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Hackathon proves technology knows no age limit

SETH RICHARDSON
Daily Egyptian

Technology enthusiasts young and old gathered over the weekend to take part in southern Illinois' first ever hackathon.

The HackSI Hackathon was held Saturday at the Dunn-Richmond Economic Development Center. A group of nearly 100 attended to create unique technology in a 12-hour timeframe.

Entrants in the hackathon spanned all ages, with the youngest at around nine years old and the oldest in his 60s.

Two of the three winners were high school students, including the first-place winner Alex Bryant, a sophomore at Murphysboro High School. Bryant won for making a Bluetooth-to-light-emitting diode text-based device. He said he was surprised he won and was eager to attend more hackathons in the future.

"I'm definitely doing this again," he said. "It's very fun and cool meeting people and just getting to hang out and write code."

Luke Russell, a junior at Murphysboro High School, built a car that was guided by sonar. The closer a person got to the car, the faster it would move away. He said being in an environment of like-minded individuals was inspiring.

"Seeing all these people do something I love is awesome," he said. "If they do this again, I'm doing it again."

Bonnie Kucharski, director of managed services at Liaison Technologies, helped organize and judge the event. She said the number of younger attendees stood out to her and showed a lot of promise for the future.

"We have a whole group of high school students here," she said. "I was talking with one of them and he said before he came here today, he didn't know anything about what he was developing. He came here with a computer and a book and developed something. That's just cool."

Steve Carrington, the chief information officer for Murphysboro school district, said he hoped events like the hackathon will entice students to go into fields of work dealing with technology.

"As far as my school, what we're trying to do is infuse a lot more technology and electronics options for the students to be able to take in the curriculum," he said. "An event like this where kids can see other kids and get some recognition, it helps bolster those kids and keep them moving in the right direction."

High school students were not the only entrants at the hackathon. People ranging from college students to professional programmers – and even a diesel mechanic – showed off their programming abilities as well.

Scott Palmer and Eric Colvin, both 2010 SIU graduates, work as data mapping analysts and said



JOHN SCOTT | DAILY EGYPTIAN

Ashton Reedy, 9, of Carterville, second from left, flies an augmented reality drone while judge Reid Burke, of Carbondale, instructs him Saturday during HackSI at the Dunn-Richmond Economic Development Center. Developers of all ages spent the day creating games, applications and building robots for the event; which lasts for 12 hours and is meant to get people in the area excited about creating projects with technology. "Seeing a lot of people coming out who wouldn't normally have time to build is a good thing for the first event, and you have drones flying around and that's pretty cool," Burke said.

they enjoyed the freedom. They created a side-scroll video game titled Space Meatballs. They said the open atmosphere was a bit daunting at first because they did not know what they were going to create, but once they figured it out, they had a lot of fun.

Gi Vania, the deputy director of research computing for SIU, said events like the HackSI hackathon could provide the university with a boost in prestige.

"When people see on the news what's going on at SIU, (they ask) are those guys hillbillies or are they hacking up the latest storm for the future?" he said. "These kids are building the future right now. You come to SIU and you're going to find some really sharp kids."

Vania said events like the hackathon were

important for education since they provide a high amount of entertainment while teaching something of value.

"Kids are spending a billion hours playing Call of Duty. A billion hours," he said. "That's not a small number. When you think of education, you are going to have to gameify it. ... It's really important that what kids feel when they play a video game – a sense of being creative, a sense of wonder – education needs to become more like that. That's what's going to carry education forward."

Reid Burke, a software engineer at Yahoo and former Carbondale resident, was one of the judges at this year's event and said he was pleasantly surprised by the success of the event.

"It's a great turnout," Reid Burke said. "There's a lot of people who are at their first event. I'm very

pleased to see this many people show up for the first southern Illinois hackathon."

Entrants and organizers of the event said they hope to expand the hackathon to a full 24- or 36-hour timeframe, which is typical of most events. Dav Glass, a software architect from Yahoo and one of the coordinators of the event, said he wants to do another hackathon as early as spring.

The HackSI Hackathon was sponsored by SIU, Liaison, Splattered Ink, Travis CI, Custom Computer Solutions, Github, and Yahoo Developer Solutions. For more information about future events, visit www.hacksi.me.

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Ethnographic photography exhibits cultural perspective

LUKE NOZICKA
Daily Egyptian

In celebration of Native American Heritage Month, a glimpse of American Indian cultural history is being exhibited at Southern Illinois University's Morris Library.

On Friday, 130 photographs of Edward S. Curtis's series The North American Indian went on display in the Hall of Presidents and Chancellors.

The entire series consists of 20 volumes, documenting 80 different tribes over the course of Curtis's 30-year journey. In that time, Curtis took 40,000 images and wrote around 4,000 pages of detailed narrative about their lives. While

Morris Library owns the complete set, the Special Collections Research Center holds 13 of these volumes, and offers researchers the unique chance to study these historic images firsthand.

Visiting Assistant Professor of Art History Jo Nast said, in the beginning, Curtis's work was not being appreciated, and only after it was discovered in 1972 did the public take interest in his work.

"He was a pioneer in ethnographic photography," Nast said.

Ethnography is the scientific study of the customs of cultures and the individual people within them.

Library Specialist at the SCRC Beth Martell said as people look deeper and deeper, they realize these people have

a much larger history and differences in costumes will become apparent.

"Now when I look at Native Americans in these pictures I see Tibetans, I see people from Asia," Martell said.

The pictures make people continually question the story behind the image, and show the diversity that was this culture, she said.

"You don't think of Indians as Alaskans eating whales," Martell said.

Professor and Dean Emeritus of the College of Mass Communications and Media Arts Gary Kolb said while creating this artwork Curtis used an expensive printing process developed in the 1860s called photogravure — one of

the finest of photographic reproduction processes.

"Photogravure is where you take a photographic image from a negative and transfer it onto a copper plate, and then you etch the plate and put ink on the plate and run it through a printing press and it transfers the image to paper," said Kolb.

While the photographs and printing process were spectacular, not all white Americans who saw the publishing's at the time believed Curtis's work to be completely realistic, he said.

"People argued that what this was, was a commoditized recreation of a romantic vision that never really existed," Kolb said.

Recreating these scenes consisted of finding the clothing and interviewing people. Not only did Curtis have the photographs, but he also had the transcripts, the interviews, songs and poetry to go along with it, he said.

"Participants had a degree of trust in what Curtis was doing and a degree of fondness for what he was creating, for what he was portraying," Kolb said.

Retired SIU professor of photography Charles Swedlund said Curtis probably deserved more respect than he received, especially because his work appealed to photographers, archeologists and anthropologists.

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Mission Statement

The DAILY EGYPTIAN, the student-run newspaper of Southern Illinois University Carbondale, is committed to being a trusted source of news, information, commentary and public discourse, while helping readers understand the issues affecting their lives.

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Home for Holocaust victims cares for last of generation survivors

SHARON COHEN
Associated Press

CHICAGO — Listen to the many harrowing stories of war, suffering and survival, all under one roof.

On the third floor, there's Margie. A prisoner of Nazi labor camps, she hauled backbreaking cement bags and was beaten with clubs. Sometimes, she had only a piece of bread to eat every other day. She weighed 56 pounds when she was freed.

Down the hall, there's Edith. Though pregnant, she miraculously avoided the gas chamber at Auschwitz. She lost her mother, father and husband in the camps. After liberation, she faced even more heartbreak: Her son died days after his birth.

Up on the eighth floor, there's Joe. As

a boy of 10, he was herded onto a cattle car and transported to a concentration camp — the first of five he'd be shuttled to over five cruel years.

These Holocaust survivors share a history and a home: a retirement community founded more than 60 years ago for Jews who had been victims of Nazi persecution. For decades, it was a refuge for those who'd endured the living hell of Auschwitz, Theresienstadt, Mauthausen and other camps. And a haven, too, for those who had fled before the dark night of German occupation fell over their homeland.

In its heyday, the Selfhelp Home, as it's called, bustled with Jewish refugees from Germany, Austria and Czechoslovakia, the dining room a babel of central European tongues.

