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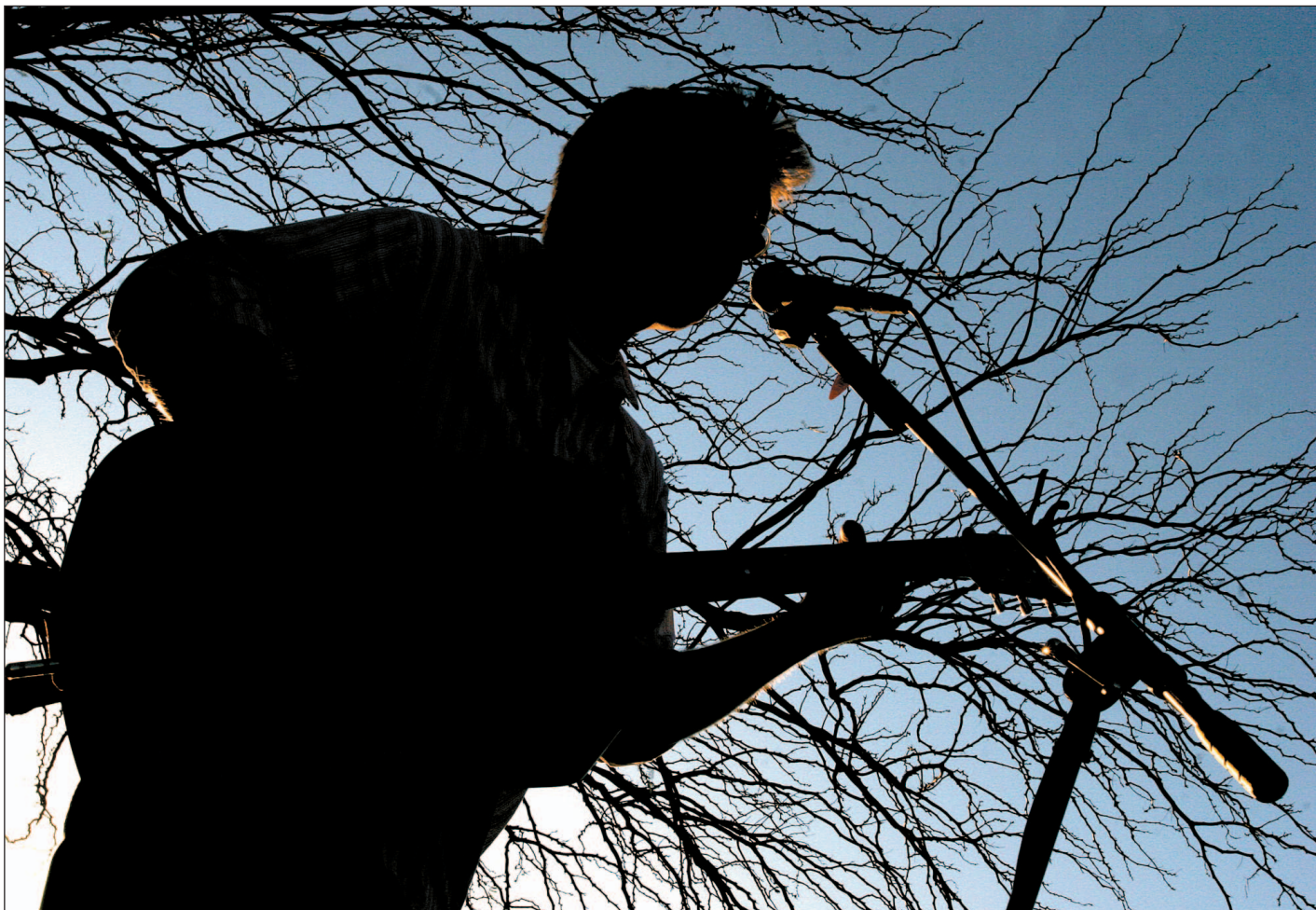
ARIZONA DAILY WILDCAT

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The University of Arizona, Tucson

SINGIN’ IN THE SHADOWS



CLAIRE C. LAURENCE/Arizona Daily Wildcat
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.

Professors react to Bush plan

By J. Ferguson
ARIZONA DAILY WILDCAT

UA professors in several disciplines said they are skeptical of Bush’s plan to prioritize Social Security.

Gerald Swanson, a professor of economics and the Thomas R. Brown chair in economics education at the Eller College of Management, said Bush’s plan to use personal accounts does not address the solvency issue of Social Security.

Projections by the Congressional Budget Office suggest that, by 2018, Social Security will become insolvent with more money going out in payments than collected in taxes.

“Personal accounts could be a nice thing, but they are not the answer,” Swanson said. “They actually leap frog (the insolvency) by taking money out (of the Social Security fund) when we need it the most.”

Swanson, who recently wrote a new book called “America the Broke,” a critique on the American economy, said the insolvency was the real issue facing Social Security.

A former government consultant on Social Security, Swanson said there are only a few options to solve the insolvency issue.

Swanson suggested one way to fix Social Security would be to means test beneficiaries, or to scrutinize individuals on whether they need Social Security. To help fix the problem, he suggested phasing out of the system or reducing recipient benefits with yearly retirement incomes in excess of \$150,000.

“We need to try and protect the person that makes \$4,000 a year,” Swanson said. “The ones that will depend heavily on that for retirement.”

Other options, Swanson said, would be to delay the age requirement, reduce some benefits to recipients or to increase the payroll tax. Payroll taxes are collected to pay for Social Security benefits.

“(Future generations) would have to pay much higher in taxes,” Swanson said. “Private accounts won’t help.”

Swanson said he is concerned the Social Security discussion is focused too much on the

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

while waiting to enter the convention center his ticket was confiscated and crumpled up by a staffer who then told him his name was added to a list and he was not allowed inside.

Gerner, a political science and pre-pharmacy sophomore, said he assumed he was banned from joining the audience of 1,500 mostly invited guests because of his UAYD T-shirt, which the staffer asked to read before

seizing the ticket.

“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.

“Secret Service and TPD (Tucson Police Department) took over security from the get-go,” Camper said.

TPD officers manned the TCC entrance at the event but did not have authority to stop anyone from entering the forum unless there was a disturbance, said Sgt. Carlos Valdez, TPD spokesman.

“There’s no way we would have been involved in that—

See TICKET/14

See BUSH/15

Rare fallen boojum tree cloned

By Djamila Noelle Grossman
ARIZONA DAILY WILDCAT

An exemplar of the rare boojum trees that grew 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 rot 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 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 off-

spring 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.

The root system and the top

See BOOJUM/15



UA biomedical research specialist Robert Perrill visits the stump of old-est boojum tree in the US located in the Joseph Wood Krutch Desert Garden on the UA Mall. The rare tree was cut down during spring break after Perrill discovered the tree was diseased and had no chance of survival.

DJAMILA NOELLE GROSSMAN/
Arizona Daily Wildcat