UAYD’s removal still unattributed

By Cassie Tomlin
Arizona Daily Wildcat

No organization involved in President Bush’s Social Security forum at the Tucson Convention Center Monday will claim responsibility for denying a UA student entrance.

UA Young, Democrat Steven Gerner, who obtained a ticket to the forum from the office of Congressman Raul Grijalva, D-Arizona, said he was banned from joining the audience of 1,500 mostly UA students, faculty, and pre-pharmacy sophomores because of his affiliation with the University of Arizona Young Democrats (UAYD).

“Secret Service and TPD (Tucson Police Department) took over security from the TCC entrance at the event but did not have authority to stop anyone from entering the forum unless there was a disturbance,” said Gerner, a political science and pre-pharmacy sophomore.

Gerner said he assumed he would be great to produce off-campus but even though the tree is no longer standing, it is not completely gone. A local horticulturist located in the desert garden on the UA Mall.

UA biomedical research specialist specializing in the field of boojum survival, said former UA student Joe Aldridge and other band members from the Refuge Student Ministry and Priority College Ministry played yesterday evening behind the Park Student Union. About 100 students gathered to enjoy the free Eegee’s, good weather and music that included an assortment of Green Day, Weezer and John Mayer covers.

The root system and the top tips are being cloned. The tree was the oldest boojum in the United States and the tallest in Arizona, and was cut down because it had no chance of surviving.

The stump of old-boojum was standing in the Joseph Wood Krutch Desert Garden on the UA Mall and had to be cut down almost immediately because it was likely to fall on the nearby sidewalk and harm people, Perrill said.

But even though the tree is no longer standing, it is not completely gone. A local horticulturist (who wished to remain anonymous) is attempting to root the healthy tips of the tree because, "It has historical value and it would be great to produce offspring from its genes to let it live on," Perrill said.

Perrill said once the tips have been rooted it can be called a clone because it has the same gene material as the original tree.

"We all have our fingers crossed," Perrill said. "We certainly hope to get at least one, maybe even two or three offspring."

The tips are dry but in good condition, even though they had no water for some time ranging from six months to three years, depending on when the disease started, Perrill said.

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SINGIN’ IN THE SHADOWS

By Djamila Noelle Grossman
Arizona Daily Wildcat

An exemplar of the rare boojum trees that grow on campus for nearly 70 years was cut down March 12 because it was dying, but the tree is finding life as its tips are being cloned.

The tree was the oldest boojum in the United States and the tallest in Arizona, and was cut down because it had no chance of surviving, said Robert Perrill, a UA biomedical research specialist and owner of Boojum Unlimited who discovered the disease.

Perrill said he saw the upper stem of the tree was leafless and found not completely through the base, confirming his suspicion the tree was sick. It is unclear what kind of disease the tree had.

The 37-foot Boojum was standing in the Joseph Wood Krutch Desert Garden on the UA Mall and had to be cut down almost immediately because it was likely to fall on the nearby sidewalk and hurt people, Perrill said.

"We had no idea that it even happened (until contacted by media late Monday night)," said Jack Camper, president of Tucson Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce, the host committee.

Camper adamantly denied any involvement in the regulation of audience members or any knowledge of a list banning individuals from entering.

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