

## Student loses all to Calif. wildfires

By Erin Schmidt  
STAFF WRITER

For Brian Savitch, a weekend trip back home was spent digging through the rubble for his most prized possessions.

Savitch's home was one of two UA students' homes burnt to the ground by the Cedar Fire, the worst fire in California history, that torched its way through Southern California.

Savitch, a journalism senior, returned to the UA early this week after visiting the Scripps Ranch neighborhood he called home for more than 19 years.

Everything was destroyed, he said.

More than 345 homes were ruined in Scripps Ranch as the two mile long, 100 feet-high flames of the Cedar Fire ravaged the town.

The California wildfires, which spread from San Diego to Los Angeles, burned a total of 3,600 homes and more than 743,000 acres.

"My entire street was burnt down," he said. "It is very hard to handle."

Savitch went to California to be with his parents and his sister, Lauren, an undeclared UA sophomore.

"Even though I saw the pictures, you couldn't prepare yourself for what you saw," Savitch said. "It was the most devastating feeling you could ever have."

He said the once familiar street he drove down so many times was now just empty spaces and black ash.

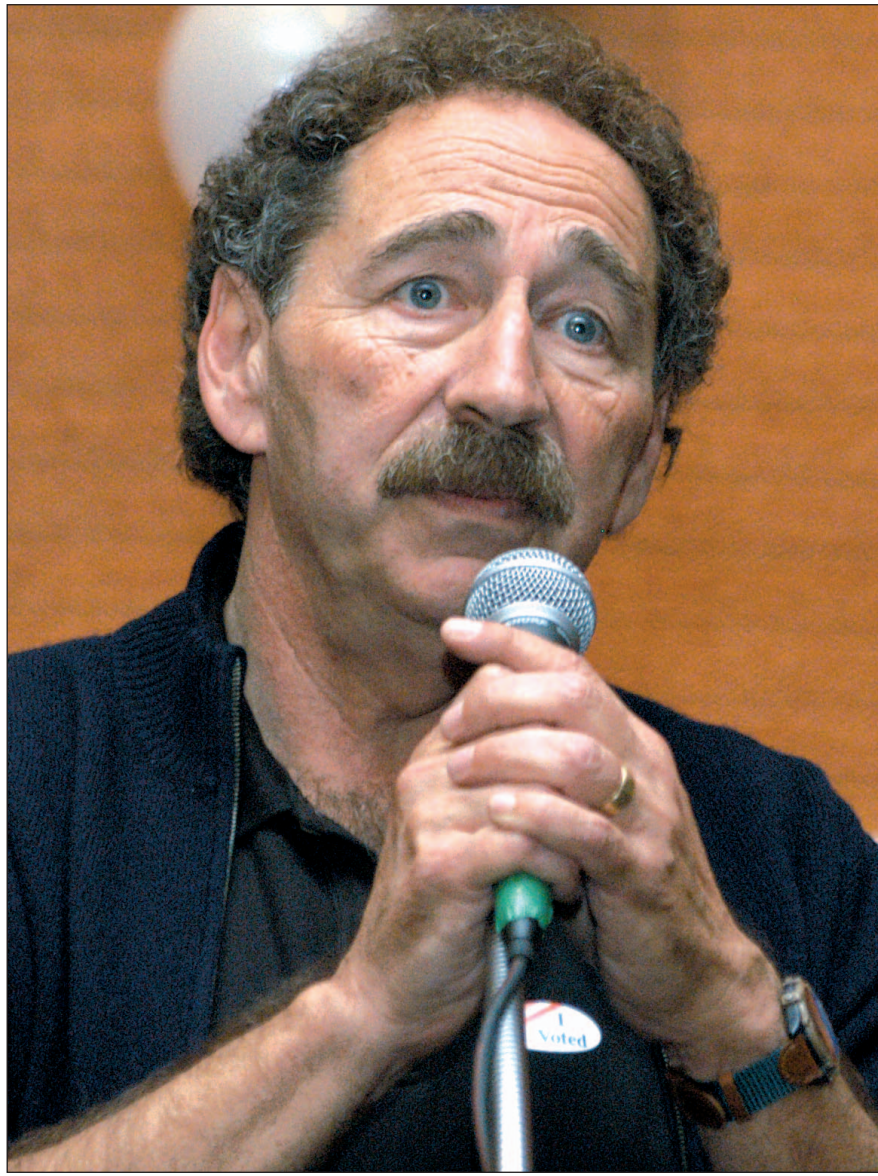
Savitch said his family spent a lot of time searching the debris, hoping the fire spared a few precious keepsakes.

