The value of a dollar

Recession drives popularity of dollar stores throughout Tucson

Patricia Franco
THE CHRONICLE

The economy may be grim for many, but it could be helping some local businesses. 99-Cent Only Stores, where everything costs a dollar, are seeing products fly off the shelves.

According to its Web site, 99-Cent Only Stores had $1.2 billion in sales in 2008.

Soyeon Shim, professor of family and consumer sciences at the University of Arizona, said the increase in popularity at dollar stores is due to the current economy.

"People are trying to save more," Shim said. "People are buying more basic items and not luxury items. In the past people could buy nice and brand items like the large screen TV's, especially with their credit cards. Now it's not a good idea and people are cutting down their food way more than they used to."

Dollar stores, such as the 99-Cent Only Store, carry a variety of items including produce, canned goods, personal care items and school supplies.

"Every day people ask me if the things in the store cost only a dollar, and every day someone new steps into these stores and realizes that it's much cheaper," said Jesse Salcido, an employee at the 99-Cent Only Store on Tucson's South Side.

Tucsonan Jamie Graves said 99-Cent Only Stores help save her family money, especially since what she shops for the most at these stores are toys and children's items.

"I save about $30 to $40 dollars a day," said Graves as she shopped with her two young girls at a midtown 99-Cent Only Store.

Jason Olson, manager of a 99-Cent Only Store on the North Side, said he has seen a steady increase in customers since the store opened four years ago.

Traffic has increased about 10 percent," he said, an increase he believes is partially due to the recession.

99-Cent Only Stores are able to sell their products for a dollar by purchasing their products in bulk, Olson said, with his best selling items being produce and cleaning supplies.

Employees have seen a 10 to 15 percent increase in new customers, a day in addition to repeat customers who have been shopping there for years. Olson said his store's sales are increasing along with his store's popularity.

The store accepts customer requests.

"The most requested items are oils; cooking oils which we don't have because they are hard to get," Olson said.

Olson said he thought the recession might lead to more sales at the chains, but he was surprised at the size of the increase.

The 99-Cent Only Store sells many known brands. For example, some of the shampoos sold include Suave, Head & Shoulders, and VOS.

Customers do not always find what they're looking for, and sometimes being surrounded by so many items can make it seem like a scavenger hunt.

"I wish the dollar stores had my kind of shampoo, which is TRESemme. They only have similar ones to it," said Ruby Barra, a new 99-Cent Only Store customer.

Soyeon Shim predicts that in six to 12 months the economy will "come back, and people are going to start to trust the economy more."

Even if the economy gets better, Olson believes his store will still be as popular.

"It's all about giving the customers the best value, in good times and bad," he said.
Budget cuts postpone school matinee

Carina Enriquez
The Chronicle

Dancers leap across the stage, Japanese drummers fill the hall with rhythmic booms, and excitement fills the air as 2,500 students wait for the show to begin. For the past 12 years, UPrepsents’s School Matinee program has been providing plays, concerts, and dance performances for Southern Arizona’s K-12 students at University of Arizona’s Centennial Hall. But with the recent budget cuts, administrators have decided to use Centennial Hall as a part-time classroom in the fall semester, forcing the School Matinee program to reschedule its fall lineup.

The School Matinee program has traveled to many schools in Southern Arizona to introduce students to the arts in a professional theater atmosphere. “It think they helps them see the big picture when they go see a performance,” said Christina Lieberman, who was a student teacher at Wakefield Middle School for three classes Monday through Thursday this upcoming fall. “It gives them hope for a future.” They can envision where they can end up as a professional when they go into art-making.

Each season the School Matinee carefully chooses six out of 35 productions in its regular Centennial Hall fall lineup to offer at a discounted rate to schools. Mario DiVerita, publicity and marketing associate for UPrepsents, said the productions, all about one hour in length, are chosen because they are educational, entertaining and inspirational. The School Matinee tickets cost $6 per child, discounted from as much as $86 for the same performances for the community. Because of state budget cuts, the UA will use Centennial Hall for three classes Monday through Thursday this upcoming fall. School Matinee programs are usually offered on weekdays at 10 a.m. However, because of this difficulty, performances will have to be scheduled on Fridays and on weekends.

Former participants of the School Matinee are concerned that the new scheduling will limit availability. Last winter, Culligan took her students to see “The Nutcracker” on a Saturday. “It was hard because it was on the weekend and a lot of students ended up not getting to come,” said Culligan, who will start teaching at Salpointe Catholic High School in August. Sandra Ahumada, a parent of Kristian, 12, and Noah, 11, said that she would take her children to see a weekend performance if School Matinee tickets were available. “It wouldn’t be as effective if it were on a weekend. A lot of kids either have other activities or their parents can’t take them.”

Ahumada said. “But I would take my kids because it’s a good learning experience.”

A few years ago, Ahumada’s children attended a school where the arts were not emphasized in the curriculum and the students did not have a hands-on education, she said. Her sons had a very hard time adjusting to the school’s curriculum. Kristian began to have difficulties in his schoolwork. “Everyhting was technical and everything was on the board. This caused him to get bored and start looking for trouble,” Ahumada said.

Ahumada wanted her children to have more options and decided to change schools. “This school gives the children a choice of what they want to take,” she said. “Now they think more creatively, and are doing much better in school.”

