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ARIZONA DAILY WILDCAT

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Site built by alums facilitates text swap

By Anthony Avila
ARIZONA DAILY WILDCAT

UA students looking for cheaper textbooks and a way to get the most money for used books can find plenty of online resources, including a new book-trading Web site created by a UA alumnus.

At SwapSimple.com, students trade textbooks for other textbooks, replacing the traditional method of buying and reselling at a bookstore, said President Elliot Hirsch, who graduated from the UA in 2001 with a degree in psychology.

Hirsch said the idea for the company generated from his experience in college after becoming frustrated with buying expensive textbooks and receiving little money back when reselling his books.

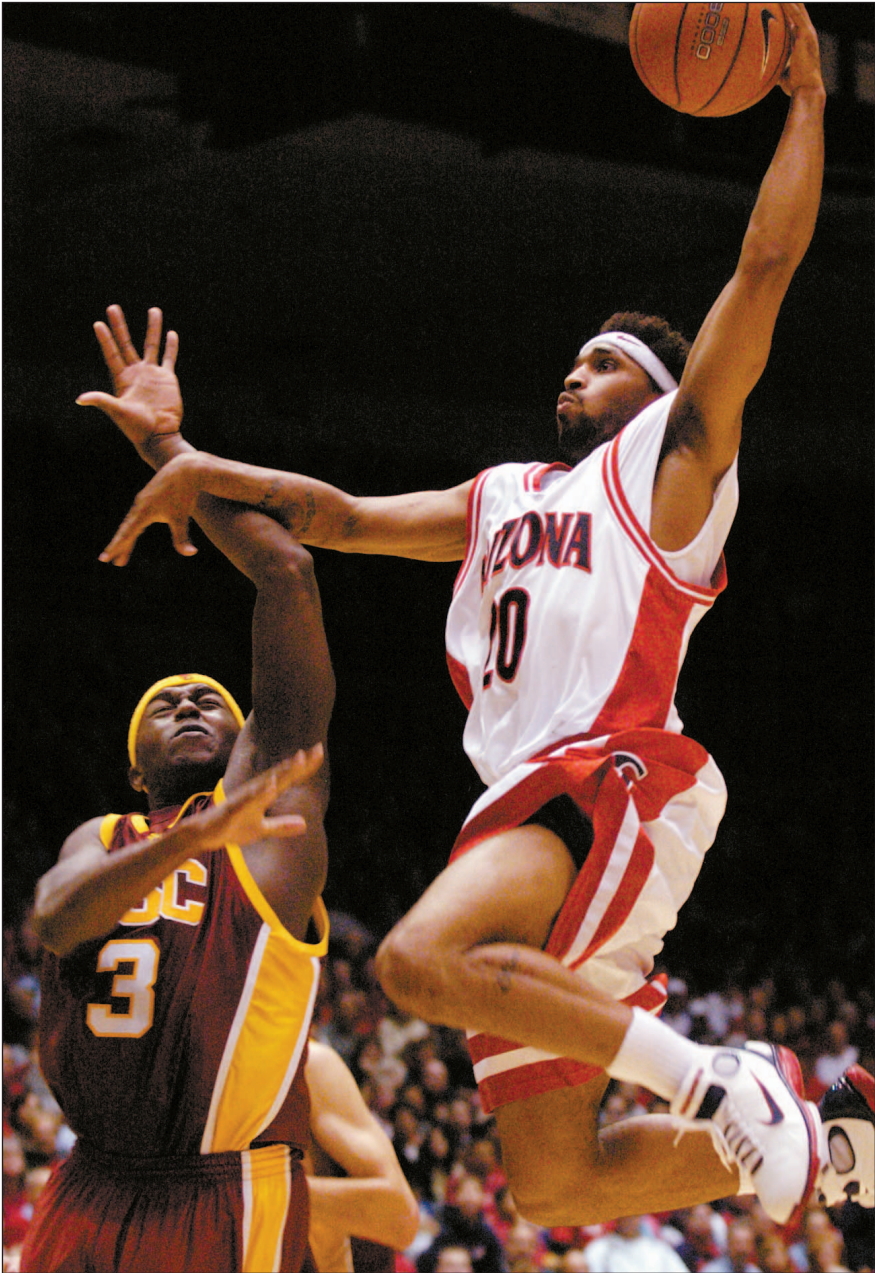
"I remember selling a \$100 book to the bookstore for practically nothing, and then they would put it back on the shelf and sell it for \$80. It was hard to see that time after time," he said.

