

ARIZONA DAILY WILDCAT

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Thursday, April 29, 2004

The University of Arizona, Tucson

MIDEAST CONFLICT ON MALL



DAVID HARDEN/Arizona Daily Wildcat

More than 100 supporters of Israel gathered on the Mall yesterday to form a human Star of David, which appears in the center of the Israeli flag. Protesters also gathered at the event to call for an end to Israeli occupation of Palestinian territories.

Protesters try to stain human flag

By Aaron Mackey
ARIZONA DAILY WILDCAT

An attempt to create a human Israeli flag on the UA Mall yesterday was interrupted when protesters floated a set of red balloons over the crowd, trying to create the illusion of a bloodstain on the flag.

More than 100 students and supporters of Israel formed the Star of David in the flag to celebrate the 56th anniversary of the creation of the state of Israel and to show support for the nation.

The UA Hillel Foundation and the Arizona Israeli Alliance organized the event. It was the first human Israeli flag created at the UA.

Less than 50 feet away, the Alliance for Peace and Justice in the Middle East and

other campus groups called for an end to Israeli occupation of Palestinian territories.

While participants in the human flag waited to have their picture taken by an airplane flying overhead, three protesters moved closer to the group, trying to float the balloons over the flag.

Mike Sousa, an art education senior, said the bloodstain represented the killing of innocent Palestinians and the illegal occupation of Palestinian territories by Israel.

Several human flag participants left the group and attempted to bring down the balloons, with one man cutting the string attached to the balloons.

Jacob Reuben, an Associated Students of the University of Arizona senator who participated in the flag's formation, said he respected students' right to protest but that

the use of the balloons was in poor taste.

"They have a twisted way of protesting," he said.

Heather Lobenstein, a journalism senior who organized the human flag, said the event was not intended to be political, as students were only gathering to show support for Israel.

But Jessica Weinberg, co-president of APJME, said the creation of the flag was political.

Weinberg said by supporting Israel, participants were also supporting what she called the illegal occupation of Palestinian territories.

"The creation of that state came at the expense of the human rights of Israel," she said.

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Reward good grad rates, says Napolitano

By Jeff Sklar
ARIZONA DAILY WILDCAT

Arizona's governor is eager to see universities rewarded for improving their graduation rates, but one of her top aides warns that another facet of a wide-ranging plan to reconsider university funding strategies may be too ambitious.

Gov. Janet Napolitano said yesterday that an Arizona Board of Regents proposal to offer universities financial incentives to raise graduation rates would improve the state's economy by preparing more students for high-wage jobs.

But at least one other hallmark of a plan to restructure state mechanisms for funding the university — a threefold increase in taxpayer-funded financial aid — may need to be enacted more gradually than universities hoped, said George Cunningham, Napolitano's deputy chief of staff for finance and budget.

Still, the governor's office appears generally receptive to the plans, which could bring millions more into university coffers in coming years.

They would reward universities by paying them not just when more students enroll but when they achieve specific goals like raising graduation rates, especially in high-demand fields like nursing, education and engineering.

That will likely come as good news to the regents, who will meet today to discuss the lawmakers' reactions to the potential changes and perhaps come a step closer to formally asking the Legislature and governor to enact them.

Though the regents have worked all semester to outline new means for funding the universities, because the Legislature and governor allocate money, regents must win support from those officials before new funding plans can be implemented.

Their proposal would fund the universities \$1,000 for each bachelor's degree above the previous year's total, and \$1,500 and \$2,000 for each master's degree and doctorate, respectively.

See GOVERNOR/10

Students remember RA as an 'older brother,' friend

By Kylee Dawson
ARIZONA DAILY WILDCAT

To celebrate and honor the life of Joseph Johnson, a resident assistant killed in a motorcycle accident two weeks ago, about 120 people attended a memorial service yesterday at Graham-Greenlee Residence Hall.

"Your impact on others is more than you ever imagined," read one of several messages written on the courtyard ground in chalk. The wall read, "In Loving Memory of Joe."

The memorial service included a barbecue and canned food drive. The food will be given to the Salvation Army, as requested by Johnson's parents.

Johnson was killed in a motorcycle accident on April 18 with his passenger, Lindsay Schiffman, who was a media arts senior.

"I was a friend of Joe's," said Aaron Ronn, a psychology and political science major and RA who worked with Johnson. "He was like my older brother and helped me with a lot of stuff. He never had a moment without laughs. He always had something funny to say."

Friends said Johnson also belonged to an off-road club for which he helped organize events.

"We were all in the off-road club with him," said Ryan Miller, a mechanical engineer senior and friend of Johnson's.

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KEVIN B. KLAUS/Arizona Daily Wildcat

Biochemistry junior Tally Milnes writes a message yesterday evening in the courtyard of Graham-Greenlee Residence Hall during a barbecue to remember former students Joseph Johnson and Lindsay Schiffman, who were killed in a motorcycle accident April 18.

'Girls' are mean,
or so the
movie says

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Comeback Cats

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Men's golf wins Pac-10 crown

5-year
anniversary of
sweatshop sit-in

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