Dissertation to go under review

Poshard to submit disputed document to department for recommendations

Joe Crawford
Daily Egyptian

The fate of SIU President Glenn Poshard’s doctoral dissertation is in the hands of SIUC.

SIU President Glenn Poshard submitted his dissertation to the Department of Educational Administration and Higher Education — from which he attained his doctorate — would re-review his dissertation to determine what changes he should make to the 1984 document.

“I will make whatever changes are recommended by the department,” Poshard said, “and, doing so, I hope to fulfill the highest expectations you have of me as your president,” Poshard said.

See REVIEW, Page 3

Enrollment rollercoaster

SIUC has had ups and downs when it comes to recruitment and retention

Enrollment figures for the fall semester are scheduled for release today. Retaining and attracting students has been a hot-button topic at SIUC in the recent years. Here’s a look at SIUC’s recent enrollment history.

Brandy Oxford
Daily Egyptian
DeAndre Ellon and Jenny Hart
Daily Egyptian graphic artists

1990s
1991 - SIUC’s all-time enrollment record was set at 24,869.
1994 - 20,662 students took at least one credit hour at the Carbondale campus.
1997 - 2,234 new full-time freshmen seeking baccalaureate degrees started at SIUC. About 73 percent stayed their sophomore year and 59.2 percent stayed a third year.

2000
67 percent of 2,261 freshmen continued to a second year at SIUC.

2001
Enrollment numbers were down about 1,000 students from Fall 2000.

Fall 2002:
University statistics showed 21,873 students enrolled for fall 2002.
Aug. 30 – Anne Deluca, former assistant vice chancellor for Student Affairs and Enrollment management and former director of Admissions, attributed increased enrollment to programs like Student Orientation Advisement Registration, which introduces students to campus before they begin attending classes.
Sept. 17 – Enrollment was up 275 students, but retention rates were still low. Larry Dietz, vice chancellor for student affairs and enrollment management, said retention problems were the result of SIUC’s higher number of military installations compared to other state universities and the need for those students elsewhere.

Spring 2003:
Jan. 17 – Dietz said many students had not been able to sign up for classes because of military restrictions. The university has a number of off-campus satellite locations at military bases.

Fall 2003:
Aug. 20 – A 16 percent tuition increase took effect as part of the second year of a plan to increase enrollment over a four-year period.
Sept. 4 – Enrollment is at 21,387 students. Former Chancellor Walt Wendler said he believed a drop in military enrollment to be a primary factor in the decrease. Wendler also said the economy was driving many to pursue a place in the workforce.

Spring 2004:
Jan. 15 – SIUC’s retention rate hovered around 40 percent for full-time students completing a degree within six years. Wendler sought to increase graduation rates by investing more than $4 million in financial aid and increasing on-campus job opportunities.
Feb. 5 – Enrollment decreased 548 students compared to spring 2003.

Fall 2004:
Sept. 9 – Enrollment figures rose by 202 students from 2003. University enrollment stood at 21,589 students. Dietz said universities across the nation were struggling with decreased international enrollment.
Sept. 24 – University figures showed on-campus enrollment was lower than it had been in a decade. Tuition for out-of-state students, including international students, increased by 45 percent in 2004.

Fall 2005:
Total enrollment was at 21,413.

Fall 2006:
Since 2000, university enrollment had dropped by more than 1,000 students. Enrollment was at 21,003.

See OLD CASE, Page 5

A suspect charged for a killing that took place 25 years ago will make his first court appearance Thursday.

Carbondale Police Chief Bob Ledbetter, accompanied by Jackson County State’s Attorney Mike Wepsic and Lt. Paul Echols, announced Friday afternoon an arrest was made for the 1982 homicide of Deborah R. Sheppard. DNA evidence led police to Timothy W. Krajcir. Both Sheppard and Krajcir were students at SIUC at the time of the murder.

Police found Sheppard’s nude body on the floor of her apartment April 8, 1982. Although the cause of death was not immediately known, investigation and evidence on the scene helped the police determine Sheppard’s death a homicide. Ledbetter said the cause of death was strangulation.

Sheppard was one month away from graduating from SIUC with a marketing degree when she was killed. Krajcir was also enrolled at the university studying administration of justice and psychology. Echols said.

“Numerous investigative leads and interviews were conducted and several possible suspects were developed but unfortunately, for us and the Sheppard family, this investigation went cold,” Ledbetter said.

Ledbetter said the breakthrough came due to the advance in forensic technology.

“The constant improvements in technology used in forensic science make something that did not seem important a couple of years ago, let alone 25 years ago, become a key piece of evidence in solving a case,” Ledbetter said.

He said Echols came to him in the spring with evidence he discovered which contained the DNA of the suspect.
Most troubled Illinois bridges are rural and untraveled

The number, one-lane bridge on Douglas County Road 1030 has seen much better days. Concrete slabs are falling; the bridge is unsafe, and the structure anchoring it is the wrong type for the road.

