

## UA tries to inform students on hazing

By Cara O'Connor  
SENIOR WRITER

The "Animal House" image of fraternity life, where togas, kegs and paddling incidents make up the standard Friday night, has long been the perception of greek life in popular culture.

Although "Animal House" came out more than 25 years ago, the perception is embedded in the minds of Americans, and it's one that university officials are aggressively trying to change through education.

Educating students about hazing is the key to stopping it, said Beth Conder, greek life coordinator.

"I don't think our students are educated enough about what hazing is, why it shouldn't be happening and the consequences of it," she said.

As part of the Faculty Fellows Series, the Dean of Students office will host an open discussion on hazing at noon today in the Gallagher Theater. This forum is an important step in educating students about hazing in an effort to prevent it, said Carol Thompson, senior associate dean of students.

UA greek life officials have been working to inform the community about hazing with pledge education programs, open discussions with chapter leaders and, most recently, the

See HAZING/3

## Minority enrollment rises



Psychology freshman Astrid Henao said she is pleased that the enrollment statistics show that the Hispanic population is the highest ever at the UA, yesterday at the Chicano/Hispano Student Affairs Center. "I think it is awesome, a lot of times the Hispanic population is not well represented and it is good we are finally moving up."

DAVID HARDEN/Arizona Daily Wildcat

## Number of freshmen on campus breaks 2001 record by nine students

By Andrea Kelly  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Despite concerns last year that fewer students would come to the UA if a tuition hike was passed, the number of Hispanic and freshmen students on campus broke records this semester.

There are 4,950 Hispanic students at the university this year, compared to 4,855 Hispanic students last year, according to a report released yesterday by the office of assessment and enrollment research.

This year's freshman class of 5,958 students breaks the 2001 record by nine students. This is also an increase of 150 students from last year.

Patti Ota, vice president of enrollment management, said that the increase in Hispanic enrollment may be attributed to an "investment in financial aid and good recruiting efforts aimed at Hispanic communities."

In order for the school to be recognized as a Hispanic-serving institution, one of President Peter Likins' goals, 25 percent of the student population must be Hispanic.

"How soon we can get there (25 percent) is not the issue. The issue is that we are seen as an institution Hispanic students want to come to," Ota said.

Ota said that the university must try to cater to the surrounding demographics.

"Our first responsibility is to meet the needs of the state of Arizona. The state has a significant Hispanic population. Therefore, we must be seen as a comfortable place for Hispanic students to come and get degrees," Ota said.

Rick Kroc, director of the office of assessment and enrollment research, attributed the record enrollment to increased financial aid.

"I don't think we'd have had the enrollment if we had not used the extra tuition for financial aid," Kroc said.

After the regents approved the university's largest tuition increase of \$1,000 for resident undergraduates, Likins used \$14 million of the revenue generated by the increase for financial aid.

See ENROLLMENT/11

## Student project turns into legislative bill

By Alex Blute  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

For those students who don't think they have a voice in the government, Chris Dang will tell them otherwise.

Dang, a political science junior, wrote a bill last semester to fulfill an assignment for his POL 210 class on the United States and Arizona government.

That assignment, with support from Republican Sen. Slade Mead, is now being transformed into a bill to go before the education committee of the Arizona State Legislature.

For his assignment, Dang, who worked as an assistant to student regent Matt Meaker last year, examined the university's financial situation and detailed ways to fix it.

Dang's proposals include creating a tuition payment plan for students and requiring the legislature to allocate more money to reestablish auxiliary programs that have been cut due to the UA's budget crisis.

Since 2001, the UA has had to shoulder \$40 million in funding cuts from the legislature.

Dang said he also hopes that his proposals will eventually allow student tuition to be reduced.

See BILL/10

## Childcare lagging at UA

By Elizabeth Demar  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Members of the Association for Women Faculty said at a panel discussion last night that they are tired of how far behind the UA is in childcare programming, and they plan to take steps this year to change that.

About 20 women and one man showed up at a panel discussion put on by AWF yesterday that focused on the problems of and the solutions for childcare programming at the UA.

"Arizona is not a bell-ringer state when it comes to childcare programs," said Saundra Taylor, a panelist and Senior Vice President of Campus Life. "[However], we are going to need a couple million dollars to compensate for everyone's needs."

Student parents at Northern Arizona University receive \$3,000 in subsidies as opposed to UA's \$1,000. The UA is behind Arizona State University, NAU and UA South as far as in-state schools go, despite the \$85,000 that the childcare subsidies recently received.

It is important to begin improving childcare programs because they could be good recruitment and retention tools for the university, members of the panel said.

In conjunction with UA Life and Work Connections and the Committee on the Status of Women, the AWF hopes to figure out what faculty and students need



MALLORY LORING/Arizona Daily Wildcat  
Saundra Taylor, senior VP for campus life and Darci Thompson, AWF Family Issues Committee chair discuss the meeting on child and eldercare at the university.

when it comes to childcare.

Jennifer Runquist, a doctoral student in philosophy who has one child, recommended last night that the AWF put together a Web site that provides resource

See CHILDCARE/9