

Southern Illinois University Carbondale

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Book signing:

Lesbian novelist urges acceptance of gay pride.



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DAILY EGYPTIAN



Southern Illinois University at Carbondale

Wednesday, July 2, 1997

Vol. 82 No. 161, 12 pages

http://www.dailyegyptian.com

Tipped off:

Police arrest driver of vehicle in crash after finding discarded crack.

page 3

Students, citizens storm up ideas

SUGGESTION BOX: Town meeting attendees ask for 'party patrol,' improved housing.

ALICE JOHNSON
DAILY EGYPTIAN REPORTER

Creating a student "party patrol" and reviewing landlord-tenant relations were two of hundreds of suggestions made at Monday's meeting between city officials, citizens and students.

"I hope this will be the first of many conversations we're going to have," said Carbondale City Councilwoman Maggie Flanagan.

More than 60 people attended the meeting at the Student Center. It was organized by Flanagan and SIUC student government because of a planned September festival and barbecue cook-off for students and Carbondale citizens.

People who attended were encouraged to brainstorm on how to make that festival and other future events successful. They were

divided into four groups, and each person shared five ideas on student-city relations.

The citizens and students asked for more interaction between the University and the city government, better interaction between police and students and improved student rental housing.

"This is just the first step," said David Vingren, Undergraduate Student Government president.

Gus Bode



Gus says: Serving up University and city relations.

SEE BRAINSTORM, PAGE 7



DOUG LARSON/DAILY EGYPTIAN

ROLL 'EM: Bill Leathers (bottom), a graduate student in radio and television from Centralia, prepares the camera for taping at the Street Machine Nationals in Du Quoin Friday with Zsolt Nemeth (left), and Ferenc Ronay, professional television journalists from Hungary.

Hungarian TV reporters learn ways of U.S. media

FILM AT 11: Visiting journalists produce mock segments, learn freedoms of press.

MIKAL J. HARRIS
DE CAMPUS LIFE EDITOR

Standing at a dry-crase board in the WSU television newsroom Friday, Michael Murrie helps a group of Hungarian journalists decide which stories they will cover during the weekend.

Near the end of the list of stories packing the board, the visiting journalists find an assignment, that, for them, is most unusual.

"Okay," says Murrie, an associate professor in the Department of Radio-Television. "Who wants to cover the Street Machine Nationals in Du Quoin?"

After interpreter Eva Baer translates Murrie's query, most of the hands of the Hungarian journalists shoot up in excitement at the chance to cover Du Quoin's annual hot rod event, which took place Friday through Sunday.

"This is real America," journalist Beatrix Wagner said about an hour later in Du Quoin, as music blasting from customized cars vibrated the

ground beneath her. "You don't see anything like this in Hungary. This has visual potential, and Mr. Murrie wants us to try everything."

Through the U.S. Information Agency, the seven Hungarian journalists are learning to shoot and produce mock news segments in a workshop,

news is more like a show here in the U.S., and they are more flexible here. We're studying how to make our news different."

Wagner's colleague David Kruszlicz agrees there is a lack of variety in Hungarian news programming.

"Our national television news is half an hour of mostly political news," he said.

Enter Voice of America and SIUC. Voice Of America, an arm of the U.S. Information Agency, sponsored the eight-day television workshop on campus, which began June 25. Two years ago, the organization chose SIUC's Department of Radio-Television to train African journalists and business leaders about American media.

The Hungarian journalists are learning how to live up to their newscasts. And, like the group of African professionals, Murrie, the workshop's organizer, said the Hungarian journalists are savvy enough to soak up the intense training.

"In the African group, some of those people were more experienced than we were," he said. "A couple of the Hungarian journalists are interesting, but none of them

It's rare to see a group of television journalists without a couple of prima donnas.

MICHAEL MURRIE
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR
DEPARTMENT OF RADIO-TELEVISION

using techniques of American television news and taking advantage of American press freedoms.

The Hungarian communist government's grip on the media loosened when the government changed to a parliamentary democracy in 1990, after a revolution. But the visiting journalists said Hungary's television news coverage still keeps a stiff upper lip.

"Reporters and news anchors are less formal and less strict here," Wagner said. "TV

SEE TELEVISION, PAGE 2

State postpones reintroducing elk one month

CONCERNS: Citizens fear animals may trample crops, cause automobile accidents.

TAMEKA L. HICKS
DAILY EGYPTIAN REPORTER

Randy Humphrey has been anticipating the "chills" of elk hunting in Southern Illinois.

But Humphrey will have to wait awhile longer before he knows if he still will have to travel out of state for the sport.

Residents' concerns have caused the state to postpone its decision on whether or not to release about 27 elk into Southern Illinois forests for at least another month.

Humphrey has traveled to Colorado and New Mexico with his bow and

arrow for four years to hunt elk.

"Man, just being able to see them and hear them in the wild is fantastic," said Humphrey, a member of the Shawnee Chapter of the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation. "It sends chills up my spine."

