



ARIZONA DAILY WILDCAT

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Monday, November 15, 2004

The University of Arizona, Tucson

Alleged UA-area rapist apprehended

By Holly Wells
ARIZONA DAILY WILDCAT

A 20-year-old man was arrested Thursday in connection with several burglaries and sexual assaults in the university area.

Israel Andrew Rivera was arrested Thursday after running from a taxicab that he was riding in had been stopped by police. Police said they began following Rivera after they received an

investigative lead. Rivera was captured after a short pursuit on foot.

He was charged with four counts of sexual assault, aggravated assault with a deadly weapon, four counts of kidnapping, two counts of first-degree burglary and three counts of second-degree burglary.

He was also charged with a parole violation based on an Arizona Department of Corrections felony warrant. He is being held at Pima County Jail.

The victims in the incidents included a teenage girl, three women in their 20s and a 26-year-old man.

The arrest came after a warning police issued to the public two weeks ago about several burglaries and sexual assaults that had taken place in the area north of campus.

Rivera has been linked to five different cases, although police are expect-

ing to link him to more as the investigation continues, said Sgt. Carlos Valdez, Tucson Police Department spokesman.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE ARIZONA DAILY STAR

The first case occurred Oct. 4 on the 3400 block of North Fontana Avenue, the second on Oct. 13 in the 1200 block of East Weimer Circle, and the third on Oct. 20 on the 2700 block of East Sequoyah Street.

The two latest cases occurred Wednesday, one on the 2700 block of East Water Street and the other on the 2500 block of West Anklam Road.

"We were initially concentrating on the area close to campus, he was charged with four sexual assaults in the university area and one aggravated assault in the Anklam area," Valdez said.

Police are still investigating two incidents in late October. One

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MALL BALL



Undeclared freshman Ryan Hovivian, right, tackles history sophomore Karl Goranowski while playing football on the Mall last night.

CASSIE TOMLIN/Arizona Daily Wildcat

Disappointing sales plunge UApresents deeper in debt

By Lisa Rich
ARIZONA DAILY WILDCAT

For the last two years, UApresents has struggled with a growing deficit that has caused the organization to cut back expenses in order to stay in business. Two weeks ago, unexpectedly low ticket sales for the Broadway road show "Hairspray" pushed the organization further into debt, said Sandra Taylor, UA vice president of Campus Life who oversees UApresents.

The growing deficit has become the organization's primary concern, resulting in employee cutbacks and fewer programs for next year's season, Taylor said.

The partially independent organization presents Broadway shows, dance and music from around the world at Centennial Hall. This fiscal year, UApresents has a budget of \$7.1 million, Taylor said. Although the organization receives around \$600,000 from state funding, Taylor said 72 percent of the budget relies completely on ticket sales.

In 2002, Taylor said UApresents started developing a deficit after the economic slump created by the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. Taylor said the deficit has since increased to \$500,000 and could exceed \$600,000 by June.

UApresents expected a greater turnout for "Hairspray," since the show is an award-winning Broadway musical. Yet the late October performance ended up being a disappointment, Taylor said, drawing a crowd less than half of what was expected.

However, organizational factors such as timing could be the reason for low ticket sales, Taylor said. When scheduling the production, she said UApresents was required to run the production for two weeks, Oct. 26 through Nov. 6. Taylor said the second week of the performance, which was during the presidential election, devastated ticket sales.

"We underestimated the timeframe," Taylor said. "The election is an emotionally draining process and can deter people who are thinking about going out."

Taylor said UApresents lost approximately \$225,000 on "Hairspray," which opened many organization leaders' eyes as to how severe the deficit is and what solutions can be used to reverse the problem.

Chuck Spurling, director of marketing, said UApresents changed its advertising techniques, and targeted students this year more than ever. Although he was uncertain whether aiming to increase student attendance directly affected ticket sales, Spurling said ticket prices

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Rice researchers converge on campus

By Natasha Bhuyan
ARIZONA DAILY WILDCAT

Rice will be the main course at an international meeting near campus today.

More than 240 rice researchers from around the world will gather at the Marriott University Park Hotel today to kick off a three-day conference on altering rice genes to create better rice.

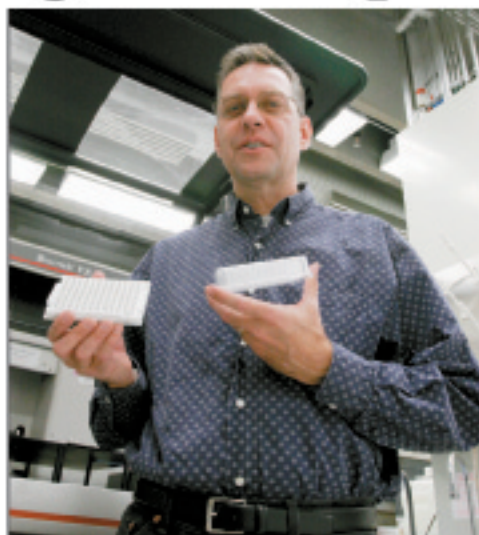
The second annual Symposium on Rice Functional Genomics will bring together premier rice researchers to present the latest research results on the genome sequence of rice and explore how to find the purpose of each of the 50,000 rice genes.

Understanding the functions of rice genes can help scientists devel-

op genetically altered varieties of rice which are drought-tolerant and disease-resistant, which would allow rice to be grown on less land with fewer pesticides and less water, said Rod Wing, director of the Arizona Genomics Institute.

Wing, a professor of plant sciences and chair of the conference, said rice is an important crop because it is the major food source for 3 billion people around the world.

"We need to know all we can about rice," Wing said. "Rice feeds half the world's population, and that's the group that will double in population in the next 50 years."



CLAIRE C. LAURENCE/Arizona Daily Wildcat

Rod Wing, director of rice genetics at the UA, demonstrates sampling equipment used in genomic mapping.

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