

ARIZONA DAILY WILDCAT

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The University of Arizona, Tucson

Bill would jack up speed on I-10

By Bob Purvis
LEGISLATIVE CORRESPONDENT

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.

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

Up to speed:
▶ Current I-10 speed: 75 mph

▶ Proposed I-10 speed: 80 mph

"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," Verschoor said.

A fact sheet for the origi-

nal bill provided by ADOT stated that raising the speed limits would cost the state Highway Fund \$350,000 to \$500,000 to print new speed limit signs.

Verschoor said he doesn'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 are 80, who I talked to. Most people felt comfortable with that. They'll admit at 80 mph or 82 mph people will go flying by them, but we're

See SPEED/9

Residents keep mum on not-so quiet hours

By Jesse Lewis
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

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.

Yavapai, Pima and Cochise Residence Halls voted last week, but no hall got enough votes to make a change.

"There is no point in having quiet hours voted on because no one follows them anyway," said Yavapai resident Leigh Laws, a journalism sophomore.

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.

Mallory Saulka, a family studies and human development sophomore who lives in Apache-Santa Cruz Residence Hall also said there is no point in changing quiet hours because they are not enforced.

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

Leanna Gersten, a psychology freshman and Coronado hall resident said a change would not make much of a difference.

"Moving quiet hours to an hour earlier would be pointless; it doesn't do that much anyway," she said. "People are still loud and inconsiderate."

But Jim Van Arsdel, 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.

See QUIET HOURS/9

LOST IN TRANSLATION



JACOB KONST/Arizona Daily Wildcat
Chemistry junior Tom Schultze receives guidance on an experiment from teaching assistant Valeria Ochoa. Ochoa is an analytical chemistry graduate student from Ecuador who teaches analytical chemistry Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Foreign TAs, students struggle with communication in class

By Natasha Bhuyan
STAFF WRITER

Calculus and chemistry can be difficult to understand, and for some students, having an international teaching assistant can make it even harder.

Nathan Barnett, a political science junior, said students were distracted in his math class last semester because they were unable to understand their international TA.

"It was hard to focus and comprehend the material," said Barnett. "There needs to be better screening or some efficient teaching method."

Lindsay Lesser, a psychology junior, said her Globalization and Global Governance TA also makes it hard to learn in the classroom.

"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 hires TAs through its own screening processes.

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

This method relies heavily on the TOEFL, which measures students' understanding of English, but not their ability to clearly speak the language.

Angela Wray, customer service representative for TOEFL, said the Test of Spoken English, not the TOEFL, is what determines whether a student can com-

municate orally.

But Jodi Bunting, office specialist senior for the University Learning Center, said a mere test is unable to verify whether a graduate student has the ability to instruct in a classroom environment.

"Though it is the best test of this nature we have, as with any standardized test, the TOEFL is subjective," she said.

Steven Brown, a chemistry lab supervisor, said he requires international TAs to pass a speaking test and give a presentation, in order to ensure students receive the highest quality education.

But Brown, who has worked with international TAs for 27 years, said despite the rigorous screening, he has received complaints from students who say accents are a problem.

Dan Madden, associate professor for

See TA/10

ASUA official: Fee not ready for vote

By Aaron Mackey
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

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

"Everyone want 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 adequate research and planning has been done to ensure accountability.

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It's getting
hot out
here

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speaks out

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