For more than one year, the Illinois Department of Natural Resources has conducted public meetings across the state about the reintroduction of elk into

one of two proposed Shawnee National Forest sites, either south of Carbondale or south of Harrisburg.

The decision, originally scheduled for July 1, will be announced within one month, said Tim Schweizer, spokesman for the department.

Rick Reeves, owner of Shawnee

SEE ELK, PAGE 7

RELEASE

•The decision whether or not to release the 25-30 elk will be made within the next month.

•The elk population will grow to about 200 within in seven years.

Southern Illinois Forecasts!

TODAY:
Partly cloudy.
High: 94
Low: 74

THURSDAY:
Partly cloudy.
High: 94
Low: 74

FRIDAY:
Partly cloudy.
High: 92
Low: 71

SATURDAY:
Partly cloudy.
High: 93
Low: 73

Corrections

If readers spot an error in a news article, they can contact the Daily Egyptian Accuracy Desk at 536-3311, extension 233 or 228.

DAILY EGYPTIAN Southern Illinois University at Carbondale

The Daily Egyptian is published Monday through Friday during the fall and spring semesters and four times a week during the summer semester except during vacations and exam weeks by the students of Southern Illinois University at Carbondale.

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Calendar

TODAY

- Brown Bag Summer Concert Series - noon to 1 p.m., Wednesdays Town Square Pavilion, Illinois Avenue and Main Street, Carbondale.
- Free Massage - Student of massage looking to refine techniques. Contact Tara for an appointment, 529-5029.
- Egyptian Aquarium Society - 6:30 p.m., fisheries office in Life Science II at SIUC. Contact Scott at 351-9727 for details.
- Southern Illinois Collegiate Sailing Club - sail boat training meeting, 8 p.m., Student Center Ohio Room. Contact Myron for details, 351-0007.

UPCOMING

- SIUC Counseling Services - support group for gay and bisexual men, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at SIUC. Contact Ricor

Alan for details, 453-5371.

- Help End Marijuana Prohibition Club meeting - 2 p.m., every Thursday, Student Center 3rd floor, Activity Room D. Contact Reid for details, 529-4083.
- Egyptian Divers meeting - 7:30 to 9:30 p.m., every Tuesday, Pulliam 021. Call 529-2840 for information.
- SIUC Ballroom Club meeting - 7 to 9 p.m., through July, Davies Gym, \$5.00 per semester. Contact Linda for details, 893-4029.
- Catholic Charismatic Prayer meeting - 7:30 to 9 p.m., every Tuesday at the Newman Catholic Student Center. Contact Tom or Jan at 549-4266 for details.
- Blood Pressure Clinic - 9:30 to 11:30 a.m., July 14, sponsored by the Jackson Co. Health Department. Call 684-3143 for more info.

- SIUC Motorcycle Rider Course - Free 6 to 9:30 p.m., July 18, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., July 19 and 20. For registration information call 1-800-642-9589.
- Blood Pressure Clinic - 9:30 to 11:30 p.m., July 21, sponsored by the Jackson County Health Department. Call 684-3143 for details.
- Wind Surfing Club meeting - 2 p.m., June 24, lessons and BBO, every Tuesday, SIUC boat dock on Campus Lake. Contact Art for details, 985-4981.
- SIUC Ballroom Club meeting - 7 to 9 p.m., through July, Davies Gym, \$5.00 per semester. Contact Linda for details, 893-4029.
- Motorcycle Rider Courses - 6 to 9:30 p.m., June 25; 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., June 27 and 28, at SIUC. Contact Skip Staley for details, 1-800-642-9589.

Police

UNIVERSITY

• A burglary occurred between 1 p.m. Sunday and 8:19 a.m. Monday at the ROTC, 807 S. Normal St. A worker reported that internal parts of a computer and a video camera were stolen. The value of the items is unknown. There are no suspects.

CARBONDALE

• The investigation of a string of June

17 burglaries has led to information that will close the investigations of up to 33 additional burglaries in Carbondale and Jackson County. Michael Dean Sponsler, 19; Mickey K. Wallace, 20; and Michael K. Wallace, 20, all of Carbondale, were arrested last month in connection with the investigation.

• A residential burglary occurred between 1 p.m. Friday and 2:15 p.m. Sunday at 2461 S. Illinois Ave. #81.

The resident reported that the trailer was entered via a hole in the floor of an addition. About 50 compact discs valued at \$750 were stolen. There are no suspects.

• A 1997 white Dodge Caravan valued at \$28,900 was stolen from the lot of Smith Dodge, 1412 W. Main St., between 11:30 p.m. Saturday and 10:36 a.m. Monday. There are no suspects.

TELEVISION

continued from page 1

came here as students. We've looked at some of the work they did at home, and it's pretty good. The training here is pretty intense. They're quite capable."

