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The University of Arizona, Tucson

Last call bill pushed on to Senate

By Bob Purvis
LEGISLATIVE CORRESPONDENT

PHOENIX — A bill that would make last call an hour later and keep bars open until 2:30 a.m. gained initial approval yesterday despite attacks from legislators who said the bill puts greed before public safety.

By a vote of 35-25, the state House of Representatives passed the measure on to the Senate. If approved there, Gov. Janet Napolitano, who has said she is open to the measure, could then

sign the bill into law.

A handful of legislators spoke out against the bill before entering their votes of disapproval.

Rep. Russell Pearce, R-Mesa, called the bill a step backwards in the state's efforts to deter drunken driving.

"The purpose to keep a bar open longer is to consume more alcohol," Pearce said. "When you leave them an hour longer at a bar, to drink an hour longer, they are going to get an hour drunker ... and they have to drive home."

Pearce and others that spoke out against the bill, which has

been rallied behind by the state's hospitality and tourism industry, said the money a later closing time could bring to Arizona would not merit its potentially negative effects.

"We're duped by the money," Pearce said. "We think this is going to generate revenue and my concern is very simple... that the damage done no money can compensate for."

Other dissenting voters rebuked the argument that Arizona's 1 a.m. last call, one of the earliest in the country, was causing the state to lose tourists to

other states.

"One of the arguments for this bill is 'everybody else has done it'... Well fellow members that's not good enough for me. Just because everybody else has done it doesn't mean that we should do it," said Rep. Doug Quelland, R-Phoenix.

The majority of the legislators said the potential economic gains that longer bar-hours could bring Arizona made the bill worthwhile.

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Faculty against firing of felons

By Jeff Sklar
SENIOR WRITER

Faculty and staff members are joining with university lobbyists and President Peter Likins in opposition to legislative proposals that would require fingerprinting all university employees and firing people convicted of certain felonies.

In the past several days, employees who are subscribed to a listserv for staff members have been offering opposition to the two bills.

And yesterday, some faculty senators agreed the bills overstep the bounds of legislative appropriateness. Likins echoed their sentiments, telling the senate he hoped both bills would die.

"The university would ... prefer that the Legislature not interfere in our employment practices," Likins said.

The bill forcing the university to fire people convicted of many felonies would strip those people of tenure, benefits and employment without affording them due process, said Faculty Senator Andrew Silverman.

The bill would terminate people convicted of felonies such as murder, stalking and sexual crimes, but would not include burglary and assault.

"Once the Legislature gets involved in this kind of thing, what kind of slippery slope are we headed down?" Silverman asked.

Likins also said yesterday the bill requiring job applicants to pass background checks and get fingerprint clearance cards will likely "die a quiet death"

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DRILLING & DRENCHING



WILL SEBERGER/Arizona Daily Wildcat

Nick Asbury, senior in geological engineering, was the winner of the annual rock-drilling contest that took place Saturday by Old Main. According to tradition, Asbury was dumped into the fountain at Old Main for being the winner of the contest, which was open to any student interested.

Neighborhood parking permit hikes debated

By Mitra Taj
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

A proposed parking rate increase affecting residents of downtown and university neighborhoods met with much criticism and some sighs of relief yesterday at a public hearing.

The proposal would force residents to pay \$12 — up from \$2.50 — annually for the parking permit that allows them to park in the streets in front of their houses. An increasing rate estimated to reach \$36 by 2008 would provide for better enforcement, the Park Wise team oversight committee said at the hearing.

Park Wise is a self-supporting residential parking program established in 1997.

Overflow parking problems from the UA were identified by all as one of the main reasons residents frequently don't have a place to park.

"If it weren't for the university, we wouldn't have this problem," said Joan Cox, an 86-year-old resident that lives near the Arizona Health Sciences Center.

See PARKING/15

ASUA candidates receive unusual endorsements as elections near

By Natasha Bhuyan
STAFF WRITER

ASUA candidates are gathering high-profile endorsements in addition to seeking the support of fellow candidates as they enter the final hours of the election race.

Wesley Clark, a former candidate for the 2004 democratic presidential nomination, endorsed Associated Students of the University of Arizona senatorial candidate Daniel Smith-Matthews, who volunteered on Clark's campaign.

Smith-Matthews says he spoke to Clark about his own

political aspirations, and Clark signed an endorsement because he heard positive things about Smith-Matthews from the volunteer coordinator.

"Emotionally, it helped me because I feel I have the support from a great political leader who has also been through this," Smith-Matthews said.

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Smith-Matthews also says the endorsement inspired confidence and caused him to work harder because he doesn't want the endorsement to go to waste.

Josh Shapiro, ASUA presidential candidate, also



DAVID HARDEN/Arizona Daily Wildcat

Daniel Smith-Matthews, an ASUA Senate candidate, was endorsed by Wesley Clark while working on Clark's campaign. Matthews now carries a piece of paper that has Clark's signature for endorsement while on his own campaign trail.

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