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ARIZONA DAILY WILDCAT

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The University of Arizona, Tucson

ROTC prepares for Ranger Challenge



JOSEPH HESLINGA/Arizona Daily Wildcat

Aerospace engineering junior Garrett Mitchell, left, and business management senior Jamie Ventre tie themselves into rope harnesses last week outside ROTC South Hall. They are training for a grueling two-day competition against ROTC programs from around the West.

By Mike DeStasio
ARIZONA DAILY WILDCAT

On a cool, quiet Veterans day, members of the ROTC military science Ranger Challenge class did not take the day off. They continued to train for a grueling two-day, eight-event competition challenging their physical and mental abilities.

The team began the day with a 10k (6.2 miles) rucksack march, in which each cadet carried a load of about 50 pounds (30 pounds for female team members). Peter Kim, a political science senior, played music from an MP3 player attached to his rucksack for motiva-

tion.

The team will leave for the ROTC Ranger Challenge tomorrow, and the competition starts at Ft. Hunter-Liggett in California on Friday. The team will compete against ROTC programs from other schools around the west.

Sgt. First Class Mark Trees, U.S. Army, said the first day of the competition will consist of six events.

The cadets will complete the Army physical fitness test, measuring how many push-ups and sit-ups each team member can do in two minutes and how fast they complete a two-mile run. They then move onto marksmanship, repelling, patrolling, an obstacle course, and the one-rope bridge.

The goal of the one-rope bridge is speed and efficiency and these cadets have it. The cadets pull a rope tight between two poles and then clip their harness to the rope. They pull themselves across, hanging with their backs to the ground, as quickly as possible. If any part of their body or equipment touches the ground, the team is penalized.

Jamie Ventre, a business management senior and captain of the team, said each team member will eventually carry a weapon while participating in the one-rope bridge, adding to the difficulty.

The second day of the competition is

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Student leaders to be 'sold' for charity

Service fraternity hosts ASUA bachelor auction

By Natasha Bhuyan
ARIZONA DAILY WILDCAT

Student leaders are selling themselves for money.

Alpha Phi Omega, a coed service fraternity, is auctioning off dates with campus bachelors to benefit the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation of Southern Arizona.

Fifteen UA men who represent organizations across campus will be featured at the APO Bachelor Auction, held tonight at 7 in Social Sciences 100.

A profile on each bachelor will be read as he walks, skips or dances across stage, and he will wear a tuxedo. Any audience member is welcome to make a bid, and bids will open at \$5.

Garrett Bennett, service vice president of APO and a retailing and consumer sciences junior, said organizers hope to raise \$1,000 for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, which focuses on patient care, research and awareness of the disease.

"More children and young adults have this life-threatening disease than any other disease in our nation today," said Betty Kalil Knott, director of development for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation of Southern Arizona.

A minimum of 90 cents of every dollar the foundation receives goes directly toward patient care and research, Knott said. The Cystic Fibrosis Foundation was rated the No. 1 non-profit health agency in the United States by Smart Money Magazine last year.

Bennett said during the auction, bachelors will model, along with lip-synching and performing a choreographed dance to an N'Sync song.

"This night will be a fun and unique experience that will not soon be forgotten," said Ryan Jennings, president of Eller College Student Council and

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Holiday flights almost sold out

By Zach Colick
ARIZONA DAILY WILDCAT

Students who have yet to book their trips home for the holidays might be out of luck at the STA travel agency, as airline seats are filling up quickly.

Annika Blau, a travel adviser for STA travel agency in the Student Union Memorial Center, said student bookings at STA surge during the Thanksgiving and Christmas holiday season since students are itching to go home to spend time with their families.

But Blau said students who haven't reserved their flights home for Thanksgiving are out

of luck since most to all of the flights have already been reserved.

"Forget it. Everything is booked," Blau said. "Thanksgiving is the most traveled date in the U.S."

She said the remaining flights are expensive and have bad arrival and departure times for college students.

Blau said students should reserve their flights well in advance of the holiday season so they don't have to pay outrageous prices or get stuck with inconvenient departure times.

Alanna MacGrath, a journalism and creative writing sophomore, said she booked a flight through STA last year to visit a friend in New York over winter

break months before the break so she wouldn't get stuck without a flight or pay an expensive price for her ticket.

"The prices are better here because it's geared towards student budgets," MacGrath said.

She said the airfares were cheaper at STA compared to booking on the Internet and said the STA staff is helpful to students who haven't reserved a flight before.

Talia Nosrati, a communication senior, said booking tickets on the Internet is easier for her than waiting in lines.

Nosrati said she booked her Thanksgiving and winter break

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KEVIN B. KLAUS/Arizona Daily Wildcat

STA travel advisor Annika Blau helps retail and consumer sciences senior Tugce Irtem, left, and philosophy senior Banu Kavusturan decide whether to fly to New York or Chicago.