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Daily Egyptian Staff

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Roots, remembrance and reflection

February to celebrate black America's history, diversity
Ivan Thomas
Daily Egyptian

Black History Month is a month that symbolizes many things for members of the black community. It symbolizes the period when the leaders struggled tirelessly and died for freedom, opportunity, and equal rights not only for blacks, but for other minorities as well.

SIUC enters February with an emphasized cultural and historical appreciation and celebration for the contributions of blacks to American society.

From the early 1900s to 1920s, blacks and people of African descent were described as a race that made no contributions to society and even were—no contributions equalized. Many of the outstanding accomplishments of blacks were disregarded or overwhelmed by others.

Before the mid-1920s, there were no schools, books, or documents that taught black history; and people were ashamed to talk about the race at all.

That was until a man with the intention of bringing the truth to light devoted his entire life to making sure that blacks received the credibility and respect they deserved.

Dr. Carter G. Woodson, born in New Canton, Va., is from a lineage, was the first person to initiate the education of black history, and in most minds, was the father of black history.

Although his parents could not read or write, Woodson valued his education and went on to earn a bachelor’s degree from the University of Chicago and a doctorate in history from Harvard University. After traveling to Paris, he became fluent in French and taught for a short time in the Philippines.

Soon after, he founded the American Negro Academy so the accomplishments of blacks could be studied and recognized.

Woodson strongly believed that in order to preserve black culture in the United States, it had to become a part of people’s lives.

In 1926, Woodson started Negro History Week, which would become celebrated annually. The month of February was chosen because of Abraham Lincoln’s birthday, Feb. 12, and Frederick Douglass’ birthday on Feb. 14.

More than 40 years later, Negro History Week would expand to become Black History Month. By that date it would be a month that examined more major events in black history, such as the birthdays of W.E.B. DuBois and Malcolm X.

February to celebrate black America’s history, diversity

Dr. Carter G. Woodson (1875-1950)

Fashion show highlights bridal event Sunday
Samantha Edmondson
Daily Egyptian

Linda Vineyard has prevented numerous wedding disasters.

One of her co-workers was ready to walk down the aisle beside her father when the bridal event Sunday at the bridal show. The coordinators have not only organized the event, but also the floor. Tears welled up in the bride’s eyes, but Vineyard fixed the organizer, Vineyard has perfected every detail in organizing a couple’s special union.

This is a record number of businesses involved, despite other annual and weekly celebrations planned for the day.

October 11 anniversary event, Vineyard said she would only plan this for five years. Previously, Black History Month and other groups have many events scheduled for this month. These organizations are trying to ensure that modern curriculum and the “Great Migration” are included in the history.

Father Joseph Brown, a Catholic priest and director of Black American Studies, said the University has made progress in acknowledging black history.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Malcolm X are the time of today’s leaders, black history has come forward and winds with the past but sweep through the air today.

At SIUC, organizations such as the Black Affairs Council and other groups have many events scheduled for this month. These organizations are trying to ensure that modern curriculum and evidence of Carbondale have a role in understanding the significance of Black History Month and why it is important for everyone to embrace the movement.

Samantha Edmondson
Daily Egyptian

From wheel barrel rides to working on tight budgets, Linda Vineyard has had some near disasters, hilarious and revealing experiences in her nine years as a wedding coordinator.

“Even though the event features mainly Carbondale businesses, people from as far away as Paducah and Cape Girardeau to the Student Center to plan their weddings. While a couple of other specialty shops offer event organization services, the Bridal Extravaganza vendors include photographers, caterers, DJs, reception centers, gift registries and a Mary Kay representative.

During the show’s four-hour span, brides-to-be can shop around the different booths and make appointments with each business to make arrangements for their special day.

Wedding coordinator gives toast to past experiences
Samantha Edmondson
Daily Egyptian

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When planning the wedding, Vineyard offers a script of the ceremony for a couple’s wedding. However, when some traditions are suggested for the ceremony, the couple might disagree.

“In working out the last ‘kinks for one couple’s ceremony, the groom did not want to greet all the guests after the wedding. With the guest list trouncing 600, Vineyard suggested to continue with the tradition. When the time came, the groom and bride started to greet a few people after the ceremony. Soon after, a line started to form, and the couple greeted all 600 guests. Vineyard said as reluctant as the groom was, he felt it was worth it.

According to Vineyard, often family members meet for the first time when planning the wedding. Despite the battles between stepping with
Where's Gus? Find Gus in one of today's ads to receive FREE STUFF! Somewhere in today's paper Gus is hidden in an advertisement. Find Gus and receive FREE STUFF at that business. To redeem your FREE STUFF bring in the advertisement to that place of business.

Sinai withdrawal plan spits Washington
WASHINGTON - The Pentagon has proposed withdrawing nearly all American troops serving as a buffer between Israel and Egyptian-controlled Sinai, but the White House fears this would signal U.S. disinteresse
dedness in the Sinai, where it has stationed 6,000 troops. Last April, the Secretary of Defense's office said the National Security Council and the State Department last month that the Pentagon planned to reduce the number of U.S. troops in the 50-year-old multinational force from 850 to 26, and also wanted to end U-2 spy plane flights over the Sinai.

But White House and State Department officials are wary of taking a move that could be seen by Israelis and Egyptians as a sign of U.S. disinterest in the region. Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld received an ear
er "that was less than enthusiastic," one source said.
The United States is already under pressure from allies to bemoan the possible handover of negotiations. Foreign Minister Hubert Vedrine has warned that Washington risks no longer being seen as an "honest broker" in the Middle East because of its ever-increasing support for Israel, support which he said continues to fuel the two Palestinian militants who had ambushed a convoy that was headed for a touchy settlement. The attack slightly

Sunny high of 40 low of 25
Morty Sunny high of 42 low of 27
Party Cloudy high of 44 low of 24

Unemployment on the rise in the region
PARIS - French Prime Minister Lionel Jospin's Socialist Party on Thursday acknowledged a new increase in the number of jobless on the slowdown in the U.S. economy and the fall
out from the SARS crisis in Asia and the Middle East.
The number of jobless doubled for six straight months, increasing from 64,000 in January to 128,000 in July. In 2001, France had a 22 percent increase in new jobless with a total of 3.5 million people looking for work in December. The first secretary of the Socialist Party in France Roland Guerini called "the last nail of burying the number of jobseekers to below 2 million" would not alter this trend.