Hundreds were on a waiting list. But that was long ago. As time passed, the need for a special sanctuary faded. Others who had not endured the genocide moved in.

Only 12 Holocaust survivors — the youngest in their mid-80s, the oldest 102 — remain. So do a few dozen other Jews who escaped Hitler's reach, often leaving behind family as they started new lives in Kenya, China, Colombia and other distant lands.

They are now the last generation to bear witness to one of the greatest horrors of all time, a resilient community of friends and neighbors sharing what once seemed impossible: long lives. When they are gone, their stories will be preserved in history. But for now, their voices still echo in these halls.

Alligator found under escalator at airport

A small alligator found under an escalator at Chicago's O'Hare International Airport has left authorities puzzled.

A maintenance worker discovered the alligator, which is about a foot long, on Friday in Terminal 3, Chicago Police spokesman Jose Estrada said Sunday.

An officer captured the reptile by

putting a trash can over it.

"We don't know where it came from or how long it'd been residing in the airport facilities," Estrada said. "It's one of those random incidents."

The gator is now being cared for by the Chicago Herpetological Society.

"It was in pretty bad shape," said Jason

Hood, the group's president. "We're trying to get it healthy and find a place for it."

He said the gator would likely head to an out-of-state alligator farm once authorities give the organization the all-clear to release the animal.

No one was injured.

—Associated Press • Chicago

City where Trayvon Martin was killed changes neighborhood watch rules

SOUMYA KARLAMANGLA
Los Angeles Times

In a move that could ignite a legal battle, the Florida city where Trayvon Martin was killed will not allow neighborhood watch volunteers to carry firearms, part of an effort to overhaul its police department and improve the city's tarnished reputation.

George Zimmerman fatally shot Martin, an unarmed black teenager who was walking home from a convenience store, in February 2012. The case became a symbol of the country's racial tensions and divisions over gun laws, and thrust Sanford, a central Florida city near Orlando, into the national spotlight.

The Sanford Police Department came

under criticism when Zimmerman was not immediately charged. Zimmerman, who identifies himself as Latino, was a neighborhood watch volunteer, and critics called the incident an example of racial profiling and citizen vigilantism. The police chief at the time was fired.

Now the city's new police chief, Cecil E. Smith, who took over in April, is trying to revamp the department.

At a community meeting in Sanford on Tuesday, Smith will formally announce changes to the city's neighborhood watch program, including background checks for all volunteers, a six-week training program for block captains and monitoring by the Police Department. The department also will recommend that program volunteers not be armed while in the streets.

"The objective of neighborhood watch is to observe, identify and report, and that's what we're getting back to," said Smith, who had suspended the program after he took over until he could implement reforms. He said he knew there would be push-back.

"We're not going to make everybody happy," Smith said.

Though welcomed by advocates of stricter gun laws, the program changes could conflict with a Florida state law that allows licensed gun owners to carry a concealed weapon.

"At the end of the day, this is a legal question the courts are going to consider: Does a rule like this unfairly limit a person's access to carry firearms?" said Ken Novak, a professor

of criminal justice at the University of Missouri-Kansas City, who has studied neighborhood watch groups.

Smith said the department would not ban firearms, but would "strongly suggest" that neighborhood watch volunteers not carry them.

"We're not in the business of violating anyone's 2nd Amendment rights," Smith said.

But Sean Caranna, executive director of Florida Carry, a grass-roots organization that works to advance the right to bear arms, said he had reservations about the new policy.

"Someone walking through the neighborhood walking their dog who carries a concealed handgun for their own self-defense wouldn't be subject to (giving

up their gun), but a person who is on the neighborhood watch would be," he said. "It puts people in a very strange position."

Smith, meanwhile, hoped that discouraging the use of firearms would restore the value of the program, which he said had become dysfunctional and disorganized.

Francis Oliver, who has lived in Sanford for 65 years, said her trust in law enforcement and people in Sanford had diminished, and restoring it would be a slow process.

"Not trusting law enforcement in Sanford didn't just start with Trayvon Martin; it was there before Trayvon Martin. It's been there 100 years. You just don't undo that kind of mentality in six months," she said.

EXHIBIT

CONTINUED FROM 1

"It's interesting how his work goes both ways that way," Swedlund said.

Curtis' photographs are not only beautiful, but also have great significance to the history of American Indians, Martell said.

"All the history we have is what he gave us," Martell said.

It all started in 1895 when Curtis photographed the daughter of Chief Sealth, Princess Angeline, which is documented as the first portrait of an American Indian. After being published more in 1906, J.P. Morgan funded Curtis' The North American Indian project with \$75,000 to produce a series, and the project caught the eye of President Theodore Roosevelt.

As Curtis gained support from Roosevelt and J.P. Morgan, Franz Boaz of Columbia University — the man who had established anthropology as an academic discipline — began to raise concern to Roosevelt of Curtis's accuracy in the field.

Martell said this type of publicity would have embarrassed Roosevelt's name, and as a result, Roosevelt put together a committee to oversee

Curtis's methods.

Curtis sold all the rights and different materials to J.P. Morgan's son, J.P. Morgan Jr. in 1928, Martell said.

"In 1935, the Morgan Estate sold it to a publishing house for \$1,000 plus a percentage of future rights, and then it was just warehoused in Boston," Martell said.

An original piece today would go for millions, she said.

The display is available to see weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and is scheduled to be up until November 30, but it may be up all semester, Martell said.

History Associate Professor Grey Whaley will be giving a speech entitled the "American Indian Activism and the Primitive Imagery in the Age of Edward Curtis," alongside an hour-long open talk with Beth Martell Nov. 14 starting at noon.

The SCRC is keeping all the photographs laminated, and plan to keep reusing these images every November for Native American Heritage Month.

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TIFFANY BLANCHETTE | DAILY EGYPTIAN

Two photographs are displayed in the Hall of Presidents and Chancellors at Morris Library as part of a new exhibit featuring pieces from *The North American Indian*, a 25-year project by Edward S. Curtis. The exhibit, which opened Friday, displays images, descriptions and excerpts from the 20-volume publication, 13 of which the Special Collections Research Center at Morris Library holds. Library specialist Beth Martell, who chose 130 images for the display, will speak at the hall during a brown bag lunch discussion about the exhibit Nov. 14 from 12 to 1 p.m.

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Environmentalists assail Calif. Gov. Brown's support of fracking

PAUL ROGERS
San Jose Mercury News

SAN JOSE, Calif. — California Gov. Jerry Brown and the governors of Oregon, Washington and British Columbia gained international attention Monday for signing a pact in San Francisco aimed at reducing the pollution that causes global warming.

But a day later environmentalists lashed out at Brown for his full-throated support during the event of fracking, the controversial practice in which oil and gas companies inject water, sand and chemicals into the ground to fracture underground rock formations and release huge amounts of fossil fuels. Those are the very substances that scientists say are causing more global warming.

"To see the governor support fracking at a climate change event is terribly ironic," said attorney Kassie Siegel with the Center for Biological Diversity, an environmental group. "Gov. Brown is a climate leader, but supporting fracking can undermine all that he has done."

As Brown waxed poetic about the dangers of climate change Monday, about 50 people carried signs outside the event protesting his fracking policy. As part of an increasingly energetic campaign, environmentalists — who are also worried about air and water pollution from fracking — have begun picketing and protesting the governor whenever he appears at environmental events to point out what they see as hypocrisy.

"I feel my blood pressure rising," said Kathryn Phillips, director of Sierra Club

“Dealing responsibly with the challenge of climate change,” he said, “involves careful balancing of providing the energy resources that we need in the near term while recognizing that in the long term we need to move away from fossil energy sources.”

— Chris Field
Stanford biology professor

California. “Jerry Brown is a very interesting guy. He’s very smart. And I think in this case, he’s wrong.”

At Monday’s event, in response to questions from the San Jose Mercury News, Brown offered his most extensive remarks yet defending his administration’s fracking policy.

Brown said he saw no contradiction in calling climate change “the world’s greatest existential challenge” Monday while refusing to place a moratorium on fracking in California — as New York has done, and as many of the environmental groups who supported his campaign for governor in 2010 now want for California.

