Immigrant students seek lower tuition

Law would allow immigrants to pay in-state college tuition

By Cara O'Connor

This week, groups in Tucson and across the nation held vigils, marches, rallies and press conferences to support federal legislation that would allow long-time resident immigrants to receive green card status to go to college at an in-state price.

The legislation, known as the DREAM Act in the Senate and the Student Adjustment Act in the House of Representatives, would repeal a provision of a 1996 law that requires students to have lawful immigration status in order to qualify for state residency when entering college.

If the legislation passes, states would be able to decide whether to offer in-state tuition rates to the 50,000 to 65,000 immigrant students who graduate nationally from high school every year.

Currently, UA policy set by the Arizona Board of Regents states: "A non-citizen with a visa that allows the student to remain in the United States cannot get reduced in-state tuition rates unless the college offers that rate to any U.S. citizen, state resident or not.

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Car accident shuts down Euclid Ave.

An unidentified man was seriously injured last night when he was struck by a car on North Euclid Avenue south of East Speedway Boulevard.

The pedestrian, who was under the influence of alcohol, was carrying a 24-ounce can of malt liquor when an Oldsmobile Alero driven by a UA student collided with him.

"It was inevitable, I was going to hit him," the driver, said Will Bohannon, a business freshman.

According to the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996, foreign nationals who are not lawfully residing in the United States cannot get reduced in-state tuition rates unless the college offers them to any U.S. citizen, state resident or not.

Stress management techniques are easier said than done.

According to Albert Chen, executive director of the University Learning Center on campus and The Princeton Review.

"Modern physicians treat a sizable share of stress-related ailments, and pre-med students are getting their first dose of it as they prepare for the April 25 Medical College Admission Test next week. But here's a prescription from pre-med profession advisors. Even with changes to the MCAT's structure this year, good nutrition and adequate rest, combined with a change in last-minute study habits, should cure last-minute jitters. "Nerves are okay," said Albert Chen, executive director of the center.

Stress management becomes a high priority when big exams are days away. Chen said. Kaplan offers preparation courses, as do The University Learning Center on campus and The Princeton Review.

There are some changes in the MCAT's structure this year, he said. The biggest change is that the physical sciences section now precedes verbal reasoning. There is also a decrease in emphasis on organic chemistry and an increase in molecular biology questions.

"All these changes were designed to help the students, and they were designed to identify the best medical school candidates," Chen said. "Any student who's been preparing should not be worried at all."

However, for Phillip Gray, one of about 100 UA students planning to take the MCAT next week, Chen's words are easier said than done.

"I am taking 19 units and working at the Cancer Center, so it's hard to find time to study for the MCAT when I have term papers due, tests to take, and a publication to prepare," he said.

Gray, a biochemistry and molecular and cellular science junior, is planning to take the MCAT next week. Scores on the MCAT are used as a key qualifying mark for entrance to medical school and will be issued on April 26.