Bill would jack up speed on I-10

By Bob Purvis

PHOENIX — A decision made by the state Legislature yesterday could shave six minutes off your next trip to Phoenix.

A bill allowing the Arizona Department of Transportation to raise the speed limit on stretches of interstate outside urban areas, from 75 to 80 mph, passed unanimously out of the Senate Natural Resources and Transportation Committee.

The bill originally would have boosted the speed limit on sections of interstate and state highways with speed limits of 65 mph up to 70 mph and raised the excessive speeding level up from 85 to 90 mph.

But amendments gutted the bill and changed the mandated increases into a single optional speed increase for areas of rural interstate like the stretch between Tucson and Phoenix.

Up to speed:
- Current I-10 speed: 75 mph
- Proposed I-10 speed: 80 mph

The bill’s sponsor, Sen. Thayer Ormsby, D-Gilbert, said ADOT and Department of Public Safety officials asked him to make the changes in the bill.

“The way I see it, the roads are built a lot better than they were. I remember when I was a kid having 85 mph speed limits here in Arizona, and we have much better roads and much better cars than we had then,” Ormsby said.

A fact sheet for the original bill provided by ADOT stated that raising the speed limits would cost the state Highway Fund $500,000 to print new speed limit signs.

Lindsay Lesser, a psychology junior, said students were distracted in his math class last semester because they were unable to understand their interna
tional TA.

“People are screaming and yelling and cackling no matter what the time is to,” said Yavapai resident Leigh Laws.

Quiet hours are the time when students must keep their noise to a minimum. They begin at 10 p.m. on weekdays and midnight on weekends.

“It doesn’t matter when quiet hours begin, residents are not going to be quiet until they are ready,” Laws said.

But Jim Van Arsdale, director of Residence Life, said he was surprised students complained that quiet hours were not enforced, because nearly 1,100 students have been written up for quiet hours violations this year.

“People are still loud and inconsiderate,” she said.

ASUA official: Fee not ready for vote

By Aaron Mackey

As student leaders work to put a $15 to 20 activity fee on the elections ballot, an ASUA elected official said the proposal lacks the research necessary to be ready for the vote.

Victoria Ruas, ASUA administrative vice president, said the fee, which student leaders say would bring more concerts and speakers to campus, has good intentions but asks students to pay too much too soon.

“Everyone wants to see more going on (at the UA), but we can’t just jump into it with our eyes closed,” she said.

But ASUA Sen. Nick Bajema, who helped create the proposal, said student research and planning has been done to ensure accountability.

Residents keep mum on not-so-quiet hours

By Jesse Lewis

Students in residence halls are keeping quiet about changing quiet hours.

Residents who have the opportunity to vote on whether to change the time quiet hours begin, say the vote hardly matters because quiet hours aren’t enforced.

“Moving quiet hours to an hour earlier would be pointless; it doesn’t do that much anyway,” she said. 

“I don’t believe that people who drive 5 mph over the speed limit to avoid being ticketed will speed even faster with a raised limit.”

“What most people do is 80, who I talked to. Most people felt comfortable with that. They’ll admit at 80 mph or 82 mph people will be going by them, but we’re not ready for vote.”

“People are screaming and yelling and cackling no matter what time it is. (Resident assistants) are never around to do anything about it,” said Ruas.

“You shouldn’t complain when quiet hours aren’t enforced. If you don’t like it, change it,” she said.

But ASUA Sen. Nick Bajema, who helped create the proposal, said student research and planning has been done to ensure accountability.

Foreign TAs, students struggle with communication in class

By Natasha Bhuyan

“Most of the 45 minutes in discussion, he is trying to find the right English words, and it gets aggravating,” she said.

While it is a university requirement that all international graduate students pass the Test of English as a Foreign Language, each department on campus uses TAs through its own screening processes.

Coordinate of laboratory instruction in ecology and evolutionary biology Susan Joffre said a TA is hired in her department after only an informal interview.

“These TA’s are not ready for vote. We can’t just jump into it with our eyes closed,” she said.

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