“As you know I signed legislation that will create the most comprehensive environmental analysis of fracking to date,” Brown said. “It will take a year, year and a half, maybe a little longer. And I hope that all the people, critics and supporters alike, will participate and offer their best thoughts.”

Brown was referring to SB4, a bill by state Sen. Fran Pavley, D-Agoura Hills, that requires, companies that conduct fracking

operations in California to notify all nearby property owners, obtain a permit from the state, conduct groundwater testing and disclose the chemicals that they are using. The law takes effect in 2015.

Brown also said that fracking has helped the environment in some ways, by increasing the supply of natural gas, which burns cleaner than coal.

“In terms of the larger fracking question — natural gas — because of that, and the lowered price, the carbon footprint of America has been reduced because of the substitution of natural gas for coal,” Brown said. “So this is a complicated equation.”

Brown noted that SB4 requires the state to conduct an independent, peer-reviewed scientific study of fracking’s impact on air, groundwater, wildlife and climate by Jan. 1, 2015. That document will help policymakers, he said.

The governor also referred to the Monterey Shale, a huge underground formation running from Bakersfield to San Benito County and Modesto that the U.S. Department of Energy has estimated could hold 15 billion barrels of oil.

“Nobody is talking about doing anything there for an extended period of time — and certainly not before the environmental document,” Brown said. “I think we ought to give science a chance.”

Asked whether fracking should be banned, as Monday’s protesters were demanding, Brown said: “What would be the reason for that?”

Earlier this year, a study released by the University of Southern California concluded that developing the Monterey Shale could create up to 2.8 million jobs and provide California from \$4.5 billion to \$24.6 billion in new tax revenue.

Chris Field, a Stanford biology professor and internationally renowned climate expert, said that Brown is correct that increasing natural gas production can reduce America’s greenhouse gas emissions by displacing coal. But he noted that when oil and gas companies have leaks in their piping and drilling systems, the release of just 3 percent of the methane they are trying to capture can negate the climate benefits, because methane traps heat at 21 times the rate of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere.

Still, he added, drilling for oil in California, assuming it’s strictly regulated, is cleaner than burning coal or getting it from Canadian tar sands.

“Dealing responsibly with the challenge of climate change,” he said, “involves careful balancing of providing the energy resources that we need in the near term while recognizing that in the long term we need to move away from fossil energy sources.”

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OPINION

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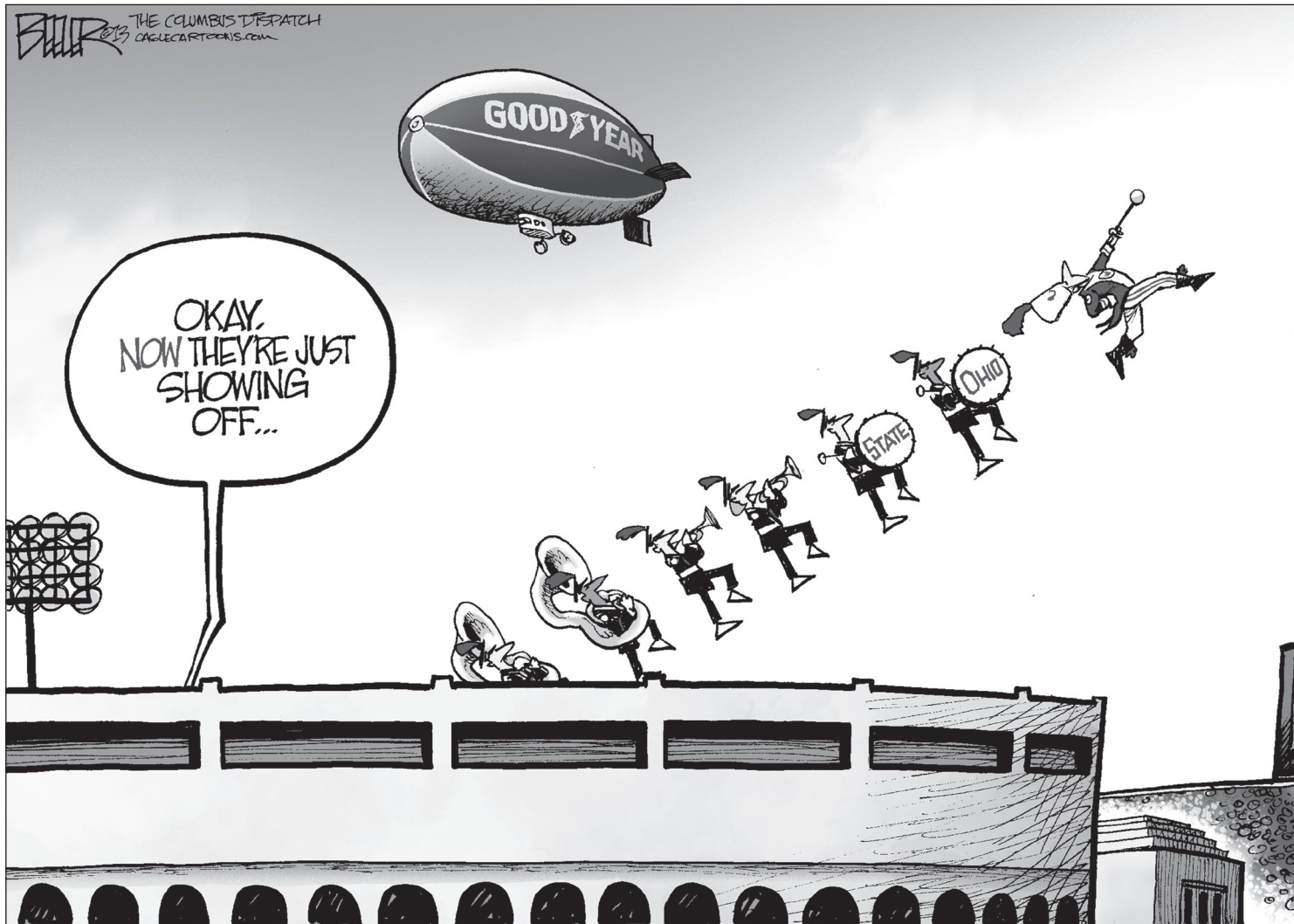
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THEIR WORD

Too much chatter causes mixed signals

DAVID IGNATIUS
WASHINGTON POST

Several years ago, the Intelligence Advanced Research Projects Activity, a think tank for the intelligence community, launched the Good Judgment Project. The idea is to use forecasting competitions to test the factors that lead analysts to make good predictions.

One of the most interesting findings, according to a participant in the project, is that forecasting accuracy does not necessarily improve when analysts have access to highly classified signals intelligence of the sort the National Security Agency (NSA) has been collecting secretly from the phones and messages of world leaders and, it sometimes seems, nearly everyone else.

In fact, the top forecasters, drawn from universities and elsewhere, performed about 30 percent better than the average for intelligence community analysts who could read intercepts and other secret data.

Good predictions don't necessarily correlate with access to secret data, in other words. Indeed, said Philip Tetlock, a University of Pennsylvania professor who heads the project, too much information can sometimes overwhelm analysts and decrease their forecasting accuracy.

This problem of separating the essential "signal" from the chatter of "noise" has been well known to scholars for decades. But it seems to have been forgotten by modern-day intelligence agencies in their push to collect.

The NSA obviously operates on the theory that more data is better. And the agency has been ingenious at expanding the information available for analysts. If there's a thrice-encrypted channel such as "The Onion Router," the NSA will crack it. If there's a privacy scheme such as "secure sockets layer," the NSA will decrypt it. If there's a world leader with an accessible cellphone, the NSA will tap it. But this mad dash for signals lacks the essential quality of sound judgment.

Reading the near-daily revelations of the NSA's electronic surveillance, some people have likened the situation to George Orwell's all-seeing Big Brother in his novel "1984."

That image doesn't match my own impression of the egghead military leaders of the NSA. Rather, I think of the sorcerer's apprentice in "Fantasia," by Walt Disney, who created a disaster by using tools and spells whose consequences he didn't understand.