On the job at the Du Quoin State Fairgrounds, the journalists scramble to break out their television cameras to get shots of the parade of colorful and expensive cars.

Livia Da'niel looks around excitedly at the sea of autos and people. Da'niel is receiving an opportunity in journalism different than that of most of her colleagues.

Da'niel, a Roma, said intense Hungarian discrimination against her minority ethnic group barred many Romas from television journalism when the government was under communist rule. She said she never would have been selected to participate in the Voice of America workshop before her country opened its mind to new and better ideas.

"Since the democratic changes have started in Hungary, there are more opportunities for Gypsy or Roma people," she said. "I would compare the situation of Romas in Hungary to the situation of blacks and whites in the U.S. in the '60s."

"I'm glad there are some people who feel it is important to have the voice of

all minorities in the media."

As he helped Da'niel and the other journalists film and interview car enthusiasts, Bill Leathers, a second-year graduate student in telecommunications from Centralia, was impressed with their enthusiasm.

"The cameraman shoots everything, man," he said. "Actually they've got great instincts."

But it was the group's work ethic that gave Murrie a crash course of his own.

"It's rare to see a group of television journalists without a couple of prima donnas," he said. "This is the best group of this kind that I've ever seen. They bend over backwards to get the job done."

Submit your Calendar events to THE DAILY EGYPTIAN newsroom.
 Communications Building Room 1247
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DAILY MATINEES!

Out To Sea (PG13)
 2:00 4:30 7:00 9:30
 My Best Friends Wedding (PG)
 1:45 4:15 7:15 9:40
 Speed Two (PG13)
 1:15 4:00 6:45 9:50

Varsity • 457-6100

DAILY MATINEES!

Face Off (R)
 1:00 4:00 7:00 10:00
 Con-Air (R)
 1:30 4:45 7:15 9:45
 Godfather (R)
 12:45 4:30 8:15

University 8 • 457-6757

DAILY MATINEES!

Men In Black (PG13)
 2:15 4:45 7:00 9:30 DIGITAL
 Hercules (G)
 11:45 2:00 4:15 6:30 8:45
 12:30 2:45 5:00 7:15 9:30
 Batman and Robin (PG13)
 12:00 3:45 6:45 9:45
 1:45 4:45 7:45 10:15
 Wild America (PG)
 1:15 4:00 7:15 9:40
 Lost World (PG13)
 12:15 3:15 6:30 9:15

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610 S. Illinois Ave.

Author negates stereotypes



PHOTOS BY PAT MAHON/DAILY EGYPTIAN

EDUCATING: Novelist Patricia Nell Warren speaks to a group of readers Monday during a book-signing at Barnes & Noble, 1300 E. Main St.

SUCCESS STORY:

Four of Warren's six novels are about gay relationships, and three of her novels have become national best-sellers.



BOOK SIGNING: Best-selling novelist discusses gay and lesbian issues.

KELLY E. HERTLEIN
DAILY EGYPTIAN REPORTER

Sitting in the Barnes & Noble café while drinking a latte, novelist Patricia Nell Warren leads a small and intimate discussion group on homosexuality.

As Warren spoke of her activities within the gay community and said that people should understand and accept gay pride, Michael sat intently listening.

Michael, a senior in speech communication from Chicago, was happy to have the opportunity to discuss gay and lesbian issues.

"I haven't seen anything, at least not very many things, for the gay community here in Carbondale," said Michael, who did not want to disclose his last name. "It is a very positive development for us that Warren came here to speak."

Warren, a renowned lesbian novelist, signed novels and led the discussion group Monday night at Barnes & Noble, 1300 E. Main St. About 10 people discussed topics ranging from Warren's novels to gay, lesbian and bisexual concerns.

Warren's novels and presence contribute to the energy that readers such as Michael sense.

Of her six novels, three have become national bestsellers. One, "The Front Runner," is a story of two men in love and entangled in a race against the odds. It has 10 million copies in print and is available in seven different languages.

Warren told the group she received her inspiration for "The Front Runner" while competing in the Boston Marathon, where she was one of the first

12 women allowed in the race. Serving coffee during the discussion, Barnes & Noble employee J.T. Lewis said Warren's visit educated her fans and the community.

"I think it is a good thing for the community and the University that Barnes & Noble is bringing in authors for discussion," Lewis, a senior in music education from Sparta, said. "It gives a unique learning opportunity."

Michael said there are few opportunities like Carbondale's discussion.

"We don't see other book stores in town that have a selection on gay or lesbian novels or even awareness books," he said. "It is great to be able to take part in an event like this one. The only other place for the gay community to go is a bar, and that is not worth the time."

Warren said stereotypes and negative connotations surround the gay community, and that some children, adolescents and adults are afraid to reveal their homosexuality.

Angie Brattel, a sophomore in elementary education from Hopedale, said society does not treat homosexuals equally. She said Warren's presence in Carbondale may contribute to a greater awareness of sexuality.

