

WILBUR'S WILD WONDERLAND



CLAIRE C. LAURENCE/Arizona Daily Wildcat
Electrical engineering freshman Matthew Goodman and aerospace engineering freshman David McClelland hop it up to one of Wilbur's Underground's popular arcade games "Dance, Dance Revolution," last night.

Students head underground

By Nathan Tafoya
STAFF WRITER

Students have long complained that Tucson has never been hip to the late night scene. But hope looms on the horizon. Wilbur's Underground, located in the Student Union Memorial Center, is fast becoming a late night hot spot for UA students.

The Underground, which is open from 10 a.m. to 4 a.m. Thursday through Saturday, and 10 a.m. to 2 a.m. the rest of the week, has four different attractions: the Cellar Restaurant, a T.V. lounge, a game room and a computer lab.

Although the hours are later this year than they used to be, the Underground is not the first to extend

its hours of operation into the early morning.

"It's actually part of a nationwide trend for student unions," said Tamara De Stefanis, program director of operations for the Arizona Student Unions.

One plus for the Underground is that it is CatCard and Meal Plan friendly, De Stefanis said.

"I think the CatCard and meal plan function like debit on campus," she said, pointing out that students who live on campus sometimes have more money on their CatCard than they do in their bank accounts.

Shey Wiley, a psychology freshman, and her friend, Randi Eichenbaum, a history freshman, said they go to the Cellar Restaurant because it accepts CatCards.

"Yeah, it has CatCard, and it's open," Wiley said. "It's like an IHOP."

WILBUR'S HOURS

- Thursday — Sunday:
10 a.m. to 4 a.m.
- Monday — Wednesday:
10 a.m. to 2 a.m.

Wiley, who was at the Underground at 2:30 a.m., said that she has only been to the Underground at night.

"I've never been here during the day," Wiley said.

De Stefanis said the purpose of the extended hours is to encourage alcohol-free activities on campus as an

See WILBUR/19

Athletics considers cutting budget

Mackovic's \$910,000 buyout may reduce travel, facilities

By Tim Lake
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The UA athletics department is considering cutting its budget in order to pay the buyout amount of former head football coach John Mackovic's contract, athletics officials said yesterday.

The buyout, which is \$910,000 or half of Mackovic's unpaid salary, must be paid by the end of the month because of a provision included in his contract.

John Perrin, senior associate athletic director for business affairs, said funding for the buyout would come from the department's general budget.

Cuts might come in the form of a 10 to 15 percent cutback on travel, game expenses, facilities, such as weight rooms, Perrin said.

"We haven't raised any extra funds," Perrin said. He said the cuts will not directly affect the athletes, but would not comment further.

The athletics department has been financially self-sufficient since July 1, with its \$30 million in revenue coming via gate receipts, stadium advertising and concessions, sponsorships and donations.

Mackovic, who was fired Sunday morning, was in the third season of a five-year, \$4 million contract.

He was the highest paid UA employee during his run, making over \$800,000 per year.

His firing came one day after the Wildcats' fourth straight defeat, a 13-10 overtime loss to Texan Christian University.

Athletics Director Jim Livengood said that it was premature to say where the money for the buyout would come from.

Mackovic was hired in December 2000 to replace former coach Dick Tomey.

Tomey's \$600,000 buyout went into effect upon his departure. He received the final \$200,000 installment last January.

Professor appointed to State Department

By Ashley Nowe
STAFF WRITER

A UA chemistry and optical sciences professor has been appointed as the Secretary of State's right hand science man.

George H. Atkinson, a professor at the UA since 1983, began working on Sept. 19 as U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell's Senior Advisor for Science and Technology.

"I am very honored and pleased to accept a job of this magnitude," Atkinson said from a hotel in Paris.

As the senior advisor, Atkinson will serve as the department's voice in the national and international scientific community.

"This is a relatively new position that is much needed in terms of policy making, and Dr. Atkinson is a good choice for the job," said chemistry research associate Andrew Terentis, who works for Atkinson at the UA. "He

See CHEMISTRY/7

Run to support nursing college

By Alexis Blue
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

A year after three College of Nursing faculty members were killed by a disgruntled student with a gun, the College of Nursing Alumni Council hopes to honor their memory by hosting a 5K memorial walk/run.

And they're asking for members of the UA and Tucson community to show their support by strapping on some tennis shoes and joining them on Oct. 26.

So far, only 250 people have signed up for the event. The

council hopes to have 500 to 1,000 participants, said event coordinator Ellice Mellinger.

Registration is open until the day of the event, and all members of the UA and Tucson communities are invited to participate.

The College of Nursing and the UA campus were devastated last year when nursing student Robert Stewart Flores Jr. opened fire in the College of Nursing, killing professors Cheryl M. McGaffic, Barbara S. Monroe and Robin E. Rogers and then himself.

See NURSING/6



MALLORY LORING/Arizona Daily Wildcat
Nursing students, junior Jessica Park, senior Emily Fitz, and junior Lindsay Poole congregate before a lecture.