



# ARIZONA DAILY WILDCAT

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**BENEDICT 50.9% • MANSELL 49.1%**

## President's post sealed by 64 votes

### Voter turnout highest in more than a decade

By Rebekah Kleinman & Aaron Mackey  
NEWS EDITOR & STAFF WRITER

Nearly 4,000 students voted online in the ASUA general election, the most since 1990, producing one of the closest elections in UA history with less than 1 percent of the vote separating the winners from the losers in some offices.

President-elect J.P. Benedict maintained his primary election lead over opponent Jered Mansell, winning 50.9 percent of the vote, while his campaign partner Melanie Rainer also came out on top in the executive vice president race, defeating Scott Cheney by only .8 percent.

Victoria Ruan, who publicly supported Mansell and Cheney, won by the largest margin in any race, coming away with 55.5 percent of the vote to Daniel Suh's 44.5 percent in the race for administrative vice president.

Students voting for the office of senator were asked to select 10 of the 19 candidates on the online ballot, creating a tight race, with only 34 votes separating the 10th and 11th place senators.

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ASUA President-elect J.P. Benedict reacts last night at Gentle Ben's after winning the election by 1.8 percent of the vote. Benedict defeated Jered Mansell in the race for president.

**A YOU DECIDE**  
Student Elections 2003

### New student senators will face challenges in teamwork

By Stephanie Schwartz  
STAFF WRITER

Ten elected senators will test out the ASUA waters this fall, but after a close election, they will first have to learn to work with each other.

Last night, Freshman Class Council member Jacob Reuben brought in the most votes in the senatorial race with 33.3 percent of the total vote. Kara Harris trailed him by only 14 votes.

The other eight senatorial positions went to Blake Buchanan, Morgan Kisler, Sara Birnbaum, Nicholas Bajema, Ben Weiss, Kartikeya Kejriwal, Matthew Harris and Soral Karim.

See SENATORS/9

## Parking costs increase by \$50 per year

By Bob Purvis  
STAFF WRITER

A \$50 increase in the cost of parking passes and the loss of 800 parking spaces to construction projects could make parking on campus a stressful ordeal in the fall.

Effective this August, people who want parking permits can expect to pay 20 cents more per day, or roughly \$50 more per year, parking and transportation officials said.

Parking and Transportation Services said the increase is necessary to offset the cost of a new parking garage to be built north of East Speedway Boulevard at the North Highland Avenue underpass.

Facilities Design and Management Senior Program Coordinator Melissa Dryden said the parking garage is still in the planning phase.

But when construction of the garage, Drachman Hall and a new biosciences building begins in the fall, over 800 spots near the Arizona Health Sciences Center will be eliminated.

See PARKING/9

## Nightclub safety a rising concern

By Tessa Hill & Ian Musil  
STAFF WRITERS

As Laura Conklin stepped inside Maloney's on Fourth on a bustling Saturday night, she contemplated not only how long it would take to catch the bartender's attention, but where the nearest exit was in case of an emergency.

For many UA students, this safety concern has come as a result of a string of recent nightclub disasters.

On Tuesday, 10 people were injured in the ensuing panic after one man opened fire on and another man slashed clubgoers in a New York City nightclub. On Feb. 20, a deadly fire ripped through a Rhode Island nightclub, taking 99 lives. A few days before that, a stampede in a Chicago nightclub killed 21.

Although Conklin, a pre-physiological sciences junior, doesn't think a tragedy like any of these is likely to happen in any of Tucson's bars, she said it has made her consider a new set of issues when she plans her weekends.

"I make myself more aware of my surroundings now," Conklin said. "I used to worry more about someone slipping something in my drink."

Conklin added that since the incidents, she has taken a mental note of additional exits at bars and nightclubs.

Local bar managers and Tucson Fire Department officials said the chances that events like those in New York, Chicago and Rhode Island would occur in Tucson are slim.

Kiki Kirchoffner, manager of Maloney's on Fourth and 8 Traxx, 213 N. Fourth Ave., said that with 13 exits that remain open during business hours, the establishment complies with local fire codes.

The maximum occupancy of Maloney's and 8 Traxx is 600, and is typically reached on weekends, Kirchoffner said. She added that the exits would allow a large group of people to free-flow out of the building in case of an emergency.

"We do all sorts of training and, of course, take precautionary measures," she said.

Like Maloney's, most major bars and nightclubs in Tucson comply with local fire codes, according to TFD Assistant Fire Chief Ray Allen.

That is partially due to recent inspections.

Last year, inspectors issued notices about inadequately marked exits, blocked or locked exits and overcrowding to 17 local nightclubs.

"We've been out and checked clubs

See NIGHTCLUB/24



DANIELLE MALLOTT/Arizona Daily Wildcat  
Communication junior Dana Bernardini and junior majoring in English Nate Pluke talk over a beer last night at Gentle Ben's.