Suspect turns self in

By Devin Simmons

Murder suspect Everett Alan O’Quin turned himself into Louisiana Police Saturday morning after a front-page article ran the same day in the local paper.

O’Quin, who was wanted by the Tucson Police Department in connection with the slaying of UA law student Susan Barber, was persuaded by his parents to turn himself in, according to Sgt. Norman Karamales of the Louisiana State Police.

“The article appeared on the front page on Saturday, and he turned himself in at 10:45 a.m.,” Karamales said.

O’Quin was being held at the Rapides Parish Jail in Alexandria, but a spokesperson for the Rapides Parish Sheriff’s office said that O’Quin will be back in Tucson today.

His parents live in the nearby town of Pineville, where O’Quin graduated from high school, the article in The Times Sold stated.

O’Quin has no previous criminal record in Louisiana, according to the article.

Barber, 27, was found dead in her home last Monday after her parents requested that the police check on her.

See MURDER/10

Likins’ contract renewed

In president’s fifth year, board of regents votes 8-0 to extend contract for another three years

By Keren C. Raz

TEMPE — Pick any recent major change at UA, and you might find President Pete Likins’ name stamped on it.

He proposed the largest tuition hike in UA history, which the Arizona Board of Regents approved last week.

He pushed for the construction of the largest student union in the country (without a hotel attached), which was completed in January.

And as his Focused Excellence plan, which includes individualizing the admissions process and redefining UA’s missions, becomes a reality, Likins said he can’t leave the UA for at least another two years.

“A day like today, a year like this year, gives the president the opportunity to change the university,” he said.

At their meeting at ASU on Friday, the regents voted 8-0 to renew Likins’ contract for another three years.

“It wasn’t as close as I thought,” Regent Fred Boice joked after the vote.

When Likins became UA president in 1997, he originally said he would only serve in the position for three to five years.

But during his first five years Likins said he never had the opportunity to do what presidents dream of: “leading a university on a path of change.”

Finally, he said, the regents this year, led by regent President Jack Jewett, have grabbed the need for change and given him the flexibility he needs to change UA.

“Now I’ve been permitted to dream a higher dream,” Likins said.

Part of that dream, he said, includes being able to implement, by the fall of 2006, more rigorous admissions standards that will help UA manage its growth.

Although Likins said he wishes he could see the end result of all the changes he will begin, he knows that’s impossible.

Likins, who turns 67 in July, said he could retire in two years.

See PRESIDENT/10

STUDENT ELECTIONS TOMORROW

ASUA presidential candidates J.P. Benedict (left) and Jered Mansell will square off in the general elections Tuesday and Wednesday.

Mansell focuses on representation

By Aaron Mackey

Jered Mansell wears his school spirit — literally.

The presidential candidate can often be found patrolling the sidelines of men’s basketball games at McKale Center wearing nothing but short shorts, red and blue paint, and a cape that reads, “Zona Zoo-Keeper.”

“I love this campus,” Mansell said. “I love everything about it.”

The current administrative vice-president said he believes that his passion for UA will enable him to succeed as student body president.

Last week’s primary election showed Mansell, a political science and economics senior, in second place with 37.45 percent of the vote behind J.P. Benedict.

But despite his standing after last week’s election, he said he is confident that he will come out on top this week.

Mansell said he has the dedication to the student body that is essential to being president. A job that he

See MANSELL/3

Benedict plans to boost school spirit

By Rebekah Kleinman

J.P. Benedict has known the words to “Bear Down Arizona” since he was five years old. As a third generation Wildcat, Benedict believes that he harbors a love for UA that only a student body president could have.

Benedict, a business management and marketing senior and director of the Freshman Class Council, is running for the office of student body president. Last week he won 40.22 percent of the vote behind J.P. Benedict.

If elected president, Benedict said he promises to increase school spirit by delegating a student liaison between the athletic department and ASUA to serve as the student voice in athletic decisions.

“School spirit is not necessarily athletics, but I think a lot of it comes out in athletics,” Benedict said.

He said that the most important thing about being a UA student is having pride in one’s college, citing his involvement in painting the “A” on the Wildcat.

See BENEDICT/3