At the new school her children had a chance to attend an orchestra concert in the spring provided by the School Matinee. “It was so wonderful to see the children really excited because more than half the kids will never have that opportunity (to see a professional production). If the schools do not provide these field trips, then the kids will never have that opportunity,” she said. Kristian and Noah both agree that it was fun and exciting to see the orchestra. They also agreed that going on field trips is better than learning in a classroom. They were said to hear that the School Matinee program be cut back on programming. “We are a school that liked seeing the orchestra. You can learn more by seeing than hearing. You learn better when you have an image of it,” Kristian said.

His younger brother, Noah, agreed, saying that the performance and art were better than being in the classroom, and that he would miss seeing the smilie on his classmates’ faces after exiting the show. “I want to learn more about the arts so that I can teach other people about the arts,” Noah said.

Concert leaves ASUA in the red

Chelo Grubb
The Chronicle

Student government leaders are trying to decide how to keep special programs from being affected by the sifting of the $600,000 owed for a concert held on April 29. The Associated Students of the University of Arizona spent the $500,000 saved in backup funds to cover the concert, leaving the University of Arizona Bookstores the rest of the bill and forcing ASUA to cut costs while trying to keep existing events and programs from being affected by the sudden loss of funds.

“We are learning a lot from last year,” said Christina Lieberman, associate director of ASUA. “There are some areas where we don’t have to spend as much as we did, and there is a smarter way to do it.”

To cover the deficit ASUA will receive at least $100,000 less funding from the bookstore every year for the next five years. Lieberman said, “The concert, which had a total tab of $1.4 million, generated only $500,000, not enough to cover Jay-Z.”

Lieberman said she has set a personal goal of fundraising $300,000 in-kind donations and sponsorship dollars. “Any other year I would say absolutely it will happen, but this year giving as a whole is down,” she said. “But we have to have a goal.”

ASUA plans to shave off some programs, getting grants and donations and offering special programs. Even though Nagata referred to the budget cuts as a “crisis in the air,” ASUA understands that the budget cut requires them to be more efficient. Lieberman said that hosting the concerts provides a good learning experience for the students, but bringing in a professional may be more cost efficient. “The easy answer is to just not do concerts,” said Lieberman. “But the reality is that we have created a standard on campus that there is some entertainment. ASUA does have a hard year ahead of them in terms of figuring out how to take the money from the bookstore and distribute it operationally.”

Reporters
Patricia Franco
Madison Galbraith
Victoria Harper
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Ara Torres
Illustrator
Megan Stovall
Local donors save Tucson tradition

Patricia Franco
THE CHRONICLE

The best part of it for us is our ceremonies honor the people that are up in the heavens, and awaken and open the heavens.

~ Peter Yucupicio, Pasqua Yaqui tribal chairman

Native traditions and patriotism led the Pasqua Yaqui tribe to donate $20,000 to save the “A” Mountain Fourth of July fireworks show, according to the tribal chairman.

The Pasqua Yaqui donation was the largest of the $65,000 collected.

Tucson Electric Power (TEP), Cox Communications and Desert Diamond Casino each donated $10,000.

Assistant City Manager Richard Miranda announced almost two weeks ago that the show would be cancelled because the city could not cover the cost.

Make donations, the money was well spent.

The best part of it for us is our ceremonies honor the people that are up in the heavens, and awaken and open the heavens,” said Peter Yucupicio, tribe chairman, “and when we do this around the Fourth of July, it also signifies to us not only patriotism but signifies to everybody that is up there in heaven, ‘We still remember you and we still support you.’ It had more significance than just throwing in money.”

The donation will come from the tribe’s gaming fund. An event that not only celebrates a significant Pasqua Yaqui tradition, but also a meaningful holiday is more important than fundraising for programs designated exclusively for the tribe, Yucupicio said.

“Don’t matter what color your skin is or what race you come from, because being part of a nation, especially this one, that’s what matters,” he said.

TEP donated shareholder money in an attempt to say thank you to the community and to show appreciation for the many military families who live in Tucson, said Joe Barrión, a TEP spokesman.

For some people living in the “A” Mountain area, the show’s rescue means a continuation of family traditions.

Esperanza Pallanes, 65, is a resident of Barrio Hollywood, an area northeast of “A” Mountain, and a frequent viewer of the fireworks show.

The fireworks are wonderful,” Pallanes said. “The children were really upset about it, so the show is back and everyone is happy.”

Pallanes, who used to live south of “A” Mountain, said that the fireworks have become a big event for her and her family who usually gather together to watch the show and have a barbeque.

Pallanes’ grandchildren Crystal Pallanes, 7, and Nathan Pallanes, 8, who live with her, agreed that they were very excited to watch the fireworks. Together, anonymous donors contributed $12,500. The Arizona Builders’ Alliance donated $3,000.

Tiendas de dólar ganan popularidad

Patricia Franco
THE CHRONICLE

La economía puede que sea incierta para muchos, pero puede estar ayudando a algunos comercios locales. Las tiendas de dólar.

De acuerdo con su Web site, las tiendas 99-Cent Only Store (tiendas de 99 centavos) tuvieron una ganancia en ventas de 1.2 billones de dólares en 2008.

Seoyun Shim, profesor de Familia y Ciencias del Consumidor de la Universidad de Arizona, dijo que el aumento en la popularidad de 99 Cent Only Stores se debe a la economía del día.

