



ARIZONA DAILY WILDCAT

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Student visa fees hurt grads

By Julie Wetmore
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

A petition that has circulated around the country is now at the UA, and the Graduate and Professional Student Council wants students, regents, and administrators to sign it.

A majority of the Graduate and Professional Student Council of the UA voted a time period of two weeks to sponsor and sign a national academic

visa reform petition, said Jani Radebaugh, president of GPSC.

The petition was originated in response to visa fee increases and extensive applications. It asks the U.S. government to take a closer look at how the visa program is working for both graduates and undergraduates.

Graduate councils around the country have signed the document, which was originated at Yale University by the Graduate Employees and Students Organization. Two weeks ago the

petition was presented in Washington during the Immigrant Worker Freedom Rides and again at a rally in Queens, New York on Oct. 4.

Originally, there was some hesitation among the medical school about signing the petition, said Jason Johnson, a graduate student and GPSC representative from the College of Medicine.

"The med students equated making the process easier and more streamlined with lessened security," Johnson said.

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Emergency prevention needs funds

By Greg Holt
STAFF WRITER

A university committee, charged with developing emergency response plans, recommended yesterday setting aside central funds every year for emergency response expenses.

The Campus Emergency Response Team's October report details recommendations for future improvements to crisis preparation and prevention on the UA campus.

Recommendations include conducting periodic mock disaster drills, hiring a threat assessment consultant firm to develop procedures for identifying and managing violent behavior, and setting aside central funds every year for emergency response expenses.

"There's so many unanticipated issues that can arise in a crisis. You need to have the ability to make decisions knowing you have the resources to back them up," said Sharon Kha, UA spokeswoman.

Other recommendations include clarifying procedures dealing with the recently adopted campus-wide Incident Command System that will be implemented in times of crisis, as well as establishing available funds for mass clinics if they are needed in the event of a bio-terrorism attack.

President Peter Likins formally established the Campus Emergency Response team in 2000, although it has had an unofficial existence for over 20 years, Kha said.

However, the focus of CERT has shifted dramatically in the wake of the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, and the College of Nursing faculty murders of Oct. 28, 2002.

"In the last two years, four critical incidents — two international, one national and one local — have had an enormous impact on the campus and have served to propel emergency preparedness to priority status on campus," said Sandra Taylor, senior vice president of Campus Life.

Taylor said there are two objectives in emergency planning. The first objective is to prevent a crisis from occurring by developing methods to identify violent and threatening behavior in students.

The second objective is to create an infrastructure that will minimize the disastrous effects of major crisis, which

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LADIES' NIGHT



Drag Queen Janee Starr lip-syncs at La Paz during Diva La Paz last night. The show included two performances by each drag queen drawing the attention of about 500 people. This event was part of "Coming Out Week" at UA.

Bleed blue, red in blood drive

By Elizabeth Thompson
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

There are only two days remaining for UA students to donate blood and beat ASU in the 17th annual UA, ASU, and NAU blood donation challenge.

The blood drive, organized by the Arizona region of the American Red Cross Blood Services, kicked off on Monday as part of a weeklong contest between the three state schools.

The goal for this year's competition is to raise over 1,500 pints of blood to be used in local and state hospitals. The UA's goal is set at 635 pints, and as of yesterday, 309 had been raised.

ASU has about 475 pints donated with NAU, who is participating in the challenge for the first time, coming in third with 250 pints donated.

Although the UA beat ASU last year, donation

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Honors College increases recruitment

By Andrea Kelly
STAFF WRITER



JACOB KONST/Arizona Daily Wildcat
Mary Pankratz, a molecular and cellular biology senior, uses a computer at the Honors College.

In an effort to outshine ASU and peer institutions in the fight over National Merit Scholars, the Honors College has stepped up recruitment efforts.

The effort, which includes sending letters from honors students to prospective students, helped more than double the number of out-of-state National Merit Scholars who came to the UA this year.

The Honors College recruited 20 out-of-state National Merit Scholars this year compared to 8 from last year.

The college offered a more generous scholarship

to out-of-state students, which is one of the reasons why enrollment went up, said Stephanie Adamson, assistant director for recruitment and outreach at the Honors College.

Patricia MacCorquodale, dean of the Honors College, said 50 awards were offered last year to out-of-state students, and there were 200 awards offered this year.

"I think it was definitely a really strong applicant pool. There were more scholarship awards for out-of-state students," Adamson said.

"We did really well with the top 1 and 2 percent of in-state high school students and national merit recruitment."

The amount of financial aid also increased. Last year out-of-state students could receive a waiver that eliminated the discrepancy between in- and out-of-state tuition. This year they received a full tuition waiver plus \$2,000.

"Our goal was not to increase class size. Our goal was to increase quality. We dramatically surpassed our goal," Adamson said.

Andrew Wallis, a computer science freshman from Oregon, said he would not have come to the UA if he had not received a tuition reduction from the Honors College.

However, there are other students who chose the college even without a financial

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