

# ARIZONA DAILY WILDCAT

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The University of Arizona, Tucson

## BACK TO BASIC

### CADETS READY TO 'KICK BUTT'

ROTC cadets prepare for upcoming 'Ranger Challenge' in Calif.

By Alexandria Blute  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

In the cold morning air, a group of 15 elite ROTC cadets trudged sleepily up the steps of the UA's South Hall.

It was 5:30 a.m. The students, clad in lightweight uniforms, waited two weeks ago for their team captain to lead stretches as they prepared to take the Army physical fitness test. The cadets worked in virtual silence, broken only by the captain's occasional command to switch stretches.

The group then sprinted to the UA Mall where they completed two minutes of sit-ups and push-ups that must be executed in perfect form.

If they needed a rest, there was an Army-approved position in which they were allowed to do so.

But these cadets rarely paused to reposition themselves on the cold, damp Mall grass, nor did they stop to walk during the timed two-mile sprint.

These cadets are the best of the best, the elite, and they have been waking up before dawn every weekday for two months to prepare for the Army ROTC Ranger Challenge.

The group's hard work, dedication and endurance will be put to the test this weekend as the team travels to Fort Hunter-Liggett Air Force Base near Monterey, Calif. to accomplish a single goal.

Their mission, they say: to kick butt. Of the 15 ROTC cadets led by Sgt. Mark Trees, who will fly to California for the annual competition this weekend, 10 will compete against ROTC groups from approximately 20 schools in the western region including UCLA, ASU and BYU.

The two-day Ranger Challenge includes six different competitions, that will assess each cadet's individual physical and mental strength as well as the



CLAIRE C. LAURENCE/Arizona Daily Wildcat  
Business management junior Jeff Chenard and higher education administration graduate student Eric Boenitz assist criminal justice junior Sean Underhill off of the rope bridge during an early morning ROTC drill.

cadets' ability to work as a team.

The group will compete against hundreds of other cadets in events such as M-16 marksmanship, land navigation, a one-rope bridge and an obstacle course, said Trees, a science education junior.

The cadets will also take an Army physical fitness test.

The final event is one that many of the cadets say is grueling: a 10k rucksack foot march during which competitors

run nearly six and a half miles laden with gear and a pack that can weigh nearly 40 pounds.

But being pushed to their physical and mental limits is nothing new to the UA team.

While training for events like the rucksack march, the cadets said that they used packs that weighed as much as 60

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## Tuition may go up \$500

By Andrea Kelly  
STAFF WRITER

Students could face a \$500 tuition increase this year if regents and the three university presidents decide to reach their goal of getting university tuition to rank at the top of the bottom one-third of other senior universities.

According to data compiled by the Arizona Board of Regents, the UA is exactly \$497 away from the top of the bottom one-third, or the 34th spot on the tuition roster.

This increase would come on the heels of last year's record setting \$1,000 tuition increase for resident undergraduates.

The Arizona Board of Regents will decide in March whether reaching the top of the bottom one-third among nationwide tuition rates is something that should be accomplished this year or if the increase should be dispersed over time.

Karen Bender, a pre-med freshman, said spreading the tuition increase over time would be better.

"I think it would be hard for people who plan ahead for college," Bender said. "An unexpected increase would be hard."

President Peter Likins would not say if he would ask for a \$500 tuition increase this year, but he said when it comes time to issue a proposal, he will ask for what he thinks is best for the university.

Ultimately though, the regents make

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▶ ASA's tuition proposal won't be ready until February

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## ASUA president to have 'fireside chats' over lunch with students



DAVID HARDEN/Arizona Daily Wildcat  
ASUA president J.P. Benedict, Cattracks coordinator Amber Harryman, and pre-education sophomore Herman Lee exchange ideas during a lunch with other UA students.

By Dana Crudo  
STAFF WRITER

Student Body President J.P. Benedict is saving a seat for you at his lunch table.

Benedict, in a move he said is modeled after Franklin D. Roosevelt's fireside chats, is inviting students to come to his lunch table every other Monday to talk to him about anything they want.

"A lot of people enjoyed him opening up," Benedict said of the former president, whose fireside chats aired on the radio in the '30s.

"Cat Chat," which is part of Benedict's efforts to fulfill his campaign promise of reaching out to students, started this week and will continue every other Monday as long as they are successful.

"If it's successful, there is no reason to not keep on having it until the end of next

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## Honorary working toward rebuilding damaged image

By Alexis Blue  
STAFF WRITER

While still on probation for hazing violations, the Chain Gang Junior Honorary is turning a punishment into a positive, and being rewarded for it.

Chain Gang received a \$200 award Wednesday for drafting a proposal that provides campus clubs with alternatives to hazing.

The Dean of Students Office established the award this year to encourage clubs and organizations on campus to think of creative ways to get new members involved without hazing them.

Marc Viscardi, president of Chain Gang, said the club was extremely proud to win the award, especially since Chain Gang has been punished for hazing and alcohol violations in the past.

"We are in a refocusing period right now," said Viscardi, a creative writing and journalism major. "We're glad someone's seeing all the hard work we've put into giving our club a better image."

The Dean of Students Office put Chain Gang on probation last year after the club asked new members to participate in a scavenger hunt as part of

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