“La gente está tratando de ahorrar más”, dijo Shim. “La gente está comprando más artículos básicos y no artículos de lujo. En el pasado la gente podía comprar productos de marca buenos o malos tiempos,” dijo él. "Aún si la economía regresa a grandes o pequeñas mejoras, la mayoría de los productos que compran los clientes en 99-Cent Only Store son aceites, tal como son difíciles de encontrar en otras tiendas. Algunos de los champúes incluyen Suave, Head and Shoulders y VOS. Los clientes pueden a veces explorar y encontrar cosas nuevas.

“Quisierra que las tiendas de dólar tuvieran mi marca de champú, que es TRESemmé. Sólo tienen algunos similares”, dijo Ruby Ibarra, una nueva clienta de la tienda. "Yo soy una manejadora de IHOP y una mesera también, y he notado que como mesera no hay mucho trabajo."

“Las tiendas 99-Cent Only Store me está ayudando y me permite comprar cosas que necesito”, dice Ruby Ibarra. “Yo soy una manejadora de IHOP y una mesera también, y he notado que como mesera no hay mucho trabajo.”
**Chicano journalist advocates social justice**

**Thaila Perez**

It was in the spring of 1979 when the Chicano journalist Rubén Salazar’s life was forever changed. On the night of March 23, Rodríguez was thrust into history and the ongoing class struggle unraveling the Hispanic community and law enforcement in Los Angeles. Rodriguez was on the set of the movie premiere of Boulevard Nights in downtown Los Angeles for Lowrider Magazine when it all happened.

On his way out of a local store, he saw a preacher on the side of the street. “The guy looked like Moses,” Rodríguez said. “It looked like he had stopped all the traffic.”

Two LA Special Enforcement officers had been informed that a preacher and began beating him with a cracked skull and spending during a protest. “He was a Chicano journalist, someone who stood up for the rights of his people.”

With everything that happened Rodríguez never stopped working and standing up for his Hispanic rights. “His entire life has been dedicated to human rights and he has incredible life force and a lot of determination. So, he works long hours and produces a lot of writing because he really believes that something that most human beings couldn’t do. He probably does the work of two or three people in one day,” said Gonzalez.

Standing up for his right Rodriguez never stopped writing and standing up for his Hispanic rights. “Rubén Salazar had added a new point of view to the struggle of the Chicano culture and made a difference in their lives. ‘I can say that I not only know him as a professor, but also as a person,’ said Daniela Larson, a former UA student. ‘He always opened up to us, putting academic aside. He is one of us.’”

The passion he has for journalism is reflected in the way he teaches his students. “He is truly a special person because he went through a lot of hardship growing up,” said Larson. “He’s really respected all over the country. He really has a lot of respect of people, the kind of people who stand up for things they believe in, and those people are always writing him,” said his wife Thalia Perez.

Rodríguez got his Ph.D. in Mass Communications at the University of Wisconsin at Madison in January 2008. Rodríguez and Gonzalez joined the University of Arizona’s Mexican-American Studies Department a few years after he was invited to speak as a hardworking Chicano journalist.

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“No se Vayan!” (Don’t go!)

Last week, a small black notebook with the name and written comments on how people felt about the home of the Chicano/Hispanic Student Affairs (CHSA) being closed lay on a table in a hallway of the Chavez Building. Students had placed a hardpainted “pan dulce” (sweet bread) on one of the tables. It stood in a corner of the room as an addition to the good-bye altar for the CHSA center, a gathering-place at the University of Arizona.

Today the only thing left of the room is a UA symbol and signs hanging on the wall beside it, saying, “Aquí Estamos Y NO Nos Vamos.” (“We Are Here and WE AREN’T Leaving.”) Also hanging from the ceiling are small colorful piñatas.

On June 12, Socorro Carrizosa, director of CHSA, presented the center is staying open.

Because of cuts to the UA, budget administrators had decided to combine the support centers of Chicano/Hispanic Student Affairs, Native American Student Affairs, Asian Pacific American Student Affairs, African American Student Affairs, LGBTQ Affairs, and the Women’s Resource Center into one center that would be located at the Student Union Memorial Center.

The proposed change would have resulted in a savings of about $1 million.

A number of students and staff in the CHSA were concerned about the UA taking away a place where they go to connect with others like themselves.

“They’re hard to find that looks like me,” said family and consumer sciences sophomore Tammy Smolov, “and you come in here and there is a whole group of people who you know, I can relate to.”

The center serves from students, faculty and staff and helped administrators to reevaluate the original plan and keep the center open.

On June 9, Melissa Vito, the vice president of the student affairs, and UA president Robert Shelton, met with members of the Hispanic community to discuss the possibility of the center staying open.

Vito has scheduled a June 23 meeting with the Native American community to discuss the merging of the other cultural centers, including the Native American Student Affairs center.

President of Student Affairs Melissa Vito did not return several phone calls from Thelene seeking comments.

If the CHSA had merged with the other center, the Hispanic community would lose some important resources.

Rodriguez, assistant professor in the Mexican-American Studies Department, pointed out the 90 percent success rate of the Hispanic Alumni Association scholarship programs that take students from a community who are not as successful as the center, he said.

Nearby high school students also use the center.

The “Chicano/Hispanic affairs has really taught SLP the importance of the Chicano Journalist Program (CJP) how to familiarize themselves with the occurrences in today’s society and with the youth,” said 17-year-old Mariah Harvey, a high school student involved with the Student Justice Program at the CHSA.

“The UA is a land-grant institution and is supposed to serve the community,” said Rodriguez. “We AREN’T Leaving.” Also hanging from the ceiling are small colorful piñatas.

