

ARIZONA DAILY WILDCAT

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The University of Arizona, Tucson

A TALE OF 2 SPRING BREAKS



Students on spring break dance at the beach Wednesday in Cancun, Mexico. UA students headed south for the break, while others used their breaks to volunteer as part of alternative spring break programs.

Break serves up different forms of fun

Mexico's beach spots popular with students

By Nate Buchik
ARIZONA DAILY WILDCAT

Tequila, tacos, dancing ... and more tequila. Welcome to the UA's Mexico spring break 2004.

From Rocky Point to San Carlos to Mazatlán, students traveled south by plane and by car to get to beach spots and, of course, the lower drinking age.

Rocky Point, or Puerto Peñasco, lies about 60 miles from the U.S. border with a population of around 30,000. At any time during the middle of March, however, spring breakers from around the United States can double the population.

"It's a pretty beach and good weather with pretty warm water," said undeclared sophomore Alex Tuttle, explaining his reasons for making the trip to Rocky Point over the break. "It was the cheapest thing to do for spring break, and it was close."

Whether Tuttle and his group of eight friends wanted to relax alone or interact with swarms of people, they had something to do in the poor fishing town.

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SPRING BREAK HOT SPOTS



Jen Newberger, a physiology senior, talks with 18-year-old Jack Foley in a popular area of Santa Monica, Calif. Foley said he has been homeless off and on since he was 9 years old and appreciates what volunteers like Newberger are doing. "I love them. ... They're cool; they keep me company in the hardest of times," he said.

Some students opt to volunteer their spring break time to help out less fortunate

By Mitra Taj
ARIZONA DAILY WILDCAT

"Making the world a better place" wasn't on most college students' spring break to-do lists.

But instead of tacos, tequila and dancing, groups of UA students had more philanthropic experiences on their week off: hanging out with transient youth and distributing food to AIDS victims.

Students who volunteered their vacation time to help nonprofit organizations in Southern California called their experiences eye-opening and said they had just as much fun — if not more — than their partying or lounging peers.

"Who says spring break can't be fun without alcohol?" asked Victoria Pham,

a pre-health education sophomore who helped out at a food bank for AIDS victims.

Alternative Breaks, a Center for Student Involvement and Leadership committee that organizes spring breaks emphasizing community service, offered students the opportunity to take part in one of six different spring break trips.

In Los Angeles, 18 student volunteers balanced sightseeing with administrative tasks for AIDS Project Los Angeles, a nonprofit organization that assists people impacted by AIDS.

"Basically we work from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; then we party," said Jason Moore, a political science junior and a site leader for the AIDS Project trip. Comparing the

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Bush will not speak at grad ceremony

Former UA hoops player Kerr will deliver address

By Jeff Sklar
ARIZONA DAILY WILDCAT

President Bush will not speak at commencement, which has been moved back to McKale Center and split into two ceremonies, the UA announced last week.

Alumnus Steve Kerr, a former professional basketball player, will deliver the commencement speeches in McKale, which will hold morning and afternoon ceremonies as in years past.

Bush's office called President Peter Likins last week to inform him that Bush would not speak at the graduation. Likins had characterized the possibility of Bush's visit as remote since sending the invitation to the White House a month ago.

To accommodate a possible Bush speech, the UA announced recently that the commencement would be consolidated into a single ceremony, which would be held in Arizona Stadium.

But according to the March 15 announcement, the graduation will be split into two ceremonies and held in McKale, its location for the past three decades.

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Jews, Muslims walk together to promote Mideast peace

By Jesse Lewis
ARIZONA DAILY WILDCAT

Muslims, Jews and other community members walked yesterday in the first Muslim-Jewish Peace Walk to promote harmony among members of the community.

The 5 1/2-mile walk started at the Islamic Center of Tucson, 901 E. First St., and ended at the Congregation Chaverim synagogue, 5901 E. Second St. The group made stops along the way at the UA Hillel Foundation and the St. Thomas More Catholic Newman Center.

At St. Mark's Presbyterian Church, 3809 E. Third St., more than 100 participants stopped as supporters awaiting their arrival cheered them on. There were several group prayers and group songs to spread the feelings of peace and unity among everyone present.

"It's really beautiful to see all these religions coming together, and, despite

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Prof's legacy lives on at UA

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One and done

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Men, women's hoops exit in tourney's first rounds

No. 1 softball ends winning streak

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