Silence for breakfast, shouting for dinner

A group of UA lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender students and their allies took a nine-hour vow of silence yesterday in quiet protest for the oppression they have suffered throughout their lives.

Students gathered on the grassy area in front of the fountain near Old Main in preparation to break their silence yesterday afternoon, and as the clock struck 5, screams erupted from the crowd.

The intensity drew applause then laughter from the crowd as the students spoke their first words of the day.

“This is the first year the UA has held events on campus for the National Day of Silence, and more than 50 students participated in the event. Many of them gathered on the UA mall to share a silent lunch together. ‘It really grounds you and makes you look at things differently when you can’t speak,’ said Edmon Yohannes, a political science sophomore. ‘It’s very eye opening.’

Participants carried around explanation cards that were used to easily describe their refusal to speak.

‘Disability reframed’: rugby on wheels

The changing, smashing and banging of metal near the Alumni Plaza yesterday seemed to startle some people, but what was more surprising was the sound came from the UA quadriplegic rugby team.

The quad rugby exhibition game, organized as part of the Disability Resource Center’s awareness series “Disability Reformed,” was the first game the team played for the UA public, said Bryan Barten, a disability specialist who also plays on the team.

Travis Murao, a quad rugby player, said that because the biggest difficulty for the players was staying cool in the sun, they periodically damped water on themselves to keep their temperatures down.

From noon to 1 p.m., two teams of four players each competed on the Alumni Plaza within an area blocked off by orange barricades and yellow caution tape in front of spectators and students eating lunch.

Murao said the event was a great way to expose the UA community to a sport they have not seen before.

“The most awareness people have is of basketball, but really there are so many (adaptive) sports out there,” said Murao, a freshman majoring in microbiology.

Legislators still consider guns in bars

PHOENIX — Legislators are continuing to debate a statewide hot topic involving what some say is the clash of two rights: the right to bear arms and the right to public safety and welfare, as these issues come together in a proposal to allow guns in bars.