KAMP fee on ballot today

Radio directors worry about station's future if $1 fee fails

By Stephanie Schwartz

The $1 KAMP student radio referendum, which could determine the fate of the program, will be on students’ online ballots today and tomorrow in the 2003 Associated Students of the University of Arizona general election. KAMP directors have said that if students vote to discontinue the fee, which has been added to students’ tuitions for the past five years, it could jeopardize the station.

“I don’t know if we can continue to operate without (the fee),” said Brian Van Buren, general manager of KAMP Student Radio. “We’ve completely changed the way we operate in the years since we have had the fee.”

KAMP has used the student activity fee to broadcast its programs over the Internet and in residence halls, obtain an AM frequency and expand all areas of the radio station. KAMP might also be able to soon secure a low-powered FM station, said KAMP advisor Mike Camarillo. However, the station must have at least $50,000 to pay for the dial number plus additional money for attorney fees and for the antenna.

If approved, the referendum could help provide those funds.

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TABLE TENNIS CHAMP

Student set for international meet

By Tessa Hill

While pursuing his master’s degree at the UA, Islam Canal Abdel-Razek has managed to master something else: table tennis.

Abdel-Razek, a public health master’s student, will represent Arizona, Colorado, Utah, New Mexico and Wyoming at this month’s Association of College Unions International’s International Table Tennis Tournament in Philadelphia. Abdel-Razek, 31, has been playing table tennis since he was 13 years old.

He was first introduced to the sport while living in Saudi Arabia, however he could not pursue it competitively because of his Egyptian heritage. Instead, a Saudi Arabian team member took the time to mentor him.

“I remember watching them play; it seemed like magic,” Abdel-Razek said about his initial attraction to the sport.

“Keeping control of the ball … the rhythm is amazing,” he added.

Abdel-Razek didn’t begin playing professionally until this year. He entered the UA’s ACUI table tennis tournament, unaware that if he won he would advance to the regional tournament.

“I won and then a guy told me I qualified to go to Utah,” he said.

In February, Abdel-Razek defeated top players from five states in the ACUI Regional Table Tennis Tournament in Ogden, Utah.

“I was lucky. That’s it,” said Abdel-Razek, who added that he was afraid of many players at the regional level because they were known purely by ethnicity to be good table tennis players.

His first-place ranking at the regional competition qualified him for the three-day International Tournament March 28 — 30 at the University of Pennsylvania. At the tournament, Abdel-Razek will face the top players from the 16 other regional tournaments.

Abdel-Razek now budgets his time between studying and practicing in the game room at the Student Union Memorial Center.

He has budgeted his practice time to two hours per day, four days per week, and he feels confident about his strategies.

“Every game is different, but I try to discover the weaknesses of my opponent and then use it,” he said.

If players of the upcoming tournament are like those Abdel-Razek faced at the regional tournament, he said he is confident he will walk away a champion.

Christian Grimm, Abdel-Razek’s coach, is confident in his student.

“My favorite thing is to win,” Abdel-Razek said.

Hassan said he had no doubts that his friend would do just that.

“I have faith in him, I think he’ll get first place.”