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QUICK HITS

Katrina benefit luncheon

"The Cats for Katrina Relief" luncheon and raffle will be held today at noon in the Grand Ballroom of the Student Union Memorial Center. Tickets can be purchased at the door for \$10, and raffle tickets are also available for \$5. All proceeds will be donated to the Tucson-based World Care Organization.

Teach for America alumni recruits top UA seniors

Teach for America representatives are coming to the UA today to recruit qualified seniors to apply for their program to eliminate the achievement gap that exists between children growing up in low-income areas and those growing up in higher-income areas. The information session is free and open to all college students. The session begins at 5 p.m. in the Tucson Room of the Student Union Memorial Center.

New RHA president takes throne tonight

Sam Brace, a journalism junior, will be elected president of the Residence Hall Association tonight at the general body meeting where he will run for the position unopposed.

Brace filled in as the interim president after Daila Temple resigned from the position over the summer.

The RHA president is responsible for supervising the organization and making sure goals are met, Brace said.

"I feel I have strong vision of what our residents need," Brace said. "And I'm willing to do whatever it takes to help develop a strong foundation for other RHA executive boards to build off of in the future."

Radiation compliance urged

Campus researchers are advised to obey radiation safety issues or face stiff penalties, officials said.

A document outlining radiation safety concerns was sent out this week to departments and researchers that deal with radioactive material, stating there will be a civil penalty charged to anyone involved in radiation violations, said Dan Silvain, Thursday, September 22, 2005

The University of Arizona, Tucson

UA problematic for pedestrians

By Seth Mauzy ARIZONA DAILY WILDCAT

A string of campus-area accidents involving pedestrians and bicyclists struck by cars has drawn attention to the safety of UA crosswalks.

According to Tucson Police Department statistics, cars are more often at fault than pedestrians when failing to yield, with 136 drivers cited since 2000 compared to 107 pedestrians. Bicyclists were the biggest offender, with 200 cited for not yielding in crosswalks since 2000.

TPD did not have statistics detailing which neighborhoods have higher incidences of pedestrian-vehicle collisions, but University of Arizona Police Department spokesman Sgt. Eugene Mejia, said a number of factors make the university area more problematic for pedestrians.

MR. A-Z

"The downtown and university areas have higher degrees of foot traffic combined with larger numbers of young drivers," Mejia said. "This creates a more dangerous environment for pedestrians."

SAFETY, page 3

Musician

rhyme to

Centennial

during the second stop

headlining

new album,

About 1,600

Matt Robles

Arizona Daily Wildcat

of his

tour to promote his

Mr. A-Z.

fans were present for the show.

Hall last night

Jason Mraz brings his



Mraz takes Centennial stage

By Anthony D. Ávila ARIZONA DAILY WILDCAT

Pock rock artist Jason Mraz dazzled nearly 600 fans last night with his tongue-twisting

The UA concert was the second stop for Mraz and back-up band The Take It Easy Buddies on their Mr. A-Z tour, after kicking it off the night before in Phoenix.

The show was organized by the Associated Students of the University of Arizona Special

station 92.9 FM KWMT, said Ryan Patterson, ASUA special events director.

Upon taking the stage, Mraz was highlighted with a strobe of flashes from fans' camera phones and digital cameras taken by a standing audience.

associate director of the Radiation Control Office.

rhymes and wordplays in Centennial Hall.

Events Committee and sponsored by the radio

Up to 1 million told to evacuate as Rita nears



The Associated Press

Galveston Independent School District buses carrying evacuees head north on Interstate 45 in Galveston, Texas, yesterday as Hurricane Rita approaches the Texas Gulf Coast.

The Associated Press

GALVESTON, Texas — As many as 1 million people were ordered to clear out along the Gulf Coast, and hospital and nursing home patients were evacuated vesterday as Hurricane Rita turned into a Category-5, 165-mph monster that could slam Texas by the weekend and inflict more misery on New Orleans.

Forecasters said Rita could be the most intense hurricane on record ever to hit Texas, and easily one of the most powerful ever to plow into the U.S.

mainland. Category 5 is the highest on the scale, and only three Category 5 hurricanes are known to have hit the U.S. mainland — most recently, Andrew, which smashed South Florida in 1992.

All of Galveston, low-lying sections of Houston and Corpus Christi, and a mostly emptied-out New Orleans were under mandatory evacuation orders, one day after Rita sideswiped the Florida Keys as a far weaker storm and caused minor damage.

Having seen what Hurricane Katrina — a Category-4, 145-

mph storm — did three weeks ago, many people were taking no chances as Rita swirled across the Gulf of Mexico.