"I have been asked so many times, 'How do you know you are bisexual?' or, 'Why do you think you are bisexual?'" she said. "And the best response I can give to them is, 'Well, how do you know you are straight?'"

Through her words, Warren is trying to eliminate negative stereotypes.

"If we don't capture Carbondale, Illinois or Boston, Massachusetts," she said, "it won't do us any good. We will stay as the stereotype of 'urban ghettos.' We need to accept one another as human beings."

Southern Illinois

CARBONDALE

Vice-chancellor names Falvo as acting dean

John Jackson, vice chancellor for Academic Affairs and provost, has named Richard Falvo, a former associate dean of the Graduate School, as the acting dean of the school.

Falvo, who began work at SIUC as a professor of physiology in 1973, was assistant dean of the Graduate School for more than a decade. Falvo retired from the position of associate dean in 1994 to pursue full-time work with the SIUC School of Medicine.

Falvo replaces John Yopp, who is retiring from his position as dean of the Graduate School after 11 years.

Yopp has accepted a job as vice president for graduate and professional education with Education Testing Service in Princeton, N.J.

Yopp's last day was June 30, and Falvo begins immediately.

CARBONDALE

Park district passes budget

The Carbondale Park District unanimously approved a \$3.08 million budget for fiscal year 1998, which began on Tuesday, at its Monday night meeting.

The budget sets aside \$33,000 for The Science Center. District officials say that the funding will come from a portion of the district's taxes on off-track betting.

Nation

WASHINGTON

Administration to review Pell Grant time limits

The Clinton Administration is considering a new proposal that would limit to six years the length of time a full-time student can receive a Pell Grant.

The time limit would encourage students to graduate and prevent them from becoming "perpetual" students, Education Secretary Richard Riley told a Congressional subcommittee June 19.

"Our goal must not be just to ensure access, but also to encourage students to persist and graduate," he said.

RICHMOND, VA.

Judge overrules lower court on abortion issue

A federal appeals judge Monday night ordered that Virginia's law requiring girls younger than 18 to notify a parent before getting an abortion take effect as planned at midnight, just hours after a lower-court judge had temporarily suspended the law.

Judge J. Michael Luttig of the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals signed the order at 7:45 p.m., overruling a U.S. District Court judge without explanation and clearing the way for Virginia to enforce its first major restriction on abortion in a generation.

ANNAPOLIS, MD.

Panel overlooks scandals

The U.S. Naval Academy is a "sound institution" despite a string of bizarre events in past years that has shocked the military college, an independent review panel found.

Scandals including murder, cheating, child sex abuse, drug use and car theft prompted critics to question whether the academy's honor code is effective and whether the college is churning out qualified naval officers.

The panel's report, "The Higher Standard," the result of a five-month probe, said the events were unconnected and did not point to deeper problems within the academy. The report, however, criticized the academy's handling of the highly publicized incidents.

— from Daily Egyptian news services

Cocaine arrest made after car crash

TIPSTER:

Witness calls police after accident near gas station.

KEVIN WALSH
DAILY EGYPTIAN REPORTER

The driver of a car involved in a three-car collision Monday was arrested and charged for drug possession after police received a tip that the driver reportedly acted suspiciously after the accident.

While police were investigating the accident, they received a call from Chris Budzisz, an SIUC graduate student in political science from Virginia who witnessed the accident.

Budzisz said that a man driving one of the vehicles in the

accident acted suspiciously after the accident.

At about 10:30 p.m., as Budzisz walked out of the Wareco gas station, 511 E. Walnut St., he said he saw a white Dodge Stratus collide with another car, which caused a three-car collision at the corner of Wall and Walnut streets.

After colliding with the car at the intersection, the driver of the Stratus was seen by Budzisz driving his car into the Wareco parking lot.

"About a second after he had hit them, he hurriedly reversed the car and pulled into the parking lot," Budzisz said.

Budzisz said the man got out of the car, walked to the front of the store, opened the door and hesitated. Instead of going into the store, Budzisz said the man walked behind the building.

"He squatted down on his

knees and began rumbling around in the pine needles and brush," Budzisz said.

Budzisz then left the scene. A few minutes later, he said he went back to tell the Wareco cashier, Jamie Snyder, about the behavior of the man involved in the accident.

Snyder and Budzisz walked behind the store to search for signs of anything suspicious.

"I didn't know what I was looking for," said Snyder, 22, from Elkville.

They found nothing.

After leaving the second time, Budzisz went to a friend's house and called the Carbondale Police Department, whose officers already had arrived on the scene to investigate the accident.

Budzisz described the man's behavior he observed just after the accident.

Police dispatched additional

officers and drug-sniffing dog to the scene after they received Budzisz's report.

The police called Budzisz back about 15 minutes later and requested that he come back to demonstrate how he saw the driver act.

Sgt. Mark Diedrich said that after a "canine sniff" and a visual search, police found about one gram of crack cocaine.

