Birth control sales down nationally, up at UA

By Alexis Blue
Arizona Daily Wildcat

A government study reported the number of sexually active women using birth control is on the decline, but Campus Health officials say they have not seen evidence of such a decline on campus, where oral contraceptives account for nearly half of all prescriptions filled.

Campus Health Service fills 200 to 250 birth control prescriptions each day, making oral contraceptives 47 percent of all prescriptions filled, said Jana Knutson, a Campus Health pharmacist.

"A lot of our business is birth control," Knutson said.

However, use of the pill is down nationwide, according to a federal government analysis of contraceptive use released last month.

The findings showed the number of sexually active adult women who chose not to use birth control rose from 5.2 percent in 1995 to 7.4 percent in 2002, sparking some concern among health professionals that unwanted pregnancies could increase by as much as 11 percent.

But Knutson said the amount of birth control prescriptions filled by Campus Health has remained steadily high in recent years, and although she was unable to provide exact statistics from 1995, she estimated the numbers were about the same then as now.

Despite the number of birth control prescriptions filled on campus, Lee Ann Hamilton, a health educator at Campus Health, worries there are still students who don't have adequate information on birth control.

"I'm surprised sometimes how little students know about reproduction and contraception options," said Hamilton, who gives sex education talks in residence halls and to the greek system.

See BIRTH CONTROL/10

Bush inaugural protested

Students, Tucsonans march from Old Main

By Cassie Tomlin
Arizona Daily Wildcat

About 200 people gathered at the UA Old Main fountain yesterday afternoon to walk in an inauguration day protest march downtown to a rally at the Federal Building.

UA students and Tucson citizens of all ages convened at the fountain at 3:30 p.m. wielding noisemakers, megaphones and signs in protest of President Bush's swearing-in ceremony.

Several UAPD officers stood atop the Old Main building overseeing the crowd before they began walking east on University Boulevard, leaving the campus at around 4:15 p.m.

The line of walkers and bicyclists stretched from Euclid Avenue to Park Avenue on University Boulevard as they occupied the entire right lane of the road. Bicycle police patrolled the intersections, directing traffic away from the protest.

The protest march was led by three motorcycle police, followed by two protesters holding a cardboard sign reading "Torture never wins hearts and minds."

"Not my president, not my war. We won't take it anymore," and "1, 2, 3, 4, we don't want your fascist war, 5, 6, 7, we will not participate," the protesters chanted.

Several men sat outside of three fraternity houses on University Boulevard, holding up American flags.

See PROTEST/10

Kidz Korner supports student parents

By Anthony D. Ávila
Arizona Daily Wildcat

A play center for children opened last month in an effort to make the UA more student-parent friendly.

Kidz Korner, located on the fourth floor of the Student Union Memorial Center in the Commuter Student Lounge, is a modest-sized play area for children to entertain themselves while their parents study.

However, children must be supervised by a parent or guardian while they play, said Heather Gasser, senior coordinator for Commuter Student Affairs.

"We really want to stress that parental supervision is required," Gasser said.

"Kidz Korner does not function as a day care, so parents cannot just leave their kids there," Gasser said.

Gasser said she and other student parents are frustrated with the lack of child care resources at the UA, and Kidz Korner is only a small step in the ongoing effort to bring a daycare center to campus.

"The fact is, the UA is the only Pac-10 school that does that have a daycare facility on campus," Gasser said.

The Dean of Students Office allocated $2,000 to launch Kidz Korner, which is furnished with a toy cabinet, toys, a television, VCR, videos and a 2 1/2 foot tall portable wall.

The idea for Kidz Korner, which is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. weekdays, originated from a study conducted by the Commission on the Status of Women to determine what the university could do for parents on campus, said Zelda Harris, CSW, chairwoman.

Commissioners of the Committee on Campus Climate, a CSW survey group responsible for assessing the safety, diversity and civic needs of the university, conducted a study on student parents in 2003 on which they based several recommendations, Harris said.

One recommendation was to install changing stations in the campus lavatories, which was implemented in 10 buildings at the beginning of fall 2004.

Another recommendation was to have

See KIDZ/10

New telescope to scan sky for dark energy

By J. Ferguson
Arizona Daily Wildcat

A contract with the UA's Steward Observatory Mirror Lab will help astronomers scan the sky for substantial asteroids possibly headed on a collision course with Earth.

A $2.3 million contract with the mirror lab will pay for the 8.4-meter diameter main mirror for the Large Synoptic Survey Telescope. Philip Pinto, a UA associate professor of astronomy and member of the Lsst board of directors, said the LSST is unique when compared to other telescopes because it uses wide-angle format rather than the traditional format used in telescopes.

Pinto said while other large telescopes look deep into the sky to observe the remote por-