Despite the increase, the ranks of the unemployed declined by 40 percent since June 1997, when Jospin's latest coalition government took office. Prior to holding the jobless rate at a top priority and his govern
ing coalition strengthened the 35-hour workweek to 36 hours. The prime minister is now taking a top priority in the in
spring presidential elections, likely facing off against the pro-

Tonic algae bloom looses thousands of fish dead
NAIROBI, Kenya - Marine experts from the World Wildlife Fund flew to the Somalian coastline Thursday to investigate the "incredible" fish kill believed to be caused by toxic algae, the inter
national environmental group said. Fishing boats reported an apparent "freak, off season" bloom of toxic algae, huge numbers of dead fish and schools of fish jumping up in the air. Scientists said they had washed up on the Kenyan shore - the border with Somalia. In the past, similar fish deaths have been reported along some parts of the 1,370-

mile Somali coast from Bosaso to the Kenyan border. The fish deaths have prompted some fisheries to suspend operations, fearing that their catch could be poisoned. The WWF, a US-based group that negotiates with Kenya government.

Carbondale - Antonio Mantovani was not a very big deal as a student in the 500 block of South University Avenue on Jan. 29 between 12:45 p.m. and 1:30 p.m. This is what is estimated at $450.

A fitnent occurred at Wolf, 1450 Main St., on Jan. 26 at 5:43 p.m. The victim reported her purse, containing a credit card, was stolen. The credit card was used at Wal-Mart.

A 30-year-old male was struck by a car after northbound on Main City Road Thursday at 7:31 a.m. while crossing Main City Road to the Giant City Road. The child was taken to a hospital. Admission and sponsor of the event and the f

In Thursday's Pulse section, it was incorrectly stated that those who spotted an error in a news article should contact the Daily Egyptian. The article was printed in the Daily Egyptian on Monday.

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The Daily Egyptian regrets the error.

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The Daily Egyptian, the student-run newspaper of SIUC, is committed to being a trusted source of news, information, commentary and public discourse, while helping readers understand the issues affecting their lives.

Daily Egyptian

TODAY
Spanish Table from 4 to 6 p.m. at Cafe Melange.

Korean Table from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. at Booby's.

Japanese Table from 6 to 8 p.m. at Cafe Melange.

Only public events affiliated with SIU are printed in the Daily Egyptian Calendar. The calendar reserves the right not to print any submitted items. ROS and departmental events will be printed in the Daily Egyptian Online Calendar at www.dailyegyptian.com.

Calendar item deadline is two publication days before the event. The item must include time, date, place, admission and sponsor of the event and the name and phone of the person submitting the item.

Item should be delivered to Communications Building. Room 1247, or faxed to 853-1244. The Daily Egyptian Calendar is published by the students of Southern Illinois University Carbondale. Published every school day except holidays. The Daily Egyptian is distributed through newsstands throughout the area. Advertiser rates available upon request. All material published in the Daily Egyptian is subject to copyright laws. All rights reserved.

Daily Egyptian

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Sunny high of 40 low of 25
Morty Sunny high of 42 low of 27
Party Cloudy high of 44 low of 24


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A call to CIVIC ARMS

Bush urges Americans to give more time to service their community

William Alonso

The equivalent of two years of your life, just a small dip of 4,000 hours over your lifetime to spend in the service of your community, your nation.

This free program is all P-1300 U.S. Senator George W. Bush asked of the American people between speaking about the war in Afghanistan, recession and the granulated application on the State of the Union address.

To help organize this civic effort, Bush announced his plan to launch the new USA Freedom Corps, a comprehensive and uniform civic service initiative. Just 4,000 hours of your life.

"Each year our students spend more than 20,000 hours in community service," said Myla Rundblad, coordinator of Student Development. "You can see the enormous impact of the service our corps performs for our region."

The Saluki Volunteer Corps, with a fluctuating membership of about 2,000 volunteers, volunteers with racial and ethnic diversity as its central concern in Southern Illinois. The Saluki Corps was founded with an emphasis on continuing the tradition of student volunteerism.

The NAACP denounces the incident which is also included in the complaint is also.

University Police deal with another hit-and-run case

SIUC Police are dealing with another case of hit-and-run after an SIUC SIUC student was hit on a University campus.

The student was in the hospital on Tuesday in a University hospital.

The second hit-and-run accident in two weeks, a hit-and-run, and is now being considered by the House of Representatives.

School bus accident injures nine

A school bus and a minivan collided at 3:20 p.m. on Route 141 near the intersection with East Lake Road at the 30-mph speed limit. The bus driver, William Miller, was not injured, and cited for improper passing.

Local NAACP looks for action in Marion hate crime

Marion woman contends she was a victim of road rage

Erika Blackman

The Carbondale NAACP wants action taken against a complaint made by a black woman who contends she was a victim of a hate crime.

A woman claimed the encounter was all P-1300 in Marion Park District official's road rage.

A complaint denied by the organization was all P-1300 Mary Thomas was told in her car for three miles Dec. 29 by the official he had her by racial slurs.

"This is a very bad situation for Williamson County, Carbondale and Southern Illinois," Haynes said. "Public officials should be held at a higher accountability."

The NAACP denounced Williamson County State's Attorney Charles E. Gaulin for his decision to file charges against the official and asked him to reconsider his position on the case.

In a statement sent to the media, Gaulin said he had a tremendous amount of respect for the NAACP, but that he has reviewed the case and

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Legal assistance fees may increase for SIUC students by 2003

More discussions on fee and tuition hikes in USG

Jane Huh
Daily Egyptian

The luxury of having the University manage students’ legal matters may cost an extra $1.25 per semester in fall 2003.

Future SIUC’s Legal Assistance fee increases and tuition increases were discussed at items at Wednesday’s Undergraduate Student Government special senate meeting.

Betsy Streeter, director of Student Services and Legal Assistance, provided a brief presentation requesting to increase the current $3,000 in the legal fund to $3,175 for fiscal year 2004. The last SLA fee increase was in 1997.

The office provides legal counseling to students and faculty and is staffed with two full-time attorneys and four law clerks during the fall and spring terms.

According to Streeter, the enrollment decline and the six percent faculty salary increase are critical factors that will likely drain the department’s budget if the fee remains the same.

“With more enrollment there could be no future fee increases,” Streeter said.

This school year the office handled 1,189 cases; 285 were city and state cases, 267 were tenant cases.

The legal fees for all cases covered the office $175,231 compared to the estimated $415,200 had the cases been handled by private or off-campus firms, according to the law offices of Clements and Hood in Carbondale.

SIU President Michael Perry rejected earlier proposed fee increases for the coming years with the senators.

Larry Dier, vice chancellor for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management, addressed and fielded questions from senators and other active USG members.

The proposed five percent tuition hike for fiscal year 2003 brought in a debate about higher salaries.

When asked about the effect of salary increases, Dierz said with the growing tuition rate, raising salaries will “enhance the programs by keeping good faculty.”