"We found five individually wrapped, cream-colored, rock-like substances directly under the tree where the witness stated he saw the man," Diedrich said.

Police charged the driver of the car, Gerron O. Powell, 34, of Carbondale, with felony possession of a controlled substance. He also was cited for driving on a suspended license and failing to reduce speed.

He remains in Jackson County Jail, unable to post \$5,500 bond.

Hong Kong celebrates first day under China

LOS ANGELES TIMES

HONG KONG—This city celebrated its first day in 156 years as part of China on Tuesday with an orgy of political speeches, variety shows, religious observances and wild parties, culminating in a spectacular fireworks display and mass karaoke

songfest in Hong Kong Harbor.

Overnight, across the Hong Kong islands and Kowloon Peninsula, the red flag and five-star emblem of the People's Republic of China replaced the British Union Jack and lion-and-unicorn crests on public buildings.

Police traded in their Royal Hong Kong Police badges depicting British clip-

per ships for new ones displaying the skyline of Hong Kong.

At the evening Reunification Gala in the Hong Kong Coliseum, the honored guest was China's foreign minister, Qian Qichen.

Chinese officials, who under British rule seldom ventured into the colony, became the most sought-after companions at private parties celebrating the transfer of power



Our Word

Brainstorming

Relationship continues to improve between students and community

IF THE SUCCESS OF MONDAY NIGHT'S "Communiversities" meeting could be measured in terms of good vibes, then the joint city and University powwow would register off the chart.

Student government leaders, Carbondale City Council members, city and University administrators, year-round Carbondale residents and SIUC students — a representative slice of Carbondale — gathered and talked.

The atmosphere was laid-back, open and non-judgmental. Participants were warned not to openly agree or disagree with anything that was said.

No group of people, collectively, however, felt that groovy since Simon and Garfunkel's concert in Central Park.

WHAT WAS INCONGRUENT WITH THE atmosphere, though, was the fact that the people gathered to discuss how poorly they relate to each other. They discussed "improving" the relationship between students and the city, which implies that something is lacking.

Is something lacking? The fact that 60 people from diverse backgrounds in Carbondale care enough about each other and Carbondale to come together and talk would argue that there is not.

The consensus of the meeting was that the University and city should co-sponsor more events. Scores of them were suggested; in essence, the agreement was that students and year-round Carbondale residents should get together more often to have fun. That would not be the agreement of groups of people who have poor relationships with each other.

The proposed downtown barbecue festival planned for September, which will be geared toward students and non-students alike, is just one example of this new cooperation.

NOT ONLY ARE NEW PATHS BEING FORGED, old dragons are being slain. In the past, students have complained about liquor-related ordinances and towing companies. The city is preparing a towing report for the July 8 City Council meeting. And, need anyone be reminded, the bar-entry age was lowered to 19 Tuesday.

Conversely, Carbondale residents who have complained about students' previous lack of civic action should be heartened by student involvement in the spring municipal elections and Monday's meeting, as well as student promises to help organize September's barbecue and other future events.

THE EVIDENCE SHOWS THAT CARBONDALE already is well on the way to becoming what it wants to be. Citizen morale is like the morale of a pretty woman who thinks she's plain, who stares in the mirror and wishes she was something else.

Of course, there is a generation gap in Carbondale, just as there is in every college town. But it should be evident that neither students nor full-time Carbondale residents have a secret reserve of goodwill toward each other that they just are not sharing. Everyone at Monday's meeting was being as open as they could. Carbondale needs to stop staring in the mirror and simply be what it is: a great place to live and a great place to go to school.

In a couple of weeks, the "Communiversities" project will conduct another meeting. The project's goals are worthy, but the idea that there is a bad relationship between different factions in the city should be examined.

OUR DIFFERENCES ARE NOT CRIPPLING. It seems we'd be on the right track if we only would believe we are.

"Our Word" represents the consensus of the Daily Egyptian Editorial Board.

Rednecks display too much at Street Machine Nationals



Josh Robison

Cancel My Subscription

Josh is a senior in history education. Cancel My Subscription appears every Wednesday. Josh's opinion does not necessarily reflect that of the Daily Egyptian.

Generally, when I write this column I attempt to give my opinion on various subjects.

However, instead of rambling about something no one cares about, I decided to attend the 21st annual Street Machine Nationals in Du Quoin and write about that. You know, to get the scoop.

This is what I found out:

1. Some people are really intrigued by cars — inventions that have been around for roughly 100 years.
2. Before entering the city, you have to leave your shame alongside the road and pick it back up on the way home.

Now, the first item of business concerning this event is getting yourself physically inside the city limits.

A remarkable amount of energy has been spent in making sure that no one can get in or out of the city without running over a formidable nose cone blockade.

An elaborate detour was set up in the futile effort of keeping us from attending the event, one in which we were supposed to end up in Indiana.