"After this killer in New Orleans, Katrina, I just cannot fathom staying," 59-year-old Ldyyan Jean Jocque said before sunrise as she waited for an evacuation bus outside the Galveston Community Center. She had packed her Bible, some music and clothes into plastic bags and loaded her dog into a pet carrier.

"I really think it is going to be bad. That's really why I'm running. All these years I've

stayed here, but I've got to go this time," said 65-year-old Barbara Anders. "I don't have but one life, and it is time for me to go."

The federal government was eager to show it, too, had learned its lesson after being criticized for its sluggish response to Katrina. It rushed hundreds of truckloads of water, ice and ready-made meals to the Gulf Coast and put rescue and medical teams on standby.

'You can't play around with

RITA, page 3

SAFETY Distractions cause accidents

continued from page 1

The UA has taken various steps to increase pedestrian safety, including installing barrier walls on the medians of East Speedway Boulevard to discourage jaywalking, tunnels underneath Speedway, and pedestrian pathways with traffic signals across Sixth Street, Mejia said.

But despite these measures, a number of highly traveled areas remain without traffic controls and pose hazards to pedestrians.

"There are areas on Campbell Avenue and Euclid Avenue that are highly traveled by pedestrians and cars," Mejia said." We have seen a number of collisions in those areas."

UAPD has handled three incidents of pedestrians or bicyclists hit by cars this year, although other campus-area incidents are handled by TPD or are simply not reported, Mejia said. Timothy Hart, a political science sophomore who was struck while crossing East Speedway Boulevard at North Mountain Avenue earlier this month, is one of at least five pedestrians or bicyclists hit this semester.

"We're college students, and I don't think we need crossing guards, but maybe blinking lights or something to let people know there are a lot of pedestrians,"Hart said."Pedestrians aren't safe even in the crosswalks."

Mejia also said the increase in the use of cell phones has led to an increase in the number of accidents because of inattention.

"Anything that distracts a driver is going to add to the problem, whether it's phones, stereos or something else,"Mejia said.

While many states have passed laws banning drivers from using cell phones while driving or requiring a hands-free system, Arizona is has no such law, Mejia said.

More than traffic signals and tunnels, Mejia said the most effective way to keep pedestrians safe is to use common sense.

"Drivers and bicyclists need to abide by the traffic laws and share the road with pedestrians to avoid collisions," Mejia said. 'Vehicles must yield to pedestrians even if they're not in a crosswalk."

But pedestrian safety isn't just up to drivers, Mejia said.

"Pedestrians need to be paying attention to their surroundings and not be distracted,"Mejia said."Often people will just walk into the cross-

Thursday, September 22, 2005

walks without looking to see if traffic is going to yield. We all need to pay more attention."

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A 15-year-old Tucson High Magnet School student gets loaded into an ambulance Aug. 24 along North Euclid Avenue near La Aldea graduate student housing. A UA student, Ryan Thomas, was cited at the scene and released. Police say accidents of this type are common on North Euclid and East Campbell avenues.

Tech gap can hinder enrollment

By Mika Mandelbaum ARIZONA DAILY WILDCAT

The limited accessibility to advanced technology on American Indian reservations can negatively impact students who come from those areas and transfer to a university setting, officials said.

At least 75 percent of the 763 American Indian UA students come from reservation residences, which means they may not have access to many technologies like the Internet or a fax machine, said Karen Francis-Begay, a member of the Navajo tribe and director of the UA Native American Student Affairs office.

The importance of these devices was discussed at an open forum last week where technology advocates emphasized that while these changes can sometimes be viewed as assimilation, they are necessary upgrades for students who want to apply for and study at a university.

Without access to such technologies, American Indian students can be left out of the admissions, housing and other processes that are necessary for joining a college setting, Francis-Begay said.

One example, she said, is that there have been students who had a hard time getting on-campus housing because the families did not have access to a fax machine to get the application in fast enough.

As the UA tries to completely switch to a paperless, online form of admissions applications, this issue could also pose a challenge for potential students in these communities, and some may completely lose the opportunity to apply to UA, Francis-Begay said.

"I'm really concerned about the no-paper process for admission. We have some of our best students here who come from those very remote communities," Francis-Begay said."Higher education is supposed to be an equal opportunity for all, regardless of socio-economic status, and when going paperless, you really have to think about how it affects those with limited access."

Kade Twist, co-founder of the Native Networking Policy Center, a nonprofit organization that advocates telecommunication development on reservations, said at the forum the connections provided by the Internet, telephones, televisions, fax machines and other forms of technology would make the isolation obsolete.

But there are some traditional reservations that object to the use of technology or even electricity and running water because they view it as a form of assimilation, said Duane Yazzie, a UA graduate student and member of the Hopi and Navajo tribes.

