



Director of SafeRide Joshua Wright escorts a student from Coronado to the McKale Center last night. The Safe Ride has made improvements on their service including etiquette as well as implementing uniforms.

## SafeRide strives for better image

### Car drivers hoping to improve free service

By Dana Cardo  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

During his SafeRide shift two nights ago, Joshua Wright went out of his way to be courteous to every customer, apologizing profusely for late pickups. Wright's behavior is part of the driving service's new professional approach. As SafeRide's new director, Wright has made changes to the driving service in order to increase the program's professionalism. "I know the service is free and student-run, but it is also a real business and customers should be treated as if they were paying," Wright, a psychology and religious studies senior, said. Last year, SafeRide, a service for students who don't want to walk alone at night, was

seen as unprofessional. Students had complaints about rude phone service, dangerous driving, and drivers who asked them out on dates. However, according to staff now working at SafeRide, this image does not accurately portray the organization. "For everyone that works here, human safety is our primary goal. It is a fun but professional work environment," Sarina Gluckman, a studio arts senior and SafeRide member, said. In an attempt to change the SafeRide's negative reputation, Wright compiled lists of possible improvements for the organization. Now his position as director allows him to use his lists to improve the service. "While working here I saw things I knew I could fix," Wright said. "UA deserves the

best. ... SafeRide must be the best it can be." In order to put an end to student complaints about drivers speeding and disregarding traffic signals, employees are required to take a driver's test and to hand in a record of their driving history. Also, a supervisor will accompany first-time SafeRide drivers to make sure they are following procedure and becoming more acquainted with the area. Drivers must sign contracts agreeing to abide by the rules and regulations of the program. They are taught the proper way to communicate with passengers. They also receive guidance on how to deal with difficult situations, such as an accident.

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## Student kicked out of Israel

By Ashley Nowe  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Paul Snodgrass, a UA student taking the semester off to study abroad in the West Bank, was deported last Friday by Israel after being deemed a "national security risk," he said. Snodgrass, 25, who was enrolled at the Bir Zeit University, located 26 kilometers from Jerusalem, said he was detained, searched, questioned and ultimately denied access into the country. "I told them that I was going to the university to study, but they didn't believe me," Snodgrass said. "They accused me of going there to be converted to Islam or learn methods of terror." Yesterday, the consul for communication and public affairs at the Israeli Embassy in Los Angeles said he could not confirm the report because of the chaotic situation in Israel following two suicide bombings. Since 9/11, security has been much tighter in Israel, Danny Bobman, director of the Tucson Israel Center, said. "We pretty much live 9/11 everyday," Bobman said. "Like America, Israel has to protect itself at all costs, and, if this means screening everyone that goes in and out of the country, then that is what has to happen." Snodgrass said that, during his twelve-hour detainment, he refuted the accusations made by Israeli officials, providing them with copies of UA transcripts and a registration form for Bir Zeit. Snodgrass told Israeli officials that he was going to the university to learn Arabic and take cultural studies classes. But Yariv Ovadia, consul for communications and public affairs at the Israeli consulate in Los Angeles, said that many suicide bombers have come from Bir Zeit.



Paul Snodgrass  
former UA student

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## Diabetes walk to 'kick-off' today

By Ashley Nowe  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Students and faculty are being urged to start walking for a good cause. In order to raise money and increase risk awareness, the American Diabetes Association and UA will be holding a "kick-off" event at the Koffler building, 1340 E. University Blvd. The "kick-off" event will showcase medical advice, speakers and food, and will give students and faculty a chance to sign up for a walk-off, to be held Oct. 11, to raise money for diabetes research and education. "This is not just about

getting people to raise money," Mary A. Carter, senior program coordinator for the chemistry department, said. "It is about creating a community awareness." One in 17 Americans has diabetes and nearly one-third of those with the disease don't know they have it. "I would bet that everyone knows someone who has diabetes," American Diabetes Association Chairman Leighton H. Rockafellow, who is also heading the walk, said. "That is why we need people to come out and support us." Diabetes symptoms include

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## Profs, guests square off on Iraq

By Nathan Tafoya  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER



Richard Eaton a UA professor of history addresses the historical context of looting and destruction of cultural objects at last night's discussion on the situation in Iraq. The talk was hosted by the center for Middle Eastern Studies.

Two days after President Bush asked Congress for \$87 billion for the reconstruction of Iraq, a group of panelists spoke to a crowd of 150 people about the obstacles facing the U.S. effort in the war-torn country. The panel, entitled, "Iraq: Reflections and Reactions," was hosted by the Center for Middle Eastern Studies, one of 15 U.S. resource centers devoted to the study of the Middle East. Keynote panelists included a former ambassador to Oman, and professors from UA, Berkeley and the University of Beirut Departments of Political Studies and Public Administration. Anne Betteridge, director for the Center for Middle Eastern Studies, said the purpose of the forum was to present infor-

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