Well, I'm proud to say that their little trick didn't work, and an hour after purchasing cigarettes in Kentucky, we found ourselves in the glorious city of Du Quoin.

The second thing to do was not actually to go to the event. Some people do buy tickets and enter the fairgrounds to see the cars, but I believe these are the individuals who technically are referred to as "adults."

What you're supposed to do is find a place to park illegally for half a day, then stand on a sidewalk and drink beer.

At this point, the main objective is either to get a sunburn or to pour bleach onto the street and beg for a passing car to stop and squeal its tires on said bleach. This creates a remarkable amount of smoke and a nauseating stench, which in turn keeps you from wanting to eat, thus saving you money. It's a fairly intricate setup, but quite effective.

Throughout the day, a contest is conducted to see who can degrade the whole of humanity the quickest by being grotesquely vulgar and crude.

Teams are created toward the beginning of the day consisting of one male and one female member. The couple then are separated for the remainder of the day.

The male stands somewhere on the

street and yells phrases such as "Excuse me, ma'am, but would you kindly mind exposing your upper torso for myself and my comrades here?"

For every female who exposes herself, that male gets one point.

The female member of the team rides up and down the street in a motor vehicle of her choice, and she gets a point for exposing her upper torso. If she exposes herself without being coerced, she gets double the point value.

Whichever team has tallied the most points by the end of the day receives two bottles of bleach to throw onto the street, and also two "Coed Naked Embarrassing-the-hell-out-of-my-dead-relatives" T-shirts. It's a fairly complex setup, but quite effective.

There also is a "Super Red-Neck" contest, and the object of this game is to see how far you can reverse the course of time.

This year's winners, who refused to disclose to the judges where they were from, but my guess would be roughly 1858,

surprisingly shared the same four names, only in different orders.

They won the contest by draping a huge Confederate flag over one side of their truck while simultaneously, and this is the kicker, draping a large white sheet with the words "Red-Neck Heaven" spray-painted in orange and blue on the other side.

The judges really had no choice but to give them first prize, especially after the contestants spat tobacco juice upon them.

Despite all these bizarre rituals, I had a fairly good time, and so did my roommates until I selfishly left them stranded without a car.

And before I end today's column, I want all the people of Du Quoin to know I am not mocking the city per se, but just certain attributes of its citizenry and others similar who come from parts unknown.

I also am not mocking those individuals who come to the event actually to enjoy the various automobiles on display, but rather, those incredible people who feel it is much more rewarding to place themselves on display.

And you can read that sentence any way you'd like.

Throughout the day, a contest is conducted to see who can degrade the whole of humanity the quickest by being grotesquely vulgar and crude.

One in four fear injections

PANIC ATTACK:

Study finds some even cancel visits to dentist to avoid shots.

THE WASHINGTON POST

More than a quarter of the adults in a 1995 survey expressed fear of dental injections, and almost one in 20 said they'd avoided, canceled or failed to appear for a den-

tal appointment because of this fear.

"This finding probably underestimates the extent of the problem in the general population as the survey population is well-educated and has good access to dental care," researchers from the Dental Fears Research Clinic at the University of Washington in Seattle reported recently in the Journal of the American Dental Association.

The researchers surveyed 270 university employees and 232 stu-

dents on their feelings about dental injections.

The participants were asked to gauge the "fear, pain and unpleasantness" of their last dental injection on a scale that reached up to "worst pain imaginable."

They were also asked to say how true various statements were for them, statements such as "Just the idea of the needle penetrating my body is terrifying" and "If my throat is numbed by an injection, I won't be able to breathe."

No significant difference was

found between men and women, and there was no average age difference between those classified as "avoiders" and others.

African-American employees and students were more likely to be avoiders, which the report called "consistent with observations in other health-care areas."

The researchers acknowledged that "while patient fears may be acquired through vicarious experiences and threatening information, direct experience is the most common source of dental fear."

Tests ditch No. 2s for computer

DIGITIZED: GMAT

first among standardized exams to abandon oval bubbles and graphite.

COLLEGE PRESS SERVICE

PHILADELPHIA—When Stephanie Lavenberg sits down to take the GMAT this October, gone will be the crowded rows of sweaty test-takers shuffling papers and penciling in tiny oval bubbles.

Instead, Lavenberg will schedule an appointment at her convenience to take the computerized Graduate Management Admission Test with no more than 10 other MBA hopefuls in the privacy of a testing center.

The GMAT, required by most business schools, is the first standardized test to abandon No. 2 pencils for a computer screen.

On June 21, the paper version of the test was handed out for the last time, in what GMAT executives say is a revolutionary change that will make test-taking more convenient, comfortable and efficient.

Not all test-takers are embracing the change, however.

"Well, I think that it stinks," said Lavenberg, a 1992 Hartwick College graduate who works as an assistant vice president for a

Wilmington, Del., bank.

"I am not a good test-taker to begin with, and the new system almost compounds the fear."

