New club proposes solar cells on campus

By Aubrey McDonnell

A new club on campus is working independently to collect student support to make the UA more environmentally savvy and cost-efficient.

The Energy Conservation and Lifestyles Initiative Partnering Students and their Environment is a nonprofit group comprised of 15 students who are working toward the goal of conserving natural resources on campus.

The club is proposing a two-semester fee of $1 per student each semester with student voting for whether they want the fee. Before Eclipse can get their proposition onto the Associated Students of the University of Arizona ballot this spring, the group must have signatures from 10 percent of the UA student population who support their claim by March 1.

Members have been collecting signatures from students by sending around their petitions in large lecture halls and soliciting signatures during lunch hours, said Nicole Sanderson, president of Eclipse.

“We are trying to introduce sustainable technologies to the university,” Sanderson said. “A contribution of $2 from every student is all we need to power one building with solar energy.”

Last year, the university spent $1.5 million on electricity, according to public records. Eclipse plans to use the fee money to buy solar panels to power one of the larger buildings.

See ECLIPSE/10

Students advocate for Black History Month

By Alex Grubb

Student groups and departments are teaming up to put on a full range of events to celebrate Black History Month, despite the small black student population at the UA.

Although the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Campus had a small budget last year, Alex Wright, director of African American Student Affairs, said this year there are many events planned.

Wright said there are always budget problems, but if you are creative there are ways around them. Celebrated in February, Wright said it is more than just Black History Month.

The department of Campus Life, the Department of Multicultural Programs and Services, the Diversity Resource Center and the Faculty Fellows program have all helped sponsor activities through the AASA.

“Black History Month shouldn’t just be recognized by one area or department. It would be nice to see more help from other departments,” Wright said. “With events like the Tunnel of Oppression, it is more of a month of making people more socially aware,” Wright said.

However, some students feel although there are more events planned than last year, it is still not enough.

“Awareness could definitely be increased,” said Gerard Kimbuende, an electrical engineering senior.

“Last year there was very little I was aware of,” Kimbuende said.

Other students agreed with Kimbuende and said black history should be promoted more.

“I don’t feel it’s recognized enough. In high school, I felt like we did more things to celebrate it, but not here,” said Larissa Smith, an anthropology senior.

“It could have something to do with the fact that there are only about 900 African-American students here at the UA, and some of them are of mixed descent,” Smith said. “It might be one reason why it’s not celebrated as much.”

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