Bush vows to finish job in Iraq

By Bob Parvis
ARIZONA DAILY WILDCAT

PHOENIX — Late nights will get a little cooler for Arizona’s imbibers now that Gov. Janet Napolitano signed a bill yesterday to push last call to 2 a.m.

Because the bill does not have an emergency clause, which would make it effective immediately, it will take 90 days after the end of the legislative session to take effect.

With no sign of a quick end to the current session, there is no telling when that might be.

When the law takes effect, patrons will have until 2 a.m. to buy liquor and until 2:30 a.m. to finish consuming it at a licensed bar or restaurant.

Napolitano also sent letters to the directors of the Department of Public Safety, the Governor’s Office of Highway Safety and the Department of Liquor Licenses and Control, asking for close monitoring of the new law’s effects.

“Even as I sign the bill, I’m still concerned about the impact it could have on our citizens, and on state and local law enforcement,” Napolitano said in a press release. “I want the agencies to keep track of any changes and report back to me in six months.”

In the letter, the governor said the Legislature promised the liquor license department additional funding and new investigative positions.

The department is requesting an additional $580,000 to fund six new investigative positions to assist the existing 15 field officers in policing approximately 10,800 licensed bars and restaurants.

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Frequent fire alarms fire up residents

By Jesse Lewis
ARIZONA DAILY WILDCAT

Residents of Arizona-Sonora Residence Hall are steaming after enduring 23 fire alarms this academic year, the most of any UA residence hall.

Sgt. Eugene Mejia, UAPD spokesman, said the alarms have gone off two to three times each month since August.

“They have either been tests, false alarms or drills that were not reported or drills that were not reported and we responded to,” he said.

Maggie Halsey, an undeclared freshman majoring in elementary education, said she no longer has patience for the drills.

“I hate the fire drills with a passion,” she said.

A couple of weeks ago, the hall’s residents were forced into the rain after the drills.

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Spring Fling attracts crowd of 28,000

By Natasha Bhuyan
ARIZONA DAILY WILDCAT

Despite record-breaking attendance the first two days, poor weather and the timing of Easter were likely the reasons Spring Fling’s total attendance dropped for the fourth year in a row.

But clubs raked in more money than last year.

Spring Fling attendance peaked in 2000 with about 41,000 people and has dropped every year since.

This year, 28,000 people attended the four-day event, 6,500 of those who visited the carnival were UA students.

Last year, about 30,000 people visited Spring Fling, a carnival put on annually to raise money for clubs and organizations.

Thursday and Friday each had more than double the amount of people attend the event than during the same days last year, said Greg Venker, assistant business director for Spring Fling.

Venker said Saturday’s rainy and windy weather, and Easter Sunday resulted in lower-than-expected attendance over the weekend.

“Aside from Saturday being such a poor weather day, I think we would have shattered last year’s attendance,” he said.

“Nobody came out.”

Even with the drop in attendance, Spring Fling brought in a revenue of $200,000, with a net profit of $67,000 for campus clubs and organizations, up from $50,000 last year.

Because the 30th annual Spring Fling fell on Easter weekend, organizers aimed for a lower attendance of 25,000.

Lindsay Urbank, Spring Fling executive director, said although the net profit was approximately the same as last year’s, only 45 campus groups will share the earnings, bringing in more money for each club.

Last year, 70 student clubs and organizations participated in the event, which had a net profit of $50,000.

Tricia Domuschke, Spring Fling public relations director, blamed the low club turnout on Easter weekend.

Regardless, Angela Pauley, club relations director for the event, said clubs had a “successful year,” and students had a good time while fund raising.

“The students who volunteered from the clubs put countless hours of hard work into their booths,” she said. “Their enthusiasm definitely enhanced the overall atmosphere of the event.”