Students support Rec fee

By Zach Colick

ASUA senators will vote tomorrow on whether or not students should vote in an election slated for the fall about a possible expansion of the Student Recreation Center for 2009. The dates for the vote are tentatively scheduled for Oct. 24 and 25.

"If ASUA feels that is adequate enough time for educating students on the matter, then that will be the time table," said Sara Birnbaum, ASUA executive vice president. A student referendum must be passed in order for the Rec Center to start breaking ground on an addition that would cost students attending the UA in 2009 an extra $84 a year to fund the more than $35 million expansion. The increase would raise the Rec Center’s student yearly fee from $50 to $84 a year.

Students attending the UA between 2009 and 2011 would pay both the $84 fee on top of the current $50 fee to help relieve the initial bond payback for the Rec Center to have it in yearly payments, said Birlbaum, director of campus recreation. The expansion would up the already 80,000-square-foot Rec Center to more than 135,000 square feet, Moore said.

But Moore said the expansion relies first on ASUA support. If the student leaders pass the resolution, the students can then vote on the expansion.

"We’re just trying to get the information out to ASUA to pass along to the students in order to cater to student needs," Moore said. "The project can happen if students determine they want it to happen. But it’s up to them to decide if it’s worth it."

Birnbaum said the Rec Center referendum has gone through the necessary steps to be meted a worthwhile matter for students to vote on. She said ASUA is impartial in the matter and wants students to be the ultimate arbiters in deciding whether the fee should be imposed. With more than 3,600 students using the Rec Center daily and with more than 700,000 visits annually, Moore said enough students have complained about lines that start anywhere from 3 p.m. to midnight. She said the Rec Center is merely listening to students who are asking for higher permit costs if others continue to skip paying. It’s frustrating if it did happen.

"We would pass me off a little bit. I pay a lot to park here," Yecny said. Nearly 7,900 students and faculty hold permits to park, University of Arizona Police Department reports stated. Cooperman did not respond to e-mails sent over the weekend.

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Student arrested for garage violation

By Jennifer Amsler

Police arrested a student for theft after Parking and Transportation Services officials said he was "tailgating" other cars out of a parking garage to avoid paying. Benjamin Cooperman’s vehicle was booted April 14 because PTS officials noticed he had followed pay-parking parkers on several occasions out of the Sixth Street Parking Garage, 1117 E. Sixth St., so he didn’t have to pay. University of Arizona Police Department reports stated.

Cooperman, a psychology junior, was arrested April 19 and charged with theft because the PTS director told police he wished to press charges, reports stated.

But Cooperman said he did not recall piggy-backing anyone, even though a UAPO officer said Cooperman admitted an hour earlier to fleeing the garage without paying, reports stated.

Cooperman did not respond to e-mails sent over the weekend.

Patrick Kass, director of PTS, said this was one of the first arrests police made against a student for not paying to park, but he would not comment specifically about Cooperman’s case.

Kass said although the problem has subsided this year, he still receives a few calls and e-mails each week from students who are upset that someone followed them without paying.

"They’re outraged because they are paying to park in the facilities," Kass said.

Sonny Yecny, a hydrology junior and a garage permit-holder, said he has not seen anyone "tailgate" him from a parking garage, but it would be frustrating if it did happen.

"It would piss me off a little bit. I pay a lot to park here," Yecny said.

Nearly 7,900 students and faculty hold permits to the six garages on campus, and Kass said they could face higher permit costs if others continue to skip paying.

"It essentially does drive up the cost of parking"

Panhellicn and IFC want rules, regulations

By Danielle Rideau

You have to fight for your right to philanthropy. The Panhellenic Association and Interfraternity Council are planning to form a Philanthropy Advisory Board in response to a semester’s worth of unfavorable events, said Gary Ballinger, Greek Life coordinator.

"We are finding out that there hasn’t really been prior planning or rules and regulations set for those events," Ballinger said.

The Philanthropy Advisory Board, which will take effect next semester, will schedule and approve every philanthropic event held by a recognized greek organization, Ballinger said. Ballinger said scheduling conflicts this semester have resulted in several philanthropy events occurring during the same time or weekend, and an established board will prevent those problems next year.

"The students are a little over programmed and it’s overwhelming with the onslaught of events back to back," said Ballinger, who added another purpose for the board will be to approve the appropriateness of events and to set "nonskippable guidelines."

In the past, chapters have hosted events that have not been in "the best interest of the greek community," said Panhellenic President Erin Cohen and IFC president Michael Katzman in an April 20 Wildcat letter to the editor. "We