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# ARIZONA DAILY WILDCAT

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The University of Arizona, Tucson

## 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 98th 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

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## Two Russian planes crash, raising fears of terrorism

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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 at least 46 people, about nine hours after it issued a distress signal and disappeared from radar screens over the Rostov 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

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## Ariz. last call rolled back

By Natasha Bhuyan  
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, pushed 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 Kirchoffner, general manager of Maloney's Tavern, 213 N. Fourth Ave., said it will throw a beach 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," Kirchoffner said yesterday.

Joel Kalpinski, a bartender at Club Congress, 311 E. Congress St., said his bar had a 1 a.m. champagne toast and musical guests 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 Kalpinski, a student at Pima 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 Weigele, 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

See BARS/9



DAVID HARDEN/Arizona Daily Wildcat  
Industrial engineering senior Matt Edwards finishes a game of pool last night at Trident Bar on Speedway Boulevard. Bars had their last call at 2 this morning instead of the usual 1 a.m. after a new state law allowing the bars to sell alcohol later took effect.

## 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 Ordinance Disposal team and Tucson Police Department officer Mike Conto, 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 ordinance disposal team is trained to deal with anything from a bullet to a

nuclear weapon.

Delgado said that although his team has always supported 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 conference and they will be available wherever needed.

Delgado said if a bomb were 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, Conto and the Air Force officers were at the University of Arizona Police Department yesterday along with two ANTHRO robots and an example of the suit that would be worn if someone had to disable a bomb



UAPD officer Kyle Morrison and his bomb-sniffing dog, Michael, took time yesterday to explain and demonstrate their skills outside UAPD headquarters. They will be providing security at the Republican National Convention next week in New York City.  
EVAN CARAVELLE/Arizona Daily Wildcat

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