SIU Athletic Director Paul Kowalczyk and TJ. Rutherford, director of the Student Center, will present their department’s fee reports at the next USG meeting at 7 p.m., Feb. 6 at the Student Center Ballroom B.

The Student Athletic fee has proposed a $5 increase on the current $83 and the Student Center proposed a $3 increase on the $46 fee.

I think things are going well. It’s much more organized and we’re allowing each of our directors to get more into the specifics,” Dierz said.

Reptenfer Jane Huh can be reached at jhuh@dailyegyptian.com

Penalties for ecstasy increase
Erika Blackman
Daily Egyptian

A new law on the illegal drug ecstasy came into effect Jan. 1, 2002 causing people selling or using it to face harsher consequences.

The law makes possession of ecstasy a class X felony and anyone selling it is charged similarly to people selling other dangerous street drugs.

A person convicted of possessing or selling ecstasy will now face six to 30 years in prison without the option of probation — a major increase from the previous penalty of two to five years imprisonment, with the option of probation.

The law allows the state to charge street-level dealers who cause serious injuries or death through the sale of illegal narcotics through the consideration of drug-induced homicide and infliction of great bodily harm charges.

David Stanton, State’s Attorney for Perry County this death penalty law is not targeting the users so much, but more the people who are dealing the illegal drug.

You’ll see that there will be a rash of people using a certain drug, and that will cause the penalty to be raised on that drug,” Stanton said.

Penalties have been cleared and 12 have been put to death. Nationwide, about 100 inmates have been cleared and released.

The memorandum made Illinois the first state to halt the death penalty.

Wanda Taylor, spokesperson for the governor, said the commission that is investigating the state system is still meeting periodically. She said Ryan did not give the group a timetable, because he wanted it to take as much time as it needed. The commission includes former Sen. Paul Simon, director of SIU’s Public Policy Institute.

A Harris poll found that in July 2001, 67 percent of those polled favored capital punishment, up from 64 percent in 2000 but down from the 75 percent in 1997.

Reptenfer Erika Blackman can be reached at eblackman@dailyegyptian.com

Legal assistance to students and faculty at SIU includes such personalized license plates, while SIU gets table scraps.

But SIU — or at least alumni, students and anyone else who would want a SIU license plate — has been blamed for playing a part in the endeavor to bring the plates here in the past.

Ed Burger, director of the Alumni Association, said the possibility of the state offering SIU plates was mentioned in the past, but the University’s history has kept any plans from going any further.

In Berger’s several years ago, the University offered commemorative plates for SIU’s 125th anniversary.

“When the University offered the special plates, we only sold three plates total,” Burger said.

That number falls well short of the 800-plus component needed to implement the plates.

In the past month, however, there has been more than taken off the back burner. Scott Kaiser, associate to the president, said several alumni have contacted the University about the plates.

Chancellor Walter Woltzler said the process is just beginning and that his office is looking into the proposal.

“I think it will be easy to get that many people to sign,” Woltzler said. “We probably could work with the alumni and do it on campus.”

The plates would be issued in the same manner as regular license plates, through the Illinois Secretary of State’s office. The entire proceeds generated by the plates would come back to the University in the form of scholarships.

The SIU license plates would cost an additional $40, $25 of which would go as a fee to universities.

The other $25 was again being placed in the scholarship fund.

“It’s not a significant amount of money,” Kaiser said.

“Some would come back to the University.”

Carbondale City Councilman Brad Cole, who is an SIU alumni, said the plates would not only be beneficial to the University’s pocketbook, it would also increase SIU awareness.

“I think it would be a good idea,” Cole said. “If other schools are doing it, maybe we should too.”

Reptenfer Mark Lambird can be reached at mlambird@dailyegyptian.com

State death penalty commission continues their investigation
Alexa Aguilar
Daily Egyptian

Paul Schippel was in his 70s when he had a change of heart about the death penalty.

A retired minister from Centralia, Schippel supported capital punishment until he attended a religious conference in Chicago. The topic was the death penalty, and the discussions there sparked a sense of injustice in him.

Now Schippel belongs to the Illinois Coalition against the Death Penalty and is an ardent opponent to the controversial punishment.

“Don’t believe that adage ‘an old dog can’t learn new tricks,’ Schippel said. “I changed my mind after seven decades.

“No state has the right to take life.”

Schippel was one of about 30 who celebrated the second anniversary of the moratorium on the death penalty in Illinois at the Newman Center Thursday afternoon.

The group of ACLU representatives, ministers and local residents lunched and discussed the problems it has with the capital punishment system.

On Jan. 31, 2000, Gov. George Ryan ordered a statewide halt to all Illinois executions and appointed a commission to investigate Illinois’ capital punishment system.

The moratorium is a response to a series of Chicago Tribune articles that detailed some serious flaws in the system. Since the death penalty was reinstated in Illinois in 1977, 13 death-row inmates have been cleared and 12 have been put to death.

Nationwide, about 100 inmates have been cleared and released.

The moratorium made Illinois the first state to halt the death penalty.

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A Harris poll found that in July 2001, 67 percent of those polled favored capital punishment, up from 64 percent in 2000 but down from the 75 percent in 1997.

Reptenfer Alexa Aguilar can be reached at aguilar@dailyegyptian.com

Local group celebrates second year of halted death penalty

On the second anniversary of the Illinois moratorium against the death penalty, Paul Schippel, a member of the Illinois Coalition against the Death Penalty, expresses his opinions on the issue at the Newman Center.
Mrs. Marsha McCay (right) stands on the corner of West Street and Grand Avenue after colliding head-on with a "93 Grand Prix driven by SIUC student Roger Hammer. The accident was a result of the inclement weather that has plagued Carbondale for the past few days. Carbondale police responded to the accident around 5:45 p.m. Thursday night.

"Weather that has plagued Carbondale for the past few days. Carbondale community, said Deacon Patient, the organization's president. The American Water Resource Association, which is involved in various aspects of water safety and cleanliness, has about 20 SIUC students. Guest speakers, community education and canoe trips are some of the activities the group is planning for this semester.

The group hopes to have an educational day at Unity Point school where SIUC students can educate middle school children, Patient said.

The student group is also looking at the possibility of "adopting" a creek and removing trash along part of Crab Orchard Creek, Patient said.

Patient is also involved, and the student group is planning a canoe trip for this April to the Castle River, which is in southeast Illinois. Karl Williard, an assistant professor who started the group, was active with a chapter of AWRA while attending Penn State University. The organization is spread nationwide, with state sections and local university chapters.

Our important issue in Southern Illinois is water issues and community education. The organization is not set up as a lobbying group but will give its opinion," Williard said.