Out of 37,217 students enrolled at the UA in fall 2007, 15 percent were Hispanic, according to Office of Institutional Research & Planning.

The center is a popular hang-out for students and staff.

There are always events here and they’re always very welcoming to the student,” Lozano said.

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Kissing bugs not so charming

UA researchers looking for more kissing bugs
Ara Torres
The Chronicle

Getting kissed by a Triatoma rubida turns some people red. Researchers at the University of Arizona have been studying the Triatoma rubida, also known as the kissing bug, with the hope of helping people who have severe allergic reactions to the bug bites.

Since the kissing bug emerges from April to August, many people in Southern Arizona are being bitten and are experiencing allergic reactions: redness and itchiness around the area of the bite, said Kandis Gregory, research specialist at the Arizona Research Laboratories Division of Neurobiology.

“Malaria victims may even go into anaphylactic shock. The bite is very dangerous for some people,” said Carolina Reiseman, associate staff scientist at the Arizona Research Laboratories Division of Neurobiology.

According to Gregory, there have only been about 10 cases of Chagas disease in the United States. Because of this, it is often downplayed here.

There have been no reported cases of Chagas disease in Arizona.

Funding for the study is running out. Researchers have applied for continued support. “We should know about the new funding in the next month or two,” Reiseman said.

Teen jobs
Leigh Jensen
The Chronicle

The economic slump has made finding work an even more challenging task. And with so many adults being laid off, minimum wage jobs normally delegated to teenagers have been increasingly filled by out-of-work adults.

The nation’s unemployment rate for teens ages 16-19 as of March 2009 was 21.7 percent, the highest it has been since 1992.

Last summer, one in three teens held jobs, a 12.3 percent decrease from 2000.

According to 2009 Junior Achievement poll, 33 percent of teens said that there are fewer jobs available now, and 24 percent said that there is more competition in the job market.

“I have definitely seen an increase in the number of applications, of varied ages. We get about five applications a day, which is unusual for any restaurant,” said Aubrey McDonnell, assistant general manager at Paradise Bakery, a popular restaurant near the University of Arizona.

McDonnell doesn’t necessarily prefer hiring adults over teenagers. For her, availability and past experience are the most important factors. If employees are friendly and knowledgeable, age isn’t as much of an issue, she said.

“Sometimes you are finding ways to make money outside of the usual chain restaurant scene, seeking jobs with smaller local businesses with much more specialized clientele. Cameron Louise, 19, describes his typical job duties at Mrs. Tiggy Winkle’s Toys as “a lot of juggling, fairy dusting little girls, blowing bubbles, and basically a lot of playing.”

A quick glance around the mid-town store reveals adults, children, and teenagers crawling in play houses, playing with “touchable bubbles,” wearing goofy hats, and constructing life-like casles.

The application process at Mrs. Tiggy Winkle’s is likely different from any business in town.

“Every application is different, but mine consisted of three really goofy questions, like ‘Would you rather spend the day with a pirate mermaid or a space soccer player from Mars?’ and demonstrating a silly walk,” Louise said.

Louise’s only other job was at a restaurant called Sushi Garden, and he believes that working at Tiggy Winkle’s is much better.

“The team building that a lot of other companies try to do is really natural here.”

Accurate writing major at the University of Arizona, Louise feels that his job helps him expand his creative thinking.

“One you’ve played with dominos for six hours, you don’t want to play dominos. We want to build a tower or start throwing them or play shuffleboard.

So yeah, it’s a good way to exercise my creative side.”

Taylor Gall, 17, works at Eddie’s Inboard Marine Equipment cleaning boats and changing oil.

Eddie’s Inboard Marine Equipment is the kind of shop where every entrance looks like the back entrance.

“Clients have us go through rows of boats of all sizes to find the unusual eastside boat shop with the unmistakable scent of motor oil and dust. Inside are tables piled with boat engines, tools, dirty rags, and sunscreen.

In the past year, Eddie’s, which is hard at work cleaning off the interior of a boat.

Gall landed a job at Eddie’s Inboard Marine Equipment about a year ago through a family connection.

Gall learned a lot about mechanical work from his dad, but says his knowledge has increased greatly since working at Eddie’s.

This is his first job and he mainly works on oil changes, engine repairs, and fabrication for older boats.

Although he hasn’t worked anywhere else, Gall is sure he isn’t missing out on the fast-food industry.

“I don’t think I could find a better job. I’m good with my hands and not much else. Gall describes his coworkers at Eddie’s as “kind of like of second family.”

He goes to the lake with them on weekends and genuinely enjoys his time at the shop.

Neither Louise nor Gall feel competition from adults for their jobs, but for different reasons.

“Tiggy Winkle’s is such a family atmosphere that once you’re in, you’re in. I’m not worried about losing this job,” says Louise.

“The field is too specialized to ever have many applicants, Gall says. “But small businesses are definitely the way to go.”
“I consider them as a child. We have to open their eyes.”

—Amna Al Qaisi, refugee resettlement program assistant

“I consider them as a child,” Al Qaisi said. “We have to open their eyes.”

TIARC offers programs specializing in the integration of women who are single or widowed, including scholarships providing drivers education and the donation of food and diapers, Al Qaisi said.

In addition, Al Qaisi instructs refugees in scheduling medical appointments, buying cell phones, purchasing electricity, sewing and learning to use a computer.

“I do many hours as a volunteer translating,” Al Qaisi said, adding that language is the “greatest barriers” for refugees.

