

DANGER ZONE

Turns cause traffic woes



KEVIN KLAUS/Arizona Daily Wildcat

A pick-up truck traveling west on East Speedway Boulevard and North Park Avenue caught fire after being involved in a collision two years ago. This intersection on the north side of campus has been the scene of many traffic accidents.

City looking into dangers of turning left at Park and Speedway intersection

By Devin Simmons
STAFF WRITER

Nate Riordan can no longer drive through the intersection of North Park Avenue and East Speedway Boulevard without a chill running down his spine and his hands tightening ever so slightly on the steering wheel.

"Every time I go to that intersection I freak out," said Riordan, an engineering and physical sciences junior.

Riordan, whose car was loaded with clothes he was taking back to his resi-

dence hall, was trying to make a left turn southbound onto Park Avenue. It was lunchtime, Jan. 12, when a car going well over 40 mph, ran the red light and slammed into Riordan's car. The impact was so intense that Riordan's car flipped on its side before slowly tipping over.

"When the car was on its side it was like time just stopped," Riordan said. "It was completely dark. It felt like night."

Riordan and his passenger, Victoria Harris, managed to climb out of the windows of the vehicle, as university police and several fire trucks responded to the scene.

It would take weeks for Riordan to get the gasoline smell out of his clothes.

Now he is convinced that a turn arrow is needed to prevent more acci-

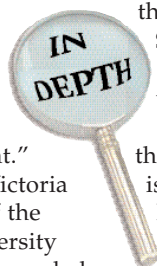
dents like his.

"We need a turn arrow there," Riordan said. "If there was an arrow, everyone would be more cautious about the left hand turn."

Riordan is not the only one who thinks the North Park Avenue and East Speedway Boulevard intersection is a danger zone. Many others have questioned its safety.

"If I was a betting man, I would say that a turn arrow might eliminate some issues there," said Commander Kevin Haywood, spokesperson for the University of Arizona Police Department. "It would allow some people to turn there more safely."

But a solution to its many problems has yet to be found.



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Minority applicants increase

By Jeff Sklar
SENIOR WRITER

Next year's freshman class will likely see an increase in the number of Asian-American and American Indian students, according to admissions data.

More than 1,100 Asian-American students had applied to join next year's class as of March 28, compared with 720 at the same time last year, a 57 percent increase.

But this year's increase follows a year when the number of Asian-American applicants decreased significantly, said Randy Richardson, vice president for undergraduate education.

"I think we're about where we were two years ago," he said. "There's a lot of year-to-year fluctuation."

About 410 American Indians have applied, compared with about 320 last year, a 29 percent increase.

However, the number of black and Hispanic applicants is remaining fairly steady, a trend that President Pete Likins calls a cause for

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Terrorism clause may be added to state oath

By Cyndy Cole
LEGISLATIVE CORRESPONDENT

PHOENIX — Future UA employees are going to have to promise not to use weapons of mass destruction or act like terrorists, under a proposal state lawmakers gave a nod to yesterday.

A measure that received preliminary approval in the state House yesterday would change the state oath that UA employees are required to take when they're hired, adding provisions for terrorism. Future employees would have to vow that they wouldn't try to harm branches of the government to influence policy decisions, or try to attack the government and interrupt services like communication and public transportation.

The Senate voted to pass the new state oath in February, and the measure must be approved once more by the House before it can go to Democratic Gov. Janet Napolitano for her consideration.

The proposal from six Democratic lawmakers is a response to the Sept. 11 attacks on the Pentagon and World Trade Center, and UA workers who are not U.S. citizens would not have to take the oath.

The UA employs about 18,000 student employees, staff, appointed personnel and faculty members who had to sign the state oath before they received their first paycheck, said Allison Vaillancourt, executive director of Human Resources.

The new measure would also repeal some of the old language in the oath that currently says UA employees cannot be members of the Communist Party.

UA students learn how to go hungry

By Cara O'Connor
STAFF WRITER

More than 50 UA students only ate rice for dinner last night.

But these students weren't going hungry; they were attendees at the 9th annual Hunger Banquet.

About 150 students that came for a free meal were surprised to find that not all would receive a full course meal. Rather, they were divided into three economic classes. The upper class was served a full meal on china and with silverware. The middle class ate beans and tortillas. And those that

drew the poverty card had nothing but rice and water.

"You can talk about hunger until you die, but there is nothing like a personal experience to change someone and then change the system," said speaker Brian Flagg, director of the Casa Maria soup kitchen.

"Being willing to personally sacrifice your time, your social privilege, that's where you start. Being willing to do something about the problem instead of just talking about it," he said.

The banquet was organized by Project Volunteer, a program under the University Activities Board,

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MELISSA O'NEAL/Arizona Daily Wildcat

Lena Ryan, a junior majoring in political science and Spanish, and Ashley Tucker, a studio art junior, sit at the "upper-class" table at a Hunger Banquet in the Student Union Memorial Center last night.