Students apathetic over debate

Turnout poor for apathy discussion

By Nick Smith

Arizona Daily Wildcat

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Between 20 and 40 students attended the debate at various times, many opting to sit in the chairs instead of the grassy area of the Alumni Plaza.

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Erin Hertzog, ASUA executive vice president and a juristri- prudence junior, discusses her views of why students are apathetic during a news conference at Heritage Hill to a half-dozen of students.

The University of Arizona, Tucson

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wildcat.arizona.edu

FEE passed in landslide vote

72 percent of voters OK expansion of Rec Center with fee’s continuation

By Anthony D. Avila

Arizona Daily Wildcat

Students overwhelmingly voted to keep the $25-per-semester fee to pay for an expansion to the Rec Center, which will continue to 2043, officials said.

The vote, which began Tuesday at 8 a.m. and closed last night at 8, drew 2,392 student votes, including more than 1,000 professional and graduate students, according to the Associated Students of the University of Arizona vote tally.

Even though the students approved the fee, the Arizona Board of Regents will decide its ultimate fate most likely at the February board meeting, said Juliette Moore, director of the Student Recreation Center.

“In most cases they will support what the students want, but there are no guarantees,” Moore said.

The proposed expansion will tentatively cost $24 million, Moore said, doubling the weight room area.

SOLAR POWER

Congress to give $1M for building

Funding would create natural sciences facility

By J. Ferguson

Arizona Daily Wildcat

A bill that recently passed through both houses in Congress will appropriate $1 million to the UA to create a building for the study of earth science and environmental programs.

The $30.5 billion spending measure, called the fiscal year 2006 Energy and Water Appropriations bill, would give $1 million to the UA for construction of the Environment and Natural Resources Phase II Facility, according to the Library of Congress Web site.

The congressional funding was secured by Rep. Jim Kolbe, R-Ariz., a senior member of the Appropriations Committee, who said the facility is part of the UA’s long-term effort to promote interdisciplinary research focusing on earth science and environmental programs, according to a statement released by Kolbe’s office.

In addition to the UA facility, the bill also includes more than $13 million for water projects in Southern Arizona, according to the statement.

“I am pleased to have secured funding for the University of Arizona’s new environment and natural resource facility this year,” Kolbe wrote. “It will help U of A promote research focused on earth science and environmental programs. By continuing to expand the university’s capacity, we will keep the U of A at the forefront of science research.”

This is especially good news for the Laboratory of Tree-Ring Research, which will relocate to the facility after waiting for a permanent location since 1937, said Thomas Swetnam, director of the laboratory.

“When the laboratory was founded, it was moved into the ‘tempo- rary’ home in Arizona Stadium al- most 70 years ago, Swetnam said.

The current location “between the snack bar and the end zone” where bleachers form part of the ceiling, is ill suited for the scientists and the laboratory must be completely shut down when games are being held, Swetnam said.

“It’s a new day for us,” Swetnam said. “The new facility is being de- signed for our needs.”

Because the facility is still in its planning stages, it’s unclear whether the building will be an addition to the existing Dennis DeConcini Environment and Natural Resources building or a separate building adjacent to it, according to the UA’s

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Election results

In favor 1,737 72.6%
Not in favor 653 27.3%

Total votes: 2,392
Voting undergraduates: 1,731
Voting graduate students: 628
Voting professional students: 193

QUICK HITS

Pros and cons of genetic engineering discussed

A discussion will be held today about the benefits and risks of ge- netic engineering. Vicki Chandler, a regents professor and BIOS director, will define genetic engineering and outline its history, as well as address support and challenges to the field, in a lecture titled “Genetic Engineering — Separating Fact From Fiction.”

Bruce Tabashnik, professor and head of the department of entomol- ogy, will discuss genetically modified crops and the developments and lessons learned about altering food within the last 10 years.

The lecture is free and starts at 7 p.m. in the Manuel T. Pacheco Inte- grated Learning Center, Room 330.

Bruce Babitt lecture and book signing today

Former Interior Secretary and Ar- zona Gov. Bruce Babitt is visiting the UA today to give a lecture about his vision for land use in America and human settlements and nature.

The lecture starts at 5:15 p.m. in the Manuel T. Pacheco Integrated Learning Center, Room 120.

Babitt will be available to sign copies of his new book, “Cities in the Wilderness,” at 1 p.m. in the UofA Bookstore.

UA ambassadors wanted

The university is looking for stu- dents to become UA ambassadors who can give campus tour guides for fall 2006. Students who are comfort- able with public speaking and walking backward are encouraged to apply.

Ambassadors will be required to attend an eight-week training course that will take place in the spring, give daily campus tours and many other preparation events.

Applications are available at the front desk of the Nugent building, the student government office or at one of the Ar- izona American Student Allies, Native American Student Affairs, Chicano- Hispano Student Affairs or Asian Pacific American Student Affairs offices.

Applications are due at the Nu- gent building by Dec. 9. Contact Celia O’Brien at 626-5943 for more information or e-mail azambass@ arizona.edu

Psychology sophomore Lindsey Mellow sells brownies on the UA Mall with the Alpha Beta —a sorority and the FIJI fraternity as part of Solar Blitz, a student competition between clubs in raising awareness and money for the $40,000 solar panels planned to be installed on the UA Visitors Center.

Voting professional students: 193

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