Graduation rate lowers U.S. News' rank of UA

By Joe Ferguson
ARIZONA DAILY WILDCAT

An open-door admissions policy at the University of Arizona continues to hinder its national academic profile, according to rankings released in U.S. News & World Report. In the “America’s Best Colleges 2005” issue of U.S. News & World Report, the UA is ranked 46th in the nation’s top 50 public universities. When private institutions like Yale and Dartmouth are included in the survey, the UA ranks 88th for national undergraduate programs.

Considered to be the gold standard for rating colleges, the annual guide by U.S. News recognized the UA in several categories including peer assessment and percentage of full-time faculty.

However, the UA received a low rating from the report, which cited the UA’s graduation rate as one weakness.

Provost George Davis acknowledged the UA has problem in its graduation rate.

“We recognize the opportunity to improve,” Davis said.

Davis explained that part of the criticism See REPORT/71

Two Russian planes crash, raising fears of terrorism

BUCHALKI, Russia — A Russian airliner crashed and another apparently broke up in the air almost simultaneously after they took off from the same Moscow airport last night, officials said, raising fears of terrorism and leaving little hope that any of at least 89 people on board could have survived.

Authorities said rescuers found wreckage from a Tu-154 jet, which was carrying approximately 34 people, about nine hours after it issued a distress signal and disappeared from radar screens over the Burovo region, some 600 miles south of Moscow.

Officials made conflicting statements about whether the signal indicated a hijacking or an SOS and the claims could not be independently confirmed.

At about the same time the Tu-154 jet disappeared, a Tu-134 airliner carrying 43 people crashed in the Tula region, about 125 miles south

Ariz. last call rolled back

By Natasha Bhaysan
ARIZONA DAILY WILDCAT

Champagne was flowing and extra rounds of drinks were ordered this morning, as a new last call took effect in bars across the state.

A bill that passed in April, passed back last call in Arizona from 1 a.m. to 2 a.m., giving patrons an extra hour to purchase liquor.

Local bars predict heavy crowds throughout the weekend and some have planned special events to celebrate the new law.

“We’ll stay out until they kick us out,” said Thad Chapman, an aerospace engineering junior.

Kiki Kurzweil, general manager of Maloney’s Tavern, 213 N. Fourth Ave., said it will throw a birthday party, complete with sand and surfboards, which will run through Sunday.

“We expect a lot of people... we’re getting ready. Getting geared up for the 2 a.m. last call,” Kurzweil said yesterday.

Jodi Kulyski, a bartender at Club Congress, 311 E. Congress St., said his bar had a 1 a.m. champagne toast and musical gifts to commemorate the occasion.

“The general feeling is that in a way it’s a raise. You work an extra hour, you get all that extra money,” said Kulyski, a student at Terra Community College. “I’m happy about it.”

Sponsored by Rep. Michele Regan, R-Scottsdale, the last call bill had strong support from lobbyists of the liquor and tourism industries, which claimed a later last call would result in more business.

Bill Weigel, president of the Arizona Licensed Beverage Association, estimated in April that a later last call would generate $55 million this year.

Before the bill passed, Arizona had one of the earliest last calls in the nation, at 1 a.m. Managers of local bars expected UA students to take full advantage of the extra hour of drinking.

“We anticipate a really large crowd based on

UAPD K-9 unit deployed to convention

By Holly Wells
ARIZONA DAILY WILDCAT

A UAPD officer and his bomb-sniffing canine are being deployed to the Republican National Convention to help sniff out bombs and respond to any possible terrorist threats.

UAPD officer Kyle Morrison, three members of the Air Force’s Explosive Ordnance Disposal team and Tucson Police Department officer Mike Cortez, who also has a bomb-sniffing dog, will attend the convention in New York City August 30 to September 2.

Air Force Staff Sergeant Israel Delgado said the group is being sent to deal with explosives and respond to emergencies.

Delgado said the Air Force explosive ordnance disposal team is trained to deal with anything from a bullet to a

nuclear weapon.

Delgado said that although his team has already support- ed the Secret Service and been deployed to national events, it has become more visible since Sept. 11, 2001.

Delgado said the team will wear civilian clothes to blend in at the convention and they will be available wherever needed.

Delgado said if a bomb was found, his team would not be the one to disable it.

“We’re not a response team,” he said. “We’re there to identify it and then the local guys are called in to take care of it.”

Morrison, Cortez and the Air Force officers were at the University of Arizona Police Department yesterday along with two AN/THQ-1 robots and an example of the suit that would be worn if someone had to disable a bomb.

See CRASH/17

See BAR/80

See DOG/12

UAPD officer Kyle Morrison and his bomb- sniffing dog, Michael, will join to government to expand and demonstrate their skills outside the UAPD headquarters. They will be providing security at the Republican National Convention this week in New York City.

See CABAYUH / Arizona Daily Wildcat