

ARIZONA DAILY WILDCAT

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The University of Arizona, Tucson

Let gays marry, students say

By Walter E. Staton
STAFF WRITER

Politicians all over the country are attempting to ban gay marriage, but UA students say it's time to give homosexuals the same rights everyone else has.

Lettie Hobbins and Victoria Gibbins said the issue of marriage is not one for the state to meddle with.

Hobbins, a criminal justice junior, said it is not the state's role to set morals, and that a marriage between gay people

should be acknowledged like any other marriage.

"It's not the state's business to infringe on peoples' personal relationships," said Gibbins, a business administration sophomore.

Scott Westle, a political science senior, said he fully supports gay marriage.

"I think it's about time," Westle said. "There's no reason gay couples can't get the same rights as heterosexual

couples."

Jonna Lopez, director of ASUA Pride Alliance, said she and her partner are ready to get married, but Arizona won't allow it.

"It's a set of rights and responsibilities that we can't get," Lopez said.

"Heterosexual couples are given access to this institution that homosexual couples are not."

Gay marriage will take center stage on campus today

as Pride Alliance hosts the Freedom to Marry Ceremony on the UA Mall. The ceremony kicks off weeklong events to promote gay awareness.

While Lopez is trying to encourage support for the right for gays to marry, lawmakers around the country are trying to codify marriage as a union between a man and a woman.

In his State of the Union address last month, Bush talked about the possibility of using the "constitutional

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Likins asks Bush to speak at graduation

Some activists say protests will erupt if president speaks

By Jeff Sklar
SENIOR WRITER

If President Bush accepts an invitation to speak at the UA commencement in May, it will surprise the man who invited him and spark protests from students who oppose Bush's politics.

President Peter Likins, who invited Bush last week, pointed out Friday that the UA is one of many universities extending an invitation to Bush, and said the odds of Bush accepting are remote.

Asked if he expected Bush to accept, Likins responded, "No, I do not."

Likins had already asked former Wildcat basketball star Steve Kerr to keep May 15, the date of commencement, free. And as of Friday afternoon, he hadn't warned Kerr that he had also invited Bush.

If Bush accepts, he will likely be met by protesters from liberal student groups across campus. Students have already expressed interest in organizing against a Bush visit, said Rachel Wilson, a first-year law student and longtime anti-war activist.

Almost immediately after hearing last week that Bush had been invited, Wilson began contacting fellow activists. She has already begun planning protests.

"We don't think it's a good idea to invite someone here to tell us lies," she said. "I think Bush isn't exactly a model of academic excellence."

If protesters weren't determined a threat to the president or other visitors, they would likely be allowed to protest without many more restrictions than they would normally have, said UAPD Sgt. Eugene Mejia.

But commencement visitors might experience tighter security measures than at typical ceremonies, when McKale Center's doors are open to anybody, Mejia said.

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SWEPT AWAY



Two Tibetan monks sweep up the last remaining grains of sand from the mandala, an ancient sand art that symbolizes peace and healing yesterday, in the UofA Bookstore. More than 250 people participated in the dissolution ceremony, in which the monks performed chants and other music in an offering to the gods. After the dissolution, the mandala was handed out to the participants to keep as a remembrance of the event. After the sand had been distributed, the remaining grains were taken to the pond on the UA campus, where the monks performed a final ceremony and spread the sand into the pond. The monks were part of a weeklong visit to the UA, in which they spread Tibetan culture through ceremonies and the sand mandala. For more photos of the dissolution ceremony, go online at wildcat.arizona.edu.

DAVID HARDEN/Arizona Daily Wildcat

ASUA forums let candidates show positions

By Dana Crudo
STAFF WRITER

With ASUA primary elections almost one week away, students have the chance to get informed and put their 2 cents in about the candidates.

The Arizona Daily Wildcat is sponsoring the first presidential debate not sponsored by the Associated Students of the University of Arizona Feb. 23 at noon on the bottom floor of the UofA Bookstore.

"The idea was to create an independent debate separate from ASUA so that our

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Students appreciate Rehnquist lectures

By Andrea Kelly
STAFF WRITER

Chief Justice William Rehnquist's annual two-week lecture class on the history of the Supreme Court ended Friday, and students in the class said they appreciated the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

"It was a unique experience. Not many students get a chance to talk and answer questions with a chief justice," said second-year law student Joan Bundy, who was in the class of about 130 students.

Rehnquist's personal experiences are what set the class apart from any other about the Supreme Court, said Cisco Aguilar, a fourth-year law student who is also working on his master's in business administration.

Matt Mansfield said it was interesting

to hear firsthand about the process involved in Supreme Court decisions and how things work in the court.

"You're not going to get that from someone who wasn't on the court," the second-year law student said.

"He gives a great perspective on the impact each chief justice has, to make (the court) what it is today," Aguilar said.

Rehnquist's knowledge and research on the history of the Supreme Court included stories and funny anecdotes about the people on the court at different times, said Ana Himelic, a second-year law student.

"He really put the Supreme Court into context, as far as the people who were sitting on the court during different time periods and why they wrote what they wrote," Himelic said. "It's

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EVAN CARAVELLI/Arizona Daily Wildcat
Chief Justice William Rehnquist, at a student's request Thursday, signs a book he wrote. Rehnquist's annual two-week lecture class ended Friday.

Rock
drilling for
dummies

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Hoops UA clobbers Bruins 107-83
show no love for UCLA

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ASU president
apologizes to
Olson

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