Like thousands of other business school candidates, Lavenberg works daily with spreadsheet and database programs and feels at home in front of the computer terminal. What makes her nervous, she says, is the design of the new computerized exam.

Starting in October the GMAT will be administered as a computer-

taker goes a question, the computer offers an easier one but shaves off points from the final score.

As a result, the test can be over much quicker for extra sharp test-takers. And for those who bungle too many questions, the computer may simply shut off in the hopes test-takers will go home and prepare better.

"It's a different form of testing," admits David Wilson, president of the Graduate Management Admission Council, which owns

I am not a good test-taker to begin with, and the new system almost compounds the fear.

STEPHANIE LAVENBERG
1992 HARVARD GRADUATE

adaptive test, or CAT. Test-takers must answer questions in order as they appear on screen, and no skipping or backtracking is allowed. Because there aren't any test booklets, notes must be confined to scratch paper.

When questions are answered correctly, the computer uses its "brain" to toss back increasingly difficult questions; when a test-

taker's performance on the new test, mostly because many have never taken a computerized exam before.

"My biggest concern is the grading," Lavenberg said. "The new system will certainly impact the scoring—either positively or negatively."

But according to the council's research, that's not the case. In a survey conducted last fall, scores were nearly identical when test-takers underwent both the paper test and the CAT.

"The tests are comparable,"

School for women politicians opens at Yale

CAMPAIGN CLASSES:

Course teaches fund raising, slogan writing, and media relations.

REUTER

NEW HAVEN, Conn.—If there is a potential Margaret Thatcher somewhere in Kenya, the Ukraine—or even the United States—a unique program at Yale University is designed to bring her out.

For the past four years, the Women's Campaign School has drawn dozens of aspiring women

politicians from around the globe, teaching them how to overcome the barriers that have traditionally kept them from holding political office.

The intensive five-day course teaches everything from fund raising to writing a catchy slogan to dealing with pesky reporters. The tuition fee is \$750.

"Women have made great strides in the business world but what we haven't seen is more of an influx of women in politics," said Nancy Wyman, Connecticut's first woman comptroller and president of the Women's Campaign School.

"It's still a man's world in politics," Wyman, a Democrat, told Reuters.

"Women really do start out at the bottom."

The school is geared to both candidates and campaign managers and classes are taught by seasoned politicians, campaign managers and consultants.

This year's session, which ended June 8, drew 39 students from Canada, Haiti, Kenya, the Ukraine and the United States. A 40th student, from Japan, withdrew because of her advanced pregnancy. Among them were a former prime minister of Haiti, a sociolo-

gist from Ukraine and an aspiring candidate for city council in Scottsdale, Ariz.

"We believe that women have to be trained in politics the same way they are trained in other fields," said Claudette Werleigh, who resigned as Haiti's prime minister in 1996.

She told Reuters she had not decided if she would make another bid for political office, but she said Haitian politics urgently needs more women.

Men presently hold all 27 seats in the country's Senate and 84 of the 87 seats in the lower chamber, she said.

Hotels try to be energy efficient

THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON—Staying in a hotel typically carries the benefit of a housekeeper cleaning up your room and putting fresh linens on the bed and clean towels in the bathroom every day.

But times are changing—and hotels say environmental concerns, not economics, are behind the shift.

The American Hotel and Motel Association (AHMA) reports that more hotels across the country, including those belonging to two major chains—

Choice Hotels International Inc. and Marriott International Inc., both of Maryland, are participating in its year-old voluntary program encouraging them to be more environmentally friendly in their operations. Though the hotels don't yet have numbers on how many guests are participating, they say interest is growing among visitors.

The industry's largest trade group, with the backing of the Environmental Protection Agency, last year produced in-room guest cards touting the importance of water and energy conservation. The cards, which are on display in 1,400 hotels and motels, give guests the option of reusing towels and sheets so that hotels save on water and energy use and costs.

By developing the program with the EPA's endorsement, the hotel association thinks it has removed hoteliers from a situation where some guests may opt not to participate because they consider it merely a charade by lodging companies to cut back on labor and services.

"There was some resistance to initiate program because some upscale and full-service hotels believed they'd encounter a customer backlash," said Maura Nelson, a spokeswoman for the AHMA.

The EPA estimates that by running more efficient operations—such as using energy-saving lights and more efficient dishwashers and laundry machines, in addition to doing less laundry—hotels could save \$100 million a year.

Choice Hotels began a voluntary program for its 71 corporate-owned hotels two years ago. Marriott International started experimenting with the cards in some of its hotels across the country, including facilities in Texas, Florida and Annapolis.

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Student writes for President

COLUMNIST:

Ideas about Clinton, politics land him job as speech writer.

COLLEGE PRESS SERVICE

Like many college newspaper columnists, Andrei Cherny probably wondered at one time or another whether anyone was reading his words or not.

Cherny isn't doubting it anymore, though.

