

# ARIZONA DAILY WILDCAT

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The University of Arizona, Tucson

## PROGNOSIS NEGATIVE



JACOB KONST/Arizona Daily Wildcat

Medical technology senior Erica Adamow examines cultures through a microscope at University Medical Center yesterday. The Medical Technology program works hard to find cures for serious medical conditions through the interpretation of patient data.

## Med Tech on the chopping block

By Jeff Sklar  
SENIOR WRITER

Through a back door at UMC sits a drugstore-sized laboratory cluttered with computers, microscopes and centrifuges. Technologists hunched over the equipment examine blood samples and interpret computer printouts. Their task: making sure patients are diagnosed and treated properly.

If you're being treated at the hospital, you won't see the lab or these

technologists. But if you've had blood drawn, a urine sample taken or other tests run, they may figure out what's wrong with you.

About 140 technologists work in the lab, many of them alumni of the UA's Medical Technology program. As of last year, somewhere between 30 percent and 60 percent of Tucson's medical technologists had graduated from the UA.

But top UA administrators put the program on the chopping block last year, saying it doesn't fit with the university's research mission and isn't attracting

enough students.

"Interestingly, there's not much student demand for the program. ... Do you want to work with blood samples?" Provost George Davis asked recently.

Only a last-minute reprieve can keep medical technology from losing its funding at the end of June. But that hasn't stopped its director and other supporters from asking administrators to change their minds and spare the program.

"It's hard when they want to cut a

See MEDTECH/10

## Student leaders: It's time to pay up

Tuition hikes, activity fee necessary for better UA

By Dana Crudo  
STAFF WRITER

It's a basic economics lesson: There's no such thing as a free lunch.

And that lesson is the new UA mantra as student leaders tell their peers, "If you want your college experience to be all it can be, pay up."

It's a mentality change that's in stark contrast to how student leaders approached the idea of tuition and fees just a few years ago, Dean of Students Melissa Vito said.

"We're at a point where students are realizing there is a potential for more things to be happening," she said. "Student leaders are scrambling for support and are now going to the students."

Change began last year when student leaders made a dramatic shift in their tuition request. After years of fighting for zero percent tuition hikes, then-ASUA President Doug Hartz agreed with administrators that students needed to invest more in their education in order to ensure its quality.

His tuition proposal was for a \$900 tuition hike, only \$100 less than President Peter Likins' proposal.

This year, ASUA President J.P. Benedict has held fast to the idea that students should invest more in tuition, asking for a \$400 tuition hike, only \$90 less than Likins' request. But he has also taken the idea a step further, supporting fees and student-led fund raising that encourage students to fork over more dough for a better college experience.

He hopes the dough will come as a student activity fee that asks students to pay \$15 to \$20 per semester for on-campus student activities and programs.

See MONEY/3

## Meningitis bill passes committee

By Bob Purvis  
LEGISLATIVE CORRESPONDENT

PHOENIX — A bill criticized by UA health officials as costly and ineffective, as well as pandering to special interests, drew disapproval from some state lawmakers yesterday, but managed to pass committee by a single vote.

The bill mandates that state universities distribute information on the risks associated with meningococcal disease, or bacterial meningitis, and the effectiveness and availability of vaccines for the disease. The universities already distribute information

See MENINGITIS/12

## Student key witness in bishop case

By Jessica Lee  
STAFF WRITER

When Kellie Gonzalez came across a man lying in the middle of a Phoenix street on the night of June 14, 2003, she had no idea it would affect her entire first year in college.

Gonzalez, a pre-physiological sciences freshman, was a witness in the trial Tuesday that convicted Bishop Thomas J. O'Brien of leaving the scene of a fatal hit-and-run. O'Brien was head of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Phoenix, a position he no longer holds.

Although she did not see pedestrian Jim Reed get hit in the accident, Gonzalez was the first person on the scene.

"I left work and was driving down Glendale Avenue to attend a work party, and that was when I saw Mr. Reed in the road. Immediately I called

911," Gonzalez said.

Working as a lifeguard for the City of Phoenix, Gonzalez used her basic first aid and CPR skills in an attempt to help Reed.

"I think that is what kept me calm on the scene, knowing that I had that training. Other than that, I am not really sure how anyone could come up onto the scene and stay so calm," Gonzalez said.

After blocking traffic so Reed would not be hit again, three or four minutes passed while Gonzalez was completely alone attempting to treat his injuries.

"Then two men came walking on scene. I got one of the guys to take off his shirt so we could apply pressure to Mr. Reed's head because it was bleeding really badly. They stayed the rest of the time with me," Gonzalez said.

After the initial shock of the accident, the second scariest part came

See WITNESS/12



EVAN CARAVELLI/Arizona Daily Wildcat

Kellie Gonzalez, a pre-psychology freshman, was a key witness in the hit-and-run case against Phoenix Bishop Thomas J. O'Brien. O'Brien was convicted yesterday.

Alumni should pay to play with basketball team

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Cats Men's hoops continues winning ways  
roast Ducks

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Liberal arts vs. corporate values

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