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THE DIAMONDBACK

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Meeting brings end of summer specials

Bar owners 'voluntarily agree' to set \$1 floor limit

BY ROXANA HADADI AND BRADY HOLT
Senior staff writers

Last week's meeting among city and university officials, police officers, county liquor representatives and bar owners resulted in a \$1 price floor that will affect downtown bars, city officials said.

"The bar owners appeared to voluntarily agree" on the price floor, said College Park Mayor Stephen Brayman. The \$1 minimum, which was suggested by a bar owner whom Brayman would not identify, will apply to beer and rail drinks or translate into a rate of \$1 per beer glass quantity in a pitcher.

The meeting was also attended by more people than Warren Kelley, an assistant vice president for student affairs at the university who attended the meeting, originally said, Brayman added. While Kelly said the meeting

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FILE PHOTO—THE DIAMONDBACK

The \$1 floor limit has caused Thirsty Turtle, above, to change its 25-cent drink specials.

City council pursues legal action against Srour

Bar owner again fails to meet sprinklers deadline

BY BRADY HOLT
Senior staff writer

The city of College Park decided last night to pursue legal action against Santa Fe Café owner Mark Srour to try and force him to install a sprinkler system at his bar.

Srour had signed a contract with the city more than five years ago promising to install a sprinkler system by March 2006 but later said it would be too expensive to do so.

But after more than two years of delays, he told the city earlier this summer he would report to them yesterday to either say he would be installing a sprinkler system immediately or explaining his lease for the prop-

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Library's late-night study will stay

Thanks to student reaction, McKeldin's extended hours will continue

BY ROXANA HADADI AND BRADY HOLT
Senior staff writers

Thanks to an onslaught of student protest, the university will not cancel late-night study at McKeldin Library for the fall, university administrators said.

The decision came after library officials told late-night study's student employees in June that they should find other jobs in case the university cut the library's 11 p.m. to 8 a.m. hours, and after Facebook groups mobilized students into opposing the decision. A public forum on late-night study held last

month drew more than 30 students, during which "a number of the students there rather eloquently articulated the importance and the value that [late-night study] represented for their academic success," Interim Dean of Libraries Desider Viktor said.

As a result, the final decision on

the service, which was made by Viktor and Provost Nariman Farvardin, was based largely on the negative student reaction, Viktor said.

"I heard the students very loud and clear, and certainly came

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PHOTOS BY ADAM FRIED—THE DIAMONDBACK

The university fell off the list for top party schools; ranked second as the least likely to study; and topped the list for the best athletic facilities, according to Princeton Review's most recent report.

MARYLAND MEASURING UP?

University's Princeton Review rankings divide administrators

BY BEN PENN
Staff writer

The validity of Princeton Review's college rankings, which featured the university prominently in several categories in its publication released last week, can change from moment to moment — it just depends on which university administrator is talking.

Princeton Review's 2009 edition of *The Best 368 Colleges*, which rated the university's athletic facilities No. 1 in the nation but also gave the school a No. 2 ranking in the "Students Study the Least" category, had administrators contradicting one another when commenting on the rankings' credibility.

Vice President for Student Affairs Linda Clement refused to distinguish Princeton Review, a test preparation company that compiles rankings based on student surveys from a variety of schools, as a legitimate source. For this year's rankings, Princeton Review used a combined 120,000 student surveys from 368 schools.

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Facebook's new layout met with mixed reactions

Students divided over website's design

BY KELLY BROOKS
For The Diamondback

It may have taken senior economics major Essien-Ita Offiong only a few seconds to switch to the new Facebook layout, but just because it was an easy transition doesn't mean it was a good one.

"I don't like it," Offiong said in McKeldin Library's computer lab, immediately after changing over. "I liked Facebook the way it was, like, three years ago."

Offiong is just one of many students who have greeted Facebook's new design, which was launched on July 20, with dislike. The social networking mega-site has been developing the new Face-

book since early this year, according to a statement on the website. More than 100,000 Facebook users offered suggestions on the layout during the six months prior to the launch date, and some were included in the final version, also according to the statement.

Facebook's new design now splits profiles from being one page into several, with different tabs for a user's wall, info, photos and applications. Although the statement says the site is now "simpler and cleaner" and users can opt back to their old Facebook design, some people aren't too pleased.

For example, pre-existing Facebook

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Terrorism research center receives \$12M

Funding from Dept. of Homeland Security will help center study terrorism's origins

BY CHRIS YU
Staff writer

A university-based research center has received almost \$12 million in funding for the next three years from the Department of Homeland Security to continue studying the origins and impact of terrorism.

Launched in 2005, the National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism brings together experts from around the world to study how terrorism develops and is carried out to help reduce future attacks.

"The world has changed

quite a bit in terms of terrorism," said Gary LaFree, a criminology and criminal justice professor and director of START. "Terrorist attacks have been getting more dangerous and more evil over time."

With the new funds from the Department of Homeland Security, researchers at the center plan to focus on how terrorist organizations develop and draw in individuals, LaFree said. Center researchers will also study what strategies are effective at stopping attacks and how

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