But the bridge over the Kaskaskia River, built in 1913, won’t be replaced any time soon, even though it scored just 17.6 out of 100 on its last inspection. The bridge has a nine-ton weight limit, but some people who live nearby say they have school buses, farm trucks crossing it.

“More really is reaching a breaking point where we can’t keep up with bridges deteriorating," said Jim Carino, state engineer. "We get to a point where we just have to close the bridge.”

Hundreds of other bridges throughout Illinois, in the same position — too many needs and not enough cash.

Most of the 2,400 Illinois bridges deemed structurally deficient are small, single-lane bridges, an Associated Press review of federal data found. They need help, but can’t compete with bigger, busier bridges for state dollars.

Douglas County, for example, had about $400,000 last year for bridges but replacing one cost can million dollars. Costs keep going up, but state and federal money doesn’t match that growth.

Of the 2,400 Illinois bridges with structural problems, more than 1,000 serve just one car or fewer vehicles each day, the AP review found. Among the very worst bridges — those scoring 50 or less on inspections — more than half have tiny traffic levels.

Down the road from the Kaskaskia bridge, 89-year-old Robert Flomme said he wasn’t concerned about its condition.

“Of course,” said Flomme, who has spent his entire life near the crumbling span. “I just never new it came from before.”

“Bridges stock up on ephemera for Honest Abe's 200th birthday

Mostly sunny and warm.

\[THESATURDAY\]

Mostly sunny and warm.

\[THESUNDAY\]

Mostly sunny and warm.

\[THEMONDAY\]

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\[THETUESDAY\]

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In a letter from Poshard addressed to the department’s chair Brad Colwell, Poshard asked the department to compare his dissertation to the sources from which he is accused of lifting passages and higher education, said Monday he did not know how the department would deal with its charge arose will not have a member appointed to the hearing committee. If the committee decides academic dishonesty occurred, possible sanctions include forcing the accused student to complete “additional academic requirements” or stripping the student of his or her degree. The board has final say regarding whether a degree is rescinded.

Poshard’s letter to Brad Colwell and mentioned facets of the graduate catalogue, visit siude.com.

13th Annual Day Of Service
September 8th, 2007
8:30 a.m.-1 p.m.

Make a difference in the community, meet new people and have fun!

An Opportunity to Volunteer With:
Touch of Nature, 4-H Community Garden, Beautify Southern Illinois, or Main Street Planting

Pizza will be provided to volunteers!
*Pre-register at the Student Development (3rd floor of the Student Center) by August 31st!
Phone: 453-5714

We’re so good it’s scary!
Panama Canal begins expansion, expected to double capacity

By CARLOS PARRA

Panama blew away a piece of a hillside next to the canal as a symbol of the start of the waterway’s biggest expansion since it opened in 1914.

In the presence of former President Carlos Menem, who signed the 1977 treaty that gave Panama control of the waterway, President Martin Torrijos ceremoniously started the first of two sides of locks being added to both sides of the canal.

“We are witnessing an exceptional and historic moment,” Menem said.

After the explosion sent up a cloud of smoke, the $5.25 billion expansion is expected to triple the 30-meter canal capacity and lower the price of consumer goods on the East Coast of the United States by widening bigger vessels to squeeze through with minimal cost.

Two hours of the cars that passed through the canal is headed to or from the United States. China is the Panama Canal’s second-largest user.

The waterway now crosses 14 percent of the world’s current trade. It is expected to stay in use for up to 2014 and 2015.

Palestinian rocket hits near Israeli day care center, Olmert threatens to hit back

A rocket fired from Gaza hit a kindergarten near the Israeli border with Gaza, sparking anger and panic in the frequently- targeted area and triggering warnings of retribution from Israeli leaders.

Palestinian militants fired a rocket Friday morning, said Avichai Milchak, a military spokesman. The rocket hit a kindergarten located near the border with Gaza.

The kindergarten is a school for about 70 children and it has a large roof.

No one was hurt, but the blast and the panic that followed caused children to run for cover and angry parents said they wouldn’t send their children to school until they get classrooms outdoors.

Gaza militants have said they plan to provide “better security for the residents,” indicating they would step up the Israeli offensive against Palestinian militants.

The Israeli military has been on high alert regarding to targeting the rocket launchers and those who support them.

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Jackson County State Attorney Mike Wepsieć answers questions at a press conference Friday regarding the 25 year old homicide case of Deborah Sheppard, a former SIU student. A key piece of DNA evidence found last week led to the arrest of Timothy W. Krajcir.

COLD CASE

(continued from page 1)

“It’s nothing new, it was evidence that was collected 25 years ago,” Echols said.

