Protesters try to stain human flag

By Aaron Mackey
Arizona Daily Wildcat

An attempt to create a human Israeli flag on the UA Mall yesterday was interrupted when protesters floated a set of red balloons over the crowd, trying to create an illusion of a bloodstain on the flag. More than 100 students and supporters of Israel formed the Star of David in the flag on the UA Mall yesterday to form a human Star of David, which appears in the center of the Israeli flag. Protesters also gathered at the event to call for an end to Israeli occupation of Palestinian territories.

Students remember RA as an ‘older brother,’ friend

By Kylee Dawson
Arizona Daily Wildcat

To celebrate and honor the life of Joseph Johnson, a resident assistant killed in a motorcycle accident two weeks ago, about 120 people attended a memorial service yesterday at Graham-Greenlee Residence Hall.

"Your impact on others is more than you ever imagined," read one of several messages written on the courtyard ground in chalk. The wall read, "In Loving Memory of Joe." The memorial service included a barbecue and canned food drive. The food will be given to the Salvation Army, as requested by Johnson's parents.

Johnson was killed in a motorcycle accident on April 18 with his passenger, Lindsay Schiffman, who was a media arts senior.

"I was a friend of Joe’s," said Aaron Ronn, a psychology and political science major and RA who worked with Johnson. "He was like my older brother and helped me with a lot of stuff. He never had a moment withoutlaughs. He always had something funny to say."

Friends said Johnson also belonged to an off-road club for which he helped organize events.

"We were all in the off-road club with him," said Ryan Miller, a mechanical engineer senior and friend of Johnson’s.

Reward good grad rates, says Napolitano

By Jeff Sklar
Arizona Daily Wildcat

Arizona’s governor is eager to see universities rewarded for improving their graduation rates but one of her top aides warns that another facet of a wide-ranging plan to reconsider university funding strategies may be too ambitious.

Gov. Janet Napolitano said yesterday that an Arizona Board of Regents proposal to offer universities financial incentives to raise graduation rates would improve the state’s economy by preparing more students for high-wage jobs.

But at least one hallmark of a plan to restructure state mechanisms for funding the university — a threshold increase in taxpayer-funded financial aid — may need to be enacted more gradually than universities hoped, said George Cunningham, Napolitano’s deputy chief of staff for finance and budget.

Still, the governor’s office appears generally receptive to the plans, which could bring millions more into university coffers in coming years.

They would reward universities by paying them not just when more students enroll but when they achieve specific goals such as raising graduation rates, especially in high-demand fields like nursing, education and engineering.

That will likely come as good news to the regents, who will meet today to discuss the lawmakers’ reactions to the potential changes and perhaps come a step closer to formally asking the Legislature and governor to enact them.

Though the regents have worked all semester to outline new means for funding the universities, because the Legislature and governor allocate money, regents must win support from those officials before new funding plans can be implemented.

Their proposal would fund the universities $1,200 for each bachelor’s degree above the previous year’s total, and $1,500 and $2,000 for each master’s degree and doctorate, respectively.

See GOVERNOR/10

More than 300 supporters of Israel gathered on the Mall yesterday to form a human Star of David, which appears in the center of the Israeli flag.