The NSA documents that have surfaced reveal an exuberant, almost adolescent quality among the tech wizards who blew through privacy

barriers. They gave their top-secret projects colorful code names such as Boundless Informant or Egotistical Giraffe. They created compartments with mottoes that sound like playground boasts: "Nothing but net" and "The mission never sleeps." Hannah Arendt wrote famously of the "banality of evil."

This group makes one realize that childishness can be a characteristic, too. Like many hackers, NSA operatives seem to have done things sometimes for the thrill of it, just because they could.

NSA leaders defend themselves by arguing that they need the largest possible sample of "metadata," registering calls and messages, so they can later sift through this haystack to look for dangerous needles. The problem is that the NSA seems unwilling to recognize any limits on how big the haystack can be.

The Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court flatly warned in 2011 that some of the agency's activities were illegally broad; the NSA supposedly changed its domestic procedures. But a report in Thursday's Post suggests that the agency used its foreign intelligence authority to collect similar information overseas. This should worry even people who support the NSA's broad intelligence and counterterrorism missions.

The hemorrhaging of secrets has come from leaks by former NSA contractor Edward Snowden. It's hard to see him, even now, as any kind of hero: The way he chose to reveal programs that were legally authorized (albeit in some cases unwisely) has created severe problems for the United States and will cost tens of billions of dollars for U.S. companies that cooperated with court orders and NSA requests.

But it is a fact that we are living in a post-Snowden world and that U.S. policies for intelligence collection will need to be different.

It is hard to imagine global agreement on a framework for spying, which, by definition, involves breaking other countries' laws. But the United States and the many, many other countries that conduct surveillance need new rules of the road. Conventions against torture, chemical weapons and prisoner abuse don't prevent wars, but they do limit extreme activities of combatants. Something similar is needed here.

The worst outcome for the global economy, alas, now seems most likely — that nations will try to ring-fence their data within national borders. That anti-globalization move won't stop the spies, but it will slow commerce and innovation and make digital life harder for everyone.

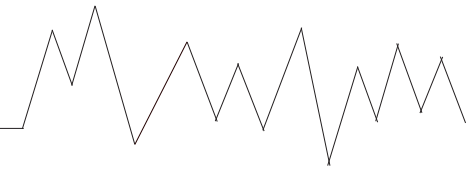
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Pulse



'Ender's Game' ultimately a draw

★ ★ ★ ☆ ☆
KARSTEN BURGSTÄHLER
 Daily Egyptian

“**Ender's Game**” is cold and calculating, rather than exciting and challenging.

— Karsten Burgstahler

Young adult literature seems to be the ticket for studios these days. Strike it big with a first adaptation and you are set for years to come. See: “Harry Potter,” “Twilight” and “The Hunger Games.”

But with Lionsgate putting the finishing touches on another trip to the “Hunger Games” arena, their subsidiary studio Summit is hoping to catch a few weeks of success with their adaptation of Orson Scott Card’s “Ender’s Game” (Rated PG-13; 114 Min.), a sci-fi tale of a teenager recruited to lead an army against an invading colony of giant ant-like creatures called Formics. Basically, this is Terminix: The Movie.

Despite the fact that it sounds like a set-up for a bad exterminator commercial, the cast and crew push onward like they are dealing with the most serious plot ever written. The main character is Ender Wiggins (Asa Butterfield), a scrawny teenager whose brains make up for his lack of brawn. He can figure his way out of pretty much any situation and use his cool to make the best decision.

This is a future in which children are sent to battle school, then commander school in hopes of finding the future leader of a massive military force. Only once is it offered up why children must be used — as gruff Colonel Graff, Harrison Ford (who else?) notes that children can process situations faster than adults. This seems like rather weak reasoning, but it is used to justify

children mercilessly beating each other in planned games where the rules are only quickly explained to the audience. All of the adults around Ender — which, beyond Ford, include Viola Davis as Major Anderson and Ben Kingsley as Mazer Rackham — are manipulating him into doing what they believe is in Earth’s best interest.

But is it? The problem with “Ender’s Game” is that no one really brings up questions of morality until the final third of the movie, or really even until the climax. There is nothing interesting until then, just a tale of a child overcoming bullies in space. And even though the audience is supposed to root for Ender as an underdog in a group of stronger kids, he never really seems to be at a disadvantage. It is clear from the start that he is smarter than everyone else. Butterfield does not interject a wide range of emotions into Ender; as a soldier, he is pretty stoic. When he is given the chance to finally let loose, he is just not convincing.

The stakes do not seem all that high here either. In some movies, keeping the monster hidden builds tension. “Independence Day” did not reveal the aliens until two-thirds of the way through, but their actions and their ships were enough to make the audience cheer for the good

guys. Yes, the bad guys here threaten Earth. But there is nothing that scary about the Formics (unless you are terrified of ants), and most of the violence is contained to simulation. Several times the audience is literally watching a video game.

One thing “Ender’s Game” does have on its side is visual effects. Even though most of the action scenes do not serve a purpose beyond proving how smart Ender is, the Battle Room where most of the games take place is well formed. Several scenes where the camera follows jets in the midst of war are also grabbing. It is clear a majority of thought went in to making sure the sets and action scenes looked good, because the dialogue certainly seems written by committee.

Like the characters it portrays, “Ender’s Game” is cold and calculating, rather than exciting and challenging, at least for the first two-thirds. If the whole movie pushed the boundaries like the writers finally get around to doing toward the end, this could have been a good thought-provoking, popcorn-munching action flick. But all it is really good for is the popcorn-munching, and that is why “Ender’s Game” is just a stalemate.

Karsten Burgstahler can be reached at kburgstahler@dailyegyptian.com or 536-3311 ext. 261

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

De Niro, Douglas play it safe in "Last Vegas"



KARSTEN BURGSTHALER
Daily Egyptian

If "Ender's Game" is following a tried-and-true young adult formula this weekend, "Last Vegas" (Rated PG-13; 105 Min.) is doing the opposite: it is the second movie in two weeks, after "Bad Grandpa," venturing into the brave unknown of the "Seniors Behaving Badly" genre.

Sure, "Betty White's Off Their Rockers" was a mild success for NBC, and gags about old folks have been rampant in movies for years, but Hollywood studios usually reserved their older-skewing flicks for dramas. "Last Vegas" takes the wildly successful "Hangover" franchise and gives it an AARP spin by sending Billy (Michael Douglas), Paddy (Robert De Niro), Archie (Morgan Freeman) and Sam (Kevin Kline) out to Vegas to celebrate Billy's bachelor party.

Film 101 teaches aspiring filmmakers every movie involves one of two plots: a stranger comes to town or a hero goes on a journey. "Last Vegas" banks on the former, a fish-out-of-water scenario where old guys end up in the middle of a young man's world. It is a one-joke comedy that only succeeds because its cast seems to be having so much fun.

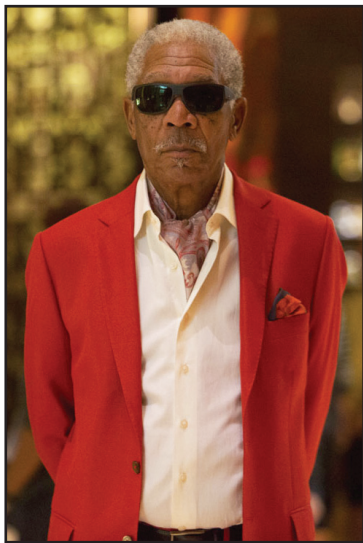
Because whether Archie can dance simply is not a good enough conflict, writer Dan Fogelman injects a rift between Billy and Paddy: The two were in love with the same woman while growing up and Paddy ended up winning her over. Of course, there is still bad blood and over the course of the weekend, the two must overcome their differences and learn a lesson along the way.

It is pretty clear Fogelman's script is quite pedestrian. "Last Vegas" breaks zero new ground beyond throwing some Academy Award winners into a "Hangover" scenario. When the movie meanders on to this entirely predictable side plot "Last Vegas" starts to burn the good will it has built up during its funnier bits. Mary Steenburgen is thrown into the mix as Diana, a lounge singer



Freeman is always a welcome sight. Here he gets drunk and shows off his dance moves. I repeat: Morgan Freeman gets drunk and shows off his dance moves.