Both the Illinois State Police Forensic Science Laboratory in Carbondale and the Crime Lab in Springfield examined the evidence. The DNA information led police to question Krajcir.

Police traveled to the Big Muddy Correctional Center in Ina where Krajcir was being held to question him.

“Last week, Lt. Echols and Detective Sergeant Michael Osifcin traveled to (Big Muddy Correctional) facility, interviewed the suspect and learned information fr

implicated him as the person who

led to questioning Krajcir,” said Echols.

Echols said there are four counts against Krajcir alleging he strangled Sheppard knowingly and with intent to kill her while committing a forcible felony.

“Mr. Krajcir is convicted of felony murder, the court could sentence him to natural life in prison,” Ledbetter said.

Detective Sergeant Michael Osifcin traveled to the Big Muddy Correctional Center in Ina where Krajcir was being held to question him.

The DNA information led police to question Krajcir.

Based on evidence that was collected 25 years ago, Echols said.

“We’re trying to get it up to 100 people deep and we saw cops and none of them tried to stop us because they know it’s legal.”

“The first ride was held on Sax’s birthday in March and had a turnout of about 25 people. Since then, the movement has gained popularity through word-of-mouth as well as street chalk ads and flyers.

“We’re trying to get it up to a hundred people, then maybe to hundreds of thousands,” Sax joked.

Unlike Critical Mass rides in other cities, there is no set course for the throng of cyclists snaking through the streets.

“The group leads itself, there’s not one leader most of the time,” said Ryan Claypool, an alumnus from Marshall who currently lives in Carbondale. “Whoever’s in front leads.

There are plans for themed rides, such as a Halloween ride held later in the evening where people would be encouraged to dress up.

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An ode to wishful thinking

I f everyone in the world were granted a do-over, life would surely be easier. Maybe an umpire called a strike when it should have been a ball. Maybe a ding on a car in the parking lot could have been avoided if one had paid just a little more attention. Or maybe the president of a university system erred while writing his dissertation and now wishes he could slap on a few changes and call it a day.

For SIU President Glenn Poshard, submitting his dissertation to the Department of Educational Administration and Higher Education for review seems to be his version of such wishful thinking. However, simply editing his dissertation to meet academic standards should not excuse Poshard from facing any consequences.

Should his dissertation be corrected? Absolutely. Should we forget about determining whether he committed plagiarism? Not if this university wants to uphold the very cornerstone of discipline and excellence it stands for.

There is very little information available about the committee Poshard called for during Friday’s press conference. What it will determine and the amount of authority it has are some of the more obvious questions that need answers.

Regardless of the outcome, this committee’s findings should not be a substitute for justice. In a written request to the department, Poshard stated “when mistakes are made, even though unintentional, they need to be promptly acknowledged and remedied.”

Trying to tell that to any student who has been subjected to expulsion after being charged with academic dishonesty. The Daily Egyptian doubts the university would allow them the privilege of a quick fix. Christopher Dusshold, an SIUE professor who was dismissed in 2004 for plagiarizing his teaching statement, definitely would have benefited from a rewrite.

The measuring stick Poshard has used during his tenure on those below him should be the same one he uses for himself.

Poshard has also used a peculiar method in dealing with these allegations. According to the current graduate school policy, when charges of academic dishonesty are brought to the attention of the department, they “shall be initiated by the dean of the graduate school.” Moreover, “the academic unit from which the charge arose will not have a member appointed to the hearing committee.”

Yet Poshard has bypassed this policy and requested the review of the very department that approved his dissertation.

Not only does the Daily Egyptian think this policy should be enforced, we still contend a committee outside SIU should be created to determine if plagiarism was committed.

To skip over whether these allegations are true would be more damning for this university than some bad press.

STAFF COLUMN

Slackers: save money, stay at home

DANNY WENGER
dwenger@siu.edu

I’d like to think I’m a fairly funny guy, but one joke I don’t get is this one: “Oh man, I totally bombed that test. Ha ha ha. I didn’t even study. Ha ha ha. I’m a moron. Ha ha ha.”

OK, well they usually don’t say that last part, but I’m sure you get the point.

I don’t know what it is about failure, when applied in an educational context, that people find to be humorous. Students fail tests and retake classes only to not study the material for a second time and — once again — fail the tests.

And somehow they laugh at the way or manage to blame their professors. It’s not always the lack of studying that claims academic lives either; so many fall victim to the lack of sleep.

Now don’t get me wrong, I’ve fallen asleep in class before too. I am still human despite my divine attributes. I’m referring more to the students who choose to get their eight hours in a horribly uncomfortable plastic chair rather than their Posturepedic mattress. I can think of one class I was in where a student came in, set down his backpack and leaned back to snore for 50 minutes. It happened almost every time we had class.

I wouldn’t be surprised if all his chair sleeping hasn’t left him with a spine like a question mark.