Mudhafar al-Husseini, 23, an Iraqi refugee who arrived in Tucson in April, said language is the biggest obstacle refugees must overcome, especially for the elderly.

According to Nicholas Ferdinandt, associate director of the UA Center for English as a Second Language, the age of a refugee affects how easily he or she learns English.

“After the age of 15, you lose certain abilities to learn a new language and sound like a native speaker,” Ferdinandt said.

Ferdinandt also stressed attitude as a role in learning any new language, and said refugees who feel distant from their new environment might lack the motivation to continue the learning process.

Financial difficulties may cause refugees to resort to free, basic English courses that may not provide the necessary skills for non-native speakers to become fully fluent, Ferdinandt said. Plus, refugees working long hours may not have the time to study.

Related problems loom over refugees as they try to gain stability within their surroundings.

The initial shock of relocating to a new country can lead to post-traumatic stress disorder and depression, Aghajanian said.

In such a case, the IRC pairs the refugee with a social worker as part of the Spring Center Mental Health Program.

In addition, the IRC aids refugees in applying for permanent residence, and eventually, citizenship. The organization guides its clients through acquiring green cards with a fee that can be waived if the refugee is unable to afford it.

Since 1997, IRC has helped almost 2,000 refugees resettle to Southern Arizona.

“These are our new neighbors,” Aghajanian said. “They’re just like us.”

National and Statewide Refugee Arrivals

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<tr>
<th>Arizona</th>
<th>Oct. 1, 2008 – March 16, 2009</th>
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<td>Somalia: 9%</td>
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<td>Total: 50,239</td>
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<td>Texas: 8.50%</td>
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<td>Washington: 3.79%</td>
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Where to donate

Catholic Community Services of Southern Arizona
140 W. Speedway, Suite 230
Tucson, AZ 85705
(520) 623 – 0344
http://www.ccs-soaz.org/

International Rescue Committee Tucson
5102 E. Fifth St.
Tucson, AZ 85711
(520) 319 – 2128
http://www.theirc.org/where/ungted_states_t ucs_on.asp/

Jewish Family and Children’s Service of Southern Arizona
4301 E. Fifth St.
Tucson, AZ 85711
(520) 748 – 2300
http://www.jfsaz.org/
More UA students checking out PCC courses

Victoria Harper
THE CHRONICLE

The economic crisis and the recent decline in funding for schools may be leading more University of Arizona students to take classes at Pima Community College.

"It's less expensive to go to a community college for the first two years, then transfer to a university," said Erin Vanhegber, a sophomore majoring in kinesiology at Pima. "You save money."

Students who attended community college in Tucson paid approximately one-sixth as much as those at the UA for the 2008-2009 academic school year, according to tuition rates posted on the UA and Pima Community College Web sites.

Because of the state budget deficit, the Arizona Legislature has cut funding to the UA and other state universities. UA administrators had to deal with an $80 million cut for the 2008-2009 school year, said UA Dean of Students Carol Thompson.

The university will lose even more money next year and fur- ther tuition increases are expected in July, Thompson said.

Karen Weaver, the academic advisor at the UA School of Liberal Arts, said several students a day who come to ask about tak- ing classes at Pima.

Weaver explained that because of the budget cuts, there are fewer teachers, and fewer teachers mean bigger class sizes at the UA.

When courses fill, students have to wait another semester, Weaver said, and added that at Pima a seat is usually available.

Students do not want to wait to take a course at the UA if it is offered at Pima, especially if it is cheaper there, according to Weaver.

Tuition for resident undergradu- ates at the UA has increased by $659 for next fall. Out-of-state undergraduates will pay $2,575 more.

"Pima's tuition has gone up 3.7 percent for the fall, making one credit $51.50 for residents and $87 for out-of-state stu- dents."

Although the UA and Pima are two different kinds of colleges, they fall under the Arizona Course Applicability System.

Attending a four-year univer- sity is the more costly of the two choices, but those who attend a four-year university are more likely to receive a bachelor’s degree and earn more money in the future, according to research done by Bridget Long, a profes- sor of education and economics at Harvard University.

"Transferring from a commu- nity college to a four-year institu- tion can be difficult," said Long. "Research suggests that far fewer students are able to do it than would like to."
Congress shall make no law... what?

According to David Cuillier, an associate professor of journalism at the University of Arizona, “What?” is a common answer among students asked to name their First Amendment rights.

“Research shows that public knowledge of the First Amendment is declining, but you can see it on the street,” Cuillier said. “People don’t know what it means.”

One thing that is not up for debate, though, is the value of the First Amendment. “If you want to have your hair long or short or pink or blue, you make that choice,” Cuillier said. “If you want to read a certain book or pray to a certain god or not pray to God at all, it enhances overall happiness that you’re allowed to do that and the First Amendment protects that right.”

Whether people do not know what the First Amendment means or they are merely too caught up in their daily lives, the results are apparent.

Seven of the 10 University of Arizona students from a wide variety of majors The Chronicle randomly surveyed could not name their First Amendment rights. Many of the students said they learned their Constitutional rights in school but had since forgotten them because they do not often need to think about their rights and freedoms.

Where the blame should fall for this lack of knowledge is up for debate. Phoenix media lawyer Dan Barr of Perkins, Coie, Brown and Bain, said that the educational system should be held accountable. John Swain, an associate professor of law at the University of Arizona, disagreed. “I think it’s something students learn in high school for a test but forget it soon afterwards, and it’s probably something we all take for granted,” Swain said. “We don’t study it because we don’t have to think about it too much. These rights are given to us every day, all the time, and we enjoy them every day, all the time, almost like air.”