Although he supports the spread of telecommunications, Yazzie said his tribe has some traditional villages that would see this as a colonial way to assimilate them.

"I would tell them that I respect who they are and what they want, but I would show them the benefits of this," Yazzie said. "Technology is here and here to stay. We have to make these things our own."

Once the reservations decide to adopt the technology, they will increase economic development and achieve other social and cultural goals, Twist said.

Some tribes have already started using technology to promote culture, Francis-Begay said.

The Navajo tribe has a radio and television station that broadcast the tribal council meetings to the reservation, and the Hopi tribe televises UA American Indian language classes to its high school on the reservation, Francis-Begay said.

Both Twist and Francis-Begay also pointed out that technology gives American Indian artists a larger clientele when they sell their art, crafts and jewelry online.

But change must first occur in the Legislature, Twist said.

Two legislative policy initiatives by the Native Networking Coalition intend to help get the reservations connected, Twist said.

The first is the Native American Connectivity Act, a \$20-million grant program to fund the technology connections.

The second is the attempt to rewrite the Telecommunication Act to get the word "tribe" included in the statutes, which will ensure federal regulation of their communication networks, Twist said.

"We view this as more important the Native American Connectivity Act because there's always a way to get money, but there's only one way to get into a statute," Twist said. "Unfortunately we live in a litigious society and unless you have a statute, you have no authority to protect vourself."

Ultimately, the tribal governments need to realize that telecommunications will help the Indian people advance their goals and that it is not an attempt to take away their sovereignty, Twist said.

"You're only sovereign to the capacity that you can protect the interests and social goals of the community," he said. "Otherwise, what kind of government are you?"

RITA Hurricane upped to Category 5

continued from page 1

this storm," Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff said on ABC's "Good Morning America." He added: "The lesson is that when the storm hits, the best place to be is to be out of the path of the storm."

By early afternoon, Rita was centered more than 700 miles southeast of Corpus Christi, drawing strength from the warm waters of the gulf. Forecasters predicted it would come ashore Saturday along the central Texas coast between Galveston and Corpus Christi. But even a slight rightward turn could prove devastating to New Orleans.

Altogether, as many as 1 million people in the Houston-Galveston area were under orders to get out, including all of Galveston County, population 267,000, authorities said. About 10,000 people in vulnerable sections of Corpus Christi were also warned to get out. Along the Louisiana coast, some 20,000 people or more were being evacuated or were told to leave.

Galveston, situated on an island 8 feet above sea level, was the site of one of the deadliest natural disasters in U.S. history: an unnamed hurricane in 1900 that killed between 6,000 and 12,000 people and practically wiped the city off the map.

The last major hurricane to hit Texas was Alicia in 1983. It flooded downtown Houston, spawned 22 tornadoes and left 21 people dead. The damage from the Category 3 storm was put at more than \$2 billion. Tropical Storm Allison flooded Houston in 2001, doing major damage to hospitals and research centers and killing 23 people.

"Let's hope that the hurricane does not hit at a Category 4 strength and let's hope the lessons we've learned — the painful, tragic lessons that have been learned in the last few weeks — will best prepare us for what could happen with Rita,"Louisiana Sen. Mary Landrieu said in New York.





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CIA gathering intel on students for future hires

By J. Ferguson Arizona Daily Wildcat

CIA recruiters may be more interested in what languages you speak rather than your major when they visit the UA campus tomorrow.

CIA representatives said the UA's department of Near Eastern studies, the department of Slavic studies and the center for Middle Eastern studies make the UA an attractive campus to recruit students.

Students fluent in Arabic and Persian are in high demand because 90 percent of the information the CIA collects is from foreign open sources like newspapers or television broadcasts, said CIA recruiter David Burris.

Martha Schulte-Nafeh, a professor for Near Eastern Studies and a Mideast language coordinator for the Center for Middle Eastern Studies, said she isn't surprised about the strong interest the CIA has taken in UA students.

Even though the UA Arabic language classes have an incredibly demanding curriculum, the program has seen a strong increase in enrollment since Sept. 11, 2001, Schulte-Nafeh said.

"We are setting the bar really high," Schulte-Nafeh said. "We hold students' feet to the fire."

For every hour that students are in class, they are expected to spend two hours studying Arabic, Schulte-Nafeh said. UA Arabic programs distinguish themselves from other university programs by promoting a variety of intensive Arabic programs that focus on immersion in the Arabic language.

Many UA students have been accepted to the Arabic School at Middlebury Vermont, which is considered to be one of the primary destinations for students who wish to become fluent in Arabic.

The students who attend the program at Middlebury take a language pledge, Schulte-Nafeh said.

"They must eat, sleep and live Arabic," she said.

The CIA is not just interested in Arabic speakers.