Now the question I asked myself upon observing some of these students was why didn’t this brilliant, shining star of the American college system just stay home?

Honestly, who pays $3,000 a semester to retake classes? Or to use your backpack as a pillow? Or to write Facebook posts from class when you can do so for free from the comforts of home?

The only answer I can come up with is the lack of sacrifice on the part of the students.

We’re living in the age of debt, where our wants exceed our needs by Herculean proportions, and all too many candidates are willing to fill in the gap. Student loans are easy to fill out — and you don’t have to pay them back.

So why not just borrow several grand?

Students who don’t go down the debt road usually have a pair of adults, commonly referred to as parents, throwing hard-earned cash their way.

Either way you slice it the end result is the same. A lack of sacrifice translates into a lack of effort.

The saddest part to me is the eventual awakening for those students. The work force is significantly less forgiving than SIU, and when you get fired or “fail” a job, you can’t just sign up again in the spring.

For all the students heading down that wonderful road, I’d recommend doing themselves a favor and refraining from signing up for class. It’ll save you some money for when you fall asleep on the job and get fired.

Wenger is a junior studying Spanish and journalism.
Elysium Academia: A play in three acts

Dear Editor:

Dr. De Ar

Dear Editor:

Regarding the recent spread regarding Dr. Poshard, I find this is nothing more than the efforts of dis-gruntled individuals (Alumni and Faculty Against Corruption) who by remaining "anonymous" give little credence to their allegations and in fact are cowardly. This perpetuates the efforts of some to keep this university from moving forward.

We would be hard-pressed to find anyone who cares more about SIU or has done more than Glenn Poshard. He is certainly not without his flaws but to

Poshard allegations

Dear Editor:

I work in a campus community that has come together like never before in recent memory. We give true substance to the "community" with a climate that is welcoming, collegial and practices civil discourse and informed dissent. Who can mistake the excitement this year: wel- come tents, hundreds of volunteer students, staff and faculty helping during move-in, a myriad of welcoming activities and the outstanding visit by Chris Gardner. Then comes the Thursday DHD hearing. Make no mistake — "the timing of this latest hunt for so-called plagiarism by Alumni and Faculty Against Corruption is intended to do great harm at a time when we are in full back-to-school mode with thousands of new people on our campus. The goal is maximum damage. That is real corruption at work. "The source, who insisted on anonymity..." Anonymity? That kind of cowardice displays a breath-taking corruption of the soul. No courage to face

A vindictive attack

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Higher Learning?

Dear Editor:

I found myself sitting at home watching Higher Learning yesterday and realized this is a story that is constantly re-echoing itself every day. You may not have seen this movie, but it. I look back at the years I spent at this school and have come to realize that there is much racial tension at this school, and some actions need to be done about it. The black community is upset and tired of being oppressed and looked over. How many rallies can we have until someone decides to take these matters into their own hands? Do not get me wrong, this is not a cry for help, I have not had any major issues with

Stand behind Poshard

Dear Editor:

I write in support of President Glenn Poshard. Dr. Poshard has dedicated his entire career to helping southern Illinois and SIUC. This is a rogue and vindic-

REALITY CHECK

Dear Editor:

The recent news of alleged police brutality at Club Sin is most unsettling, but not because of the allegations themselves. What is unsettling is seeing so many well-educated people putting on such enormous blinders to the reality of this situation.

The fact of the matter is that the police were called to Club Sin because this man was causing a disturbance and refused to leave the premises. Had he not been breaking the law in the first place, he would have likely had no dealings with the police that evening. He made a choice to break the law, and with that choice comes consequences. When the police arrived, he had another choice: either comply, or resist. He chose to resist. He gave the police no other option than to use force. There were neither tasers nor police dogs, nor gaggles of armed men bludgeoning an innocent victim like some would have you believe. It was a routine arrest that turned into a result of one man’s choice to disobey the law. It is unfortunate that an injury resulted, but

PHOTOGRAPHY

Edward Benyas

REMEMBER:

The Daily Egyptian is published by the students of Southern Illinois University. Offices are in the Communications Building, Room 129, at Southern Illinois University at Carbondale, Carbondale, IL 62901. Weekly Journal, fiscal office. First copy is free; each additional copy 50 cents. Mail subscriptions available.

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EDITORIAL POLICY

On the Word in the consensus of the Daily Egyptian Editorial Board on local, national and global issues affecting the Southern Illinois University campus, Views are expressed in columns and letters to the editor do not necessarily reflect the views of the Daily Egyptian.

We reserve the right to not publish any letter or guest column.

Phone number required to verify authorship (number will not be published). Students must include year and major. Faculty must include rank and department. Non-staff include position and department. Others include hometown.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters and guest columns must be submitted with author’s contact information, preferably via e-mail. All letters are limited to 300 words and columns to 500 words. All topics are acceptable. All submissions are subject to editing.

