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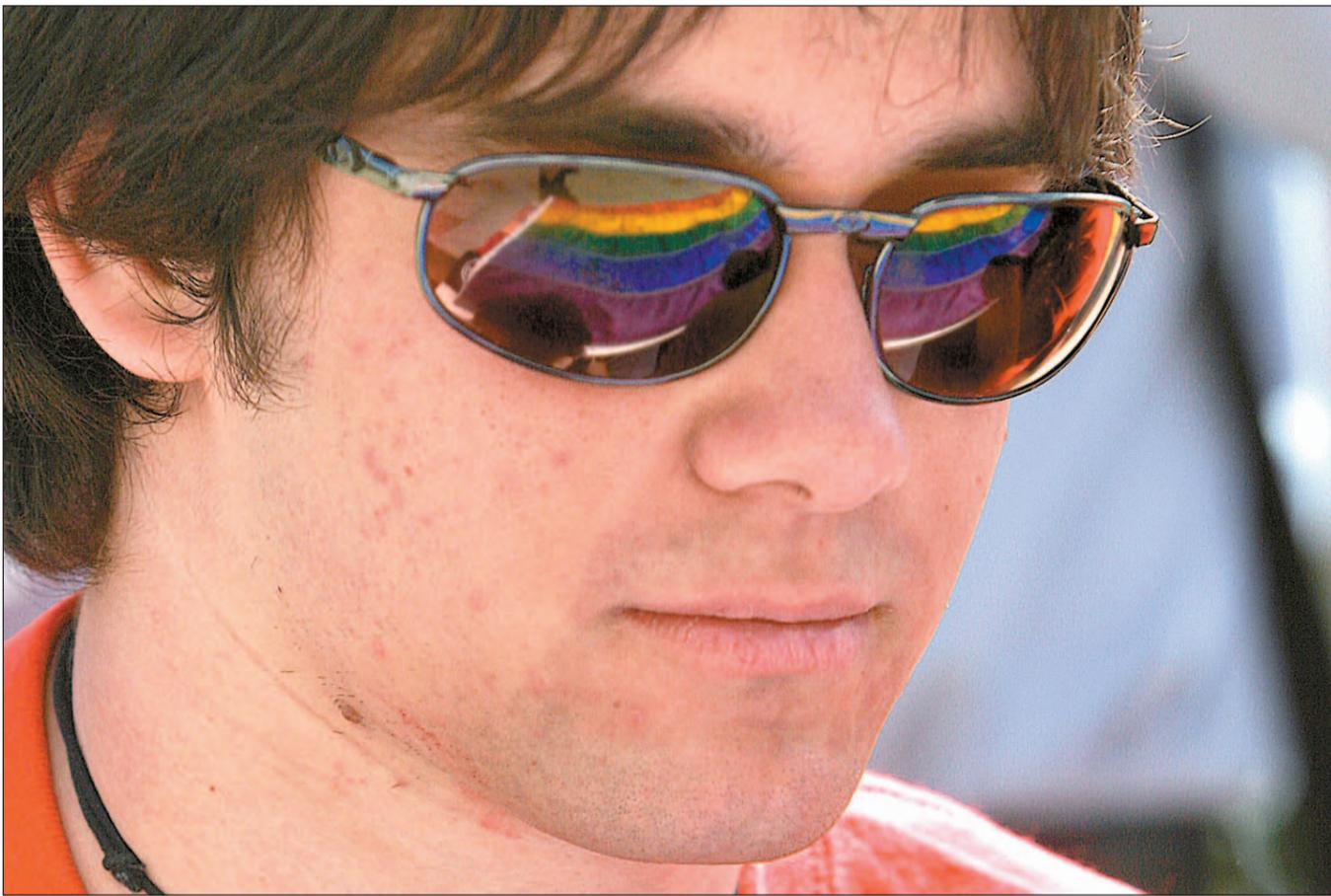
ARIZONA DAILY WILDCAT

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Thursday, April 14, 2005

The University of Arizona, Tucson

Silence for breakfast, shouting for dinner



JACOB KONST/Arizona Daily Wildcat

Microbiology freshman Brandon Toussaint works a table on the Mall yesterday, handing out fliers, T-shirts and condoms encouraging passers-by to respect gay rights. Students participated in a nine-hour vow of silence in protest of oppression expressed toward gay, bisexual and transgender people.

By **Aubrey McDonnell**
ARIZONA DAILY WILDCAT

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 laugh-

ter from the crowd as the students spoke their first words of the day.

"Today our silence is very loud," said Alex Grubb, president of Students Promoting Respect and Individuality Through Education. "Every day gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered students, and even our straight allies face harassment and prejudice. Today we took a stand and said 'No, I will not tolerate this.'"

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.

"It was hard not to speak during English class, but the other students respected me even after I declined to speak to them a few times," said Andy Goolsby, a molecular and cellular biology freshman. "I felt this was a

See **SILENCE/10**

President: suspects not part of fraternity

By **Jennifer Amsler**
ARIZONA DAILY WILDCAT

The president of the Sigma Pi fraternity said yesterday the rape accusations the University of Arizona Police Department are investigating did not involve any members of the organization, even though it allegedly happened at the fraternity house.

"On behalf of the entire fraternity, I would like to state that the individual(s) involved in this alleged accusation are neither members of the fraternity nor of the greek community," said Joe DiVita, president of Sigma Pi, in the chapter's official statement in an e-mail.

Police are investigating rape allegations reported early Saturday morning at the Sigma Pi fraternity house, 1525 E. Drachman St.

Since the allegations are still under investigation, police could not release information regarding the male suspect's possible status as a fraternity member or a UA student.

DiVita, who is the official fraternity spokesman, said he could not release information about the person or persons under investigation because the chapter is trying to fully cooperate with UAPD.

"A rape allegation must be taken very seriously," DiVita said. "We strive for chivalry in all situations."

DiVita said the fraternity continually invites guest speakers to talk about sexual awareness and issues such as date rape.

Sigma Pi members are cooperating with the UAPD investigation by encouraging witnesses to come forward and asking anyone who was at the fraternity early Saturday morning to reveal any information they might have seen, DiVita said.

He said fraternity members keep an eye on non-members when they are inside the Sigma Pi house, and he could not say if the suspect or suspects were friends with any of the fraternity members or why they were at the

See **RAPE/11**

'Disability reframed': rugby on wheels

By **Anthony D. Ávila**
ARIZONA DAILY WILDCAT

The clanging, 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 Reframed," 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 diffi-

culty for the players was staying cool in the sun, they periodically dumped 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

See **QUAD RUGBY/10**



KEVIN B. KLAUS/Arizona Daily Wildcat

History junior Eric Daniels, right, makes a move on defender Travis Mauco yesterday during the wheelchair rugby game at the Alumni Plaza.

Legislators still consider guns in bars

By **Andrea Kelly**
ARIZONA DAILY WILDCAT

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.

See **BARS/11**