— Karsten Burgstahler



PROVIDED PHOTOS

the two become interested in. Guess where that side plot is going? It is a shame Steenburgen is not allowed to be much more than a pawn in Billy and Paddy's feud.

Luckily, there is more good than bad here. Although De Niro and Douglas take the lead, all the time they are swamped in backstory is time for Freeman and Kline to shine. As Sam, Kline steals the show, pure and simple. His wife is looking to spice up their marriage and has given him permission to cheat while in Vegas. Kline uses his charm and wit to really sell his character. It doesn't hurt that Fogelman throws him the best jokes.

Freeman is always a welcome sight. Here he gets drunk and shows off his dance moves. I repeat: Morgan Freeman gets drunk and shows off his dance moves. This alone is worth the price of admission.

"Last Vegas" works because the audience does not have to be convinced these four established actors are having a good time. Their performances seem almost effortless, even when the dialogue starts to drag them down. They are not here to sell a twisty plot or overwrought drama — they are here to have a good time. The humor, while somewhat corny and always safe, is a welcome respite from comedies that exist only to gross out the audience. "Last Vegas" is driven by star power that never seems to peter out.

Even though the movie does occasionally stray from its real objective, it is fun and engaging more often than not. Audiences will leave the theater with smiles on their faces, and that is certainly not a bad way to kick off the holiday movie season.

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WORLD & NATION

LAX suspect set out to kill multiple TSA officers

GILLIAN FLACCUS
Associated Press

The unemployed motorcycle mechanic suspected in the deadly shooting at the Los Angeles airport set out to kill multiple employees of the Transportation Security Administration and hoped the attack would “instill fear in their traitorous minds,” authorities said Saturday.

Paul Ciancia was so determined to take lives that, after shooting a TSA officer and going up an escalator, he turned back to see the officer move and returned to finish him off, according to surveillance video reviewed by investigators.

In a news conference announcing charges against Ciancia, U.S. Attorney Andre Birotte Jr. spelled out a chilling chain of events at LAX that began when Ciancia strode into Terminal 3, pulled a Smith & Wesson .223-caliber assault rifle from his duffel bag and fired repeatedly at point-blank range at a TSA officer. The officer was checking IDs and boarding passes at the base of an escalator leading to the main screening area.

After killing that officer, Ciancia fired on at least two other uniformed TSA employees and an airline passenger, who were all wounded. Airport police eventually shot him as panicked passengers covered in stores and restaurants.

Ciancia, 23, remained hospitalized Saturday after being hit four times and wounded in the mouth and leg. The FBI said he was unresponsive and they had not been able to interview him.

“**We are really going to draw a picture of who this person was, his background, his history. That will help us explain why he chose to do what he did.**”

— David L. Bowditch
FBI Agent

The duffel bag contained a handwritten letter signed by Ciancia stating that he had “made the conscious decision to try to kill” multiple TSA employees and that he wanted to stir fear in them, FBI agent in charge David L. Bowditch said.

Federal prosecutors filed charges of first-degree murder of a federal officer and committing violence at an international airport. The charges could qualify him for the death penalty.

The FBI was still looking into Ciancia’s past, but investigators said they had not found evidence of previous crimes or any run-ins with the TSA. They said he had never applied for a job with the agency.

Authorities believe someone dropped Ciancia off at the airport. Agents were reviewing surveillance tapes to piece together the sequence of events.

“We are really going to draw a picture of who this person was, his background, his history. That will help us explain why he chose to do what he did,” Bowditch said. “At this point, I don’t have the answer on that.”

The note found in the duffel bag suggested Ciancia was willing to kill almost any TSA officer.

“Black, white, yellow, brown, I don’t discriminate,” the note read, according to a paraphrase by a law

enforcement official briefed on the investigation. The official spoke on the condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak publicly.

The screed also mentioned “fiat currency” and “NWO,” possible references to the New World Order, a conspiracy theory that foresees a totalitarian one-world government.

When searched, the suspect had five 30-round magazines, and his bag contained hundreds more rounds in boxes, the law-enforcement official said.

Terminal 3, the area where the shooting happened, reopened Saturday. Passengers who had abandoned luggage to escape Friday’s gunfire were allowed to return to collect their bags.

The TSA planned to review its security policies in the wake of the attack. Administrator John Pistole did not say if that would mean arming officers.

As airport operations returned to normal, a few more details trickled out about Ciancia, who by all accounts was reserved and solitary.

Former classmates barely remember him and even a recent roommate could say little about the young man who moved from New Jersey to Los Angeles less than two years ago. A former classmate at Salesianum School in Wilmington, Del., said Ciancia was incredibly

quiet.

“He kept to himself and ate lunch alone a lot,” David Hamilton told the Los Angeles Times. “I really don’t remember any one person who was close to him In four years, I never heard a word out of his mouth.”

On Friday, Ciancia’s father called police in New Jersey, worried about his son in L.A. The young man had sent texts to his family that suggested he might be in trouble, at one point even saying goodbye.

The call came too late. Ten minutes earlier, police said, he had walked into the airport.

In the worrisome messages, the younger Ciancia did not mention suicide or hurting others, but his father had heard from a friend that his son may have had a gun, said Allen Cummings, police chief in Pennsville, a small blue-collar town near the Delaware River where Ciancia grew up.

The police chief called Los Angeles police, who sent a patrol car to Ciancia’s apartment. There, two roommates said that they had seen him a day earlier and he had appeared to be fine.

But by that time, gunfire was already breaking out at the airport.

“There’s nothing we could do to stop him,” Cummings said.

The police chief said he learned from Ciancia’s father that the young

man had attended a technical school in Florida, then moved to Los Angeles in 2012 hoping to get a job as a motorcycle mechanic. He was having trouble finding work.

Ciancia graduated in December 2011 from Motorcycle Mechanics Institute in Orlando, Fla., said Tina Miller, a spokeswoman for Universal Technical Institute, the Scottsdale, Ariz., company that runs the school.

A basic motorcycle mechanic course takes about a year, she said.

On Friday, as swarms of passengers dropped to the ground or ran for their lives, the gunman seemed to ignore anyone except TSA targets.

Leon Saryan of Milwaukee had just passed through security and was looking for a place to put his shoes and belt back on when he heard gunfire. He managed to hide in a store. As he was cowering in the corner, the shooter approached.

“He looked at me and asked, ‘TSA?’ I shook my head no, and he continued on down toward the gate,” Saryan said.

Authorities identified the dead TSA officer as Gerardo I. Hernandez, 39, the first official in the agency’s 12-year history to be killed in the line of duty.

Friends remembered him as a doting father and a good neighbor who went door-to-door warning neighbors to be careful after his home was burglarized.

In brief remarks outside the couple’s house, his widow, Ana Hernandez, said Saturday that her husband came to the U.S. from El Salvador at age 15.

“He took pride in his duty for the American public and for the TSA mission,” she said.



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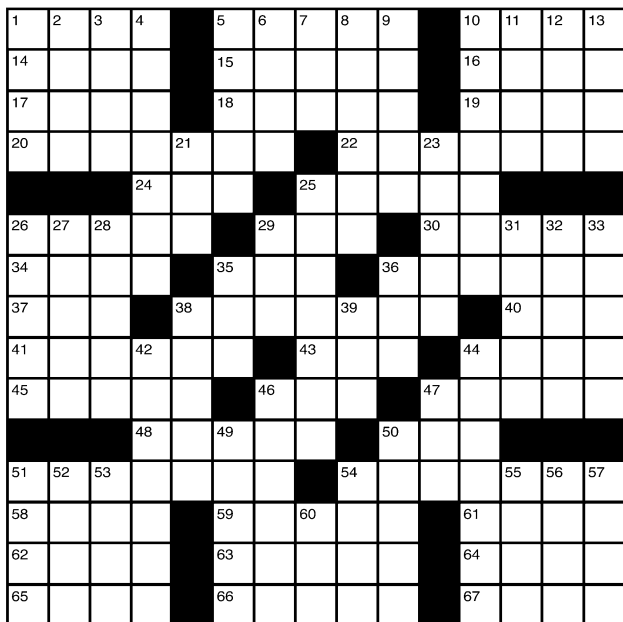
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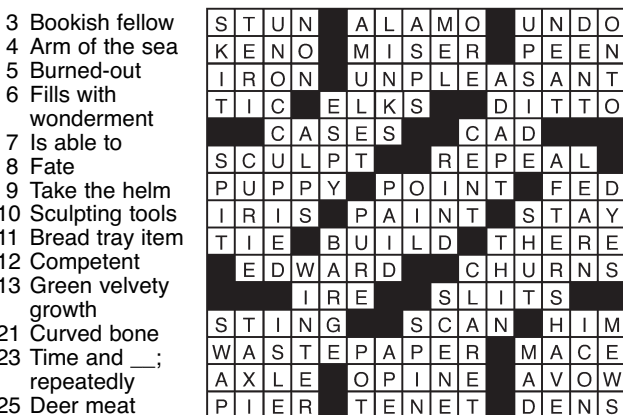
THE Daily Commuter Puzzle by Jacqueline E. Mathews

