

# THE VOICE

## Arizona Students' Association

Fall 2003 First Edition

University students are part of a large and distinctive community that demands individual interests and needs. Nearly 30 years ago, students recognized this demand and founded the Arizona Students' Association (ASA) as a non-partisan, non-profit advocacy, education and research organization. Separate from tuition, a \$1 ASA fee is collected from students each semester and is used toward funding a unified student voice. ASA represents the voice of over 105,000 Arizona University students, making ASA a powerful force in advocating for student rights. The following efforts are currently being made by ASA:

- ❖ ASA has created four committees with statewide student representation:
  - Tuition Committee
  - Legislative Committee
  - Events / Projects
  - Bylaws / Policy & Procedure
- ❖ ASA monitors federal bills of significance to Arizona students, including education reform, privacy, loans, and research... The Legislative Corner, located on page three, highlights some recent legislative activity.
- ❖ ASA is considering a federal bill proposal to benefit college graduates who are in "Good Standing" with their student loans. The bill will prohibit credit penalization because of loan debt.
- ❖ ASA is working to increase the Arizona Financial Aid Trust (AFAT) state contribution. The state currently matches the funds, which are produced by tuition surcharges, one-to-one. AFAT only supplies .02% of all Arizona student financial aid. Further, ASA continues to fight budget rescissions that could affect AFAT's existing funding.
- ❖ ASA is participating in a steering committee with the Arizona Community Foundation and is seeking co-sponsorship for the first major state public/private sector scholarship program.
- ❖ ASA sponsors several voter registration drives. Articles about this semester's campus-wide voter registration drives are on page two.
- ❖ For the second election in a row, ASA will create a "Voter's Guide" in coordination with the statewide Classified Staff Advisory Council from the Universities.
- ❖ ASA filed with Clean Elections for 2004 debate sponsorships in and around Flagstaff, Tempe, and Tucson.
- ❖ Tuition issues remain important to ASA. Forum schedules and the tuition statewide hearing information will be posted on the ASA website soon.

ASA continues to improve student outreach by sponsoring events and activities on University campuses. Student input and concerns are of the highest importance to ASA. ASA's website, [www.azstudents.org](http://www.azstudents.org), is a resource where students can learn more about any of the above mentioned endeavors, tap into current legislation, participate in surveys, and learn how to get involved.

## Meet Your ASA Board!

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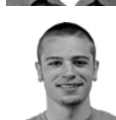
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Associated Students of Northern Arizona University (ASNAU) hosted the Fifth Annual Voterpalooza and Battle of the Bands event on October 16, 2003. The event promotes student voter registration and provides resources about currently proposed federal legislation and tuition.

Held at NAU’s campus in Flagstaff, the event showcased six talented bands from Arizona. Audience members judged each band’s performance and submitted ballots, similar to how they will on voting day. The highest-ranked band won a first place cash prize of \$700. Second place received \$500 and third place received \$300.

Although open to the general public, mainly NAU students attended Voterpalooza. Admission was free and t-shirts, along with other prizes, were given to those who registered to vote or visited the information booths. Voterpalooza successfully registered over 235 students to vote. NAU’s ASA Task Force Director, Jennifer Campuzano, expressed her satisfaction with the event’s success, “Last year, we did not even give away 200 t-shirts, let alone register 200 students to vote. We are very happy with the results and look forward to registering even more students next year.” In addition to the voter registration tables, ASA sponsored two booths dedicated to tuition and tuition surveys. For more information about voter registration, please visit [www.azstudents.org](http://www.azstudents.org).



### UA’s Battle of the Bands a Smash Hit

Three nights of great music and campus fun is exactly what students found at UA’s Second Annual Battle of the Bands. Four bands played on each of the first two nights, totaling eight enlisted bands. On October 29, the four bands who received the most student votes competed for the grand prize: a \$300 gift certificate to Guitar Center.

Last minute, one of the bands, Elsewhere, had to drop out because of a forgotten guitar attachment. Everyone was shocked, especially since they were the favorite of many. Nevertheless, the show went on and the bands Gorilla behind Bars, Troy’s Bucket, and Oliver Nothing performed their half hour sets.

In the end, students voted Gorilla behind Bars as the winner by a landslide. Some of the many factors considered when voting were stage presence and talent. Gorilla Behind Bars plans to use the gift certificate for furthering their band.

The event brought people together and gave exposure to some phenomenal local bands. As a cosponsor of the event, ASA registered almost 130 students to vote throughout the three nights.

Arizona State University’s ASA have hosted several voter registration efforts and a “Meet Your Legislator” night on October 1, 2003 in the Memorial Union.