After college, he and two friends, Eric Haszlkiewicz and David Goldblatt, founded SwapSimple.com, the National Used Book Exchange, in 2003. Goldblatt was a student at the UA before transferring to Northern Arizona University.

Any student can register on the site for free. Once students begin posting books, they must enter their credit card information, but do not have to pay anything until they

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SOARING SALIM



CHRIS CODUTO/Arizona Daily Wildcat
Arizona's Salim Stoudamire goes up for a dunk over USC's Lodrick Stewart during the second half of Arizona's game against USC last night in McKale Center. Arizona defeated USC 77-68. See page 15 for complete game story.

Donor offers to bail out UA arts

\$50K anonymous grant given to UApresents

By Mike DeStasio
ARIZONA DAILY WILDCAT

After months of financial instability, a "challenge grant" of \$50,000 has been promised to UApresents by an anonymous donor in an effort to reduce the organization's growing deficit.

The donor has guaranteed UApresents \$50,000, while the UA will contribute \$75,000 if UApresents raises \$100,000 this season before the June 30 deadline, said Amanda Place, director of development for UApresents.

UApresents is \$9,000 shy of its goal, having raised \$91,000 to date primarily from donations made by theater patrons. Last year they received \$615,000 in total cash gifts.

Administration has agreed to assume the \$472,000 debt from the 2003-2004 season. UApresents will pay \$100,000 back to the university annually until all is reimbursed, said Will Seberger, spokesman for UApresents and studio art and journalism

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Residence Life takes over La Aldea for grad housing

By Natasha Bhuyan
ARIZONA DAILY WILDCAT

Residents living in the La Aldea apartment complex can expect to see changes in the upcoming months, such as community assistants, after Residence Life gained ownership of the complex last week.

La Aldea, located on North Euclid Avenue, is a \$21 million apartment-style complex that can house up to 325 students in single, double and quadruple rooms.

The building, which opened in fall 2003, was leased to Ambling Companies for entrepreneurial and financial reasons.

However, after complaints from student residents and problems with the private ownership, UA Residence Life bought La Aldea at the end of last semester and acquired the property Jan. 5, said Jim Van Arsdel, director of Residence Life.



CLAIRE C. LAURENCE/Arizona Daily Wildcat
Political science junior Ashley Petty, left, and history graduate student Tom Donlan take advantage of La Aldea's fitness center yesterday. Now owned by the UA, the complex offers students additional facilities, including study and recreation rooms.

Van Arsdel said although changes for this semester will be minimal, university officials are working out details for next year

such as rental rates, more community assistants and increased security.

Van Arsdel described a community assistant as a cross between a resident assistant and a desk assistant.

"They spend some amount of their time distributing mail and helping out with some of the programs there," Van Arsdel said. "But (unlike RAs) community assistants won't do rounds or be on duty."

Three community assistants were recently hired for La Aldea, a new position only open to graduate students, and Residence Life is accepting applications for more, Van Arsdel said.

Sergio Olmedo, Spanish senior and resident of La Aldea, said he does not mind the presence of the community assistants because they do not act like RAs who take on restricting duties such as enforcing quiet hours.

"As long as they only do programs, it's OK," Olmedo said.

In addition to community assistants, another change La Aldea residents will experience this

semester is their rent paying process. Residents can now pay their rent through their bursar's account instead of writing checks to the former management company, which makes the process more convenient, Van Arsdel said.

Another change is a larger maintenance staff responsible for cleaning and responding to resident concerns, he added.

However, some residents and prospective residents feel the complex also needs a change in rent prices.

Amanda Brobbel, president of the Graduate and Professional Student Council, said she hopes for an adjustment to the rent to better reflect the market.

"We were pretty clear with (Van Arsdel) that the rates are too high for the market in the area," Brobbel said.

Van Arsdel said changes to the rent are still under consideration,

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