Students demand return of Dec. graduation ceremony

By Natasha Shayan
ARIZONA DAILY WILDCAT

More than 150 students, parents, faculty and alumFilter attended a commencement forum yesterday, demanding that administratFilter bring back the university-wide commencement ceremony in December.

Organized by ASU, the hour-long forum gave audience members a chance to ask questions, express frustrations, identify existFiltering problems with graduation and suggest solutions.

Alastair Chapman, student body president, said the goal of the forum was to irrFilterate communication between students and administration.

"I feel cautiously optimistic that the exchange of ideas today will (have) positive results," Chapman said.

Edith Auslander, vice president and senFilterate associate to the president, said she is unsure if the administration can bring back the university-wide commencement, but added that President Peter Likens has the authority to make the final decision.

Auslander attended the forum to pass along information to Likens, who is out of town on business until Friday.

Auslander said the president's cabinet began discussing the changes after the spring graduation in an effort to create a better ceremony.

Later, the topic was presented to college deFilteres and the Commencement Policy Committee.

"President Likens reluctantly agreed to this after hearing the positive response from the forum," said Auslander. "The main goal is to have an individualized, meaningful ceremony for students."

But Chapman said if the changes were made to benefit the students, the student body president could still attend.

Jewish students go to class despite holiday

By Kyler Dawson
ARIZONA DAILY WILDCAT

Today marks the Jewish New Year for many UA students, faculty and staff, but some Jewish students will not be attending Rosh hashanah services this morning due to class commitments.

"This is the first time that I haven't gone to services," said Samantha Kantor, a senior majoring in English.

Kantor is missing Rosh Hashana services this morning because she said she does not want to miss her science professor's review for an exam Tuesday.

Rosh Hashanah officially began last night at sundown and the Hillil Foundation held services for several UA students. Hillil will also hold services this morning, but students like Kantor might not attend if they feel obliged to be in class.

The UA policy for Accommodation of Religious Observance and Practice, approved by the Arizona Board of Regents, prohibits discrimination against students who request religious accommodations to avoid missing class.

New major may include SIRLs, not media arts

By Georganne Barrett
ARIZONA DAILY WILDCAT

Last year's tentative plans to merge the departments of journalism and communication with another department have been altered to include the School of Information Resources and Library Science, instead of media arts.

Once merged, the three would create a new college, but lack of funds due to budget cuts has postponed plans for the merger.

Ed Darrington, dean of the College of Social and Behavioral Science, said this was an ideal last year, and no