

ARIZONA DAILY WILDCAT

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The University of Arizona, Tucson

Students ask for ASA buck back

By Melissa Wirkus
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

UA graduate students want the \$1 fee they pay each semester to fund the Arizona Students Association back because they say student lobbyists aren't representing them.

"We are requesting our money back because we just don't feel like the representation is here this year," said Jani Radebaugh, president of the Graduate and Professional Student Council. "We are not being represented."

There are four positions on ASA open to UA students. One is reserved for the student body president, and the other three are open to graduates and undergraduates.

This year, all the student lobbyists are undergraduates.

The GPSC feels ASA needs to have a representative who is well informed on graduate issues and is a graduate student, Radebaugh said.

But Alistair Chapman, ASA director, said graduate students showed little interest in the position.

"Graduate students are welcome to apply for any appointed position," Chapman said. "We want to increase graduate representation, but we just never got any response from them."

The ASA is a statewide, student-run lobbyist group that works with the Arizona Board of Regents and advises students on financial and academic issues.

Each semester, the ASA collects \$1 from all students to facilitate the cost of lobbying.

Radebaugh said there have been problems advertising the positions to graduate students.

"It is hard to get information to grad students," she said. "We just never heard about it. We didn't know we needed to send a representative."

See GRADS/7

Meningitis registration could cost UA \$40,000

By Bob Purvis
LEGISLATIVE CORRESPONDENT

PHOENIX — Health officials at the UA say legislation requiring dorm residents to disclose whether they'd been treated for meningitis, a potentially fatal disease, would cost the school nearly \$40,000, and do little to curb the disease's occurrence.

The only group that stands to benefit from the bill is Aventis Pasteur, the company that manufactures the vaccine and is a client of lobbyists pushing the bill, said Dr. Harry McDermott, director of UA Campus Health and Wellness Service.

The bill, sponsored by Sen. Carolyn Allen, R-Scottsdale, would require the three state universities to distribute information on the risks associated with meningococcal disease, or bacterial meningitis, and the effectiveness and availability of vaccines for the disease, which the UA already does.

The bill would also require students living in dorms or off-campus university housing to be entered into a campus registry disclosing when

See MENINGITIS/7

FROZEN FOOD



KEVIN B. KLAUS/Arizona Daily Wildcat
Gene Giacomelli, a professor and director of the UA Controlled Environment Agriculture Center, observes a bell pepper that was grown in a hydroponic system to be used in a food growth chamber for the South Pole.

UA 'GREENHOUSE' SENT TO SOUTH POLE

Scientific team in Antarctica to grow fresh food

By Jessica Lee
STAFF WRITER

In a frozen land where the sun doesn't shine from March to July, scientists who endure the South Pole's harsh winters at the Amundsen-Scott Research Station crave a supply of something crunchy and fresh.

Arriving in Antarctica this week after traveling nearly 10,000 miles, a UA-built "greenhouse" will soon be quenching the scientists' desire for romaine lettuce, cucumbers, herbs, and sweet and hot peppers.

Waking in the subzero, pitch-black mornings, the first things on researchers' minds are their stomachs.

"I've been told that the most important thing when the South Pole Station personnel wake up is, 'What's for breakfast?'" said Gene Giacomelli, agriculture and biosystems engineering professor and director of the UA Controlled Environment Agriculture Center.

Giacomelli helped design and manage the project.

But the apparatus isn't technically a greenhouse, as it uses no sunlight.

Instead, artificial light is used to grow food in a growth chamber.

Fully enclosed, the food growth chamber is approximately 10 feet by 30 feet. About two-thirds of the chamber will be used for the crops, while the other one-third will welcome people to sit and absorb the artificial light for psychological benefits.

Funded by a \$450,000 grant from the National Science Foundation, the chamber is unique in several respects.

All of the plants are grown in a hydroponic environment, a system where plants live solely in trays filled with water, rather than soil. Nutrients, similar to household Miracle-Gro, are placed directly in the water that is recycled over and over through the system of trays.

The apparatus provides the plants with the carbon dioxide and light they need to survive.

The carbon dioxide is shipped to the station as compressed gas and then pumped into the chamber.

A unique lighting system was designed in which 12 1000-watt high-pressure sodium lamps are used to completely light the chamber.

See ANTARCTICA/23

Financial aid law can't stop drug use

Students, UA officials ignore 2000 federal act

By Holly Wells
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Under a federal law passed in 2000, students convicted of drug offenses are barred from receiving financial aid. But according to campus officials, the law is not enforced.

John Nametz, director of the Office of Student Financial Aid, said the law receives little attention on campus.

Nametz said his office doesn't receive information on whether a student has been denied financial aid because of drug-related convictions, making enforcement of the law difficult.

The Higher Education Act is enforced through the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, which asks students whether they have any past drug convictions.

But Nametz said students could easily lie about a conviction in order to keep their financial aid.

"Anyone could lie their way around it, but they would face felony charges if they're caught," he said.

Four years after the law's passage, federal legislators are fighting to repeal the law.

Last year, Rep. Barney Frank, D-Mass., introduced a bill that would nullify the law.

Rep. Raul Grijalva, D-Ariz., said the Higher Education Act is an unfair punishment for drug offenders.

"No one wants to condone drug use, but the conviction and record are enough punishment," he said. "It should not be a permanent barrier to the eventual education of the student."

Rep. Jim Kolbe, D-Ariz., disagreed with Grijalva. "I believe that financial aid should be limited to those who have complied with the law," he said.

In addition to barring students from financial aid, the act requires students convicted of a drug offense after receiving aid to notify their financial aid adviser and pay back any money they received.

Jane Glickman, an official from the Department of Education, said the law is being enforced.

"It's up to the student to answer the form," she said, adding that the law does not bar students from receiving state or school aid.

As of August 2003, the Department of Education reports that 209,838 students nationwide have lost financial aid.

Glickman said even with these statistics, it's hard to pinpoint the exact number of students who were

See MARIJUANA/7



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY DAVID HARDEN/Arizona Daily Wildcat
Students who are caught with marijuana can lose their financial aid money, including scholarships and grants.

UA inks
20 new football
recruits

PAGE 17

Dancing a diary
Performance tells Anne
Frank's story

PAGE 9



Mass. high
court approves
gay marriage

PAGE 3