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ARIZONA DAILY WILDCAT

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The University of Arizona, Tucson

Phone scam continues to cheat UA students

By Jennifer Amsler
ARIZONA DAILY WILDCAT

A financial aid scam continues to target UA students in which an unknown caller informs the student they have qualified for a grant, but first must release their personal information in order to receive it.

Sgt. Eugene Mejia, University of Arizona Police Department spokesman, said at least 12 individuals have reported similar calls over the past six months. He sent out a campus alert in September but said the problem continues and students are no longer the only ones being targeted.

"It seems to keep resurfacing," he said.

One week ago, Mejia said, a person from New Jersey and another from New Mexico called the station, both claiming they received a suspicious call that said they qualified for a grant from the UA. Both callers said they had applied for a grant and said the man asked for their banking information, Mejia said.

Four Tucson students contacted police in September and reported similar calls and police have received other complaints since then.

The most recent report of the scam came from a UA student who contacted police after she received two suspicious calls from the same man.

Lauren Herman, a pre-architecture freshman, said she received the first call on the afternoon of Jan. 22 on her cell phone. The man identified himself as Mark Wilson from Choice Grant Information Center, reports

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LIGHTING UP THE NIGHT



The Peking Acrobats performed to a packed audience yesterday in Centennial Hall. The Peking Acrobats are a 19-member ensemble of elite gymnasts, cyclists, jugglers and tumblers from China. For more photos go to the Wildcat online at wildcat.arizona.edu.

Bills could reduce DUIs

By Andrea Kelly
ARIZONA DAILY WILDCAT

PHOENIX – Two bills were passed yesterday which could make the penalties more severe for driving while under the influence of alcohol in Arizona, by adding a device to a convicted person's car that prevents it from starting if alcohol is detected on the driver's breath.

The breath sensor, called an ignition-interlocking device, would require a driver to breathe into it before he or she started the car.

The first bill would require anyone underage convicted of having "any spirituous liquor" in their body, or convicted of a DUI or an extreme or aggravated DUI, to have the device installed in their car.

It would also allow anyone convicted of a DUI to opt to have the device placed on their car instead of having their license suspended, and would restrict where and when the driver could use the car.

The second bill would require anyone convicted of their first DUI to have the device installed in their car for one year.

The current law requires anyone convicted of a second DUI within five years of their first to have the ignition-interlock device installed following a revoked driver's license for one year.

Underage drivers caught with any alcohol in their system are subject to similar consequences as anyone convicted of a DUI, which

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UA boosts grad assistant tuition waiver to 70 percent

By Natasha Bhuyan
ARIZONA DAILY WILDCAT

The UA will increase graduate teaching and research assistants' tuition waivers from 60 percent to 70 percent next year, although the figure is 10 percent less than administrators had originally expected.

President Peter Likins said because of budget constraints, the university could not grant an 80 percent tuition waiver to graduate assistants and opted to slow the rate at which the UA reaches full tuition remission.

Tuition remission and health insurance funding for graduate research assistants come from Employee Related Expenses, which will raise 33 percent of the student's salary next year.

Since the money comes from research grants obtained by faculty sponsors, Likins said administra-

tors choose to relieve some of the cost for faculty members who employ graduate students.

Dick Roberts, UA budget director, said 80 percent was "too big a bite" for the university to absorb in additional costs.

However, by increasing the tuition waiver by 10 percent each year, Likins said he hopes to reach full tuition remission for graduate assistants by fall 2008.

Amanda Brobbel, president of the Graduate and Professional Student Council, said while the full tuition remission remains a priority, she understands the 80 percent waiver was not conceivable in the face of this year's budget reallocations.

"Certainly not going to 80 percent is a disappointment, but people are pretty realistic that it couldn't happen this year," Brobbel said.

Regardless of their residency, all graduate assistants now receive a 60 percent waiver on the residen-

tial graduate tuition of \$4,337.

Still, the increased tuition waiver will make the UA more competitive against other universities when trying to attract the highest quality of graduate students, Brobbel said.

Twelve of the UA's 15 peer institutions already offer full tuition waivers to graduate assistants, Brobbel said.

Paul Thorn, a philosophy graduate teaching assistant, said although the president chose to use university resources elsewhere, he believes Likins recognizes the need for graduate compensation.

"I say this because the 70 percent remission rate is much higher than some of the proposals that were presented to university governance and administration in the fall," Thorn said.

Anne Padias, director of academic services for chemistry and

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JOSH FIELDS/Arizona Daily Wildcat

Graduate teaching assistant Diana Cedeno examines her student's experiments in a first-semester chemistry lab. The UA will be increasing tuition waivers 10 percent for graduate assistants in the next year.