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Lawmakers question tuition hike

By **Cyndy Cole**
LEGISLATIVE CORESPONDANT

PHOENIX — Two members of the Senate Education Committee balked at Regents' proposals yesterday to increase resident undergraduate tuition by up to \$1,000.

Sen. Thayer Verschoor (R-Mesa area), said he was concerned that raising tuition could mean a number of students won't be able to afford enrolling at UA.

"Are they just, as you said, going to have to bite the bullet ... and deal with this huge increase? You're talking about a pretty significant increase," he said.

Assistant Minority Leader Sen. Linda Aguirre (D-southern Phoenix) said she was concerned that an increase could make tuition unaffordable for students in the lower or middle income bracket who are barely making ends meet but earning slightly too much to qualify for financial aid.

"Minority communities panic when you talk about tax hikes," Aguirre said.

Though the Regents have plans to set aside 14 percent of tuition to meet the needs of students dependent upon financial aid, which is up from the 8 percent currently withheld, no one answered questions from Verschoor and Aguirre about how the universities planned to bridge the gap between those in-state students who have just enough income not to be eligible for financial aid and would struggle with a tuition hike.

Though the education committee does not set tuition at UA, a job which is reserved for the Arizona Board of Regents, the Arizona Legislature could alter UA's budget in response if there were a strong enough sentiment against a tuition increase, as then-governor Jane Dee Hull once proposed she would do.

See **TUITION/11**

Merger signals new direction

By **Cyndy Cole**
LEGISLATIVE CORESPONDANT

PHOENIX — President Pete Likins told the Senate Committee on Education yesterday that he was considering shutting down the Extended University and merging the department's offerings with each individual college on campus.

The Extended University offers computer-based classes, summer, winter, evening and weekend classes, certification programs and correspondence courses.

At Arizona State University, President Michael Crow is proposing similar measures, giving the colleges of engineering and business the option of running their own night, weekend and accelerated courses to generate extra revenue.

Crow figures that some courses beyond undergraduate education, such as professional degree programs like law, should be self-supporting and should not rely on state funds, he told the education

See **EXTENDED /9**

DEBATING IRAQ

Crowd calls for 'no war'

Police estimate 2,000 anit-war
protestors turned out Saturday

By **Aaron Mackey**
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Gripping a microphone firmly in her hand, Shelia Bapat stood atop the steps of the fountain at Old Main Saturday morning, challenging people to peacefully protest the impending war with Iraq.

Bapat, a political science senior and former Wildcat columnist, joined thousands of others throughout the world who gathered Saturday as part of an international peace rally and demonstration directed toward the U.S. government.

"Hopefully in demonstrating, we will bring to light some of the critics' goals," Bapat said.

The local demonstration, sponsored by over 40 peace organizations, began at 9:30 a.m. when protesters gathered near the fountain on the UA Mall.

Protestors then proceeded to march along Speedway Boulevard to DeAnza Park, located at East Speedway Boulevard and North Stone Avenue, holding banners and "No War" signs with the hopes of raising awareness and encouraging those who had not yet joined the effort to do so.

The turnout for the protest was estimated by organizers to be 5,000 people, although the Tucson Police Department estimated only 2,000, which still exceeded the previous record for attendance of a protest in Tucson.

President of the Alliance for Peace and Justice in the Middle East (APJME) Carrie Brown said she hoped the event would send a message to the Bush Administration that many Americans are against a war with Iraq and worry that the president is not rationally examining the reasons for preemptively striking the country.

"I don't think that Bush is looking at the bigger picture here," said Stephanie Felix, a communications freshman.

However, members of the College Republicans are ready to support the president and his efforts to protect the U.S. from Iraq.

See **PEACE/9**



SUSIE LEMONT/ Arizona Daily Wildcat

An anit-war protestor dressed as President George W. Bush expresses his sentiment at a peace rally held at Old Main Saturday. The event was the largest protest in Tucson history, drawing 2,000 people.



CHRYSTAL MCCONNELL / Arizona Daily Wildcat

Undecided freshman Rebecca Goldstein and education senior Adam Davi man the counter at Flandrau Science Center.

Flandrau move could be complex

By **Bob Purvis**
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

With the future of the Flandrau Science Center now resting on the shoulders of the City of Tucson, its survival is uncertain.

When President Pete Likins and Provost George Davis announced last week that 16 programs will face mergers or elimination as part of the first phase of Focused Excellence, many of those involved in the programs were shocked.

Flandrau, however, has seen this day coming for the past three years.

After voters passed Proposition 400 in 1999, which promotes tourism, the Rio Nuevo downtown revitalization project has hoped to incorporate Flandrau as part of downtown Tucson's future.

Flandrau currently depends on \$175,000 from the College of Science, which it would lose as part of the

See **FLANDRAU/12**