Younger Bush stumps for uncle

By Miira Tai
ARIZONA DAILY WILDCAT

The president's nephew reminded students yesterday how much his vote mattered as he ralled them to vote Republican and keep the president serving them in office.

"Your votes will make the difference," said George P. Bush, the nephew of President George W. Bush. "You all are here, and the political system is alive and well because of you. We have to show the country that our generation cares."

Bush spoke at the Marriott yesterday to rally support among young people, later joining the College Republicans on the UA Mall to register Republicans and speak with students.

Young people should vote Republican, the 28-year-old Bush said, because "we know the issues that are on the minds of young people."

Bush said the younger generations tend to be more individualistic, and the Republican Party allows them "more breathing room to manage their own paycheck," whether it's earned from a summer job or by paying less in taxes because of lower interest rates for student loans.

"This president believes that you know how to spend your money better than some bureaucrat in Washington, D.C.," he said.

Bush said he's in the middle of a five-day tour to different states to rally support for his uncle and "remind young voters what's at stake this November."

"Can we count on your support?" he asked the crowd, which responded with cheering loudly and waving signs that read, "Viva Bush!

Bush, son of Florida Governor Jeb Bush, and his wife Columba Bush, a Mexican native, said on the Mall yesterday that he hopes to gain

See BUSH/14

Japanese popularity spikes at UA

By Keeri G. Raz
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Japanese has become one of the trendiest languages to study at the UA thanks to music, movies, video games, and anime, Japanese animated films and television shows.

Over the past five years the number of UA students taking Japanese has increased by nearly 50 percent. In 1999, 77 UA students took Japanese. This year, 115 students have enrolled. That's an increase more than three times than seen in UA Chinese classes, where enrollment has increased around 56 students for the past five years.

The UA is not alone.

According to the Modern Languages Association, from 1988 to fall 2002, the number of students studying Japanese in American high-education institutions rose by 21 percent to 52,236.

Timothy Vences, head of the East Asian Studies department, said although he's not entirely sure how to explain the rising interest in Japanese, he has heard some say the rise is due to the popularity of Japanese animation and martial arts.

"There is something trendy about it, but I don't know what explains it," he said.

The U.S. Japanese language program began in the 1980s after the booming Japanese economy created a need for business students to learn the language.

There are students who continue to study Japanese because of their interests in international business, but an increasing number of students are signing up for class because of their interests in pop culture.

Chris Brewer, a computer engineering sophomore, has been watching anime since the age of 8.

That exposure, he said, led him to become more interested in Japanese culture, an interest he sees as the newest trend.

"Japanese culture is becoming much more popular," he said.

On the first day of class, Insumi Ishikawa-Fekk surveyed her Japanese 101 students to find out how many were interested in anime.

About 56 percent of them said they were interested in anime, movies, and music.

Kimberly Torpey, a study abroad advisor, said last year only one person traveled to Japan to study. This year three went to Japan for the summer. Nine students are studying abroad there this year.

Ishikawa-Fekk said factors influencing the rise in interest include movies that take place in Japan such as "Kill Bill" and "Lost in Translation," the increased popularity of Japanese food and the increasing numbers of Japanese foreign exchange students.

Rebecca Macaulay's interest in Japan began with animation and video games as a child. But those interests led her to look into Japanese culture, and it was there she

See JAPANESE/3