The First Amendment, which is one of 10 amendments included in the Bill of Rights, establishes five basic rights: freedom to establish and practice any religion, freedom of speech, freedom of the press, freedom to assemble, and the right to petition peacefully and freedom to assemble.

“People get caught up in their day-to-day life,” Cuillier said. “We all take things for granted. Once we have it, we don’t miss it until we lose it.”

One group that does not take their First Amendment rights for granted are recent immigrants and naturalized citizens, Barr said.

“If you were to talk to a recently naturalized citizen, someone who has only been in this country for five years and had to take a test and study,” Barr said, “I’m sure they would know much more and do much better if you were to ask them about civil liberties versus someone on the street.”

The public uses many Constitutional rights in everyday life, yet very few realize that they do. Barr said. “That’s so much a part of American society that people don’t stop and reflect and say, ‘Oh, boy, isn’t it wonderful.’” Swain said. “I don’t know if that’s a good thing or a bad thing.”

Illustration by Megan Stowell
A year ago, Ben’s Bells started out of necessity. Founder and executive director Jeanette Martinez, a professional aerosol artist who began teaching for AIR eight years ago, said the idea was created to enrich the local community.

When the community heard about Ben’s Bells, which places bells around the community as random acts of kindness, schools wanted to be a part of the project. A year ago, Ben’s Bells started a pilot program called Kind Acts, an aerosol art class, that designed and paint the mural, learn skills they can develop into a trade while creating a public art project to help reduce bullying and increase acts of kindness in schools.

With a coordinator in each school, teachers receive a binder that has spray paint and instructions on how to make a living with their artistic skills and uses all the principles of a mural artist. They learn how to approach a business, come up with a design and budget and how to negotiate with clients.

The AIR students have been fully involved in the mural since the start of the project. They researched the history of Ward 1 to present it to the community. The whole process is a collaboration between the students and the community, their families, the earth, to animals,” Martinez said. “Further on different focuses about spreading kindness to the world.”

“Ultimately,” AIR Director Ruth Marblestone said, “we know that if students are engaged and are thinking positively and doing positive things, when they become adults they’re going to want to be contributing back to the community.”

Ben’s Bells started in 2003 after founders Jeanette and Dean Packard’s son, Ben, 3, died of cancer. The reason for the bell is that a lot of effort has gone into making one,” Martinez said. “And by the time a Ben’s Bell is finished, at least 10 people have worked on one. And there have been a lot of hours and a lot of care and love put into a bell.”

Attached with each bell, a note reminds the finder to take it home and spread kindness. Ben’s Bells is also growing worldwide, with bells being distributed in Europe, Australia, South America, South Africa and many other places throughout the world, Jeanette said.

“Whenever we know some- body that’s traveling out of the country, they’ll take a few bells,” Martinez said.
Egg's journey: from coop to market

Angela Yung
THE CHRONICLE

Shaded from the afternoon sun, alongside a handful of art, coffee and tamale vendors at Tucson Downtown Farmers Market on a Wednesday morning, Willow converses with a customer. Like the tree by the same name, Willow is tall and soft-spoken. He explains the origins of the jams, herbes and eggs he brings to sell at the market.

Willow hands a carton of chicken eggs to a customer. Unlike the typical dull, white eggs found in grocery stores, Willow's eggs range from orange-tan to blue-speckled.

And while Willow's customers enjoy the fresh eggs he carefully transports, they never get the opportunity to see where the eggs came from—the chickens in Willow's backyard.

Willow and his partner Marya, who both stopped using their last names for years, live at the base of “A” Mountain, only minutes from downtown. Willow is by far the closest farmer to the market.

A wide dirt path lined with old bicycles, hay bales and stacks of pots leads from the street to his backyard. The north half of the yard is his “project area” and is filled with scrap metal, a canoe and a large boat in need of repair.

The other half of the yard is the nursery, which houses more than 50 different herbs, vegetables and desert plants. The covered nursery is dense with plants in three-inch to five-gallon pots. Willow sells these potted plants at the market, letting others take the plants home to tend themselves.

Then there are the chickens—the main source of noise in the yard. Willow opens the chicken coop, allowing his 15 chickens to walk about the yard. The hens dispose, clucking and bobbing their heads with each step.

The chickens, who prefer shaded areas, burrow under the an old recreational vehicle in the yard, and wander around the patio. They lay their eggs when and where they choose and like a daily Easter egg hunt, Willow finds eggs in the coop, in the yard and on top of the fence.

When the chickens were younger, Willow and Marya used to call them “chicken TV” because they were so entertaining.

When a hen lays an egg, Willow said, she clucks loudly, making a loud fuss.

One of them—Anastasia, the only one with a name—produces a distinctive round egg and is the leader of the flock.

If Anastasia goes to another part of the yard or makes a getaway, all the chickens will follow.

“She’s the instigator of escape,” Marya said.

Since the chickens are scattered throughout the yard, Willow has to lure them back into the coop with their only vice—food.

Willow has connections with the Barrio Brewery, which donates beer mash, the barley used to make beer, and the Food Co-Op, which donates spare lettuce pieces.

Most of the chickens love eating bugs, especially the grubs found under potted plants in the garden.

