

## Kennedy: Higher ed costs 'shameful'

By Mitra Taj  
ARIZONA DAILY WILDCAT

Sen. Ted Kennedy, D-Mass., said last night that the rising costs of higher education are "shameful" and said it will take more than "lip service" to achieve the equal opportunity goals set by great American leaders.

At the James E. Rogers College of Law-facilitated speech at the Marriott, Kennedy said after four years of troubling trends, education needs to return as one of the country's highest priorities.

Past political leaders such as the founding fathers, labor leader César Chávez, and Kennedy's brother, John F. Kennedy, made important advances for the country in expanding educational opportunities, Kennedy said.

"Our founders understood that this was important," said Kennedy, the second most senior member of the Senate. "That education is not just an individual right but a way of creating informed and educated citizens."

But in the past four years, federal

support for education has taken a detour, Kennedy told about a hundred law students, faculty, and UA administrators like Provost George Davis and President Peter Likins.

"We can't allow the current situation to continue," Kennedy said. "College federal aid has to keep pace with the rising cost of education."

Kennedy pointed out that since George Bush took office, Pell Grants for low-income students are covering a smaller portion of students' tuition and the number of grants students receive is decreasing while the number of loans they have to take out is increasing.

"Costs should never ever be a disqualifier for a well-qualified student to go to college," Kennedy said.

In light of the increasingly global economy and the income gap between college graduates and non-college graduates, support for higher education is more important, Kennedy said.

Kennedy said increasing accessibility requires the federal government to fill any financial gap the families of students, the state, and col-

leges cannot fill.

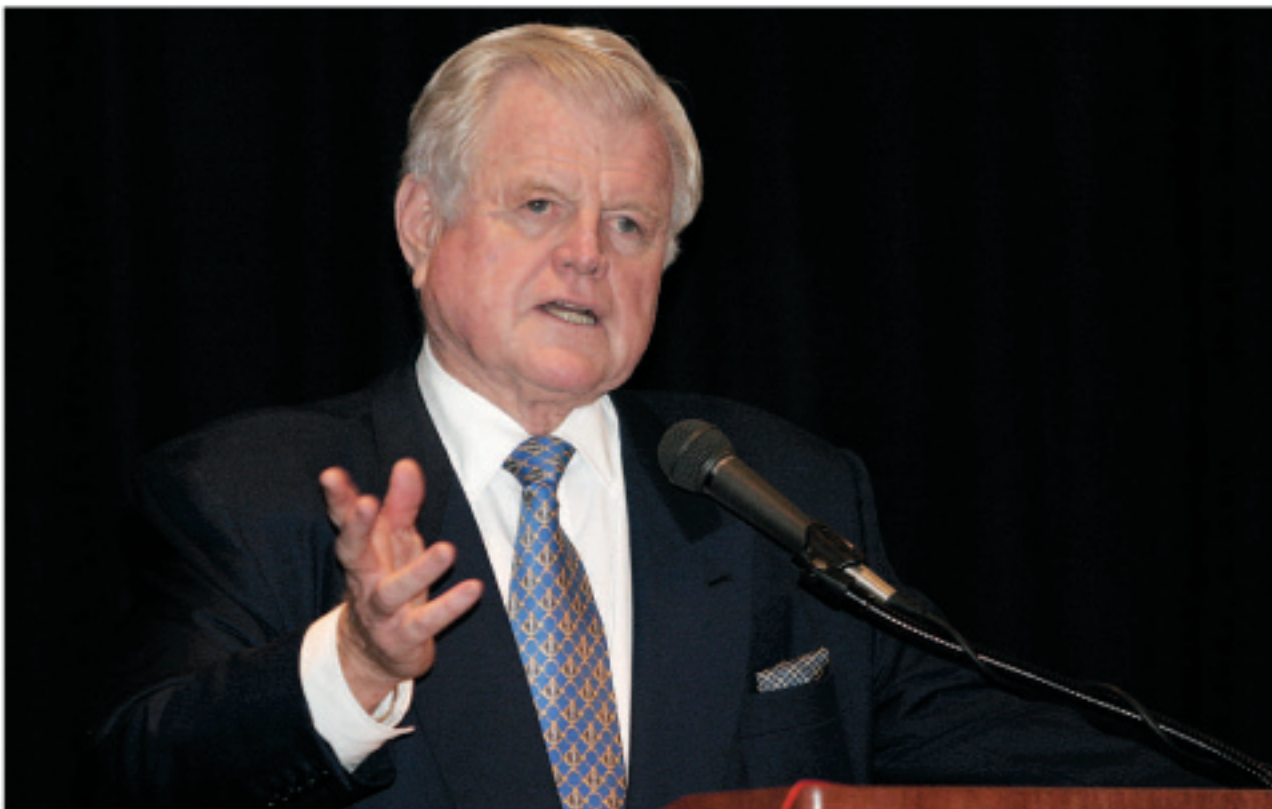
"Money is not the answer to everything but it's a clear indication of where a country's priorities are," Kennedy said, adding that for every dollar the federal government spends, 2.6 cents goes toward education.