The Daily Egyptian is published by the students of Southern Illinois University at Carbondale, with fall and spring circulations of 20,000. Fall issue covers SIU on campus and in the Carbondale, Murphysboro, and Carbondale communities.

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E-mail:
editor@siu.edu
Greetings SIUC, from the Undergraduate Admissions Family!

Did you know that these Undergraduate Admission Coordinators travel to high schools, community colleges, and college fairs all over the state of Illinois?

Meet the rest of the Undergraduate Admissions family.

Undergraduate Admissions also hosts on campus open houses and receptions, off-campus receptions, campus tours, individual campus visits and group campus visits. We call potential students and host online chats, provide in-house admission counseling, process new applications, collect student information, and reach out to potential new students through advertising, emails, and mailings. Combined, the traveling Admission Coordinators and the in-house Undergraduate Admissions staff make up the Undergraduate Admissions family!

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LOS ANGELES — In the annals of celebrity crime, record producer Phil Spector’s murder trial may stand as one of the strangest.

The saga of a forgotten music industry legend and a fading cult movie actress found dead in his hilltop castle is the stuff of film noir, those dark epics that explore a world of glamour, dread and danger.

At the center of the drama is Spector, 67, a diminutive figure in long frock coats and wild hairdos, a millionaire rock music producer past his heyday, holed up in a Victorian mansion far from the Hollywood music industry he once ruled.

The tragic figure is Lana Clarkson, 40, a gorgeous 6-foot actress with Marilyn Monroe dreams who craved fame more than anything but was so down on her luck that she took a $9-an-hour hostess job at the House of Blues night club.

Ironically, she became more famous in death, her picture splashed across newspapers and TV screens the morning after Feb. 3, 2003 when she was found with a bullet through her mouth in the formal red foyer of Spector’s home.

It would take eight months for police to charge Spector with a crime and four years to bring the case to trial.

Now, after five months of testimony, the end is near. Final arguments are scheduled Wednesday and Thursday and jurors are to begin deliberations Friday. And, like any intriguing murder mystery, the outcome is unpredictable.

Photos of the scene, shown at the trial, were startling and gruesome, as if a set decorator had staged them for a horror film. A crystal chandelier illuminated the body slumped in an ornate white chair, Clarkson’s face smeared with blood, her long legs extending out from her black mini dress.

In one photograph, a crowd of police and coroner’s investigators mill about, seemingly oblivious to the body next to them. And slung over her shoulder is a key piece of evidence, a leopard print purse.

Prosecutors would point to it repeatedly as proof that she was trying to leave Spector’s house when she was shot.

Prosecutors, haunted by the acquittals of stars such as O.J. Simpson, Robert Blake and Michael Jackson, seem invested in making Spector the first showbiz star to be convicted in a major criminal case.

But his lawyers have fought fiercely to prove Clarkson pulled the trigger.

Spector rose to fame in the 1960s with what became known as the “Wall of Sound” recording technique that changed pop music. Clarkson was best known for her role in Roger Corman’s 1985 cult film “Barbarian Queen.”

They met after Spector spent a night on the town drinking with women friends. He wound up very late at the House of Blues. When the club closed at 2 a.m. he asked Clarkson to go home with him for a drink.

What happened next is the heart of the case, with each side presenting compelling evidence.

Prosecutor Alan Jackson claimed at the start that it would be a simple case.

“The evidence is going to paint a picture of a man who on Feb. 3, 2003, put a loaded pistol in Lana Clarkson’s mouth — inside her mouth — and shot her to death,” he said in his opening statement to jurors.

But by the time 77 witnesses had testified and more than 600 pieces of evidence were submitted, the case was anything but simple.

On the prosecution side, five women returned from Spector’s past to tell of being threatened by him when he was drunk, even held hostage in his home, with a gun pointed at them and threats of death if they tried to leave. The parallels with the night Clarkson died were chilling even if the stories were very old — 30 years in one instance.
When he lost the case, the handsome lawyer

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Sudoku
By The Mepham Group

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

Solution to Friday's puzzle

SUDOKU

THE Daily Crossword
Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

Friday's Puzzle Solved

The New York Times Crossword in Gothic
www.nytimes.com/crossword

FRI

SUDOKU

THE Daily Crossword
Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

Friday's Puzzle Solved

The New York Times Crossword in Gothic
www.nytimes.com/crossword

FRI

 Adscox 34 2 7 Aries (March 21-April 19) — Today is a 7 — You may have the problem solved, but nobody's listening. (They're all busy hollering at each other. Don't get into that.)
Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) — Today is a 7 — They say travel broadens one's perspective. In this situation, you need a broad perspective when you begin. Watch out for unpleasant surprises.
Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) — Today is a 7 — Not a good time to gamble. Even if you sell, you could take a loss. Hold onto what you have as much as possible. Look up your values.
Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) — Today is a 6 — One person in particular continues to drive you crazy. Respond with facts and good humor. You can't let this verbal assault with style.
Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — Today is a 7 — Work quickly, even if you're not sure this job will be lucrative. Don't do it for the money. Do it for the love.
Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) — Today is a 7 — Just when you thought you had everyone settled down, controversy breaks out again. Listen to all opinions, compromises is not possible yet.
Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) — Today is a 6 — There's a lot of confusion out there. You sure you want to get involved? Wouldn't it be smarter to wait and see which way the wind blows? Yes, it would.

