

'Yumans' fight for hall's honor

By Alexis Blue
STAFF WRITER

There may be few residence halls on campus that have the kind of close-knit community that Yuma Hall residents enjoy.

So when Jim Van Arsdel, director of Residence Life, proposed eliminating Yuma's honors status, residents responded with a united and overwhelming 'no way.'

About 40 "Yumans" met with Van Arsdel Wednesday night at the Honors College to voice their opposition.

Van Arsdel said Residence Life is considering converting five of Yuma's seven lounge areas into bedrooms, which would allow an additional 40 residents to live in the hall.

In exchange for the lost lounge space, Van Arsdel offered to make one of the new residence halls being constructed on North Highland Avenue an honors hall instead of Yuma.

But Yuma residents made it clear that they weren't the least bit interested in moving into any fancy new buildings, saying that they prefer the humble accommodations of their Yuma home.

"A big part of Yuma is community," said resident Dan Tuttle, an international studies and economics sophomore. "The community and the history there is something you can't supplant."

Tim Wong, president of Yuma's hall government, agreed.

"It's a certain environment that one can't replicate," said Wong, a media arts junior.

Yuma Hall is home to 144 residents, 134 of whom are honors students.

It has been an honors dorm for around 16 years, Van Arsdel said.

Built in 1942, it is one of the smallest residence halls on campus, and those who live there are the first to admit that it isn't in the best condition.

But problems like leaky pipes and the occasional power outage only seem to add to its charm.

As they listened to Van Arsdel's proposals, residents laughed and groaned over numerous inside jokes about broken sinks, peeling paint and the ominous Yuma basement, where the annual Haunted Dungeon is held to raise money for charity.

Music composition and education freshman Ben Stoddard championed the hall as he proudly proclaimed, "Even if our walls don't have paint, the spirit of Yuma covers up those walls!"



MONTINE RUMMEL/Arizona Daily Wildcat
Linguistics and molecular and cellular biology junior Aaron Koassen, left, listens to wildlife, watershed and rangeland resource sophomore Julia Jolley as she asks about the future of other dorms besides Yuma Hall at the meeting conducted Tuesday evening.

Van Arsdel said that Residence Life plans to do some renovations over the summer to improve the building's condition.

Stoddard said although he has only lived in Yuma Hall for seven weeks, he has already made a number of close friends there.

He said he likes being around people who have read the same books as he has, who are as dedicated to school as he is and who understand the pressures of the UA honors program.

Yuma Hall Director Doug Copeland, a

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Building rename sparks protests

Building honoring Chavez upsets groups

By Greg Holt
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Three student political groups plan to protest the renaming of the Economics building at the ceremony Sunday.

Approximately 30 members of the College Republicans, Student Objectivist Society, and the Independent Women of the University of Arizona will voice their objection to the administration's decision to rename the building in honor of Cesar E. Chavez, a Yuma-born union leader.

The protest will take place during the formal dedication ceremony in front of the newly-named Cesar E. Chavez building. It will follow a celebration march that will begin in front of Old Main at 2 p.m.

Chavez founded United Farm Workers, a union of California farm workers, in 1956. He was also known for holding hunger strikes to raise public awareness of farm labor and migrant worker issues.

"We think it's a bad choice for naming the building, and we're going to let that be known in a peaceful, civil manner," said Tyler Harris, mathematics junior and vice president of the College Republicans.

The groups plan to set up tables on the Mall where the Chavez celebration march will pass. They also plan to have picket signs and will be distributing literature that supports their cause.

"We'll have a lot of literature from the '60s and '70s, historical documents which describe what he was doing during that time," said Erik Fleisch, a geosciences senior and president of the Student Objectivist Society, a group that advocates the philosophy of 20th century author Ayn Rand.

The protesters see the tribute to Chavez as one not honoring a humanitarian and civil rights leader, but instead honoring a glorified union bully.

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Football must win to put fans back in seats

By Brett Fera
SPORTS WRITER

As the UA football team gets set for its first home game since head coach John Mackovic's firing two weeks ago, athletics department officials say the key to bringing fans back to Arizona Stadium is as simple as winning games.

On average, fewer than 42,000 fans made their way through the gates of Arizona Stadium during the team's first four home games this year. Halfway through the 2003 campaign, the Wildcats' only win is a season-opening 42-7 blowout of visiting Texas-El Paso.

"At some point in time it does come down to winning," Livengood said. We're trying to do more fan friendly things, more family friendly things. Bottom line though is that people will come out if it's a good product."

Attendance at the 56,002 seat stadium has dropped each of the last five seasons, since the Wildcats averaged more than 51,000 fans per game in 1999. Since Mackovic was hired in December 2000 — to replace longtime UA head coach Dick Tomey — average attendance has fallen by nearly 7,500 fans per

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Parents to invade campus today

By Alexandria Blute
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

All those students enjoying the lack of parental supervision better clean up their rooms.

This weekend the university will host thousands of parents coming to the UA for Family Weekend, which is organized by the University Activities Board.

All activities and events will be organized by students, who have been planning this weekend since December, said UAB vice president external Diana Ziegler.

"This year we've got over 3,000 individuals signed up," said UAB president Greg Billings. "The majority of our events and tours are all full," he said.

This weekend's events include a "Mexican Madness" dinner, which will feature mariachis, the UA football game, and tours of the campus, Billings said.

Parents can also look forward to the revival of a murder mystery dinner, Billings said.

For those students who don't see their parents on a regular basis, Family Weekend is their chance for a long-awaited family reunion.

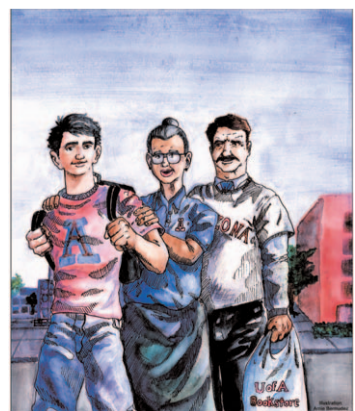
Jenna Tavaras, an undeclared freshman, said that her mother is coming from Thailand to check on her.

Tavaras says she is excited to have the chance to go shopping.

"I need a lot of stuff for my

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Family Weekend Guide



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