

ARIZONA DAILY WILDCAT

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The University of Arizona, Tucson

DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

'Declaration' copy makes visit to Mall

By Thuba Nguyen
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The arrival of the Declaration of Independence and the bright red, white and blue tents drew large crowds of students to the UA Mall yesterday.

The Declaration of Independence has been touring college campuses around the nation with Declare Yourself, a non-profit, non-partisan campaign formed to inspire youths on college campuses to vote. Mary McGuire, assistant director of Declare Yourself, said the goal of this tour was to motivate youths from the ages of 18 to 24 to register to vote.

"We have been traveling with an original copy of the Declaration of Independence housed in an exhibit designed to inspire people to civic activism," McGuire said.

Matthew Fish, a 20-year-old Paradise Valley Community College student, was at one of the booths registering to vote.

"People should be involved in their right to vote because we have the ability to make decisions in this country," said Fish.

Fish added with a smile that his girlfriend made him register.

The event also held a College Video Challenge, sponsored by Yahoo.com. Students who were interested in voicing why they think it is important to vote were welcomed to speak out and be recorded. Five students from each university with the best responses will be chosen for their clips to run on Declare Yourself and Yahoo.com.

Public administration sophomore Bryant Conger waited near the USS Arizona Room to participate in the video contest. He said he is really interested in politics and the reason he is willing to speak out on video is because he may have a chance to meet with a Democratic candidate.

"I get to get some beef with the candidate," said Conger.

Conger said he believes events promoting voter registration and civic awareness on campus are important.

"I think it's good that they're here, because the more students that are registered means that more students are going to have a say in the decisions that affect our tuition and lives," said Conger.

Around noon, spoken word artists Steve Connell, Sekou (Tha Misfit), Gina Loring and Marty McConnell performed on the UA stage,

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Performance poets Gina Loring and Sekou (Tha Misfit) recite a poem on the UA Mall yesterday during a slam poetry session in part of the Declare Yourself traveling voter registration and information fair. Declare Yourself also had information booths, gave away free merchandise and talked to students about voting.

Students say ignorance, caution stops their vote

By Thuba Nguyen
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

UA students say they want to carry out their civic duty by voting, but don't believe they know enough about issues and candidates to make an informed decision.

"You don't want to make the wrong decisions," said Cliff Golon, an undeclared freshman.

Golon said students do not know much about the issues at hand to make

choices that would affect the country.

General biology senior Josh Fenn said he believes students are not as interested in politics as they should be.

"I think they're more in tune to their studies and what's around them ... than what's going on in America," Fenn said.

Fenn, a registered Republican who has voted before, said he feels his vote would not make a difference out of millions of votes, but he still carries out his civic duty since he wants to prove to

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1 in 3 UA students support activity fee

ASUA plans to put fee in next month's election

By Dana Crudo
STAFF WRITER

Despite survey results that show one in three students would definitely favor a student activity fee, student officials are moving to put the issue on the ballot.

Greg Billings, a Collaboration Board member who is pushing to get the fee on the ballot next month, said an executive summary of the survey showed that 84 percent of the student population would support a \$25 per semester fee.

But the number is a cumulative percent of the student population that would definitely and possibly vote in favor of the fee.

Of the total students surveyed, only 34 percent said they would definitely vote in favor of a student activity fee of \$25 per semester.

"I think the 34 percent reflected the amount that was totally in support of it, and the cumulative number was people who would generally support the fee," said Billings, who is also the University Activities Board president.

He said it is fair to combine the numbers because the board was only looking for general support of the fee.

But the fee, which will affect the entire student body, will be voted on in elections that are known for low voter turnout.

Last year, only 10 percent of the student body voted on a referendum that would keep the \$1 KAMP radio student fee.

Chris Herstam, Arizona Board of Regents president, said he was skeptical of fees passed by a small number of students at a referendum.

In the survey, 32 percent of students said they had voted previously in student referendum of student government elections. That number is roughly the same percent of students who supported the fee.

J.P. Benedict, ASUA president, said the students who vote are students who are also more involved on campus — thus more likely to vote for the fee.

He said what bothered him about the survey was it never asked if this would be a big enough

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Kyl says Patriot Act should become permanent fixture to fight terror

By Jeff Sklar
SENIOR WRITER

Lawmakers must make the Patriot Act permanent if they want to fight terrorism effectively, Republican Senator Jon Kyl told an audience of about 80 people at the James E. Rogers College of Law yesterday.

Many of the act's provisions simply extend current laws, like allowing government seizure of business documents in pursuit of drug smugglers, so there's little reason why they shouldn't be permanently enacted, he said.

"In effect, we added 'and terrorism' to those laws," Kyl said.

The Patriot Act also needs to give the government more freedom to conduct searches on

suspected terrorists even if they can't be connected to a specific organization, Kyl said.

Such a rule would prevent "lone-wolf terrorists," he said.

Since the act's passage, intelligence and law enforcement agencies have been able to communicate much more freely, he said, a possibility that was only made legal under the Patriot Act.

"They were precluded from that by the law," he said.

The Patriot Act was passed in October 2001 to give the government wider power to investigate potential terror suspects. Since then, it has come under fire from critics who say it infringes on

peoples' civil liberties.

In his wide-ranging talk yesterday, Kyl also decried governments that knowingly allow crimes to be committed, saying they undermine the rule of law.

He pointed to cities that build shelters for day laborers, many of whom have entered the country illegally, as institutions that foster disrespect for the rule of law.

"I can't imagine anybody interested in the law to (accept) that society exists with this kind of cheating going on," he said.

President Bush's recent proposal to create a program that would offer

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► Kyl will not sign ASUA anti-terrorist resolution
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U.S. Sen. Jon Kyl, R-Ariz., made a stop at the UA College of Law yesterday to speak to about 80 students on how the Patriot Act should be made permanent. After speaking at the College of Law, Kyl went to the University Marriot, where he spoke to students about the United States and terrorism.

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/Arizona Daily Wildcat