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# ARIZONA DAILY WILDCAT

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The University of Arizona, Tucson

## HELPING HANDS



CLAIRE C. LAURENCE/Arizona Daily Wildcat

Sociology senior Becca Arnold pins a cutout of her hand to a screen wall Tuesday in recognition of her promise to combat violence. The wall has been assembled on the UA Mall to promote "The Vagina Monologues," which will premiere at the UA on March 4 and 5.

## Dean of students video addresses student-neighbor relations

By Alexis Blue  
ARIZONA DAILY WILDCAT

In an effort to improve relationships between students living off campus and their non-student neighbors, the Dean of Students Office is producing a video to address common problems between

students and neighbors. The project is reminiscent of the "Arizona Idol" video the Dean of Students Office created in 2003 to address disruptive behavior in the classroom, which is shown at new student orientations and in classes at a professor's request.

The new video aims to make students aware of

conflicts with neighbors, particularly those involved in loud parties and alcohol use.

The Dean of Students Office received several complaints from residents of near-campus neighborhoods about the behavior of students living in the same areas, said Anthony Skevakis, program coordi-

nator of judicial affairs and educational outreach in the Dean of Students Office.

After surveying some of those residents, loud parties emerged as one of the biggest concerns.

"Noise was the No. 1 issue people had a complaint about," said

See NEIGHBORHOOD/8

## Retirement rate hikes could cost UA millions

By Natasha Bhuyan  
ARIZONA DAILY WILDCAT

Retirement contribution rates will rise this summer, but the state Legislature is staying mum on whether they will make up the expenses, which could cost the UA up to \$4 million.

The Arizona State Retirement System, announced in November, plans to require state employees and employers to increase contributions for retirement and long-term disability coverage, forcing both to pay more to retirement packages, from 5.7 percent to 8.25 percent, said Keith Meredith, chairman of the ASRS board of trustees.

If the Legislature fails to cover the additional expenses, the UA will have to pay \$4 million in retirement plans, but administrators are unsure of where that money would come from, said President Peter Likins.

Lack of funds from the Legislature will also increase Employee Related Expense rates, said Dick Roberts, director of the budget office.

"It would be a major problem for us," Roberts said. "If this happens, we would have to have a major discussion, and it would result in restructuring the budget."

In her fiscal year 2005-06 budget proposal, Democratic Gov. Janet Napolitano allotted \$8,145,400 to cover increases in state employer and employee expenses.

Although the Legislature identified retirement expenses as an important issue, they have not disclosed whether they will make up for the losses, said Greg Fahey, associate vice president of government relations.

"If you don't get the money for it, it becomes a budget cut," said Fahey, who is lobbying the Legislature on the issue.

Provost George Davis said that although the UA has no contingency plan to deal with the potential loss, administrators are discussing budget reallocation methods in the face of decreased state funding.

"These are big hits," Davis said. "It's hard overnight to secure some source of revenue."

On top of a universitywide budget cut of \$4 million, Likins said UA employees in ASRS will have to take a pay cut of the same amount to make up the other \$4 million, since the actual shortfall is \$8 million.

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## New mass transit may link UA to downtown student housing

By Jennifer Amsler  
ARIZONA DAILY WILDCAT

City officials are working to create a modern mass transportation system that would run through the UA to downtown Tucson, an area they say will soon be a magnet for student living.

Jim Glock, the director of the Tucson Department of Transportation, said an additional 2,000 housing units will pop up downtown in the next four years, making a reliable transportation system to the UA a necessity.

"There is no easy way to get around," Glock said.

In their Transit on the Move plan, the city officials are considering either

a modern streetcar, an expansion of the historic trolley on East University Boulevard, a rapid bus circulator or updates to the SunTran bus system. Glock said one of these systems could be in operation by 2011.

The outlined path of one of these transportation systems would run from Arizona Health Sciences Center, through the UA on East Second Street to the downtown area.

Joan Beckim, community outreach and information coordinator for the Transit of the Move project, said UA representatives from facilities planning are supportive of an updated transportation system.

Beckim said the mass transit system would complement the CatTran

system and possibly allow it to expand to other parts of campus.

Matthew Tauton, a consultant on the project's team, said the transit system would operate 18 to 20 hours daily and connect students with activities in other parts of the city.

Marc K. Soronson, the consultant project manager, said city officials are relying heavily on student input because the new system will affect campus life.

"If we don't have student support, it will not happen," Soronson said.

Beckim said the City of Tucson will hold a forum on campus sometime in March so students can express their needs and concerns regarding travel

See TRANSIT/8



CLAIRE C. LAURENCE/Arizona Daily Wildcat

International studies sophomore Jen Johns takes a ride on the CatTran yesterday afternoon. The City of Tucson held a public forum yesterday concerning developments in campus-area transportation.