While some of the students involved in the group are planning careers that may involve environmental water issues, AWRA is open to all majors, Patient said.

SIUC student Jason Moody said the group offers students a unique opportunity to serve Southern Illinois.

"It's a good way for a group to do things for the community," said Moody, a resource management major.

For more information, contact Ben Botkin at bbotkin@dailyEgyptian.com.
Our Word

DE celebrates Black History Month

Today marks the beginning of Black History Month, a time to reflect on the struggle for equality in a divided world. Black history is a part of all our histories and a part of our national and local identity. If the past year on this campus is any indication, the need to tell this history is obvious. We saw the creation of a race relations task force after the April arrest of a student, Patrick Grant, inciting fighting and muggings on campus. On this campus, the Carbondale Police Department. This page has been inundated with letters responding to Tommy Curry's column dealing with black issues throughout our world.

The Daily Egyptian will earnestly cover the events planned in honor of this month, but we have also to find our own way to celebrate. Besides just covering scheduled events, we will write a number of in-depth articles exploring black history in our region. There are fascinating stories to write, rich histories that have been ignored for too long. You will hear of the heroic efforts of local black soldiers. You will learn the ways in which Carbondale and this University were racially divided, sometimes illuminating a shameful past in which hate groups openly paraded their propaganda. You will meet black SIUC alumni who, before conquering injustice in our nation, conquered it here in Carbondale. In every issue this month, a graphic illustration of a distinguished black American will appear on the front page marched as a way to recognize his or her contributions to history.

This is how we will do our part to remember and celebrate. We look forward to seeing the many ways our community members will do theirs. We hope that the several articles on the subject we will offer this month will serve as local history lessons, long hidden from textbooks. We hope to invite conversations at coffeehouses, dorm rooms and dining tables. By doing this, we hope to enrich the lives of our readers.

The Daily Egyptian salutes the contributions blacks made and continues to make in our community, our nation and our world. We share in the pride for the civil rights struggles for which these men and women have fought, because in fighting for justice, blacks fight for the protections guaranteed by our beloved Constitution. In delving into the black history of the University and Carbondale, we hope to learn not only about these institutions, but about ourselves. We can see how far we have come and how far we still need to travel. The reason Black History Month exists is because too often the stories of blacks around us are not passed on and giants among us go unrecognized. Now it is time that we tell these stories. Now it is time that we pass on these legacies. Now it is time that the silent giants of our community and University stand up and be recognized.

Guest Columnist

Disney: What have you done to our children's classics?

Abigail Whiteley
godiva2200@yahoo.com

I have noticed a banner at the University Place 8 movie theater announcing the upcoming release of Peter Pan 2. I don’t know what horrible damage Disney is going to do, but I can no longer stay silent. Disney is the culprit and killer of great children’s literature.

My mother would read us “Winnie the Pooh” about once a year. We had a chapter each night, starting from the beginning — in which Pool goes visiting and gets into a tight place and the ending in which Christopher Robin and Pool come to an Enchanted Place — and We Leave Them There. At the end of the last chapter, my sister and I would sit with piles of tissue paper waiting for my mother to break down and cry. The end of “The House at Pooh Corner” is the saddest thing I’ve ever read, and it would get my mother every time.

Telling this story, I know there are still some of you may wonder why Pool, the happy little bear full of stuff with Wang, would make anyone cry. The simple fact is that Disney has taken a great work of literature and turned it into a hackneyed, appealing and fairly ridiculous cartoon. Disney has done this to too many great works, which has not only defamed cartoon versions, but has replaced the original in the public eye. I was speaking to a friend one day about “Alice in Wonderland.” A woman overheard and said “Oh, I Love Disney.” We tried to explain that we meant the book written by Lewis Carroll. There is a general feeling that since it involves children’s books, there is no difference between a movie for children and a book for children. I would beg to differ. Great children’s literature is just as valid as that written for adults, and for me, more sacred.

Too many children are growing up without the classics because their parents consider the movies to be the same thing. And worse, they think that reading their children the Disney storybook version is the same as reading the original. Why not clear out all our Shakespeare, William Kennedy, Faulkner, Whit and replace them with a Chip’s Notes and comic books? They’re just as easy to read and more fun.

I would like to point out some of the more important liberties that Disney has taken. First off, in “Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs,” she didn’t even have names. Snow White was not awakened by Lord’s first kiss, but by the prince’s foot stumbling while carrying her castle down the hill. Snow White was tempted by the witch three times, once with lace, then with a corset and lastly with the apple. Last but not least, the stepmother/witch was punished by being pushed to death in red hot iron ships while slipping into her death.

In “Cinderella,” Cinderella did not have a fairy godmother, but a dead mother who would send her gifts from a tree that was warded with her tears. Peter Pan is not a tenant of the way. It is unclear in the book how old he is exactly, but he has away the day he was born and still has his baby teeth. And if you will allow me one more, I must respond to “The Little Mermaid.” I was never more horrified than I was at the end of this movie. In the story written by Hans Christian Anderson, the mermaid only wants a human soul. She seeks one, and the prince to find love so that she may obtain one. In the end she does not marry the prince. The prince never has feelings for her as more than a sister or a good friend. He marries a woman he loves and brings with him on his twosome voyage. The mermaid knows that she is going to die and goes out to the bow of the ship to wait. Her sisters appear and say that they have traded her hair to the sea witch in exchange for a knife. They tell her to take the knife, plunge it into the prince’s heart, and when his blood splashes on her legs, she will turn back into a mermaid. The mermaid takes the knife and goes into the bedroom. She cuts off her fingers, throws herself into the sea and then throws herself into the sea and then throws herself into the sea. She finds herself rising to heaven and is told she will be a spirit blowing cool winds to the people on earth for 300 years, and after that, she will be rewarded with a human soul. When my sister was about 12 year old she came out of her bedroom weeping. My mother, concerned, asked what had happened. With great emotion my sister cried out “I didn’t know Peter Pan ended that way.” Few of us do. I urge you all to go and read. In my bookshelf or library you can find these books waiting to be read and thought about. Allow yourselves to experience the language and storytelling that is great literature. There are treasures here that have been suppressed by a capitalist venture; let’s get them back.

Abigail is a junior in English. Her views do not necessarily reflect those of the Daily Egyptian.

Quote of the Day

"Whoever tries to think things through honestly will soon recognize how unworthy and even fatal is the traditional bias against Negroes. What can the man of good will do to combat this deeply rooted prejudice? He must have the courage to set an example by words and deed and must watch, lest his children become influenced by racial bias."