The chickens act as Willow’s pest control and fertilizer system, benefitting the entire nursery. Grasshoppers, which once plagued the farm, are now eaten by the chickens and turned into organic fertilizer.

The chickens are only part of the farm’s sustainability practices.

Willow harvests rainwater for seedlings, composts dead plants for fertilizer and sells plants in biodegradable peat moss pots that can be planted straight into the ground.

The hens can’t complain—they live healthy, active lives, scratching in the dirt and eating a variety of different foods. And healthy chickens lay more nutritious and delicious eggs, according to Varga Garland, director of the Tucson Community Food Bank, which sells herbs, soaps and eggs at four weeknight farmers markets and has no desire to expand their “urban micro-farm.”

“This is about as big as it can get,” Willow said. “We don’t need to be rich per se. But we like to balance work with just relaxing.”

Willow packs crates of assorted plants into the trailer before heading off to the Santa Cruz Farmer’s Market.

Willow lets his chickens out of the coop to freely walk around. At the weekly Tucson Downtown Farmers Market, Willow sits behind a table waiting for customers. He sells herbs, jams, soaps, salves and fresh chicken eggs at the market.

Willow and Marya are able to make their whole living off selling herbs, soaps and eggs at four weeknight farmers markets and have no desire to expand their “urban micro-farm.”

“Movement meditation calms me, places me in the here and now, and has kept me free from the clinical depression and acute anxiety that has plagued me for many years,” Chapman said.

Another student from Zauderer’s class, Frances Walker, said the class has helped her maintain healthy blood pressure as well as retain her strength and balance.

Zauderer’s goal is to improve the conditions of people who have suffered from either stroke or cardiovascular disease.

The project will be going on for another three and a half years.

Egg's journey: from coop to market

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Swimming season never over

Competitive swimmers continue workout throughout the year to stay in peak condition

Dylan Z. Shorey
The Chronicle

More than 20 hours of working out, 42,000 yards, 840 laps and 15 hours in the pool – and that's even during a typical week for a competitive swimmer at the college level.

Unlike other sports such as football, where the season is only four months long, swimming is a year-round sport. And conditioning is a major priority for athletes who want to stay at their competitive peak.

"As you get older in the sport, the line between mediocrity and greatness is a very, very fine line," said Robert Iddiols, a English UA junior from High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire, England. "If you’re talking about tenths of a second, then emphasizing everything you do physically is very important."

The average competitive swimmer participates in about 30 meets throughout the year. Swimmers often spend most of their days training for a race that would last just a few minutes or even seconds.

While they feel some jealousy toward athletes in other sports, swimmers like Julie Stupp, a journalism senior at the UA, are willing to put in the time and effort to stay competitive.

"I mean, sure, it would be really nice to take like a three-month break and come back and be in the same shape," Stupp said. "Unfortunately, it’s not like other sports so you’ve got to do what you’ve got to do."

There are two seasons for college swimmers: the NCAA and the summer. In the NCAA season, the UA swimmers compete against other universities. They focus on their individual goals during the summer season. Throughout the year, the swimmers have to stay in top physical condition to remain competitive.

"After NCAA’s, I gave the guys a week off," head coach Frank Busch said. "After that we started right back up and got going."

With the world trials for the Americans running July 7 through July 11, the Wildcats and other swimmers are physically ready but need to do some fine tuning.

"World trials are in about three weeks," Matt Grevers said. "All the working has been done in the past few months. Now it’s time to fix up a few things, sharpen up and get ready to race."

To reach his goals in swimming, the former Northwestern University swimmer and Beijing Olympic medalist is training this summer with Arizona. Not only does he plan to stay in shape, but also to be very precise with his strokes to prepare himself for competition.

"As swimming reaches its highest level of competition, the fight to get first place rather than the eighth position gets tougher and tougher. Staying in good physical condition is more important than swimming. Dryland workouts, as the name implies, are done out of the water."

"Dryland helps your abs and your core," said Ivan Tolic, a psychology sophomore at the UA from Zagreb, Croatia. "It makes you a lot more powerful in the water, which is so important."

Jean Basson, left, and UA swimming teammate Nicolas Nilo do a kicking set, a nice cool-down after an intense workout during the afternoon on June 9.

Olympian Matt Grevers takes a quick break before continuing a difficult practice on June 9.

Aside from helping swimmers physically, dryland and weight training also help them cope with the monotonous grind of being in the water.

"You don’t want to do everything in the pool," Grevers said. "It gets boring and you need to mix it up. I think weights are a great way to build muscle and stay out of the pool."

For Iddiols, it’s all about his focus and being in the right state of mind rather than physical condition and ability.

"For me personally, it’s all about confidence," Iddiols said.

Injuries plague volleyball players on, off court

Nia Lewis
The Chronicle

To most people, volleyball is all about digs, sets, spikes, scores, winning matches, and going on to the next round.

But what many don’t know is there are those who end up losing, not from any amount of points, but from career-threatening injuries.

In 2006, the National Athletic Trainers’ Association (NATA) estimated that 80,926 female athletes in high school around the nation were injured while playing or practicing volleyball.

"I wouldn’t say that younger players get more injured," said Andrew Mahoney, M.D., an orthopedic surgeon at University Medical Center. "It’s more on the level of play and how often you play. I think it’s possible for anyone to get injured while playing volleyball."

Among high school sports, women’s volleyball is third in line with most injuries, only behind women’s soccer and baseball, according to a NATA study.