The night featured all of Arizona’s District 17 Legislators, which includes Meg Burton-Cahill, Mark Thompson and Harry Mitchell. Also, District 18 Senator Mark Anderson attended. Each legislator began with a brief, personal introduction, which included a summation of his or her achievements thus far in office. Following these introductions, students were given the floor to ask important questions regarding a plethora of topics, such as education.

ASA Board member and main event coordinator, Sophie O’Keefe-Zelman, described the night as something that “helped students become more familiar with the legislative process.” According to Zelman, every question asked received a great answer.

In addition to “Meet Your Legislator” Night, ASA sponsored several voter registration tables, even during Homecoming. Further, every single dormitory has on-site voter registration access. The success has been so great that ASU is rumored to have nearly 1,000 students registered to vote!

### UA’s CATFEST is the Cat’s Meow

The first week of school at the University of Arizona is a great place to be, especially when a free concert performance and giveaways are involved. UA’s annual CATFEST event took place during the first week of classes, August 25<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup>. During CATFEST, students learn about campus clubs, register to vote, and receive tons of free stuff. For the event’s grand finale, Roger Clyne and the Peacemakers performed on campus. Students were encouraged to register to vote before receiving their free tickets.

ASA played a significant role in CATFEST by sponsoring all voter registration efforts and by helping to market the week’s events. Voter registration efforts remained strong during the night of the concert. By the end of CATFEST, over 100 students had successfully registered to vote. Stress balls, frisbees, and t-shirts were only some of the prizes offered by ASA.

Board Member, Alistair Chapman, described CATFEST as, “An incredible opportunity to get excited about the semester, mingle with other students, and register to vote.” Being a part of CATFEST gives ASA a unique opportunity to reach out to new and returning students and remind them of the importance of expressing their voice through voting.

# Legislative Corner

## The Future of Financial Aid and How it Affects YOU!

United States Representatives, Buck McKeon, a California Republican, and Rahm Emanuel, an Illinois Democrat, and 21 other representatives including Raul Grijalva, an Arizona Democrat from the Tucson area, sponsored a bill to examine the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The Federal Aid Simplification Act (H.R. 2956) strives to begin the

process of making the FAFSA easier and more understandable for families to receive financial aid from the government.

### Legislative Conference

The **Legislative Conference** is an annual event that brings together students from all three universities. Workshops will focus on the issues facing university students and the legislative process. Students will also have the opportunity to interact with Arizona legislators. The keynote speaker will be Lloyd Thacker, well-known author and authority on college admissions and tuition. The conference will take place in February 2004. More details will be announced soon.

This year, the federal government will give \$90 billion to higher education, \$65 billion of which is earmarked for grants and loans. McKeon and Emanuel believe that financial aid reform is something that needs to be examined. "The challenges of college are steep enough. I don't believe students and families should have to face an additional challenge when they are applying for student aid programs such as the Pell Grant simply because of an overly complex system," said Emanuel. "That's why this bill will work to simplify and streamline the federal student aid formula and the FAFSA form – because students should be more challenged by their homework in college than their paperwork to receive student aid. If a student is able to fill out the form as it exists today, I don't think they should have to go to college – they should go straight to grad school."

Currently, the FAFSA demands that 99 items be completed, not including additional worksheets; H.R. 2956 would require that number to be significantly reduced. The bill would also require that the revised application form is easy for parents and students to read and understand. The Arizona Students' Association is in support of this bill and feels that H.R. 2956 is step in the right direction for improving financial aid. This bill is one of the many pieces of legislation this session that have an impact on higher education and you. Contact your Representative today to let them know that you support this bill!

The **ASA Community Action Grant** was established in 1999 to encourage students to serve their campuses and communities throughout Arizona. Three grants of up to



\$1,000 will be awarded statewide to recognized student organizations to fund community service projects that address the needs facing the

communities in which we live. One grant will be awarded at each University to assist in implementing an innovative and worthwhile service project. Congratulations to the 2003-2004 grant recipients from ASU Kappa Alpha Order's Christmas in Guadalupe and from NAU - The Society of Physics Students' Student Outreach Project. UofA winners will be announced soon.

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### Meet Board Member Russell Reiten

**College Major:** American Political Studies with a Legal Systems emphasis and a Criminal Justice minor.

**Ideal Job:** Federal Law Enforcement Investigations (graduate school is inevitable)

**Favorite Place:** Chicago, IL (but he prefers Arizona's hot weather any day!)

**Dream Place to Visit:** New Zealand

**Favorite Band:** Korn

**Favorite Food:** Thai Food

**Special Interests/Skills:** Parliamentary Procedure

**Biggest Accomplishment:** "Running for NAU's Student Body President...and losing. It was rewarding to not only attempt it, but to also finish it through. Much was learned from the experience."



Russell Reiten visits ASA Central Office