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Garage opens, late and short on space

Behind schedule, Sixth Street Parking Garage opens with more than 400 fewer spaces than planned

BY JAMES KELLEY
Staff Writer

Three weeks after the scheduled completion of its first phase, the new Sixth Street Parking Garage is open, but has far fewer spaces than were originally planned.

Originally slated to be completed by Aug. 1 and open Aug. 12, the first section of the garage opened yesterday with only 337 spaces instead of 750.

The spaces that opened were reserved for permit holders and not for hourly

visitor parking.

The elevators on the garage have also been delayed, effectively rendering disabled parking spaces above the first level unusable.

Carl Gajdorus II, Project Manager for the garage, attributes the delay to normal construction delays.

"In any construction project there are issues that arise," said Gajdorus II, also a Facilities Design and Construction senior architect.

"We are continuing to add (parking) spaces and by mid-fall it will be up to the 600-700 range," he said.

The \$18.5 million, 16,000 parking-space facility — which will also include a 16,700 square foot office building for Parking and Transportation Services, a plaza, CatTran shuttle stops and Sun Tran bus stops — is

scheduled to be completed in February.

Eventually, a greenhouse will be built on top of the garage, covering it entirely.

The garage was three weeks behind schedule in April, but since it was scheduled to be completed Aug. 1, over three weeks before school started and was expected to catch up when 24 hour work began, officials felt it would be ready.

Permit holders for the unfinished garage have been allowed to park in the Tyndall Garage and a shuttle has been provided for those students who travel east on North Fourth Street to East Highland Avenue, then back to Tyndall Garage via North Lowell Street.

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KEVIN KLAUS/Arizona Daily Wildcat

Employees of Joe E. Woods construction company work on the Sixth Street Parking Garage on Sunday. Nearly half of the first section opened yesterday providing 337 parking spots, 413 fewer than planned.

Wildcat Welcome helps out new and returning students

BY KRISTOPHER
CALIFANO
Staff Writer

When most students move into the dorms they get help from their parents, friends and roommates — but some opt for help from top university administrators.

It's called Wildcat Welcome Week, and the program, which is in its fourth year, kicked off Wednesday as university faculty, administrators and staff helped new students move into their residence halls.

The program is in full swing and offers students food, directions to class, entertainment, tours of campus and free shuttles



KEVIN KLAUS/Arizona Daily Wildcat

As part of Wildcat Welcome Thursday afternoon, CCIT employee Kelley Bogart, left, answers questions by undecided freshman Lisa Ramsey, right, and her mother Patti.

to malls and grocery recreation.

stores, said Juliette Moore, With a \$35,000 price tag, the week event is pri-

ONLINE LINK

See page 12 for a full list of events.

marily run by the University Activities Board and includes several events each day to help students find their way around campus and create an open and welcoming environment.

Today's activities include a poster and vendor fair on the mall, a Child Care and Family Resources Open House and a planetarium show at the Flandrau Science Center. Also, volunteers will be in booths and golf carts around various parts of the campus to help with

see **WELCOME**, page 12

Regents: budget request for next year is inflated

UA administrators urged to agree on a more realistic request after last year's cuts

BY JENNY ROSE
Staff Writer

Thirty-five million dollars is too high a budget increase for UA to ask from the Arizona State Legislature for next year, the Arizona Board of Regents told university administrators at an Aug. 16 meeting.

Administrators are renegotiating a number this week.

Regents are in favor of a more modest request — one that came via administrators — to replace the \$20.3 million UA lost last year between budget cuts and lower than expected state funding.

The requested amount is an increase of nearly 11 percent in the university's state-allocated budget.

If approved by the legislature, the additional funds in 2003-2004 would be used to fund building renewal and supplement increases in health insurance rates and enrollment.

UA is starting this year with \$368.5 million in state funding out of a roughly one billion dollar budget also accrued from research contracts, donations,

endowments and other sources.

The proposed budget requests were presented to the Arizona Board of Regents at their Aug. 16 meeting as an "advanced preview," said Greg Fahey, associate vice president of government relations.

But many regents were taken aback by the increases in the budget requests, and four of the regents said that they didn't want to look "foolish" by asking the Arizona State Legislature for a large increase in funding when the state itself is preparing to enter fiscal year 2003 on October 1 with a potential \$1 billion deficit.

"We understand very well that the government won't have much to work with," said board president Jack Jewett.

The request might prove to be more symbolic than practical.

Regent Chris Herstam said he wanted the universities to get the appropriate amount of money from the state, but the university leaders need to keep realistic goals in mind.

"I don't want to look foolish," he said. "I would rather be more realistic with the budget numbers but show the consequences" of more funding cuts.

UA president Peter Likins said \$35 million would not begin to repair the damage sustained in massive cuts in state funding.

see **BUDGET**, page 9

Dorms enact stricter no-drug policy

One-time marijuana users now face eviction under ResLife agreement

BY RACHEL SCHICK
Staff Writer

Students living in residence halls can now be evicted for being caught using marijuana just one time, under a new residence life policy.

Students were asked to sign a new agreement upon moving into

the residence halls this year that details a host of offenses that can result in eviction.

The agreement, titled "Ways to Get Evicted," is a part of a new illegal substance policy that the UA Department of Residence Life has started this year, which sets a "one-strike" rule against illegal substances in an effort to combat rising drug usage.

Marijuana use at UA is rising, according to the 2002 Wellness Survey conducted by UA Campus Health Promotion and Preventative Services.

Carolyn Collins, Campus Health director of health promotion and preventative services, said 1,281 UA students were surveyed last spring semester for the 2002 Wellness Survey. Of those, 26.7 percent said they had used marijuana within the last month.

The number who reported marijuana use is up from the 2001 Wellness Survey, in which 23 percent of the 1,220 students surveyed said they had used marijuana within the last month.

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