David Rubio, head volleyball coach at the University of Arizona, has run a volleyball camp every summer since 1992 for girls and boys around the nation.

"Most athletes, including my volleyball campers, should know their body and what it’s capable of doing," Rubio said. He requires his players “to wear proper attire like knee pads and gym shoes.”

Rubio said injuries are just a part of being an athlete, and playing with precaution in volleyball or any sport is important.

"I play outside hitter and I’m repeatedly swinging my arm, and for a while I wasn’t attacking right and started having pain in my shoulder," said Andrea McKinney, a Tucson Magnet High School senior who has been playing volleyball for seven years. "I went to the doctor and they told me that I had an inflamed rotator cuff."

Rubio said, "I have many injuries while playing volleyball, like a broken finger to having my meniscus tear after playing a match. I’m playing around with my dad," said Stephanie Frost, a Tucson Magnet High School graduate.

"After that, I had to go to therapy for three to four months twice a week, then gradually get back into playing volleyball.""

Another common injury is Patellar tendinitis, which is a collection of the patellar tendon and the tissues that surround it become irritated and inflamed. This happens when a sport requires jumping, which is why it’s also known as “jumper’s knee,” Mahoney said.

Phillip Elkins, a coach for men’s and women’s freshman and junior volleyball teams at Tucson High, said he ices and stretches his knee after playing because he is in pain.

"I got jumper’s knee from playing too much in 2006," said Elkins.

Athletes like Elkins may have injuries, but their love for the game won’t keep them off the court. In that regard, doctors also have the drive to take care of their patients.

"Although athletes do get injured, it’s nice to take care of athletes that are motivated to play a sport and work hard with their body, and to keep them in top function,” Mahoney said. “It’s really rewarding work.
America’s Pastime

Tucson Toros charge into Hi Corbett

Familiar colors, crowds greet the returning Independent League team this summer

Dylan Z. Shorey
The Chronicle

After a 12-year hiatus from Hi Corbett Field, an old favorite returned this summer to a crowd enthusiastic for baseball and the Tucson Toros.

While the fans of Triple-A Baseball may miss the level of competition brought by the Sidewinders, fans of the Toros agree that the young team is better and more athletic than ever.

“I like this team,” said Ted Furrer, a fan of the original Toros who came to support the new team for the first time on June 9. “It’s a good young team, with good players who are fun to watch.”

Furrer’s brother Bob Furrer agreed.

“This team seems to be a little bit more exciting,” he said. “I think they try harder and play more as a team, where the old Triple-A Toros were just trying to make it to the big leagues and were focusing on individual play.”

Jay Zucker, who sold the Tucson Sidewinders to SK Baseball and moved them to Reno, Nevada, in 2008, brought the Toros back this year to fill the void left behind by the Sidewinders.

But fans don’t seem to care about league affiliations.

“It doesn’t make a whole lot of difference to us,” said Alice Pelletier, a long-time fan of baseball in the Old Pueblo, who along with her husband, witnessed the original Toros’ classic 14-inning game in the early 1990s, a game that went so late that the sprinklers turned on. “We just like to watch a good game.”

While the many fans were left discussing the play at home plate, others were focused on the new location and layout of Hi Corbett Field as opposed to Tucson Electric Park, where the Sidewinders used to play.

“Oh, I like this (field) better by far,” said Chuck Texter, another fan of the original Toros team. “I like the way it’s located here. It’s close to the main part of town. It’s easier to get in and out of. The seating is better and it’s cooler.”

Although he hasn’t missed a Toros game since the season started earlier this summer, Texter said he’s still getting acquainted with the new team.

“We aren’t quite as attached to these Toros yet, but we’re getting there, sure,” Texter said. “I didn’t have any attachment to the Sidewinders. I had season tickets for a year but I had to drop them. I didn’t care for them.”

“Texter isn’t the only Tucson resident that didn’t care for the Sidewinders.

Through 13 games, the Toros are averaging 3,932 fans a night, which would give them just under 150,000 total fans in 42 home games by the end of the season. The Sidewinders, during their last year in Tucson as a Triple-A Baseball team, finished with 245,121 total attendances in 72 home games, dead last in the Pacific Coast League.

General Manager Sean Smock isn’t surprised at all the high numbers in attendance.

“We knew that bringing the Toros back to Hi Corbett, bringing them back to the center of Tucson would bring the fans out,” Smock said.

This year the Toros have already brought in about 51,000 fans, tops in the Golden Baseball League. The Toros have more than double the attendance rate of the second place team, the Edmonton Capitals, who have brought in approximately 23,000 fans to their home field.

The players are also realizing the high attendance record, and feeding off of the crowd.

“The atmosphere out here is awesome,” said Toros player Danny Greenwalt. “It’s encouraging. There’s nothing like going out there and making the fans happy.”

Although ticket prices at both Hi Corbett and T.E.P. are similar, both ranging from $3 to $10, the location of Hi Corbett is more convenient for a vast majority of the fans.

“A lot of families can’t travel. They can’t afford to travel,” Zucker said. “They’re looking for something to do as a family, and when you look at your options, this is the best one in town.”

The Tucson Toros may be an independent baseball team, they may not have a high profile name or be in a higher level of play league, but Hi Corbett Field and the Toros provide a place for people like Dianne Maier to watch baseball.

“I still enjoy baseball, and if this is the only way to watch it, that’s fine,” Maier said. “Most people are here because they like baseball. It’s the only thing we have here.”

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