

ARIZONA DAILY WILDCAT

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The University of Arizona, Tucson

Students vote down activity fee

By Natasha Bhuyan &
Dana Crudo
ARIZONA DAILY WILDCAT

The student activity fee was shot down last night with 56.6 percent of student voters opposing the \$15 per semester charge.

More than 3,000 voted in the special election held over the past three days.

After the results were announced last night, student leaders said there should have been more time to educate students about the vote.

The Associated Students of the University of Arizona Senate

approved the activity fee referendum March 31, and the special election began on Monday, giving fee organizers only a few days to market the fee.

"I think they should have had it later," said Sen. Blake Buchanan. "We tried to have the elections four days later, and they should have done it right before the regents meeting on April 29th."

Sen. Ben Weiss said students likely did not support the fee because there was not enough time to educate them.

"I don't think a week more would have changed the results," he said. "But maybe two months

more would have done much more."

Sen. Kartikeya Kejriwal said he was disappointed with the results, but that the senate should have given students more time between passing the referendum and the special election.

Buchanan said he believes students voted no on the fee because they were unhappy with the election process.

"The initial research said that students are in favor of it," he said.

ASUA President J.P. Benedict agreed a lot could have been done differently for the special election.

ASUA special election results

STUDENT ACTIVITY FEE	VOTES	PERCENT
Not in favor	1700	56.6%
In favor	1306	43.4%

Total votes: 3,006

"The process was a little rushed," he said. "There should have been more time on every angle."

Benedict said the election staff should have played a strong role in the referendum, and the format of the elections should have been thought out more.

Sen. Matt Harris, who worked on the fee proposal, said he believes students would still like to increased entertainment on

campus.

"Maybe it's too much, maybe they don't agree with the bylaws," Harris said. "The mistakes we made; we can fix those."

But student leaders agreed that, despite the lack of time, there was a strong voter turnout.

"I am definitely very happy with the voter turnout," said Greg Billings, president of the

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Cell phone use leads to more campus crashes

By Holly Wells
ARIZONA DAILY WILDCAT

Ed Stokes experienced the scare of his life two weeks ago when he crossed a street near campus with his 7-year old daughter and her friend.

As Stokes, a UA alumnus, reached the end of a crosswalk with the two children, a student talking on her cell phone while driving her car raced down the street, hitting the stroller where the children sat.

Lisa Stokes, Ed Stokes' wife, said she's not sure the student's cell phone use caused the accident but did say the student was not paying attention.

"Cell phones are getting out of hand. All these people are just walking around campus with them," Lisa Stokes said. "They should be illegal when someone is driving."

Sgt. Eugene Mejia, UAPD spokesman, said accidents on campus have increased with the rise in cell phone use.

Mejia said several officers in his department have noticed that trend.

An August 2003 study by the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety found that cell phone use was the ninth-largest distraction for drivers.

Activities found more distracting than cell phones included reaching for items and talking to other passengers while driving.

"In general, cell phones can be a problem," Mejia said. "You may be talking on your cell phone while driving a 2,000- to 3,000-pound vehicle and not be paying attention to people walking in the road."

The National Conference of State Legislatures maintains that 17 states, including California and New York, have laws that require drivers to use hands free sets.

Arizona does not have a similar law.

Victoria Gullett, an undeclared freshman, said she thinks such a law would be hard to enforce.

"Everyone talks on their cell phones, but if it's working in other states, maybe it's worth trying," she said.

Gullett admitted to using her cell phone while driving, although she said she believes it's dangerous.

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GET YOUR 'FLING' ON



KEVIN B. KLAUS/Arizona Daily Wildcat

Psychology and linguistics sophomore Ryan Parks, with help from other members of the Sign Language Association, hangs a banner advertising the sale of Dippin' Dots for Spring Fling. The student-run carnival runs tonight through Sunday at Rillito Downs on North First Avenue.

'Fling' springs into action today

By Zach Colick
ARIZONA DAILY WILDCAT

In 1974, two UA students, Ken Sobel and Scott Nation, went on a trip to California to see how student governments were run.

While at the University of California, Los Angeles, they heard about a Mardi Gras carnival put on by student government to raise money.

Sobel, the newly elected student body president, and Nation, the newly elected executive vice president, came back to the UA, determined to plan and organize a carnival for the UA and Tucson community.

It took one year to put everything together, but they pulled it off. And thanks to their efforts, UA students can visit the 30th annual Spring Fling carnival that kicks off today.

Nation, who is now a mortgage banker, still marvels at how much the carnival has grown.

Although Spring Fling brought in \$15,000 less last year than in previous years, other statistics represent just how far the carnival has come.

In 1974, Spring Fling brought in \$4,000.

The carnival grossed between \$250,000 and \$300,000 in 2003.

"In the first year, I think we just did it Friday and Saturday night. Saturday

night, I went over to the carnival operator, and he had a stack of ones, fives, 10s and 20s that were 1 inch tall, and he handed it to me in cash," Nation said. "The first cut was something like \$4,000. To hear the numbers these years is pretty incredible."

Nation said he and Sobel hoped the carnival would eventually rival the size of the Mardi Gras fair at UCLA.

Apparently, that has happened, he said, citing recent Spring Fling organizers who tout the event as the largest student-run carnival in the country.

The purpose of the carnival is to provide entertainment for students as

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Marines bomb
Fallujah
mosque

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'Urinetown'
more than a name

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Schultz's bat
breaks Bruins'
backs

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