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Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — Today is a 7 — You may have the problem solved, but nobody's listening. (They're all busy hollering at each other. Don't get into that.)
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PULS
DAILY EGYPTIAN
Southern Illinois University

A parade for Popeye
Cartoon character gets festival, parade, national coverage in creator’s hometown

Eugene Clark
DAILY EGYPTIAN

A small town in southern Illinois and its annual picnic will soon be seen on televisions throughout the country. The 28th Annual Popeye Picnic will be held about 45 minutes west of Carbondale in Chester. The picnic showcases carnival rides, a parade and ends with a fireworks show. The picnic will last three days starting Friday, Sept. 7 and ending Sept. 9.

Michael McClure, chairman for the Popeye Picnic Committee, said the creator of Popeye, Elzie C. Segar, was born and raised in Chester and based many of his famous characters, such as Olive Oyl and Popeye, on people who lived in the town.

Last year the picnic celebrated its 50th anniversary of Popeye being on television. Ken Wagner, a trustee for the Popeye Picnic committee, said the festival brings people in the community together and celebrates the existence of television.

“We have spoken with people from all over the country,” Wagner said, “and the festival brings people in the community together and celebrates the existence of television.”

McClure said the best description for the picnic is that it is a family event. A family, whether you are a large family or small, can come to this festival and actually not even spend any money if you don’t want to,” McClure said, “You could have a weekend full of entertainment for free.”

Wagner said this year’s picnic will focus on a new theme that revolves around a story that the “Official UFO Magazine” covered 30 years ago, which stated aliens destroyed the city of Chester.

“Everybody knew it was a hoax, but it was funny — it brought attention to our community.”

Wagner said one of the goals of the picnic during the last few years was to make it more family-oriented by providing activities such as laser tag and also bands that people from all age groups can enjoy.

Wagner said he hopes the festival generates tourism dollars to the area as well as to the middle of nowhere and establish their own city called “Brad Pitt Ville.”

Wagner said that he hopes the festival generates tourism dollars to the area as well as to the middle of nowhere and establish their own city called “Brad Pitt Ville.”

“From what I understand, the two starstruck a chord with me — especially broke college students. The new Batman movie is coming out in a series at least three Batman movies, thanks to contracts securing main characters, what if Hollywood ruins its brightest superhero franchise in the third installment just like it tanked Spiderman and the X-mens? Sure, it’s years away until audiences will see if the third Batman movie in director Christopher Nolan’s series will be the antithesis of everything that was awesome in the first two films — but this plea can’t wait.

Superhero franchises are on thin ice. X-Men: The Last Stand,” released in 2006, featured horrible battle scenes and trifling plots, an extreme lack of one of the greatest superheroes of all time (GamBit) and not one, but two uncomfortable moments of Wolverine, the toughest mutant ever, crying.

“Spiderman 3” followed in the X-Men’s footsteps in 2007 with yet another absurdly weak ending to a superhero trilogy. If emo Spiderman, who sported more eyeliner than his girl MJ, or the 10-minute cheesetastic dance scene didn’t convince viewers there was nothing good left for the franchise to offer, then nothing can.

Unfortunately, it probably won’t be the end for those series, but after those movies, a continuation isn’t deserved.

It looks as though, for now, the Batman franchise has a leg up on the rest of the superhero world. “The Dark Knight” has the distinct advantage of not just being space filler similar to so many other second rate films in blockbusters. It seems as though it will develop new villains and possibly bring back the old, all the while exploring the darkest parts of Bruce Wayne’s psyche.

I am begging you, Hollywood, don’t ruin this franchise for me. Years from now, when the third Batman film comes out, I want to walk out of the theater with the same smile I had on my face when I walked in. Don’t ruin it with cheesy dialogue, dance sequences or crying superheroes. Just let me love my main man in rubber without a horrid ending.

Most worn-out keyboard keys in Carbondale.

Alícia Wade

There’s nothing quite like a tearjerker. It’s usually around 30 to 60 seconds long, introducing every amazing thing viewers had ever dreamed of in a movie without giving anything away.

Recently, the latest trailer for the next installment of the Batman series (“The Dark Knight”) hit the theaters.

Viewers don’t actually see anything, except for the Batman symbol, which breaks into a joker card. In voiceovers, the audience can hear Batman’s latest nemesis.

