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# ARIZONA DAILY WILDCAT

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## Students experience prejudice, hatred in Tunnel of Oppression

By Cassie Tomlin  
ARIZONA DAILY WILDCAT

Students got a taste of what it feels like to be victims of hate and discrimination yesterday on the opening night of the UA's 17th annual Tunnel of Oppression.

The walking, multi-media tour guided students through the basement of the Kaibab-Huachuca Residence Hall, 922 E. Fourth St., and through rooms featuring themed skits demonstrating discrimination relating to class, race, physical challenges, relationship violence and body image.

"This is a campus of mostly white, middle-upper class students," said assistant director of multicultural education and advocacy for Residence Life and project adviser Brian Shimamoto. "We hope the tunnel helps them to realize that not everyone experiences the way you do."

Last year's Tunnel of Oppression was held in the Student Union Memorial Center because construction on the Park Student Union next door to Kaibab-Huachuca forced coordinators to find another location.

Shimamoto said based on evaluations taken after the tour, students thought the small space of the residence hall's basement was more effective than the large ballroom of the Student Union Memorial Center.

Theatre arts sophomore Jen Whitcomb ran the body image skit because she said the issue is something she has always struggled with.

Whitcomb picked two people out of every group and instructed others in the group to read slips of paper with negative comments regarding body types.

"I was teased growing up a lot and it took me a long time to come to terms with it," Whitcomb said. "Sometimes you have to shock people to wake them up."

Theatre arts sophomore Christopher Burnham volunteered in the tunnel as a Nazi and screamed at the group of people, herding them into a room with information about human genocides.

Burnham said his role was difficult



MATT ROBLES/Arizona Daily Wildcat  
Theatre arts sophomore Christopher Burnham, right, and journalism junior Sam Brace act as Nazis shouting obscenities at a student participating during the Tunnel of Oppression last night at Kaibab-Huachuca Residence Hall. The guided tour allows students to experience how it feels to be a victim of discrimination.

because he had trouble coming up with sufficient derogatory and vulgar things to yell at the students.

Burnham said the Tunnel of Oppression is important to the UA campus because many students don't realize how it feels to be attacked because of

their race or sexual orientation.

"I identify as a bisexual, and I face insults and indignation," Burnham said. "I want people to have insight into what it might be like to be part of a group that gets treated this way."

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## ASUA plan addresses classroom shortage

By Jennifer Amsler  
ARIZONA DAILY WILDCAT

Student leaders catered to undergraduate student concerns over the lack of courses in their newly released tuition increase proposal, but some students and administrators question whether the problem exists.

The Arizona Board of Regents will decide March 10 and 11 to either pass President Peter Likins' proposal or the Associated Students of the University of Arizona's proposal.

ASUA's plan would increase resident undergraduate tuition by 8 percent, or \$320. Non-resident undergraduates would see an increase of \$405 per year, or 10.12 percent.

Likins' \$464 increase for resident tuition includes \$60 set aside for information technology, which does not specify if tuition revenue will go to course availability problems.

ASUA leaders released their proposal Monday and said it would use \$30 from each student's tuition to go toward hiring more instructors and teaching assistants.

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## Deans want more fees, direct funding

By Natasha Bhuyan  
ARIZONA DAILY WILDCAT

With a proposed \$464 increase in resident undergraduate tuition and the introduction of eight program fees, UA administrators are attempting to reduce the university's financial burden, but some colleges without program fees said they could also use the money.

Under President Peter Likins' tuition proposal, the Eller College of Management, College of Engineering, and College of Architecture and Landscape Architecture would receive additional funding from program fees.

But officials in other colleges who do not have program fees, such as humanities and social and behavioral sciences, said they also lack funding.

Larry Evers, head of the department of English, said with a program fee or direct revenue from tuition, the department could add new faculty, raise current faculty and staff salaries and reduce graduate assistant workloads.

"Funding for the department of English is poor," Evers said. "Lack of funds compromises our capacity to serve students and inhibits our

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## Students continue to appeal tuition suit

By Cassie Blombaum  
ARIZONA DAILY WILDCAT

A new hearing for the *O* case was held yesterday morning in the Phoenix Court of Appeals to consider reviving a lawsuit in which state university students challenged an in-state tuition hike.

A three-judge panel, headed by Marice Portley, Jefferson Lankford and Phillip Hall, heard arguments in the appeal of a Maricopa County Superior Court judge's dismissal of the suit against the Arizona Board of Regents and other defendants.

The lawsuit was brought forth in August 2003 by UA students Rachel Wilson, Sam Brown, Adrian Duran and former UA student John Kromko, who is

also a former state representative.

Duran has since dropped the case, Kromko said.

"All others are still on," Kromko said in an e-mail.

The suit claimed the then-38 percent tuition hike, approved by the board of regents, was unconstitutional.

The Court of Appeals took the case under advisement yesterday, a day after the universities requested an additional increase in tuition.

Judge Rebecca Albrecht's Feb. 19, 2004, ruling said state law gives the board of regents immunity from lawsuits related to the board's legislative and administrative functions and the Legislature also has immunity for its official business, as reported by *The Associated Press*.

The \$1,000 increase raised in-state residents' undergraduate costs by 38 percent to approximately \$3,600 a year, according to AP sources.

Kromko said the Arizona State Constitution provides that university tuition must be as "nearly free as possible." "It also provides that the Legislature shall make appropriations to maintain, develop, and improve the universities," Kromko said in an e-mail.

When discussing the implications of the recent tuition hike, Kromko said he wondered whether there would ever be an end to the rising costs.

"Is there no limit to this?" Kromko said. Kromko said he remembers when

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