- ACROSS**
- 1 Out of __; misbehaving
 - 5 Picture cards
 - 10 Study at the 11th hour
 - 14 Applies frosting
 - 15 Watch for
 - 16 Vagabond
 - 17 Knox or Worth
 - 18 Stupid
 - 19 Misfortunes
 - 20 Lasts
 - 22 Viral disease of childhood
 - 24 Lend a hand to
 - 25 Brink; threshold
 - 26 Brief ad, as on a book jacket
 - 29 SST or 747
 - 30 Remembered Texas mission
 - 34 Actress Tomlin
 - 35 Male child
 - 36 Book used at a Catholic Mass
 - 37 Pretense
 - 38 Senior __; oldster
 - 40 Male pronoun
 - 41 Vital records recordings
 - 43 __ up; arrange
 - 44 Game like lotto
 - 45 Fixed gaze
 - 46 Enemy
 - 47 Digs for ore
 - 48 Composer __ Copland
 - 50 Noise
 - 51 Mediator
 - 54 Is antsy
 - 58 Early 4x4 off-road SUV
 - 59 Story by Aesop
 - 61 __ in on; visit
 - 62 Inserts
 - 63 Heron
 - 64 Meanie
 - 65 Stood up
 - 66 Peruses
 - 67 Frame of mind



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews 11/04/13

Thursday's Puzzle Solved



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- DOWN**
- 1 __ jacket; buoyant vest
 - 2 Computer screen image

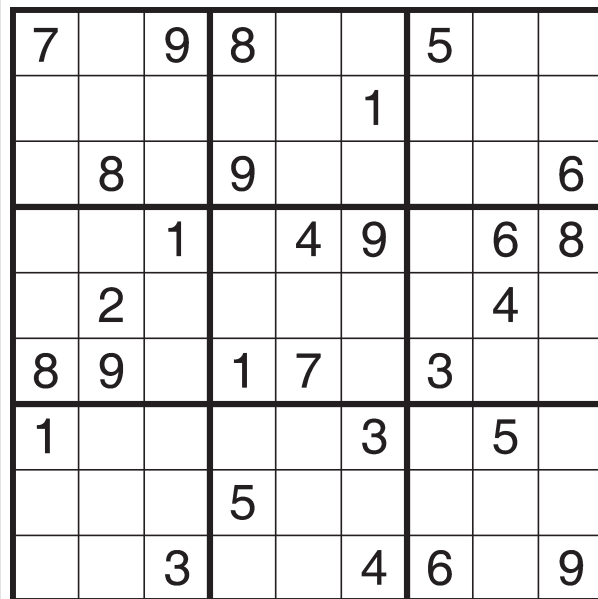
Pick up the **Daily Egyptian** each day to test your crossword skills

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Level: **1** 2 3 4

Thursday's Answers:

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 8 | 3 | 7 | 5 | 1 | 2 | 6 | 9 | 4 |
| 5 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 6 | 9 | 8 | 3 | 7 |
| 4 | 6 | 9 | 7 | 8 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 5 |
| 7 | 5 | 8 | 1 | 9 | 6 | 2 | 4 | 3 |
| 9 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 7 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 8 |
| 3 | 4 | 6 | 8 | 2 | 5 | 7 | 1 | 9 |
| 6 | 7 | 4 | 9 | 5 | 1 | 3 | 8 | 2 |
| 1 | 9 | 5 | 2 | 3 | 8 | 4 | 7 | 6 |
| 2 | 8 | 3 | 6 | 4 | 7 | 9 | 5 | 1 |

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contain every digit, 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit www.sudoku.org.uk.

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

MIXED UP BY:

TAXEC

□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

PINTU

□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

TARGEY

□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

ROCDAC

□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

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Jumble puzzle magazines available at pennydelipuzzles.com/jumb



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer: PUMKIN

Thursday's Answers: BUILD PERKY ATRIUM SNAPPY
When they divided the jack-o'-lantern's circumference by its diameter, they got — PUMPKIN "PI"

HOROSCOPES

By Nancy Black and Stephanie Clement

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Aries — Today is a 7 — Consider travel to areas that you've been itching to explore, physically or figuratively. The work you're doing now leads to higher status, especially long term. Patient, steady action works.

Taurus — Today is a 9 — Explore what would make your partnerships thrive. Balance play with work. Count wins and losses. There's plenty to go around. Support the team with thoughtful consideration.

Gemini — Today is an 8 — You play and work well with others, and that makes for a pretty fun, productive Monday. Compromise is part of the equation. Set aside stores for the winter. Contact a loved one.

Cancer — Today is a 7 — A new creative project demands your attention. Put off procrastination. There's gold in what's being said, if you listen. Feed your love and watch it grow. Give thanks.

Leo — Today is an 8 — You may have to take an idea back to the drawing board. Discipline is the key to your radiance. Complete an old project. Share love and fun with family.

Virgo — Today is a 9 — Consider family in all decisions. Be loving and kind all around, and magical and unexpected miracles show up. Your creative efforts get quite profitable. Focus on fine-tuning your space.

Libra — Today is an 8 — Adventurous communications tempt, and could either distract or further your aim, which is achievable. Keep focused, and use all the resources at hand.

Scorpio — Today is a 9 — Money-making chances and love surround you. Don't close the door on these chances. File them for later, if you can't manage them all now. Have faith in your own imagination.

Sagittarius — Today is an 8 — You're getting stronger (and more impatient). Even though your self-confidence is on the rise, you can use the encouragement, so don't dismiss it. Don't be a lone ranger.

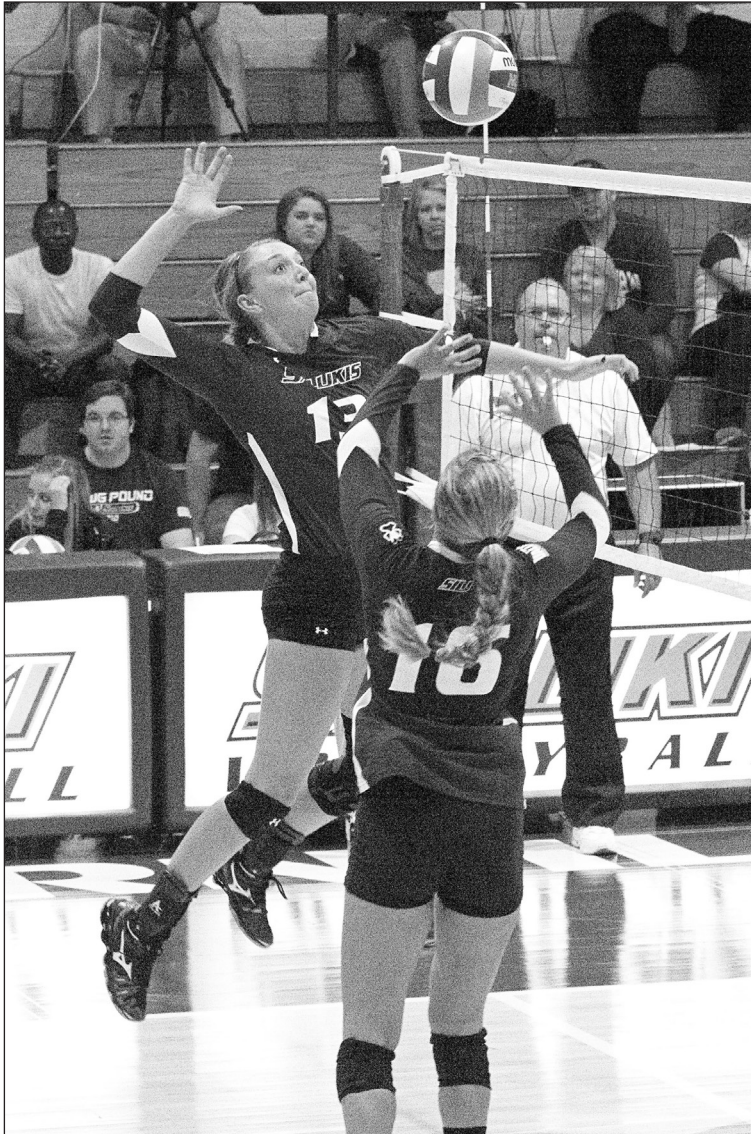
Capricorn — Today is a 7 — Focus on keeping old pledges. Don't take the situation or yourself too seriously. Set lofty goals. It's getting easier to stick to your budget. Start planning an adventure for later.