"I went digging in the ash where I thought my room was," Savitch said. "But everything was destroyed."

The Savitch home was just left to a heaping mound of ashes with nothing standing but a lone chimney and a soot-covered driveway.

"The memories are what you can't replace," Savitch said. "I had a ton of baseball cards that I wanted to give my son

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CHRIS CODUTO/Arizona Daily Wildcat  
UA professor and mayoral candidate Tom Volgy (D) addresses a crowd of supporters gathered at the Doubletree Hotel on North Alvernon Way while awaiting election results last night. With about 4,000 votes still uncounted, Volgy trailed incumbent Bob Walkup (R) by 1,400 votes.

## UA prof. trails in mayoral election

By Devin Simmons  
& Greg Holt  
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR & STAFF WRITER

UA professor and democratic candidate Tom Volgy narrowly trailed his republican opponent Bob Walkup late last night in the race for mayor of the City of Tucson.

With 100 percent of precincts reporting, Walkup held a slight lead with 49.55 percent of the vote to Volgy's 47.6 percent. About 4,000 ballots still needed to be counted, including early ballots and those needing verification.

Those won't be counted until Friday or Saturday, said Jay Gonzales, a city spokesman.

When the *Wildcat* went to press, the two opponents were separated by 1,400 votes.

"Boy, is this exciting, or what?" Walkup told a boisterous crowd of supporters.

In a speech at the Doubletree Hotel, Volgy attributed Walkup's lead to the huge advantage Walkup had in funding from special interests.

"There was an enormous amount of money

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## ASUA fails to boost voter turnout

By Dana Crudo  
STAFF WRITER

ASUA senators discovered yesterday that getting students to the polls is not as easy as offering a shuttle service.

Sen. Kara Harris said ASUA's free shuttle service to the polls was not as successful as senators had hoped because students weren't registered, had forgotten about the elections or couldn't find the time to vote.

From 8 a.m. to 11 a.m., only one student used the shuttle service. After that, only around 15 students took advantage of the shuttle service before ASUA closed it down an hour early at 3 p.m.

The free shuttle, coordinated by Harris, was supposed to pick up students from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. to drive them to voting booths.

It cost ASUA \$186.10 to rent the shuttles.

"It was kind of a slow day. A lot of people didn't realize that

you need to be registered to vote," Harris said. "I think a lot of people were confused by the fact that you had to be registered in Tucson."

Diana Park, a biology freshman, said she did not vote because she wasn't registered.

"I didn't vote. I'm not registered yet. Hopefully I will be before the presidential election," she said.

Overall, voter turnout was at 38 percent, down from 41 percent a year ago.

Although students who registered today could not vote in the city elections, senators still managed to get about 25 students to fill out the paperwork.

ASUA senators said they also found a lot of students did not even know there were elections today.

"It was kind of hard because a lot of people didn't know about the elections today," Harris said. "I thought that was kind of odd."

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## Two's company, three's a crowd for SafeRide service

By Dana Crudo  
STAFF WRITER

ASUA SafeRide will no longer drive groups larger than two people in order to accommodate more students who are traveling alone or in pairs at night.

Lately, the service has driven more than 300 people per night, a volume SafeRide cannot handle with its limited resources, said Joshua Wright, the director of SafeRide.

Wright, a psychology senior, said that groups of more than two people should be able to travel safely at night without the help of SafeRide.

"ASUA SafeRide is an academic safety service; groups of more

than two persons traveling together are not considered a high safety risk," Wright said. "There is safety in numbers and the risk is greatly diminished."

But Wright's new policy is not going over well with students.

Lacey Wilson, a secondary education junior, said that groups of three aren't necessarily safe.

"Three girls who weigh 110 lbs are not going to be able to protect themselves against two guys that weigh 200 lbs," Wilson said.

But Wright said that the new rules are necessary because they will allow the cars to pick up more people at once.

The service will still carry up to four passengers at a time, but will only pick up groups of two people

or less.

"We'll get to people faster because we'll have more room so the cars can pick up people right away," Wright said.

Wright said the policies were created not only to increase pick up rates, but also to limit the number of partygoers SafeRide has had to drive around.

"In a lot of cases, groups of three people have been known to go to parties or out to drink," Wright said. "This bogs down the service because we got to figure out where the parties are, and it wastes time."

Tifani Wendt, a physical education sophomore who has taken



CHRIS CODUTO/Arizona Daily Wildcat  
Communications sophomore Rebecca Etter (left) and sociology freshman Emily Holleran take advantage of the SafeRide program to get from Skyview Apartments to their sorority house earlier this year.

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