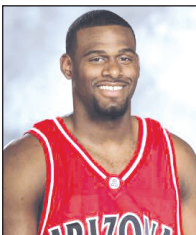


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# ARIZONA DAILY WILDCAT

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The University of Arizona, Tucson

## UA needs \$58M for building repair

By Laura Ory  
ARIZONA DAILY WILDCAT

Students can expect more tuition hikes if the state Legislature doesn't fund a large portion of the \$58 million needed for building repairs next year.

The Arizona Board of Regents approved the UA's request last week for \$38 million for building renewal from the 2007 fiscal year state-operating budget.

But if the UA doesn't receive these

funds, the university will be forced to take out 15- to 20-year bonds, said Greg Fahey, assistant vice president of UA Government Relations.

The interest from these bonds would amount to about \$13.3 million, which would be funded by tuition increases, according to the budget request.

The Legislature has not allocated any funds for the state universities' building renewal costs since 2001, and the lack of funds have added up, costing the UA more than \$176 million since 1995, ac-

cording to the budget request.

This year, the university has already taken out a \$10 million bond for building maintenance and repairs, Fahey said.

"It's like buying an air conditioner and paying for it for the next 20 years. It's not the best use of taxpayers' money," said Ted Gates, regent assistant executive director for capital resources.

Fahey credits the Legislature's lack of



Chipped cement and a small hole in the wall are all that is left after a broken urinal was removed from the men's restroom in the Manuel T. Pacheco Integrated Learning Center.

Lisa Rich/  
Arizona Daily  
Wildcat

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### QUICK HITS

#### UA Student Sight Savers offer free glaucoma screenings today

Anyone can get a free glaucoma screening today from UA medical students or volunteer ophthalmologists between 3 p.m. and 5 p.m.

Glaucoma is the second-leading cause of blindness in the U.S. and leading cause of preventable blindness. The disease has no symptoms, which is why getting tested regularly is the best way to prevent glaucoma-related sight problems, said Jean Spinelli, University Physicians Healthcare Hospital spokeswoman.

Spinelli emphasized that although people with a family history of glaucoma are at a higher risk, everyone should get screened.

"They have actually found glaucoma in young people," Spinelli said.

The screenings are being made possible by the UA Student Sight Savers Program and will take place at the University Physicians Healthcare Hospital at Kino Campus, 2800 E. Ajo Way.

For more information or to make an appointment, call 694-1460.

—Ariel Serafin

#### Info session on research opportunities at UA, Phoenix

Students who want to learn more about how to get involved in research at the UA and in Phoenix can attend an information session today at 1 p.m. in the César E. Chávez building, Room 211.

Representatives from the Undergraduate Biology Research Program and the Biomedical Research Abroad: Vistas Open will be on hand to answer questions.

Students from any major and in any year in college are welcome.

Those wanting more information can log on to <http://ubrp.arizona.edu>.

### NEED A LIFT?



Josh Fields/Arizona Daily Wildcat

Fine arts junior Matt Wagoner, left, and pre-business freshman Kris Vander Mass practice line outs at Murphey Stadium yesterday afternoon.

## Tuition cuts available to all partners

By Nicole Santa Cruz  
ARIZONA DAILY WILDCAT

To increase competition for faculty and promote a comfortable learning environment, the UA now offers a domestic partner tuition program available to same-sex domestic partners and their dependents.

The UA is the first and only Arizona school to offer the new Domestic Partner Tuition Program, which provides tuition reductions for qualified faculty and their domestic partners.

"It's not just a question of doing the right thing for our employees, it's also a question of being competitive," said President Peter Likins.

Likins said the UA is out of step with other universities that offer domestic partner benefits, such as health insurance, and the tuition program is a change he could make at the university level to compete with other institutions.

"From my perspective, it is about society evolving and understanding that homosexuality is part of the human condition," Likins said, mentioning other minority groups that society has accepted.

Since the incarnation of the program this semester, the human resources department has had 11 applications for the tuition program, said Marcia Chatalas, director of human resources.

"It's a small tester that impacts a relatively small number of families, but it reflects that we support their decisions," Likins said. "I think it's really important that we create a learning environment that works for everybody."

Likins said the response from the community has been generally positive, with the only negative feedback being that the tuition program is limited to same-sex domestic partners.

"I think members of the gay and lesbian community appreciate (the program) because I'm doing

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## Comedian Hofstetter gives benefit show in ILC

By Nick Smith  
ARIZONA DAILY WILDCAT

For most people, racism is a touchy subject, but for comedian Steve Hofstetter it's a source of humor.

Hofstetter listed "racist" products like Cracker Jack, Cheese Nips and the Whopper for a crowd of

60 at last night's comedy show in the Manuel T. Pacheco Integrated Learning Center.

Hofstetter's set ran the gamut of topics from the Federal Communications Commission to Alanis Morissette, as well as running into traditionally taboo areas like religion and politics.

"The worst things the Democrats did was run John Kerry," Hofstetter said. "Let's take a tree from 'The Wizard of Oz' and make it president."

Hofstetter came to the UA on the request of the Associated Students of the University of Arizona Speakers Board.

The show was free to students, but

it cost ASUA \$18,000 to bring Hofstetter to campus, said Carrie Pixler, Speakers Board director and political science junior.

The show was held to raise money for victims of Hurricane Katrina. Hofstetter contributed 20 percent of his earnings at the show toward the fund.

More than \$100 was also raised by asking for donations from the show's attendees, Pixler said.

Hofstetter is no stranger to benefit fundraisers. A few nights ago he helped raise more than \$2,500 to aid combating eating disorders. When he does a benefit show, he said he

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