Students prepare for disaster

Police, ASUA hope campus disaster drill will increase awareness of university

By Dana Crudo
Staff Writer

At 9:03 a.m. yesterday, a fire alarm sounded in the Communication building, signaling the start of the opening scene of UA’s disaster drill.

Matt Harris, an Arizona Students of the University of Arizona senator, covered in white powder, pumped the stomach of a unconscious student while yelling phrases like “Holy cow, he is dead or something” and “I need some help,” following his script for the first scene of yesterday’s four-hour disaster drill.

Foot powder, a cold shower and stomach pumping were all part of Harris’ day as he played “Peter Paramedic,” who was supposed to try frantically to resuscitate his unconscious pledge brother. He only had minutes to prepare for the drill.

“I know when I get angry I curse,” said Harris.

In the end, Harris opted to leave out any bad words while he role-played.

“They’re kind of restrained when you’re a paramedic,” he said.

ASUA Sen. Sara Bimbash got into her role as a hysterical secretary as she stood in front of various TV cameras, cried over the dead student and blamed herself for his death.

At another moment, she was pestering officers while yelling, “It was an interesting experience. It was fun to yell at cops without getting in trouble,” Bimbash said.

He continued playing his role, asking officers what the stuff was and shouting that he didn’t want to die.

Police officers eventually told Harris to calm down and stop smelling the powder.

See ASUA/10

UA TV helps students find ‘true love’

By Nathan Tafoya
Staff Writer

Arizona students tuning into their favorite radio stations may soon hear the voice of surfer coach Lute Olson, encouraging them to drink responsibly.

In a news conference yesterday, Olson announced he has teamed up with the National Beer Wholesalers Association and Arizona beer wholesalers to make a public service announcement encouraging those under 21 not to drink alcohol, and those 21 and older to drink responsibly.

The 60-second announcement is part of an ongoing alcohol awareness campaign by NBWA featuring sports celebrities, elected officials and entertainment figures.

Golden Eagle Distributors and Finley Distributing Co., the city’s two largest wholesalers, had representatives at the conference.

“Local beer wholesalers recognize the critical role communication can play in discouraging irresponsible consumption of alcohol,” said Kimberly Clements, executive vice president of sales and marketing for Golden Eagle Distributors.

“If it can make a difference in a few cases even, for me why that’s worthwhile,” Olson said of the PSA.

See UATV/12

UA drill prepares campus for terror

By Ty Young
Staff Writer

Brian White has a pretty good excuse for missing yesterday’s psychology class.

After taking a shortcut through the back door of the Cesar E. Chavez building, on his way to the Center for English as a Second Language building, he was stopped by a police officer who told him he might be contaminated with a dangerous chemical or biological substance.

He looked around and saw the entire area between the buildings surrounded by yellow caution tape. That’s when he realized that he had unwittingly walked into the UAPD disaster drill.

“(The officer) told me that I was part of a crime scene, and he didn’t want to teach me because he didn’t want to get contaminated,” said White, a veterinary science junior. “I knew there was something going on somewhere on campus, so I played along with it.”

He was detained for about a half hour and was sent through a Hazmat decontamination tent positioned outside the Communication building.

“It wasn’t that bad,” he said. “I guess I’ll find out Thursday if class was canceled.”

Around 9 a.m. yesterday, the disaster drill was set into motion when somebody called 911 to report an unconscious student in the Communication building.

For the next three hours, UAPD, Tucson police, and other safety officials practiced their response to university-related disaster scenarios.

After police and emergency crews arrived at the scene, an envelope filled with a white powdery substance was delivered to the building.

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