State cuts another $18M from budget

BY RYAN GARBERIEN
Contributing Writer

In a special session Monday, the state Legislature removed nearly $18 million of the UA’s funding in a package of budget cuts that eliminates about $20 million of the state’s unappropriated surplus.

Though it is too early to know the exact effects this cut will have, a memo from President Pete Likins to the Arizona Board of Regents last week said the reduction will be felt in everything from the loss of jobs to faculty having to remove some garbage themselves to keep their work environments clean.

The UA has been preparing for a 5 percent cut to its budget since Gov. Jane Hull announced in September that was what she intended to propose. The final cuts are expected to be 5.4 percent; due to additional cuts in money budgeted for travel, and newspaper and magazine subscriptions, said UA lobbyist Greg Fasby.

The remaining $20 million gap between the state’s expected cut and its dwindling revenues must wait until January when the Legislature — with its newly elected members — reconvenes.

Though $44.5 million has now been cut from the university’s revenue since July, $28.7 million of that before the classes began, UA budget director Dick Roberts said this is just the beginning.

“Even when the deficit for 2003 is filled in, next year’s budget is expected to bring another $1 billion deficit,” said Tem Everill, revenue section chief for the Joint Legislative Budget Committee.

Though many analysts have said the tax has pulled out of its recession, Everill said Arizona is still stuck.

“None of the revenue,” as sales tax takes longer to spiral, down nearly 50 percent this year from last year.

Everill said the solution to this year’s budget problems “could go a zillion different directions.”

“When (the state’s economy) does turn around, there is going to be some time before there is revenue,” as sales tax takes longer to produce, Everill said.

Two legislative subcommittees created in See BUDGET, Page 6

Thanksgiving break transforms campus

BY REBEKAH JAMPOLE
Staff Writer

Students have approximately 96 hours to get home, get turkey, watch a football game and give their cousins swirlies before returning to campus for the final eight days of classes.

A look around campus shows that many students have already left for an extended holiday. But some aren’t so fortunate and will remain on campus for the entire Thanksgiving break.

Work, lack of transportation and money are the primary factors keeping many students in Tucson.

“I am staying here and working, I’m a co- llege student, so we all know I need the money,” said art history senior Angela Bonomo.

Most of campus will be shut down for the holiday, but residence halls will stay open.

Some will offer dinner for people who are unable to leave for the weekend.

An Apache-Santa Cruz Residence Hall resident will be making a full dinner for 20 residents and resident assistants Thursday evening, said hall director Ed Gilhool.

Each dorm will have a resident assistant on duty during the four-day break.

Dinner in Yuma Residence Hall will be provided by an on-duty RA and his family, however, no one has signed up for the “feat,” yet, said Jennifer Anderson, a Yuma desk assistant.

Many students are looking forward to time with their families over Thanksgiving, especially those who haven’t seen their families in years.

“This year, we have a lot of family flying from all over the country. It will be the first time we’ve been together in a long time,” said Thomas Bon assume, a finance junior.

“Some will offer dinner for people who are unable to leave for the weekend.”

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ARIZONA

Not a usual Mexico trip

Marine biology club members cherish hands-on experience

BY KRISTINA DUNFEE
Staff Writer

Katrina Aleksa has wanted to be a marine biologist since she was in third grade. But for Aleksa, a biology sophomore, one of the only ways she could participate in marine biology after the UA’s ecology department cut two marine biology classes this fall was by joining a new club formed for marine enthusiasts.

Aleksa joined the Marine Awareness and Conservation Society, she said, “to keep up with things that are going on in marine biology and to keep involved in (the study).”

She gained some hands-on experience last weekend, when she and nine other MACS members traveled to the Intercontinental Center for the Study of Deserts and Oceans (CEDO) in Puerto Palomas, Mexico, to explore the sea and out of the Mexican coastline.

Just after reaching the shore, the club vice- president Peter Gaube turned over a half- submerged rock and pointed out patches of bryozoan and tomatins to the others, explaining how the tunicates, which looked like a glob of slime on the rock, are in the

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Union might miss deadline

BY JAMES KELLEY
Staff Writer

The Student Union Memorial Center may miss its Dec. 15 deadline for completion, though the project’s deadline has already been pushed back from April to July to December.

The student union’s construc- tion, which started during the sum- mer of 1999, may not be completely finished by the beginning of winter break, but parts essential to services and business in the union will be, officials said.

“I think the majority will be done. Some areas will be behind. Landscaping is a major area behind,” said Dan Adams, Arizona Student Unions director. “Our goal is to have all programs and services for the beginning of second semes- ter. We fully expect it to be 95 per- cent operational (by the beginning of the second semester).”

Mostly just landscaping and the sidewalks are the areas that still need to be done, said Chris Kraft, Facilities Design and Construction project manager for the union.

Once it is finished, staples of the old Memorial Student Union like lounge spaces, Union Club, a sit down restaurant, the Caff, which was a dark lounge that hosted per- formances, Sam’s Place, a gaming room, a ballroom, an art gallery, and the Gallagher Theater will return.

“The substantial completion date is Dec. 15,” Kraft said. “The exterior work may not be 100 per- cent completed.”

The groundbreaking for con- struction of the current union occurred in late July 1999, and in November of that year, the demol- ition of the old Memorial Student Union began. The new union was built where the old union once stood.

“It’s taken a long time and I wish they would finish it, but they’re working hard and you’re