Aquarius — Today is a 9 — Part of you wants to work and be productive; another part wants to play. Figure out how to do both for the most value. Rearrange furniture so that your space inspires you.

Pisces — Today is a 9 — Taking risks can be a good thing. Your ideas will spawn with new twists in the face of mishap. Reinvent, imagine and create. Ask for support from others to follow your dreams.

VOLLEYBALL

Volleyball upsets Shockers in five sets at Davies



REMY ABROUGHT | DAILY EGYPTIAN

TYLER DIXON
Daily Egyptian

The women's volleyball team started the weekend with a tough loss, but ended it with a win over conference and national power, the Wichita State University Shockers.

SIU welcomed Missouri State University to Davies Gym Friday for the annual Dig for the Cure match and the Shockers Saturday.

The highlight of the two matches this weekend was the five-set thriller Friday against Wichita State.

SIU started the match hot and took the first set 25-23. Despite losing the set, the Shockers bench could be heard throughout the gym. Wichita State was chanting and getting its team pumped up.

The Salukis were able to grab another win in the second set 25-21 and headed into the third with a two set to nothing lead.

The Shockers got the charge they needed during the break and came into the third set, not wanting to head back to Kansas early.

Wichita State led the entire third set and came away with a 25-19 win. In the fourth, SIU went on a rally toward the end of the set, but the deficit was too much to overcome as they fell 25-21 and were forced into a fifth set.

The Salukis were let out of their cage in the fifth and won the match 3-2 with a 15-11 win in the final set.

Senior outside hitter Jessica Whitehead improved her season average and finished with 25 kills. Senior outside hitter Elly Braaten

and sophomore middle blocker Taylor Phippen each finished with 12.

Junior defensive specialist Alex Rivera had 23 digs in the win, but the biggest came in the fifth off of a Shocker kill attempt, she kept the point alive and the Salukis won the point.

Freshman setter Hannah Kaminsky had a key service ace in the fifth to put SIU up 14-10.

Kaminsky said she hit the ball in the zone that Coach Justin Ingram told her. She said her team entered the fifth set knowing they were going to win the match.

"It was a good feeling, I was like let's get this ball over," Kaminsky said. "I knew we were going to put it down."

Whitehead said even if the Shockers had a big kill, her team did not let it bother them and they focused on the next point.

"We didn't give up or anything," she said. "We just kept fighting and going for it."

Ingram said he knew coming into the match against Wichita State that his team was dangerous, and they can beat any team on any given night.

"We have high expectations for the group, and need to control what we can but certainly need to enjoy this moment," Ingram said.

One reason for the Salukis' great play Saturday was the disappointing loss to the Bears the night before.

The Salukis dropped the first set Friday against the Bears 25-23, but fought back in the second and took it 25-20. The rest of the match was all Missouri State. They won the third 25-21 and closed out the match with

a narrow win in the fourth 25-23.

Ingram said the key to the match was his team's defense.

"The bottom line of the match was we couldn't defend their quick, and we couldn't defend anything to our left side blockers," Ingram said.

Whitehead led the Salukis in kills with 17 while two other players finished with double-digit kills. Braaten finished with 12 kills and Phippen tallied 11 in the loss.

Whitehead said her team communication was lacking in the match and they were not helping each other fix mistakes.

"The first and third games, we really weren't talking that much, I honestly don't think everybody was ready," Whitehead said. "We didn't come out to fight and they were ready to battle."

More than 500 fans packed Davies in pink for Dig for the Cure against the Bears. Ingram said his team would always support breast cancer awareness.

"It's nationwide, the Dig for the Cure and we feel great about any kind of promotions we can do that are going to help out the betterment of others," Ingram said.

The Salukis will head to Iowa next weekend to face the University of Northern Iowa Friday and Drake University Saturday. These will conclude the team's last road trip of the season.

Tyler Dixon can be reached at tdixon@dailyegyptian.com or 536-3311 ext. 269.

BASKETBALL

CONTINUED FROM 12

Harris-Stowe University was not certified to play and SIU had to find a replacement on short notice. Coach Barry Hinson said he wanted to thank UMSL and its coach, Bob Sundvold, for

saving SIU at the last minute.

UMSL had a 17-10 record last season and a 10-8 record in the Great Lakes Valley Conference. The Tritons finished with three players in double figures and were lead by senior guard Femi John, who finished with 22 points.

Hinson said he expected it to

be a tough game and the result will help his team in the future.

"Not one thing tonight surprised me," Hinson said. "If you could have had a one-point win and had to play your tail off, that's far better than a 20-point blowout."

Hinson said the team is going

to redshirt a player this season and he is using the exhibition games to figure out which player to choose.

"Whoever we decide to redshirt is speaking volumes that we really expect great things out of that player," Hinson said.

The Salukis final exhibition

game is Saturday against William Jewel University at SIU Arena. The team opens the regular season on the road at the University of Missouri Nov. 12.

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FOOTBALL

CONTINUED FROM 12

"He really reminds me a lot of Larry Warner," Lennon said. "He's just a tough guy to tackle. A lot of his plays, we were there at the point

of attack, and where he makes you pay is that he bounces it. You tell your guys don't over pursue, and then once you do that, you give up seems in the middle. He's just a difficult back to defend."

Overall, Lennon said he was

pleased with his team's effort to pull out another road victory.

"I'm proud of our guys how we hung together," Lennon said. "There were a lot of momentum swings throughout the course of the game. There are definitely

things we need to get better at, but at the same time, when we needed to make plays, we did make plays, and we found a way to win the ballgame."

The Salukis will return home Saturday as they face Missouri

State University at Saluki Stadium and try to stay in the playoff picture.

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CROSS COUNTRY

CONTINUED FROM 12

The top-20 SIU finishers included sophomore Kelley Gallagher (17:41.6), sophomore Krista Menghini (17:55.3), junior Tori Parry (18:18.7), and junior Lacey Gibson (18:19.1).

Coach Matt Sparks put another dent in SIU history, making it the second time since 1987 that the same coach won both titles. Wichita State University coach John Kornelson, was the last coach to do so.

Sparks collected his fifth MVC men's title, and his sixth MVC women's title. This marks Sparks' name down in SIU history for collecting the most titles, and also

ties former coach Bill Cornell for the fourth most men's titles in school history.

"I think it's a combination of hard work and trying to fix all of the puzzle pieces to put together in a perfect way," Sparks said. "So it's more of a relief than anything to put in so much hard work and have both two wins happen on the same day."

This tallies up another SIU title for the men, after winning last season's MVC Championship and also making it the 14th men's MVC title in SIU history.

Last season the men ran five All-MVC runners including NCAA qualifier senior Brian Dixon who this year finished fourth for SIU with a time of 24:50.0, and 11th in the

MVC finishing within three seconds of his third-straight all-conference honor.

The Saluki men finished with a total team score of 38, sweeping Loyola, the second place finisher, by 59 points.

