

270 million-year-old footprint found by student

PAGE 3

Greeks have much to be proud of

PAGE 5

Pro wrestling rolls into town

PAGE XX



ARIZONA DAILY WILDCAT

wildcat.arizona.edu

Tuesday, August 26, 2003

University of Arizona, Tucson

INSIDE VILLA DEL PUENTE



Students and visitors walk around at Villa del Puente during freshman move-in last week. Villa del Puente is UA's newest undergraduate housing facility.

RANDY METCALE/Arizona Daily Wildcat

Four UA students to sue AZ, regents

Tuition increase violates constitution, they argue

By Nathan Tafoya
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Four UA students announced yesterday that they intend to sue the State of Arizona and the Arizona Board of Regents, claiming that the recent tuition hike violates the Arizona State Constitution.

The students, Rachel Wilson, Adrian Duran, Sam Brown, and John Kromko, said that the \$1,000 tuition increase for resident undergraduates, the \$1,250 tuition increase for nonresident undergraduates and resident graduates, and the \$1,500 increase for nonresident graduates violates an article in the constitution that states university tuition must be "nearly free as possible."

The four filed their complaint yesterday at the Pima County Courthouse along with a request to bar the university from using the revenue gained from the tuition hike.

ABOR president Chris Herstam said the tuition hike

See SUIT/18

Equal rights groups push for benefits

By Ashley Nowe
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

For years, gay rights advocates have pushed administrators to provide tuition, health, dental and life insurance benefits to same-sex partners.

With a recent string of national and local gay rights victories, OUTReach, a UA networking group for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender faculty and staff, the Diversity Council, and other campus groups have decided to reinvestigate the campaign.

"The people working on this have been patient, quiet and easy, and it is appropriate for us at this moment to move forward with this," said Ken Foster, head of UAPresents and former chair of the Diversity Action Council. "All the barriers are down now, and there is nothing to stop us."

Earlier this summer, gay rights advocates approached the administration with a petition filled with nearly 200

See PARTNERSHIPS/14

New dorm wows students

Dance floor, grand piano among many unique amenities

By Jolt Holt
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

When pre-business sophomore Sean McCleery first set eyes on his new home, he found himself strangely attracted to it.

"I have a thing for the newest dorms, and I think this is the biggest, greatest thing to come along to the UA," he said.

McCleery is one of 300 students

who have moved into UA's newest residence hall, Villa del Puente, located at North Highland Avenue and East Sixth Street. The three-story coed dorm, housing fifty percent freshmen and fifty percent upperclassmen, is one of the newest and most elaborate residence halls on campus.

Villa del Puente features abundant amenities, including covered bicycle parking, a grand piano, a dance floor, a game room complete with ping-pong and pool tables and laundry

facilities so residents can stay entertained while washing their clothes, a spacious courtyard, and a few suite-style rooms.

The residence hall consists of two buildings, with the second and third floors connected by a bridge. The design is part of a new plan, intended to foster a greater sense of community by having numerous small wings, with no more than 20 students to a wing.

See PUENETE/15

Students given extra day to pay tuition

By Ian Musil
STAFF WRITER

Students have an extra day to pay tuition, before they are forced to fork over an extra \$50.

This is the second time that the Bursar's Office has extended the date when students will be penalized for late tuition payments.

These extensions are the result of difficulties implementing a new computer system that has also delayed the distribution of millions of dollars in financial aid and scholarships.

"We are giving the students the benefit of the doubt and giving them an extra 24 hours," said UA Bursar Suellen Hull.

Although the official tuition payment deadline for all students is still Aug. 26, late fees will not be assessed until Wednesday, Hull said.

The office was concerned that students might not understand the motivation for the changes that affect tuition payments this year.

"Three things contributed to the confusion this year. A change in tuition date, a change in location for the (bursars) office, and this new system (Matrix)," said Hull.

This year's tuition payment deadline was three weeks later than usual, according to Hull, and the Bursar's Office's new location added to the confusion caused by recent problems with the computer system, Matrix, that distributes financial aid and scholarships.

Hull said the problems with Matrix were unavoidable.

"With any new system you'll have problems with volume and training," she said.

See TUITION/18

The Bottom Line

Students now have until Wednesday to pay tuition without being charged a late fee