Albert Einstein
**A Super Bowl request**

Last week I expected to write this column about the Bears' great season, but as it may be, the St. Louis Rams will probably win the big game by the score of 110-3. That was before I heard the stories that the glamorous bands that Clear Channel Communications, the largest radio conglomerate in the country, is considering firing 1,000 DJs on a nation-wide level. The story does come around to the Super Bowl, so football fans keep reading.

The bottom line is that the media is censoring songs with questionable lyrics after the Sept. 11 attacks. Dead Christians on the SIU campus lament a little physical contact, which is double-spaced and submitted with author's photo. Many songs are banned because they contain the word “sky” or “sky.”

**The Way I See It**

**By Matt Brennan**

m.brennan2002@hotmail.com

My stomach was always the focal point of my self-loathing. At 14 years old, my mother weighed me on a baby scale. At 14 years old, all skin from eating once a day (sliced, fried, dressing) and at a respectable size 4, I proceeded still—definitely a size of sixes and sevens. "Your Southern heritage," my grandmother whispered from behind her balding crown.

After childbirth, and taking into consideration my dietary staples of Mountain Dew and present M&Ms, this bodily coincidence surpasses about 33 inches. Deep faded ruiten and their subsidiaries wiggled through it, more commonly known as scratch marks. They stride in and out, finally spilling out to my muscular thighs. My breasts, mammified portions, are too absolutely large to settle quietly under breast-size. They defy the contingency of clothing design. I am, as they say, thick.

Due to the the aforementioned train, I am supposed to have my body I am supposed to hide until I can find a "safe diet and exercise program coupled with laser therapy designed to conceal what I had. Next I can shave off any public hair that dare to sneak out from behind a bikini, further excising evidence of an already grown woman. This will not only provide me with the safety of a Deity Sprung montage of half tops and half rings.

I have no doubt that the evening music videos would be an afternoon well spent for any self-receiving adolescent, but I must pass to rectify the small ban.

As a recent column in "Batgirl" Magazine points out, " Fatal is a word. Banned songs are just a word. ‘Famous’ from the film "Flags," off the country/rock band W"ilco’s album is banned.

"Shallow" is a hit pop song. It is a song that can make fans of magicians, rebels or ethnic groups anymore, but revealing fans of people, well that’s just plain dumb. And as we know, there’s not much logic. I was amazed to hear from "Friends" scarf-don’t-even-take-to-be-handkerchiefs. To be kind, I would rather see the skinny, control-train-Mozart that emerges from this lumpy stoner.

**LETTERS**

**Ethernet troubles? Let’s start a coup**

Dear Editor:

I am writing because I am fed up with the ethernet. There has been one week where the ethernet has worked properly for us 4 times for a total of 2 days. When we got bad service, we just keep on trying and trying. The system crashes because the students do things that are not deemed educational (i.e., games and downloads). Will I never sign any contract that said I could download music, and songs, and songs and songs? We should put up with the problems. We should. I guess I can take the ethernet up seven, for a minute, we can cut and paste.

Hundreds of students calling every day. We are trying to keep the system up seven, every minute, we can cut and paste.

Robert Kaplan

**Pedestrians, cyclists need to use common sense**

Dear Editor:

As a pedestrian and a cyclist at SIU, I am becoming increasingly similar to other people and would like to express my concerns about the manner in which people travel around on campus. The amount of drivers that exceed the 25 mph speed limit is not much greater than the amount who exceed the legal limit of 30 mph. However, the number of students who do not exceed the legal limit of 25 mph is not much greater than the amount who exceed the legal limit of 30 mph. This is especially true after the John Woodeniat’s lecture, "Shallow" is a hit pop song. It is a song that can make fans of magicians, rebels or ethnic groups anymore, but revealing fans of people, well that’s just plain dumb. And as we know, there’s not much logic. I was amazed to hear from "Friends" scarf-don’t-even-take-to-be-handkerchiefs. To be kind, I would rather see the skinny, control-train-Mozart that emerges from this lumpy stoner.

**LETTERS**

**Christian values abandoned**

Dear Editor:

I wish to respond to brief to two columns in the Jan, 29 edition of the DE. First, to Joseph D. Johnson, Mar. 15, my dad has got to be my god and he is a runner in West Virginia or connected to the Christian faith. The World Church of the Creator opposes all beliefs in the supernatural and is not more than superstition. Please do not assume that all other groups claim to oppose Christian views in the world. The KKK and skidmarks are not necessarily the same thing. The Ku Klux Klan and skidmarks are not necessarily the same thing. The Ku Klux Klan and skidmarks are not necessarily the same thing.

Second, to Joan Fendelberg, regarding your article on "Happy Birthday," many people do not understand what third-world nations. But more than these, I love it because it matters to me. And even though I am not supposed to, perhaps I am too. "You," because it serves as the human voice of God. And yes, too, because of its boisterous impertinence and certainly because it is more clinically and as such to me as my chronicles on female radicals in third-world nations. But more than these, I love it because it matters to me. And even though I am not supposed to, perhaps I am too. "You," because it serves as the human voice of God. And yes, too, because of its boisterous impertinence and certainly because it is more clinically and as such to me as my chronicles on female radicals in third-world nations.

Bob Monroe

**Christian values abandoned**

Letters and columns do not necessarily reflect the views of the DAILY EGYPTIAN.
Sharon says he regrets not killing Arafat 20 years ago

By Tim Johnson
Knight Ridder Newspapers

JERUSALEM (KRT) - Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon said in an interview published Thursday that he is sorry that Israeli troops did not kill Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat two decades ago.

A Palestinian spokesman blasted Sharon's remarks as provocative and a top official of the European Union "deprecated and rejected" them.

Sharon's opinion did not surprise Israelis, because they are aware of the loathing the Israeli and Arab leaders have for each other.

"There may well be those in the U.S. who, having been trained by al-Qaida, can come over with others for a particular terrorist attack," he said. "We're doing everything we can to identify them."

A senior law enforcement official, speaking on the condition of anonymity, said evidence collected in Afghanistan suggests that al-Qaida operatives have been scouting a number of potential targets in the United States, looking for dumping grounds, public water supplies, pumping stations, nuclear power plants, airports and landmarks.

Washington Post-Gallup Poll said Thursday that a photograph of the Seattle Space Needle, a city landmark since 1962, has been discovered on a computer file in Afghanistan, "but that no evidence of a specific plan to attack it had been found."

"If we had specific information about the timing and place of a particular attack," Mueller said, "we would get that to the authorities lightning quick."

Mueller focused on efforts by law enforcement agencies to prevent terrorist attacks at the Super Bowl on Sunday in New Orleans and at the Winter Olympics this month in Salt Lake City. He said that thousands of police and security personnel would be at the two sport sites.

Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld, in a speech that called for transforming the military to face new threats, focused on what the country may have to deal with over the next century.

Referring to the Sept. 11 terror attacks, he said: "Let there be no doubt: In the years ahead, it is likely that we will be surprised again by new adversaries who may also strike in unexpected ways. And as they gain access to weapons of increasing power, these attacks could grow."

Rumsfeld made his remarks at Fort McNair in Washington, D.C., where he delivered a speech to military officers and faculty members of the National Defense University.

Mueller and Rumsfeld echoed themes laid down by President Bush in his State of the Union address Tuesday night: that terrorists are plotting to do harm to the United States and that the war in Afghanistan has not put a stop to the threats.

Our job is to close off as many of these avenues of potential attack as possible," Rumsfeld said.

He said that no nation in the 21st century was likely to oppose the United States with conventional armies or navies. That, he said, would be futile.

Instead, he said, attacks will be directed at the nation's weaknesses: "its vulnerable communications systems and space satellites among them. Means of attack, he said, could include cruise missiles, ballistic missiles, and chemical and biological weapons.

The United States, he said, cannot afford to sit back and wait for attack, but may have to pre-empt threats by destroying them before they can do harm.

He did not say who the enemies might be, but he noted: "The best, and in some cases the only defense, is a good offense."

New Ill. State U.-area 'cushy chair' law elicits response

By Shelby Sebens
The Daily Advertiser (Illinois State U.)

NORMAN (U-WIRE) - Some community members and students felt disappointment and defeat Jan. 22 when the Normal Town Council passed the "cushy chair" ordinance, which bans outdoor upholstered furniture.

The decision goes into effect June 1, though many pieces of outdoor furniture have already been removed from porches and patios. "I felt like, when they [the Normal Town Council] went in, they already made their minds up," said Holly McNair, governor's affairs coordinator for the Illinois State University Student Government Association.

The SGA had been battling against the ordinance and had also proposed amendments to it. "I think it's pretty ridiculous that we can't have furniture outside," ISU police relations major Lousie Uphaw said.

The council passed only one of the many amendments the students had suggested, Marcus said. Moving the enforcement of the ordinance to June 1 was the only amendment proposed by the student body.

According to Councilman Craig Ward, the only response he received was an e-mail prior to the meeting encouraging him to vote against the passing of the ordinance.

Other proposed amendments included bringing furniture inside after using it and keeping furniture on porches rather than just enclosed.

"As long as they bring it inside, I don't think it will make the town look bad," Dan Viero, sophomore mathematics major, said.

Viero, who attended the Jan. 22 meeting, added the council's main concern was the appearance of the town. He said the amendment would have encouraged people to invest in outdoor furniture and bringing it in when it was not in use would have prevented negative views.

According to Marcus, after conducting a survey of student opinion on the issue he found the majority of the student population disagreed with the ordinance.

"People are sort of shocked," Marcus said.

She added they could not believe with all that goes on in the world, an ordinance to ban furniture outdoors was passed.

After working on the issue of cushy chairs for so long, Marcus said she felt the amendments the SGA had come up with were very accommodating to the needs of the town.

A large packer of the amendments was sent to the council prior to the meeting. Marcus said the council reviewed them, but apparently did not agree.
Administration says fetuses classified as ‘unborn children’

Jodi Erdna
Knight Ridder Newspapers

WASHINGTON (KRT) - The Bush administration inflamed the abortion debate Thursday by proposing to expand the definition of a child to include a fetus so that low-income pregnant women could receive taxpayer-funded health care.

While the proposal, announced by Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson, dealt solely with prenatal care, advocates on both sides of the abortion question saw it as something more.

Antiabortion advocates decried the plan, saying it could set the stage for a legal challenge to the Supreme Court decision legalizing abortion.

President Bush opposes abortion. "Their point is to define fetuses as persons in regulations and in law so the point that there is a critical mass establishing fetal personhood," said Kim Gandy, president of the National Organization for Women. "If a fetus is defined as a person, which is a legal term, then even first trimester abortions would be murder." Abortion opponents hailed the announcement, though they did not define it as a victory for their cause. "I don't have any legal bearing on the state of abortion law," said Douglas Johnson, legislative director for the National Right to Life Committee.

In a statement, Thompson said the proposal was one to "only the most extreme pro-abortion ideologues will object." Technically, Thompson proposed a federal regulation that would allow states to provide prenatal care to low-income women under the Stewart-Children's Health Insurance Program, or SCHIP. The low-income program currently covers children, not adults. But Thompson's proposal would expand coverage to children from conception to birth, and override federal laws that restrict fetal rights, according to an HHS official.

HHS officials said the proposal was not aimed at undermining abortion rights. "It's about health," said spokesman Bill Pierre. "This is about better health for pregnant women, particularly poor women and the children that are born." Abortion-rights activists say they support prenatal care for low-income women, but argue that the Bush administration could provide it without changing the definition of a child. The president could follow the lead of former President Bill Clinton and grant states waivers to the children's program to permit coverage of pregnant women, according to an HHS official.

Last year, Gandy noted, abortion opponents in Congress proposed the Unborn Victims of Violence Act, which would also define a fetus as a person and allow police to charge a person suspected of attacking a pregnant woman with two crimes. The House passed the measure, which stalled in the Senate.

That bill also was viewed by abortion-rights groups as a way to undermine Roe v. Wade, the 1973 Supreme Court ruling that legalized abortion in all states. Ann Stone, chair of Republicans for Choice, said Thompson's proposal, which does not meet congressional approval, might have the same impact.

She said it was "extremely concerning that it is a back-door way to try to give the fetus legal status so they can have a basis to attack Roe." Stone said.

But Campbell Garen, a spokesman for Thompson, said HHS lawyers assured the secretary the proposal's health-care issue would have no bearing on abortion.
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CARRY IN CARRY OUT
"There has been much progress, but it still is nowhere near where it really needs to be," Williams said. "Black history should be recognized as a distinct event," he said. "However, by having its own month, it gives us the opportunity to formally honor our ances­ tors in a public way."

"Black History Month raises issues about what has been done to get rid of segregation, and it also raises awareness. Everyone should come together and collaborate," he told.

Students around the University also believe that learning about black history is extremely important for everyone.

"Recognizing black history is important because it is a good thing for people to be socially aware, and it could perhaps mend the social fabric of our country," said Chris Hahn, a junior from Oviedo, Florida.

Other people are looking to the future. Cinco Jones, a sophomore in sociology, and freshman Senita Freeman believe Black History Month should be recognized because it is not only "black history," but American history, and people should learn about different races and cultures.

