroom last night. The multimedia tour is designed to challenge students to think about stereotypes, oppression and hatred.

'Tunnel' teaches tolerance

By Alexis Blue
STAFF WRITER

The student flipped through the television stations with a look of disgust on her face passing shows like "Will and Grace" and "Queer Eye for the Straight Guy."

"What's up with all these gay shows lately? It's disgusting. They act like it's OK," she said.

This was just one of the scenes in the sixth annual Tunnel of Oppression, a walking, multimedia tour designed to challenge students to think about stereotypes, oppression and hatred.

"It's an eye-opener for a lot of people," said Adrian Qadra, a finance and business

economics junior. As students were led through the tunnel they encountered scenes about racism, relationship violence, homophobia and body image, all performed by volunteer student actors.

For many, the event hit close to home. "I'm openly bisexual," said Christa Harader, a cultural anthropology junior. "People can hate you so much for the people you're attracted to, it's just amazing to me."

Signs that read, "AIDS cures fags" and "Fags die, God laughs" were posted throughout the tunnel. All were reproductions of signs used in a gay protest on the day of Matthew Shepard's funeral.

Shepard, a gay man, was beaten to death by two men in Wyoming in 1998.

Samantha Palecki, a pre-physiological sciences freshman, said the comments were extremely offensive.

"I have many friends who are homosexual," Palecki said. "They're my best friends and if I ever saw them hurt in such a way, it would destroy me."

Brian Shimamoto, assistant director of multicultural education and advocacy, said most students who go through the tunnel connect with some portion of it on a personal level. Palecki said the most effective portion of the tunnel was the Holocaust scene, in which students were herded into a dark room as a man shouted from the shadows, "Get in there now!"

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Tuition increase may face sanctions

Congressional legislation could implement penalties for university tuition hikes

By Andrea Kelly
STAFF WRITER

Last year's tuition hike brought more money to schools in Arizona, but soon the universities may have to pay for it.

A bill up for consideration in Congress could implement penalties for universities that raise tuition "above a defined threshold," according to the Arizona Board of Regents' November meeting agenda.

The bill would ratify the Higher Education Act, created in 1965 to help the Department of Education with financial aid, strengthening universities and improving education.

"Every six years Congress has to reauthorize it," in order to keep up with changing economic conditions, said Cathy McGonigle, ABOR spokeswoman.

The bill is particularly important for Arizona schools in the wake of a record-setting \$1,000 tuition increase, and talk of another increase in the coming year in order to reach the top of the bottom one-third of tuition rates among peer universities in the country.

"The universities would have to evaluate the financial impact," said Stephanie Jacobson, assistant executive director for academic and student affairs for the regents.

At Thursday's regents' meeting, the board will be updated on what issues may be presented or debated among Congress; then the regents will look at how the changes may affect Arizona schools, McGonigle said.

The penalties that may be imposed with the introduction of the bill include the loss of eligibility for Title IV student aid (except for Pell grants and student loans).

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Flinn roadmap hopes to bring more biotech jobs to Tucson

By Alexandria Blute
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Proposed improvements to life sciences research at the UA will hopefully bring high-paying biotechnology companies to Tucson, UA life sciences faculty members said yesterday.

These companies would potentially create jobs and improve the economy, the faculty members said.

The 50 researchers, professors,

and various life science board members gathered in the Integrated Learning Center to discuss the UA's role in a proposed plan aimed at strengthening biomedical institutions statewide.

The plan, called a roadmap, outlines progress to be made over 5- and 10-year increments at a cost of more than \$1 billion.

The roadmap, proposed by the philanthropic Flinn Foundation in connection with Battelle, an independent nonprofit research company, was proposed as a means of

strengthening bioscience departments in Arizona's three universities and other biomedical institutions in the state.

UA's bioscience strengths, determined in 2002 by Battelle, include cancer and infectious disease research and bioengineering. The report encouraged the UA to develop its research in those areas before branching out to broader bioscience fields.

The plan will fortify the

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Stuart Williams, chairman of biomedical sciences, addresses a crowd gathered at the ILC yesterday afternoon. Fifty researchers gathered to discuss the \$1 billion roadmap to strengthen biomedical institutions statewide.

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