Kennedy said he supports practical solutions to the problem of accessibility to higher education. He said tax credits should be expanded, the repayment of student loans should become less burdensome, and support should be provided for the direct lending program, where the American people, not corporate lenders provide financial aid for students.

Kennedy also said college-related debt should be forgiven for college graduates who work for the public sector, which appealed to Patrick Staffer, a third year law student who ushered attendees at the event.

Staffer said debt forgiveness for public employees would encourage more students to fill important public positions.

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MATT ROBLES/Arizona Daily Wildcat

Massachusetts senator Ted Kennedy speaks at the Isaac Marks Memorial lecture yesterday evening at the Marriott Hotel on campus. At the 25th memorial lecture hosted by the College of Law, Sen. Kennedy focused on issues regarding education.

## Mt. Graham to be officially dedicated Fri.

By Natasha Bhuyan  
ARIZONA DAILY WILDCAT

The UA will host the official dedication ceremony Friday for the Large Binocular Telescope on Mount Graham, a project both hailed and criticized by people across the nation.

Although the telescope is not complete, representatives from institutions who have invested in the LBT will tour the Mirror Lab in the Steward Observatory, followed by the dedication at the Westin La Paloma Resort, said Ann Spitz, special assistant to the director at Steward Observatory.

When completed, the \$120 million telescope will be equipped with two 8.4-meter honeycomb mirrors that will permit high definition observation of faint stars and galaxies by combining light from the mirrors, said Bruno Marano, a professor of astronomy at the Università di Bologna in Italy.

Adaptive optics secondary mirrors will provide a built-in capability of correcting atmospheric turbulence, resulting in sharper images, said Marano, who will attend the ceremony Friday.

"LBT will see deeper into space than the Hubble Space Telescope and, for the very first time, see planets revolving around planets in other solar systems," said Jim Slagle, assistant director and program manager of LBT from UA.

But not everyone is lauding the LBT and other telescope projects on Mount Graham.

For nearly two decades, the telescopes have been the subject of controversy due to their location atop Mount Graham, a site which the local San Carlos and White Mountain Apache Native American tribes consider sacred.

"It's been long, hard work...a struggle," said Michael Davis, executive director for the Apache Survival Coalition and part of the San Carlos Apache tribe. "But we will continue to oppose all the activity on Mount Graham."

Environmental groups across the country have also opposed the telescopes, claiming the mountain has more ecological diversity than any mountain in the United States.

Dwight Metzger, a long-time activist with the Mount Graham Coalition, said in its quest to secure prestige, the UA has used its political power to desecrate a holy site by being the first university to challenge Native American religious rights in a court of law.

In 1996, Congress exempted the Mount Graham telescopes from the Endangered Species Act, the Environmental Policy Act and the American Indian Religious Freedom Act, Metzger said.

"If the UA had properly followed the national environmental law, there wouldn't have been that many problems," Davis said. "But they don't follow the law - they run to Congress for exemptions."

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## Campus organizations promote early voting

By Natasha Bhuyan  
ARIZONA DAILY WILDCAT

With the deadline for voter registration passed and election day approaching, campus organizations are promoting early voting to ensure students' voices are heard.

Also known as mail-in ballots or absentee ballots, early voter ballots allow students who cannot make it to their polling station on Nov. 2 to cast their vote by mail.

Yvonne Reed, assistant to the Maricopa County Recorder, said if students want an early ballot mailed to them outside of their registered county, they must submit a written request to their regis-

tered county for signature verification.

"We don't want ballots floating around where they shouldn't be," Reed said.

Ballots will be mailed to voters within two days, Reed said, and must be postmarked by Nov. 1.

F. Ann Rodriguez, Pima County Recorder, said students do not have to be "absent" to request an absentee ballot. Anyone registered in Pima County can request an early ballot by phone, Internet or mail, as long as the ballot will be mailed to a location within Pima County, Rodriguez said.

Amber Hicks, a biochem-

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## UA group helps students through grief

By Holly Wells  
ARIZONA DAILY WILDCAT

An off-campus support group is reaching out to students who have lost loved ones in an effort to help them cope and to let them know they are not alone.

The support group is for people between the ages of 18 and 29 and meets at Tu Nidito, 3922 N. Mountain Ave.

Tu Nidito is a non-profit group that provides support to children and their families as they deal with serious illness and death.

Though the group works mostly with children, for the past three years they've had a support group for young adults as well. Most of the support group's members are UA students.

Program Director Linda Hardy said Tu Nidito started the support group about three years ago after receiving calls from several young adults who



KEVIN B. KLAUS/Arizona Daily Wildcat

Family studies and human development senior Orly Shafir, an employee of Tu Nidito, holds a quilt made by members of a support group in an effort to get over a loved one's death. Tu Nidito is a non-profit organization that was created to help people deal with the illness and loss of loved ones.

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