"I think the main focus of Black History Month is to educate black people who don't know their history, and also to educate people of other cultures and backgrounds of what blacks have accomplished," Freeman said.

Bridal

"If their personalities don't mesh, they can go on to the next event with out having to go down the yellow pages," Carson said. "A lot of their choices are in that spot.

The fashion show is one segment that attracts not only future brides and grooms, but anyone interested in the latest trends in dresses and tuxedos. Zwicky Bridal, Mr. Tuxedo & Bridal and salon owner Katherine's Bridal & Formal Wear will be displaying about 75 dresses and tuxedos, according to Vineyard.

Teresa Holms, manager of Mr. Tuxedo & Bridal, said strapless wed­ ding dresses and a variety of A-line and full-skirted gowns will be modeled. Also, Huabs sold long coats with Euro­ ban-tie high colars are the lat­ est trend for the grooms. The event gives couples a chance to go see most of what is available in one loca­ tion.

"They can look at the dresses on someone else and say, 'That dress, that is what I want,'" Huabs said.

After a potential bride sees the wed­ ding dress she likes, she can look out a special program that lists every dress and tuxedo modeled and the store where it is located.

Vineyard said a lot of women go straight to the bridal shops after they get engaged and look for their dresses. However, she said they ask the bridal consultants at the stores what to do next. This event encompasses a good selection of all the wedding related businesses at one place.

"Some girls say, I planned my whole wedding at the bridal show," Carson said. "It's not that they actually did, but they got all the pieces for their wedding here."

Reaper Samundra Edmondson can be reached at samundra@dailylegiancom

Vineyard

flowers will be in the wedding, she said sometimes families get together and want to collaborate their ideas.

Vineyard is currently working with a couple who come from completely different cultural backgrounds. The bride, who currently lives in California, is from a conditions back: "Originally from the Philippines, the groom is tem­ porarily in Springfield. Trying to organize the wedding in Carbondale, the couple hopes to incorporate both of their ethnic back­ grounds into various parts of the wed­ ding and reception.

Vineyard said they plan to blend foods from both cultures at the recep­ tion. Also, she is hoping the band can play some Polka and traditional Philippine music.

"It's been very interesting to see the families get together and try to blend their traditions of their family," Vineyard said.

Despite the strict involvement of family, one couple Vineyard worked with involved their hometown commu­ nity. In Eldorado, the firemen have a tradition after weddings. The groom, bringing a fire ax, carried out this ritual by placing his bride in a wheel barrel and rolling down the streets of town. Fellow firefighters looked on, as her firemen and guests cheered at the couple's wheeled through the street.

"That was the most fun I have had at a wedding," Vineyard said.

When all the catastrophes seem to have simmered down, some couples have problems from the start. Vineyard recalled one bride whose mother only left her $1,000 to spend on the entire wedding. With seven attendants in the wedding party and 200 people expected, Vineyard figured in the entire wedding. Vineyard recalled one bride whose mother only left her $1,000 to spend on the entire wedding. With seven attendants in the wedding party and 200 people expected, Vineyard figured in the entire wedding.

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NEW ORLEANS — Two myths have been dispelled during Super Bowl week.

Mike Martz is not arrogant.

And Bill Belichick didn’t suddenly wake up one morning as an arrogant guy.

The Martz solo comes from quizzing Bill Belichick, the head coach of the New England Patriots. But the coach is more famous for the absolute nothingness that is the week leading up to the Super Bowl. There is no light lifting, for that matter, the week leading up to the big game.

Belichick seemed to have undergone a personality transformation this season, but Patriots owner Robert Kraft said his coach is the same person he always has known.

“I never really saw Belichick as a totally different, intense person,” Kraft said. “I’m not sure people on the outside fully understood. I had a chance to meet with him and chat with him and have some social time. He’s a well-spoken, articulate coach who can explain his position. I had good chemistry with him from the beginning. He’s a very solid guy.”

RAPPING WITH JOEY J

Joe Zygmont, the Rams president of football operations, said he feels gratified and a bit lucky about the way his defense has turned around.

“We knew we were blowing up the defenses,” Zygmont said. “We knew we were going to tear it apart and rebuild it. But you have to have a head coach who’s willing to do that. And Mike Martz was willing.”

Even after Zygmont had traded for Antonio Williams, even after he had used most of his top draft picks on defense, he said he wasn’t sure.

“I remember telling you in the summer that I thought we’d addressed everything we needed to address,” Zygmont said. “But I didn’t know how it would all pan out.”

JACK BE HAPPY

Jack Snow, another familiar face from the Rams days in Los Angeles and Anaheim, was a visitor at Wednesday’s St. Louis media sessions.

“You know what it is, Jack?” Snow said. “I’m really, really glad I went to this game.”

“Yeah, I’m very happy in St. Louis,” Snow said, the former All-Pro wide receiver who is the Rams radio analyst. “They’re going to pick us and the people of St. Louis are great.”

RAMS UPDATE

Three injured Rams — offensive tackle Orlando Pace (knee), wide receiver Kevin Hagan (ankle) and defensive tackle Jeff Zgonina (ankle) — did not practice Wednesday. They are expected to play Sunday.

Tom Brady to start for Patriots, but does it really matter?

By Rich Hofmann

Knight Ridder Newspapers

NEW ORLEANS — The questions were real even if the significance was dubious. I mean, honestly, Tom Brady? Drew Bledsoe?

Like most players, the wide receivers who were here at Thursday’s Patriots’ practice in their anticipation of their fourth start in the last six days were certain that the two quarterbacks were never a week away.

And, no, it isn’t that the two players had walked a block or two.

Brady? I tell you. Bledsoe? Because there is no way at the Super Bowl. There is no actual question that had to be asked this week, an actual question that had to be written down. But, well, check that.

Tom Brady was asked by the stores in the last few days but the answers were all non-answers from New England Patriots coach Bill Belichick.

He wouldn’t tell us until after Wednesday’s practice. He wouldn’t reveal the identity of his starting quarterback against the St. Louis Rams in Super Bowl XXXVI.

Would it be Brady, the savior of the Pats’ season or Bledsoe, the guy who dumped down the stretch and suffered a sprained left ankle in Sunday’s AFC Championship Game? Or would it be Bledsoe, the guy with less mobility but more arm length and more experience, the starter who lost his job to Brady by getting hurt of the season? Who would it be?

It got you all tingling, the wondering did.

After all, it is not a usual occurrence for the words “Super Bowl” and “news” to be living in the same sentence — or, for that matter, the same county.

This event, perhaps more than any sporting event on the planet, is most famous for the absolute nothingness that is the week leading up to the game. There is no heavy lifting here. There is no light lifting, for that matter. There are six-, little feature stories. Along the way, there might even be the emergence of a new personality. But news? No.

