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KEVIN KLAUS/Arizona Daily Wildcat

Ground is broken for the expansion of the Meinel Optical Sciences Center yesterday. The parking lot next to the Main Library is slated to become the location for the expansion, which will double the center's size. Construction is scheduled to begin in November.

Optics center expanding to boost research clout

BY JAMES KELLEY
Staff Writer

As passengers get off planes at Tucson International Airport, a sign with a picture of mayor Bob Walkup reads, "Welcome to Optics Valley," and the latest campus construction prospect reinforces that local motto.

Yesterday, the UA broke ground on a \$17.2 million expansion of the

Meinel Optical Sciences Center, making way for the building to double its size toward the Main Library with the addition of new classrooms, offices, research facilities and conference rooms.

The addition will be dubbed the West Wing, since Meinel's 1988 expansion was called the New Wing. It is fantastic that the groundbreaking is here. I've been dreaming about it,"

said Jim Wyant, director of the center.

Construction on the new wing is scheduled to start in November.

The latest expansion of the 32-year-old building will feature an entry-level plaza, new teaching and research laboratories, a new exhibit-intensive lobby, an expanded reading room, fac-

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Gun incident prompts frat to ID partiers

BY DEVIN SIMMONS
Staff Writer

After a Bid Night incident in which a partygoer pulled a gun on three security guards hired for the evening, a UA fraternity president said his house will begin checking identification at the door for parties.

Security guards escorted three men out of a Sept. 13 party at the Alpha Gamma Rho house, 638 E. University Blvd., for having a bottle of liquor and for making lewd statements to females.

As the men were escorted out, they became increasingly vocal, threatening partygoers and making racially charged statements.

Once outside, one of the men pulled a gun out of his pants and pointed it at security guards, while he continued to threaten them, reports stated.

Matthew Zubicki, one of the security guards on duty during the evening, described the gun as a black semi-automatic handgun.

Kevin Ward, one of the other security guards, said that the one of the three men told him to "go to hell."

Police responded to the scene after the man suspected of pulling the gun and his friends had left the party, running southbound on North

First Avenue.

The police got a description from witnesses and searched the area, but were unable to find the man.

Later in the morning, Tucson Police Department received a call of a reported break-in at a house on 632 E. Fourth St. The suspect matched the description of the individual from the party, and police were able to get a license plate number from the vehicle he fled in.

Reports compiled from witnesses described the subject carrying the gun as approximately 5-foot-4-inch and wearing a blue Hawaiian shirt, a white baseball cap, and blue jeans.

Sean Ryan, president of the fraternity, said no one at the party knew the three men. He added that security at the fraternity had the situation under control.

"I felt like security did its job," he said.

Ryan said that as a result of the event, his fraternity will begin checking IDs at the door during parties.

As of Friday, the University of Arizona Police Department had not found the individual suspected this incident, said Cmdr. Brian Seastone.

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Professor speaks to women's group on 'Hidden U.S. Policy' toward Iraq

BY JESSE GREENSPAN
Staff Writer

The Bush administration is pushing toward war with Iraq not because of problems with Saddam Hussein but because they are trying to justify their foreign power, a UA professor told a crowd of 75 people Saturday.

During his speech, "Iraq, Behind the Headlines ... What is the Hidden U.S. Policy," David Gibbs, an associate professor of political science, discussed his take on the Bush administration's official justifications for war.

"If Saddam didn't exist, we would have to create him," he said.

Gibbs said the administration has offered two distinct justifications for going to war.

One is that Hussein has, or soon will have, weapons of mass destruction, and the other is his widely-criticized human rights record.

However, Gibbs expressed confidence that the United States could detect weapons of mass destruction, and brought up the government's lack of evidence in the matter.

He cited Scott Ritter, the former chief U.N. weapons inspector who has said Hussein's weapons of mass destruction have been largely destroyed.

Though Gibbs admitted Hussein ran a "bloodthirsty regime," he said that should not be a pretext for war because the United States gave aid to Hussein when they knew he was using poisonous gas against the Kurds.

He called the human rights pretext a political maneuver.

"It falls into the traditional means of using human rights violations as an excuse for foreign policy," Gibbs said.

The real reasons for going into Iraq, he said, are oil and an excuse to raise the military budget and reestablish the

United States' position as the leader of the world.

"Establishing and reestablishing military threats allows for a greater justification of military spending," he said.

The U.S. military budget is already larger than the closest 15 military budgets combined, he said.

Gibbs ended his speech by saying war was inevitable, but also said activists should be ready to capitalize if the war effort goes badly.

David Dunford, an instructor in the political science department and a former U.S. ambassador to Oman agreed that jumping into war with Iraq is not necessary yet.

"Generally, in the academic world we see issues in complexity, and not in black and white," Dunford said. "I am convinced Saddam Hussein is a thug

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EMILY REID/Arizona Daily Wildcat

Associate professor of political science David Gibbs speaks to the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom on Saturday about his view on U.S. motivations for attacking Iraq.