

ARIZONA DAILY WILDCAT

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The University of Arizona, Tucson

A HELPING HAND



KEVIN B. KLAUS/Arizona Daily Wildcat

Mechanical engineering senior John Aza (right) leads an organization that finds volunteers, tutors and donations for clothing, toys and more for Sudanese children. Aza spends time with (from left to right) 9-year-old Jeffrey Odu, 4-year-old Rebekah Odu, 1-year-old Lori Mingain and 3-year-old Lara Mingain.

STUDENT HELPS FELLOW REFUGEES

By Walter E. Staton
STAFF WRITER

When John Aza came to Arizona in 1996, he was fleeing from an ongoing civil war in the Sudan that has displaced millions of people.

Now, Aza, a mechanical engineering senior, is the director of the Southern Sudanese Resettlement Program and will be speaking at the Martin Luther King Jr. Day march Monday to express his gratitude to American society.

Aza said he will be speaking about justice and racism.

"If the struggle wasn't made, this meeting wouldn't be possible," said Aza, referring to America's civil rights movement.

Aza is one of three Sudanese refugees studying at the UA. He first came to America by invitation, and then applied for and received political asylum.

Like the 300 other Sudanese refugees in Tucson, Aza was fleeing

from an ongoing civil war in southern Sudan, a North African country near Egypt.

He said he is happy to be in a country where there is more justice.

"We are enjoying the fruit from America's struggle," he said.

But that doesn't mean life has been smooth for him and the other refugees living in Tucson.

Aza is helping Sudanese refugees adjust to life in Tucson by directing the

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Governor releases budget proposal

By Bob Purvis
LEGISLATIVE CORRESPONDENT

PHOENIX — Democratic Gov. Janet Napolitano's 2005 budget proposal calls for an \$8 million funding boost for the UA to keep valuable professors and help accommodate a growing student body.

Napolitano came through on her State of the State promise to "continue to invest significantly in Arizona's universities," asking the Legislature for \$46 million in additional funding for the three state schools, including \$21.9 million for pay raises for university employees.

At the UA, the funding increases consist of nearly \$4.3 million aimed at retaining key faculty members. The UA would also receive a share of \$21.9 million set aside for employee raises at all three universities. An additional \$3.6 million would help deal with enrollment growth.

In the budget, Arizona State University would get a roughly \$13.5 million increase to help administrators keep up with skyrocketing enrollment. Northern Arizona University would receive \$2.6 million for pay increases and to bolster their nursing program that Napolitano said would help the statewide nursing shortage.

UA officials had asked Napolitano for \$64 million more than their 2004 state funding of nearly \$316.6 million, but UA President Peter Likins said he was satisfied with Napolitano's financial commitment to the university in the face of a looming

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ASUA asks students for activity fee

By Dana Crudo
STAFF WRITER

After the success of UA Latenight, student leaders hope students will want to pay a \$30 yearly programming fee to help fund more activities.

The Collaboration Board, which includes representatives from the Associated Students of the University of Arizona, the University Activities Board, Panhellenic Council, Interfraternity Council, Residence Housing Association and Arizona Student Media, wants to put the \$30 yearly fee on the ASUA elections ballot in March.

The fee would help fund activities that keep students on campus, so that they don't

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Gays frequently assaulted on 4th Ave.

By Walter E. Staton
STAFF WRITER

Jonna Lopez frequently hears verbal assaults from passing drivers as she leaves IBT's, a gay bar on North Fourth Avenue.

Lopez, the director of the UA Pride Alliance, said harassment in front of the bar has been a problem not only for her, but for others as well.

Mark Fontes, 21, was found unconscious and bleeding behind IBT's at 12:45 a.m. Tuesday. He had left the bar at midnight.

Although it is unknown whether Fontes was the victim of a hate crime, members of the LGBT community said they have been victims of hate crimes in the past.

A sea of twinkling candles filled the sidewalk in front of IBT's last night during a candlelight vigil dedicated to

Fontes, who remains hospitalized in critical condition.

A crowd of about 250 gathered to show support for Fontes, an openly gay 21-year-old Tucsonan.

Detective Tim Rupel, a Tucson Police hate crime investigator, is still investigating what happened to Fontes.

"Mark's case is my number-one priority," Rupel said. He has no suspects.

The owner of IBT's, David Huff, said since the bar's clientele is primarily homosexual, it is often a target for harassment.

Realizing there can be problems, Huff has been proactive in ensuring the safety of IBT's clients. He, along with other North Fourth Avenue bar owners, has regular meetings with representa-

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Tucsonan Jami McDowell shows her support for the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender community during a candlelight vigil last night outside IBT's on North Fourth Avenue. The vigil was held to show support for Mark Fontes, who has been in a coma since he was found unconscious and bleeding early Tuesday morning outside of the bar.

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Proposed bill could halt smoking in bars

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