The last time you absolutely, positively had to write a story about something at the Super Bowl — when, if a reporter didn’t have it, the offer would call and ask why not? — might have been in January of 1986. It was the day when Bills quarterback Jim McElvain moved a news helicopter at practice.

And if that doesn’t tell you something about this event, nothing does.

Oh, there have been other things that have attracted your attention — such as last year, when Ravens linebacker Ray Lewis underwent a media inspection about his proximity to a double-murder in the hours after the previous year’s Super Bowl, a proximity that led to a trial and a plea agreement.

But most of them have been just — media-inspired, media-manufactured and media-fueled.

This is different, though.

Brady? Bledsoe?

Be still, my heart.

“It’s up to coach Belichick what to do,” said The Edge, the lead guitarist for U2, the band that will perform at halftime. “But it has to be said Bledsoe has the superior long pass, Brady’s solid is a bit of a problem.”

The Edge. There you have it. As Belichick silently maneuvered the four injured Rams — offensive tackle Orlando Pace (knee), head coach who’s willing to do that. And Mike Martz was willing.”

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Saluki track team takes on Illini

Men travel to
Champaign to face No. 1 rival
Samantha Robinson
Daily Egyptian

Coming off a first place finish at the Missouri Valley Conference meet last weekend, the SIU men's track and field team is hitting the road to compete against No. 1 Illinois on Saturday.

The Salukis head north to Champaign to take on the University of Illinois in the Champaign Alliance Invitational Saturday. The meet will begin at 10:30 a.m. at the University of Illinois. Other schools participating in the event besides host Illinois are the University of Notre Dame, Northwestern, North Carolina State and the University of Wisconsin.

Coach Cameron Wright said he is looking forward to the meet because it will be the first conference competition his team has seen.

"We are getting too comfortable being at home," Wright said.

"Going up against these schools will show what we are really made of." This weekend is a welcomed meet because Wisconsin was the Big 10 Champion last year, and Illinois is the SIU's natural rival.

Wright said the goal of the program is to be the best program in Illinois, and the only team to ever win a conference is the Illini.

Even though the meet is unseeded, the men are ready to leave the door open and compete for the title where they will be challenged with suffering competition.

With strong finishes last weekend, the men are looking to build on junior Adam Jackson, junior Daniel Fox, senior Peter Baker (distance), senior Joe Zuber (distance), junior Nyes Stuart (jumps) and freshman Jeyahn Odom (jumps).

"This is the best team in the Valley," said Steward.

Women's track and field heads to
Champaign for meet

The SIU women's track and field team is headed to Bloomington, Ill., to participate in the 28th Indiana Relays. The event will begin today and conclude tomorrow at 9 a.m. at the University of Illinois.

Some of the schools competing include Southeast Missouri State University, Eastern Illinois University, the University of Cincinnati, Murray State University and the University of Central Florida.

Leading the women are seniors Julia Roundtree (distance), freshman Marilann Aluna (jumps), sophomore Noa Beitler (distance) and freshman Kelsey Toussaint (distance), who all placed first in their respective events last weekend.

Another track meet worth watching is later this month in Latin Grey, Grey, who reminded her personal best in the high jump last weekend and qualified for the NCAA National Championships, was named the MVC Field Athlete of the Week.

Radostits named swimmer of the week

Broke Radostits, a senior on the SIU women's swimming and diving team, was named Missouri Valley Conference Swimmer of the Week on Thursday.

Radostits won all three events at the Salukis' meet last weekend in Springfield, Mo., over southwest Missouri State and the University of Central Florida.

Radostits took first in the 200-yard backstroke and the 50 freestyle and also was the leader on the first-place 400 medley relay team.

Radostits has posted the top times this season in the MVC in both the 100 and 200 backstroke.

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Salukis fly into February fighting furiously for first

"...this is the highest team we're going to play the rest of the way. So there are a lot of implications, and it'll show us how good we are. Can we beat a good team on the road?"

Bruce Weber
head basketball coach

Team must triumph press defense to gain conference lead

Jens Deja
Daily Egyptian

Salukis are hunting down first place Sunday that will help decide first place in the Missouri Valley Conference.

Creighton's suffocating, trapping defense is the main catalyst behind its home success during recent years and motivate the Bluejays in beating the Salukis both times last season.

"Their whole thing is they change defenses quite a bit," said SIU head coach Bruce Weber. "They'll press you full court, they'll press you half court, they'll play you zone, they'll play man, they switch their man. They just try to disrupt you." Untested defense is one area causing concern this season. The Bluejays have given up an average of just 67.3 points, as well as forcing 17.5 turnovers per game.

Although the Creighton press is getting results, Creighton head coach Dana Altman feels they still have some improving to do.

"Sometimes it's been effective and sometimes it hasn't been," Altman said. "Last year we had some guys who had been here longer and had a better feel for it, so it's kind of a work in progress."

The Salukis know they're going to have to be extremely careful with the ball if they hope not to fall into the Bluejays' trap.

The second-place Salukis (18-4, 8-2 MVC) are in Omaha, Neb., Sunday for a 2:05 p.m. game with the Bluejays. The winner will have a decisive advantage in the MVC title race with only seven games remaining in the regular season.

Remember those hyped-up games early in the year? This one means more to the Salukis, who have the chance to overtake Creighton (14-5, 9-3) as the Valley's team to beat the rest of the way.

"This is a huge statement game," Williams said. "It means being tied or possibly winning the conference. One of our goals all year was to win the [championship] ring, and that's why this game is so much more important than Indiana or Illinois or any of those games. This is whether we're the champs or not."

Jay Schwab
Daily Egyptian

Sports is nothing if not a sanctuary for clichés, but there's one tried and true saying that SIU guard Ken Williams wants no part of as his team gears up for the most important game it's played all season. You know that one about staying on an even keel and not growing too excited for one game? Forget that, Williams says. The Salukis are running down first place Sunday when they travel to Creighton, and he wants his teammates to be sky high when they take the court.

"I think we need to be real high for this game, and if we win we need to feel real high," Williams said. "As long as we're riding high we do good. Sometimes when we get in that middle where our emotions don't show as much is when we struggle."

The Bluejays have been here longer and have a better feel for Omaha, said SIU guard Kent Williams. "They've had a year to get used to Creighton's lead, so it's kind of a work in progress." Weber emphasized this to his team because if they take the quick shot, they will be playing right into Creighton's hands.

"It's kind of like a camouflage. They're testing you," Weber said. "They pressure you and they take you out of your stuff and then all of a sudden you shoot a quick shot, they will be pressing you into Creighton's hands.

"They just try to disrupt you."