



ARIZONA DAILY WILDCAT

Thursday, March 27, 2003

SERVING THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA SINCE 1899

wildcat.arizona.edu

FAR FROM HOME

Close to the conflict

International tensions touch UA student studying abroad

By Tessa Hill
STAFF WRITER

While the war in Iraq is keeping some students from joining study abroad programs, many already abroad feel safe.

"The war has only intensified my time here, and I know it will make it a deeper experience for me in the end," Molly Hanrahan, a theater arts junior who is currently studying in London, stated in an e-mail.

Hanrahan began studying in London in January and said upon leaving the United States she knew of the risk of a potential war, but she said the advantages of going abroad outweighed the disadvantages.

"Being abroad during this time is completely life-changing," she said, adding that her experience thus far has been "strange yet compelling."

The UA Office of Study Abroad and Student Exchange (SASE) reported a slight decrease in the number of students applying for study abroad programs this year.

"Many students are waiting to turn in their applications to see what is going to happen," said Cathleen Keenan Church, assistant director for SASE.

"In reality, it is a really interesting time to be abroad," Keenan Church said. She added that since the onset of the war, many students who are abroad have e-mailed her to let her know they are fine and not to worry about them.

"Students are not feeling nearly as uncomfortable as we had anticipated," she said.

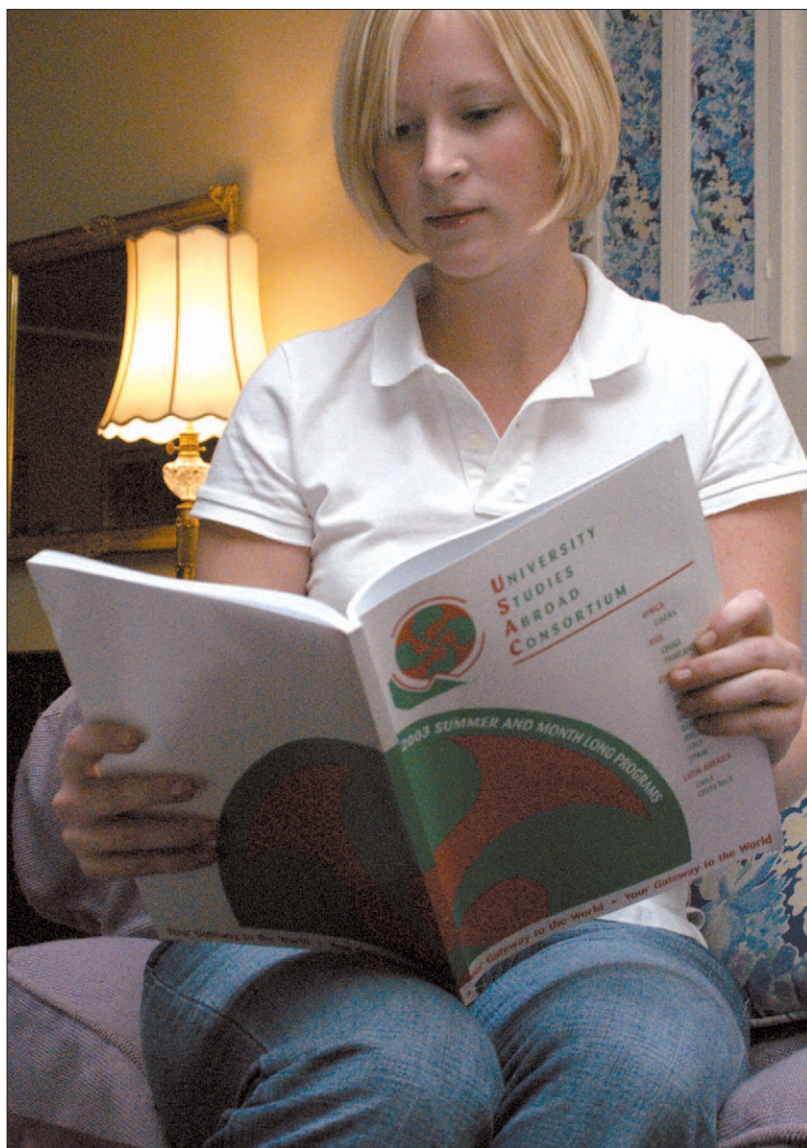
Despite how students abroad feel about their safety, Keenan Church said SASE has received many phone calls from concerned parents who have students abroad or students who want to go abroad.

"Every university has measures in place in terms of safety and security for students studying abroad, so that is reassuring to the parents," she said.

However, many parents have decided their students' travel plans should be suspended.

Hayley Contant, a journalism junior, said her plans to study abroad this summer in London have been

See ABROAD/11



Haley Contant, journalism junior, has decided to cancel her study abroad trip to England, citing safety abroad as her main concern.

WILL SEBERGER/Arizona Daily Wildcat

Greeks address negative image

By Cara O'Connor
STAFF WRITER

UA's greek system has recognized and is beginning to address the negative attention it receives from the public.

Last night, President Pete Likins gave his input on issues that included hazing, alcohol abuse, leadership, diversity and public perception of fraternities and sororities.

More than 120 representatives from campus chapters attended the open question-and-answer session designed to open the lines of communication with university administrators and "bridge the gap" between the greek system and the rest of the UA community.

"People's concepts of the greek community are negative, but that isn't how it really is," said Kappa Sigma president Brett Gerson. "We need to change people's minds."

Dean of Students Melissa Vito and Associate Dean Alexis Hernandez were also present to respond to the group's questions.

"We felt like we have been making so

Go Online:
▶ Speak your mind on Greek Life **WILDCAT.ARIZONA.EDU**

See GREEK/3



Lit by Hummvee headlights, a soldier from the 3rd Brigade of the 101st Airborne Division guards Iraqis who were intercepted during sandstorm on the perimeter of the division's forward base in south Central Iraq.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Storm clears as troops edge through Iraq

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CENTRAL IRAQ — Vicious sandstorms began to abate early today as U.S. forces headed north toward Baghdad, warned of a possible confrontation with a convoy of Iraqi Republican Guard troops.

Vast columns of U.S. military vehicles — one 10 miles long — rolled along a six-lane highway under skies clearing of the thick dust and sand that for days had made flying and often driving nearly impossible. A weather shift means a change in fortunes for allied forces likely able to resume bombing missions.

Yesterday, a military intelligence officer

See WAR/6

Students tricked by Rocky Point Web site

By Bob Purvis
STAFF WRITER

Vicky Boyle arrived in Rocky Point hoping to sip margaritas on the beach and catch a little sun outside her beachfront hotel. She found the beach and even the margaritas, but the hotel was a different story.

When Boyle, a communication junior, and three of her friends arrived at the Hotel Señorial, the concierge told them there weren't any reservations in their names.

He told Boyle and her friends that they were among a dozen students who said they had made phone reservations with hotelsinrockypoint.com and that their hotel didn't deal with that company.

In a signed statement, the Hotel Señorial wrote, "We have no knowledge of this company. We have no validation of accommodations through this company, or of many students, including Vicky Boyle, who confirmed through hotelsinrockypoint.com."

Boyle and her friends were forced to cough up another \$400 for a rundown hotel for their four-day stay in Mexico. But they don't know what happened to the money they paid to hotelsinrockypoint.com.

"The second we got back, I called the number, and it was no longer in service," Boyle said. "Right then, I just knew I had been scammed."

Boyle said she found an advertisement in the *Arizona Daily Wildcat* about

See BREAK/9