“Starting tonight people will die,” guilted the Joker, played by Heath Ledger. “I’m a man of my word.”

Accompanied by a haunting cackle, I immediately knew from that moment I was going to start counting the days until the July 2008 release of “The Dark Knight.”

The revelation of how epically cool the new Batman movie is going to be struck me with fear. While it’s only the second in a series of at least three Batman movies, thanks to contracts securing main characters, what if Hollywood ruins its brightest superhero franchise in the third installment just like it tanked Spiderman and the X-mens?

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PULS
C H A T T E R B O X

Question: Superstars Angelina Jolie and Brad Pitt have announced they are preparing to adopt a fifth child. What do you think of this revelation?

ALICIA WADE

It must be great to be the lucky child who gets adopted by Brangelina. And why not adopt? A lot of children need help — especially broke college students. Hey Brad & Angelina! Will you adopt me too?

AUDRA ORD

Geeks — pretty own this Hollywood couple is going to have to invest in an Asterion to be able to cart all their children around. But from what I understand, the two actors are great parents, and if they want another try, good for them. And kudos for saving another child from starvation.

EUGENE CLARK

My God! By the year 2020, the John/Pitt family will have grown to include 10 children at the rate they are going. Heck, why don’t they just adopt 55,000 children, move to the middle of nowhere and establish their own city called “Brad Pitt Ville.” They could develop their own government and culture, and it can center around the one and only Brad Pitt.

JAKINA HILL

I think it’s a good thing. I hope she keeps adopting more.
We've got an extra day of preparation, we're certainly going to use that,” SIU head coach Jerry Kill said.

Kill said the key in opponents' talent from the first week to the second week is generally the largest, and is something the Salukis team has become accustomed to in years past.

In 2005, the Salukis played at Southeast Missouri State in Week 1, but returned home to play Union (Ky.) of the NAA in the second week, winning 82-7.

SIU traveled to Western Michigan, from the Football Bowl Subdivision, the following week and lost 34-28.

Kill said he doesn't know if playing a lower opponent before an FBS team comes with a tradeoff, but the Salukis will be prepared for the Huskies.

"We've prepared a lot of time for this season, and we've worked very hard and we're anxious to see what Northern Illinois does, if they've made any changes from last year," Kill said. "We studied them last year, and we'll see what happens. That's why you play the game, and we'll go through some great times this year and we'll go through tough times. That's really part of life, really."
 Hack said he was pleased with the performance of the team’s three-pitcher, which was picked as the MVC’s top-ranked program in preseason polls last week. The MVC finishers were freshmen and sophomores.

Six out of the top 10 women runners officially competed in track and field events at 536-3311.

Those looking to wield the Saluki aluminum can fight for the chance this weekend. The SIU Baseball team is holding open tryouts on 10 a.m. on Sunday at Abe Martin Field. Head coach Dan Callahan said the team has gotten at least one or two team members from the tryouts every year for the past seven years.

“With not necessarily looking to keep anybody, but if somebody stands out and does something out of the ordinary, we would consider keeping him,” Callahan said.

The coach encouraged participants to bring their gloves, spikes and an up-to-date physical. Players will not be allowed to try without their physicals.

All of the coaches will be in attendance at the tryout. Callahan said, as will representatives from the Saluki Baseball Club. He said anyone with questions could call him at 453-2802.

Sparks said the women’s 4K, with a time of 14:49.96, won the women’s cross-country event. Ljendy Winter said Dokubo commended her for her top three finish in the top-ranked MVC program.

The door was left wide open for the other young women to experience a collegiate race atmosphere without the pressures of running against other teams. Sparks said Dokubo competed in track and field events through June. Though she just began training again, she will still compete in two weeks when the runners officially open their season Sept. 14 at Eastern Illinois University’s Panther Open.

Nefertiti Williams and freshman Emily Toennies coming in second and third, respectively. Without returning top runner A’Seret Dokubo, a sophomore, the door was left wide open for the other young women to experience a collegiate race atmosphere without the pressures of running against other teams. Sparks said Dokubo competed in track and field events through June. Though she just began training again, she will still compete in two weeks when the runners officially open their season Sept. 14 at Eastern Illinois University’s Panther Open.

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MVC said he was pleased with the performance of the team’s, which was picked as the top-ranked MVC program in preseason polls last week. But there is still a good amount of work to be done before conference play begins.

The women’s team, which was ranked fifth in the polls, is heavily relying on its freshmen and sophomore runners. Freshman Megan Hensler won the women’s 4K with a time of 14:49.96, won the women’s cross-country event. Ljendy Winter said Dokubo commended her for her top three finish in the top-ranked MVC program.

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Volleyball

Clutch mistakes doom SIU

Salukis finish 1-2 in tournament

Justin Stofferahn
Daily Egyptian

In a winnable match against the College of William & Mary, the SIU volleyball team did plenty right but just enough wrong.