First place SIU finisher and fourth place MVC finisher senior Zach Dahleen completed the race in 24:30.3.

"It was great to repeat our conference championship," Dahleen said. "Everybody just knew that we had to pull out with a win."

The men defeated schools such as Loyola University Chicago, Illinois State University, Bradley University, University of Northern Iowa, and Wichita State University.

Since this is the second consecutive win for the men, the Salukis already knew what they were getting themselves into.

"As a team this year we went into the race pretty highly favored," Dahleen said. "We kind of had a cockier attitude since we were last year's winners and we tried to run as fast and hard as we could to pull it out."

The top-20 Saluki men's finishers were junior Nick Schrader (24:31.3), sophomore Oscar Medina (25:35.4), and sophomore Juan Carrera (24:57.7).

Schrader met his personal time record and is excited to complete a personal goal of his.

"Although I am happy with our performance, there are still other

things to be done," Schrader said. "We still have regionals in a couple weeks and we want to make it to nationals as a team."

Sparks said he is proud of his Salukis and happy that everything worked out as he planned.

"We have just been working towards one thing, and another thing, and another thing," he said. "And we have had the expectations to win, but it's so much more sweet to have the title."

The Salukis will face regionals next, as they will compete in NCAA Regionals in Ames, Iowa Nov. 15.

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CHRIS ZOELLER | DAILY EGYPTIAN

Senior guard Desmar Jackson prepares for a dunk Saturday during the Salukis' 71-66 exhibition win over the University of Missouri—St. Louis at SIU Arena. Jackson led SIU with 29 points and shot 13-of-16 from the free-throw line. SIU will host William Jewell College for an exhibition game at 7:05 p.m. Saturday at SIU Arena.

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Salukis sink Tritons in exhibition game

TYLER DIXON
Daily Egyptian

Two players combined for 50 points, but 3-point shooting was still an issue in the first exhibition game of the Salukis' season.

Fans got their first look at a revamped roster that featured only five players from last season's team. The team was able to click at the right time to get the outcome they and the fans wanted, a 71-66 win.

The Salukis held an eight-point halftime lead, edging the Tritons 30-22. With 8:44 remaining in the first half, SIU led 16-14 and never trailed the rest of the game.

However, University of Missouri-St. Louis would not go down without a fight. Eight points was the biggest deficit they faced all night. The Tritons trailed by three points with 12 seconds left in the game, they attempted a long three-pointer, but did not succeed. The Salukis were able to hit two free throws to ice the game.

The key players for the Salukis came as no surprise. Senior guard and Missouri Valley Conference Preseason All-Conference team selection Desmar Jackson finished with 29 points, 4 rebounds and

3 steals. Jackson was also 13-16 from the free-throw line.

Sophomore guard Anthony Beane had 21 points and 11-12 from the free throw line. Hinson said when the season starts, he needs to let Beane have a break.

"I can't play Anthony 33 minutes, I mean I can, I did tonight," Hinson said. "But I don't want to."

One of the downfalls of the Salukis last season was the lack of 3-point shooting. Hinson said at SIU's media day that it could not get worse. The team was 0-11 from 3-point range.

Jackson said he is confident the team can get that part of the game turned around.

"I wouldn't say it's a concern, we have some good shooters," Jackson said. "The ball wouldn't go in from 3-point range."

Seven Salukis got their first taste of Division I basketball against UMSL.

Hinson said the new players did some things well, but they have to improve in other areas.

"Defensively they really struggled, the speed of the game, this level," Hinson said. "The physical part of this game bothered them, they missed open shots."

Hinson said the players did not

play like they are used to playing.

"Every one of them were one shade off albino, they were scared to death," Hinson said. "Sean O'Brien was so scared, Bronson Verhines won a national championship and he was scared, and Bola (Olaniyan) bless his heart, he wasn't even here, he was still in Nigeria."

Verhines said it was everything he thought it would be when he stepped onto the court.

"It was everything I expected, I didn't play too well I didn't think, I think a little jitters for this game, but it's a long season," he said. "There's a lot of room for improvement, so I'm just looking forward to getting better."

Verhines said being in a close game with UMSL would help them for the rest of the season.

"It's great for us to have that challenge, jumping into the first game," Verhines said. "We have so many new faces. Getting that experience of going down to the wire can help us in the long run."

The Salukis did not have much time to prepare for the Tritons, who were not added to the schedule until the day before the game.

Please see BASKETBALL | 11

CROSS COUNTRY

SIU makes history after taking home two MVC championships

SYMONE WOOLRIDGE
Daily Egyptian

After long practices and intense workouts, the Saluki cross-country teams have shown that hard work pays off.

Both men and women of the SIU cross-country teams were declared Missouri Valley Conference Champions Saturday afternoon in Des Moines, Iowa.

The same school have not won both titles in over 20 years. Illinois State University was the last school to walk away with both MVC titles in 1989.

The SIU women took home a MVC title they have not captured in more than 20 years and won their second championship ever in a 5K race.

The women's competition was not a cakewalk as they raced against some of the best. During the race, the Salukis were down by eight points until nearly the end when they made a sprint to the finish.

SIU completed the race with 43 total points, defeating second place team Bradley University by 20 points.

The Salukis placed three All-MVC runners on the women's side, making this

the most ever under Coach Matt Sparks.

First place SIU finisher Kristin Levi completed the race with a time of 17:30.3. Levi said the women's win was unexplainable, and beyond believing.

"We all were very confident," Levi said. "Not confident to the point where we knew we were going to win, but to the point where we all knew what we wanted to accomplish and it was all really encouraging."

Being the first women's team since 1992 to take home a MVC Championship, the Salukis finally showed what they have worked so hard for.

"This is exactly what we wanted since last year," Levi said. "Last year we left with a bitter taste in our mouths and this year we didn't want to leave with that unhappy feeling again."

Right behind Levi sprinted fourth place MVC finisher junior Sadie Darnell. Darnell completed the race with a time of 17:33.4.

"We had our eye on the goal and pulled through and won," Darnell said. "It was really exciting to see our training make a difference."

Please see CROSS COUNTRY | 11

FOOTBALL

Salukis leave crick in Leathernecks

TERRANCE PEACOCK
Daily Egyptian

The SIU football team won its third straight conference road game to stay in the playoff hunt, thanks to a breakout performance by redshirt quarterback Ryan West.

West finished with 147 passing yards, two touchdowns and an interception. Senior linebacker Bryan Presume chipped in with 11 tackles to lead the Salukis (5-4, 3-2 Missouri Valley Football Conference) to a 34-28 victory against Western Illinois University (3-7, 1-5 MVFC).

The Salukis led the entire way, but held on to win late in the game, as the resilient Leathernecks never backed down.

Coach Dale Lennon said this was the game he expected.

"(WIU) has come back against every other team they've played so far," Lennon said. "We knew it would be a challenge. We just had a tough time putting them away, and they kept battling."

The Salukis jumped out to an early lead after West threw two touchdown passes in the first 10 minutes of the game to give SIU an early 14-0 advantage.

West said the two early scores took away any nervousness he may have had making his first career start and boosted everyone's confidence.

"It was huge, not only for me but for the team as well," West said. "Going up two scores early, I think that takes a lot of the pressure off the rest of the guys as well."

The play of the game came with the Salukis leading 20-14 with five minutes left in the third quarter.

Presume blocked the Leatherneck's 32-yard field goal attempt. Sophomore safety D.J. Cameron batted the ball forward in an attempt to recover the loose ball before Presume finally scooped it up and returned it for a score to put the Salukis up 27-14.

"I got under the tight end and was able to get to the kicker and just put my hands out and make the block," Presume said. "I was waiting on D.J. to actually scoop the ball. It took him too long, so I did it for him."

Although the Salukis came away with the win, the Leathernecks outgained SIU by nearly 200 yards, and totaled 460 yards of total offense. WIU was lead by junior running back J.C. Baker who ran for 163 yards and two touchdowns on 25 attempts, including 110 yards in the second half.

Lennon said Baker reminded him of a former Saluki back, as the Salukis had a difficult time containing him.

Please see FOOTBALL | 11