Students fluent in Slavic languages are also in high demand.

The Russian and Slavic studies departments concentrate on teaching the language to students so they can become fluent, said Teresa Polowy, department head for Russian and Slavic studies.

"We really focus on language training," Polowy said. "The fact that government agencies are aware of our track record is a good sign."

Students can make a reservation to speak with a CIA representative tomorrow by calling (520) 323-5820 or by sending an e-mail to ciainformation@aol .com.

Informational sessions will start at 11:30 a.m. at the Tucson Marriot University Park, 880 E. Second St.

MRAZ Tickets pay most of \$40K cost

continued from page 1

"What's up, Wildcats?" Mraz asked the screaming crowd. "Thanks for the invite back to Tucson. We always love it here."

The artist switched from one guitar to the next while playing songs from his new album *Mr*. *A*-*Z*.

Holly Rook, a psychology freshman, got to sit in the front row because she bought her tickets within the first hour they became available, she said.

Rook said she knew Mraz was a talented live performer when she saw him play in Phoenix after a marathon she ran.

"I think he's even better live than he is on CD," Rook said. "He really got the crowd going."

Even the few students sitting in the balcony said they had a good time.

Sarah Nelson, a chemical engineering freshman, said she didn't mind sitting in the back because it gave her more control over how she enjoyed the show.

"I like it better right here because you're not in the middle of the screaming people, and you don't have to stand if you don't want to," Nelson said.

The curtains opened just before 8 p.m. with the band Ryanhhood, followed by Dropping Daylights.

The concert cost \$46,000 to put on, most of which was paid for by ticket sales, said Patterson, a third-year law student.

Tickets were \$22 for students with a CatCard and \$27 for the public.

Of the total cost, \$8,500 paid for the opening bands and production and the rest went to Mraz, who wasn't paid until after the show, Patterson said.

Because the budget depended on money generated by ticket sales, Patterson said, he was unsure of how much money would come out of the committee's \$40,000 set aside for concerts on campus. But he said he hoped to break even.

"We won't have (that) information until probably two days after the show," Patterson said.

Patterson said upcoming events include the annual Battle of the Bands in October and another show, to be announced, in November.

Earlier in the day, some UA students and others from the Tucson community got a chance to see Mraz play a few songs up close.

KWMT organized a "Studio C" from 1 p.m. to

2:30 p.m. yesterday, during which Mraz played some tunes on an acoustic guitar and responded to interview questions.

After an introduction, Mraz played one of his new songs, "Geek in the Pink."

"I've always liked pink," Mraz said while sporting pink flip-flops and T-shirt during the mini-show.

While answering one of the interview questions, Mraz addressed the members of opening-band Ryanhood, saying he remembered when he used to play with youthful enthusiasm like theirs.

Cameron Hood, singer and guitar player of the duo, said it was meaningful for the band to get that comment from an artist they respected so much. "It does our hearts good,"Hood said.

Hood graduated from the UA last year and has

played gigs with band-mate Ryan Green at Cellar in the Student Union Memorial Center and on the UA Mall, but never at Centennial Hall.

Hood and Green both grew up in Tucson and graduated from University High School but moved to Boston to pursue music on the East Coast.

Hood said returning to Tucson to play at Centennial Hall had special meaning to him and was a symbolic step for the band's musical future.

"I graduated from high school and college at Centennial Hall. It's such a respected venue," Hood said. "There's a 'bright future' feeling about (playing there)."

Kelly Hanrahan, a media arts junior whose boss won tickets to the studio show, said when she drove to the UA from her home in Kansas, she listened to *Mr. A-Z* for most of the 18-hour drive.

Hanrahan said she has met other celebrities before but none have been "so laid back and as easygoing as (Mraz)."

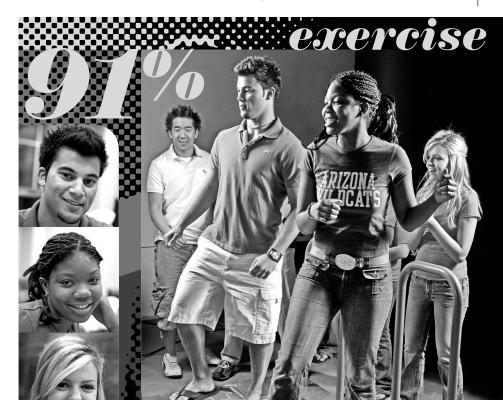
"He was one of the most down to earth people," Hanrahan said. "He was really goofy and cool hang out with."

Patrick Bradley, an architecture junior, said he prefers Mraz' acoustic work over his radio songs and watching Mraz play them live caused him to change his mind about going to the concert.

"I was impressed so much I went straight over and bought my ticket,"Bradley said.

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