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The University of Arizona, Tucson

KEEPING THE FAITH

STUDENTS RE-EXAMINE RELIGION

By Nathan Tafoya
STAFF WRITER

When she arrived at the UA three years ago, Christine Yafuso turned away from her Christian faith.

"I came here by myself, not knowing anyone," said Yafuso, an ecology and evolutionary biology senior. "I was very homesick and I didn't find a church to attend. I started hanging out and making friends with people in my dorm, many of them not being Christians. We would always go out to parties and drink a lot."

But after three years of partying and with the arrival of her sister on campus, Yafuso decided to return to her faith last semester, attending church and on-campus Bible studies on a regular basis.

According to a recent survey, published in the Chronicle for Higher Education, more than two-thirds of college students have a strong interest in religious or spiritual matters — a finding that surprised many of the survey's researchers.

"Higher education is often seen as a bastion of secularism," said Alexander W. Astin in the article, "but the fact is that students are very interested in these issues." Astin is the director of Higher Education Research Institute at the University of California at Los Angeles, which performed the study, and was a leader in the survey.

But students such as Yafuso illustrate that religion — the surefire topic to raise hell and decibel levels in even the most tranquil settings — is not as simple as the statistics might show.

While students are interested in religion, the UA experience is doing more than preparing students for future careers; it is allowing them to re-examine their faiths both inside and outside the classroom.



CLAIRE C. LAURENCE/Arizona Daily Wildcat
Rev. Daniel Rolland raises the Gospels before a stained glass cross at the Catholic Newman Center Friday afternoon.

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Proposed bill may stabilize tuition

Current students would be 'grandfathered' into old rates if tuition rises

By Bob Purvis
LEGISLATIVE CORRESPONDENT

PHOENIX — A Phoenix lawmaker is pushing legislation that would guarantee full-time students stable tuition rates and make across-the-board tuition hikes for Arizona undergraduates illegal.

The bill, sponsored by Rep. Debbie McCune Davis, D-Phoenix, would make tuition increases solely applicable to the UA's incoming class, and let students enrolled in at least 12 credit hours the semester before a tuition or fee increase attend school at the cheaper rate.

McCune Davis, whose daughter graduated from Arizona State University in December, called last year's tuition increase burdensome to middle-class families and unaffordable for working students.

"I'd like last year's increase to be an exception to the rule," McCune Davis said. "I keep hearing about more tuition increases, and all I can think is thank goodness Napolitano is finished."

The 40 percent in-state tuition hike approved by the Arizona Board of Regents last March drew groans and protests from many UA students who felt it was excessive. A lawsuit from a group of students who said it violated the state

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Student treks to Iowa to aid Edwards' bid

By Tyler Carrell
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Adam Duckworth hopes that in 2004, John Edwards will be the 44th president of the United States.

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► Kerry wins Iowa caucus

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From start to finish of the North Carolina senator's campaign, Duckworth, a political science sophomore, will try to pass on Edwards' beliefs and cause.

On Friday morning, Duckworth climbed into the 15-passenger van that took him across three states in the last days before the Iowa caucus.

As the van coasted along the highway and through

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Thousands march to honor MLK; some push presidential candidates

By Walter E. Staton
STAFF WRITER

"Only half a mile left!" yelled a man before he stuck a recorder in each nostril and a Dixie whistle in his mouth and started playing a tune.

Clay Adams, a local performer known as Black Man Clay, was one of more than 2,000 people marching in remembrance of the late Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. yesterday.

"I'm here for Dr. King," Adams said. "He was a prince of peace."

Adams, along with John Aza on drums and Paul Stephen on tambourine, entertained the marchers as they walked from the UA Mall to Reid Park.

Aza, a mechanical engineering senior, briefly addressed the crowd on the Mall before the march began. A refugee from Sudan, Aza said MLK Day is an important time to remember the struggle for civil rights in the United States.

The march was attended by a wide variety of people and organizations, from black fraternities and sororities to elementary school children.

There were also a large number of people carrying signs and wearing T-shirts for their favorite democratic presidential candidates, causing some to feel the event was over-politicized.

Booths for retired Gen.

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DAVID HARDEN/Arizona Daily Wildcat
Tucson resident Linda Walker shows her support for Martin Luther King Jr. while carrying a picture of King during the MLK march yesterday morning. More than 2,000 people attended.

Gymcats beaming after weekend win

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Where's the 'fro now?
Catching up with former Cat Eugene Edgeron

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More services, new location for Campus Health

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