Students pay more buck for same bang at McDonald’s

By Rob Parvis
Staff Writer

Students buying food at McDonald’s in the Student Union Memorial Center say they are angry about the super-sized prices they pay compared to the union McDonald’s just a few blocks away:

The cost of a Big Mac meal at the union is $4.58. The same meal costs $3.64 at the McDonald’s at 1711 E. Speedway Blvd. On average, value meals at the union location cost nearly $1 more than other area McDonald’s.

Nearly every item on the union McDonald’s menu is at least 10 cents more than the Speedyway Boulevard location. Both are owned by the same man, David Schmidle.

Greg Weltsch, director of operations for Schmidle’s restaurants, said that the extra price on their extra value meal is “just simple economics.”

Weltsch said that the high cost of rent and the off-season resulting from the academic schedule left them with no choice but to charge more.

“In order to be there we had to change more,” Weltsch said. “The economics of it are a really weird scenario.”

Many students, however, said they believe the restaurant is taking advantage of them.

“I think they are doing it because there are 35,000 students in the union and one McDonald’s,” said Jon Tarkowski, a political science freshman.

However, despite the differing costs, the union McDonald’s accepts CatCards with university meal plans, whereas, others don’t.

A few students said higher prices at the union McDonald’s influenced them personally boycott the golden arches.

One of those students, history sophomore Pablo Sandoval, said he now eats at Carl’s Junior or Burger King to avoid paying more.

“They totally jack you,” said Sandoval. “First tuition and now the value meal. There goes my income.”

Weltsch said students’ anger is misdirected.

He said that renting the space in the union instead of operating out of a location where they own the property, like the one across Speedway Boulevard, doubles their monthly rent costs, increasing overhead.

The McDonald’s also operates on a 4 new UA buildings approved

By Cyndy Cole
Legislative Correspondent

PHOENIX — UA will get funding to build four research facilities worth $182 million, but could face more budget cuts, state lawmakers said yesterday.

House Speaker Jake Flade, R-Meek, said yesterday the university will be receiving funds to construct a building for biomedical science and biotechnology and a southern expansion on the Chemistry building that will provide more lab and office space. It will also include a Phoenix Health Sciences Center campus where students can take classes near the International Genomics Consortium, a medical research building near University Medical Center. Similar bills have received bipartisan approval in the House and Senate.

The medical research building will replace trailers near UMC in which researchers now work.

But the new money doesn’t mean universities are exempt from budget cuts next year, Flade said.

During budget negotiations in January, Republican legislators proposed cutting $118 million, or 5 percent, of UA’s state funding this year and $19 million next year. They later compromised with Gov. Janet Napolitano, so there will be no cuts for the rest of the semester.

Students buy low for same price at Speedyway Blvd.

By Devin Simmons
Staff Writer

A local media report that stated that the UAPD officer who had a scuffle with a professor was suspended for 30 hours without pay is incorrect, according to a department spokesman.

“They tried to make a determination based on the information they were given,” said UAPD Cmdr. Kevin Haywood. “But their determination is incorrect.”

The information detailing the suspension, which appeared in The Arizona Daily Star, was obtained from a section of an internal investigation report done by the department into Officer Rolli Fountain’s actions in October.

The details of Fountain’s suspension were redacted from the report because that information is a personnel issue and not subject to public record laws, as set forth by Arizona Board of Regents policy.

But portions of the redacted section could still be read.

“You can see through it, and it says 30 hours,” said Hipolito Corella, specialty team leader at the Star. “We are sticking with 30 hours.”

The internal investigation report, released to the Wildcat yesterday, called Officer Fountain’s Oct. 30 actions “gross misconduct” and claimed, “The public trust in the competency of our officers has been placed in question.”

On that day, Fountain went to Professor Irene d’Almeida’s office in the Modern Languages building to follow up on a hit and run incident involving a student.

The license plate number given to police matched the one