During the William & Mary tournament in Williamsburg, Va., SIU dropped its first match of the season to Kent State University on Friday and swept East Carolina University on Saturday, only to conclude the tournament with a five-game loss to William & Mary.

The Salukis (4-2), who despite having a better hitting percentage, more digs, blocks and service aces in the contest than William & Mary, failed to convert during crunch time, said head coach Brenda Winkeler.

"That was a match that was very winnable," Winkeler said. "That is disappointing because that is the first match of the season we really should have won and didn't."

Offensive mistakes plagued the Salukis throughout their loss with Kent State (7-0), Winkeler said: SIU committed 25 attack errors, leading to a three percent (.094) hitting percentage.

Despite the less than fulfilling weekend, though, bright spots emerged from the wreckage.

Junior libero Kristy Elswick had a career-best 33 digs, the third highest total in SIU volleyball history, and was named to the all-tournament team.

Elswick said the individual accolades meant little, though, because she failed to fulfill her duties as a team leader.

"We didn't play together as a team the entire match (against William & Mary)," Elswick said, "and as a team we were getting frustrated at little things here and there."

Elswick said to get the Salukis back on track, SIU will have to come together as a unit, and could look to depend more on freshmen Sydney Clark and Jasmine Conner, both of whom performed above expectations in the final match, Winkeler said.

Receiving their first serious minutes of the season, outside hitter Clark and middle blocker Conner combined for 18 of SIU's 65 kills in the match against William & Mary (3-2). Clark's 11 kills tied for second most on the team, while Conner recorded a team-high .333 hitting percentage.

"Coming in I was really nervous, being a freshman and having to put myself out there," Clark said. "It just all went away as soon as I went out onto the court, because it is what I love to do, and I'm just really glad I get to make my team proud and be a part of the group."

Against East Carolina (2-5) the Salukis proved capable of bouncing back from a disappointing performance, Winkeler said. In the contest, sophomore middle blocker Chandra Roberson had 13 kills and one error, while sophomore outside hitter Kelise Laughlin had 13 digs and nine kills.

SIU will play its home opener against Western Illinois University (1-6) at 7 p.m. Wednesday.

Junior liberos Kristy Elswick prepares to return a serve during volleyball practice on Aug. 26. Over the weekend at the William & Mary tournament, Elswick had a career-high 33 digs, which is the third highest tournament total in SIU history.

JASON JOHNSON
Daily Egyptian

Men picked first, women fifth in MVC polls

Megan Kramer
Daily Egyptian

The underclassmen are already making names for themselves on the SIU cross country team.

Sophomore Jeff Schriener took first place for the men, and freshman Megan Hoelscher finished Friday as the top women's individual at the Saluki Early Bird Invitational — an inter-squad meet that marked the first cross-country race of the season.

Head coach Matt Sparks said the event served as a constructive way to evaluate the young talent.

"It's a really good indicator of the team and the new freshmen coming in because we weren't sure what to expect," Sparks said.

Schriener finished the 6K course with a time of 19 minutes, 38.99 seconds, just two seconds in front of sophomore Greg McBride.

The remaining members of the men's team, running without leaders Mohamed Mohamed and Kevin Doran, who took some time to relax after summer training, finished with-in one minute of each other.

See MVC, Page 15

Football

A jump in competition

Salukis face Northern Illinois, a Division I-A team

Scott Mieszala
Daily Egyptian

The SIU football team has its season opening win against Quincy in the rearview mirror, and is likely the Salukis' toughest opponent of the season — the Northern Illinois Huskies.

SIU sophomore linebacker Brandin Jordan said the Salukis' 59-14 win over the Quincy Hawks — who hail from the NAIA — is useful in working out the kinks before facing a team from the Football Bowl subdivision.

"It's a difference in competition skill-wise," Jordan said. "But at the end of the day, we're still the Salukis, and we'll still come to play hard."

The Salukis (1-0) did the same type of thing last season, towering Division-II Lock Haven by a score of 49-0 before heading to Indiana University and shocking the Hoosiers, 35-28.

However, SIU had a bye week in between playing Lock Haven and Indiana, and the Hoosiers were without their head coach for the game.

Saluki senior quarterback Nick Hill said SIU played shakily against Lock Haven last season, and worked out the kinks before playing Indiana.

"We improved throughout that week. We had a bye week. We really found out what we had to improve on, and that's something that our coaches did a really good job on," Hill said. "They've been watching film, and by Monday at practice they know what we got to improve on. They know what gameplan we need to have going into Northern Illinois, and with the week of practice and putting in their schemes and stuff, we'll be ready to go."

The Salukis opened their season on a Thursday, while Northern Illinois (0-1) fell to Iowa, 16-3, on Saturday.

See COMPETITION, Page 14