A column he wrote for his school newspaper, the Harvard Crimson, not only caught the attention of a White House staff member, it eventually led to a job.

A few months before he graduated from Harvard University in June, Cherny, 21, was hired as a White House speech writer, one of the youngest in history.

Cherny's key to the White House door was a political column he wrote for the Crimson last November.

It analyzed the strategy behind President Clinton's election victory, and described Clinton as a "raging centrist, who would fight for middle class interests and mainstream values."

The opinion piece packed enough punch to be noticed by a White House staff member who was on campus for a conference.

"The White House representative thought Cherny really understood what Clinton's ideas are," said Catherine McLaughlin, deputy director of the Institute of Politics at Harvard, where Cherny worked for four years.

McLaughlin said the White House staffer clipped the column

and eventually it landed in four very powerful hands — Clinton's and Vice President Gore's.

That's when Cherny's saga became fodder for Washington tongue-waggers.

According to Al Kamen, famous for keeping tabs on politicians in his column in the Washington Post, the White House engaged in a bidding war for Cherny's talents with House Minority Leader Richard Gephardt (D-Mo.).

Apparently, Gephardt's office offered Cherny a job before the White House did.

But, Kamen wrote in his June 18 column, "Vice President Gore and President Clinton were determined not to let Gephardt get Cherny," adding, they "joust big-time over the youngster."

In the end, Cherny opted for Pennsylvania Avenue.

Once he started, the White House Press Office forbid Cherny from giving interviews with the media. But before he left his parents' home in Los Angeles for Washington, Cherny told the Los Angeles Times that his hiring was just a "right-place, right-time situation."

Contrary to the Post report, Ginny Terzano, a Gore press aide, said no one in the White House went out of the way to hire Cherny.

She also said the Harvard grad was not hired just because of his column. "We were looking to fill a position, and he's a very talented writer," Terzano said.

She, however, admitted that Gore was impressed by Cherny's views and added, "The Vice President has always sought young people with energy to get involved in White House projects."

Cherny has a long history of being involved in political projects. "He came here his freshman year

and handed me a three-page resume with all these political things, like working for local candidates, before he even got to Harvard," McLaughlin said.

To label Cherny a political junkie would be an understatement, according to his friend and Harvard roommate, Doug Pravda.

Apparently, Cherny gets cranky if he doesn't get his daily dose of the Hotline, a publication that details what happened on Capitol Hill and in other arenas in national politics.

Pravda also said his former roommate didn't have much free time because "he was always reading or online following politics or watching 'Meet the Press.'"

When he did take a break from politics to watch TV or a movie, Cherny didn't stray far, says Pravda. "Andrei really liked 'Spin City' because it's about this deputy mayor."

And Pravda recalls walking around campus with Cherny one day when the latter spotted a poster advertising the movie "The American President," with Michael Douglas.

Cherny took the poster home and hung it in his room. "I don't know if he even likes the movie," Pravda said, "but he certainly is a big fan of anything political."

He's also a big fan of Bill Clinton, which should suit him well in his new role. "He has been a Clinton supporter and very much agrees with Clinton politics."

Andrei views himself in Clinton's New Democrat mold," said Pravda.

McLaughlin, too, is certain Andrei will do well in his new digs.

"He's just a very intelligent person. The President was very lucky to get him."

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Class falls climbing Alaskan mountain

REUTER

ANCHORAGE, Alaska—A climbing expedition ended in disaster Sunday when a mountaineer-

ing class fell 1,000 feet down a steep gully and two students were killed.

A dozen students and two instructors from the University of Alaska's wilderness education

program were descending the 4,880-foot Ptarmigan Peak when one lost control and triggered the fall of the others, said Steve Wilhelmi, spokesman for the Alaska State Troopers.

"They were all roped together when one of them slipped and fell, and that resulted in the whole group going down," he told reporters. The climbers slid down snow and hard ice and landed in a

field of boulders, Wilhelmi said. Troopers and park rangers used a helicopter to ferry the injured to an Anchorage hospital, where they were treated for multiple fractures. Their names were not released.



DRAWING BOARD: Ray Lenzi, executive director of Dunn-Richmond Office of Economical and Regional Development, writes down ideas that were suggested by students and Carbondale residents during a town hall meeting Monday at the Student Center.

AMY STRAUSS/
Daily Egyptian

BRAINSTORM

continued from page 1

Also suggested was creating more student-community events, such as a festival after an October SIUC football game or an event at the beginning of the school year to give new students a good first impression of Carbondale.

"Students could volunteer for flower planting (downtown) and the barbecue cook-off," said Barbara Parrish, a member of Carbondale Main Street, an organization that promotes downtown development.

Vingren said USG is developing a student "party patrol," in which police would send groups of students to parties to inform them of complaints, preventing police involvement.

Ed Ford, vice president of the Graduate and Professional Student Council, said students who damage businesses downtown during Halloween could be made to work for one week for the businesses they damage.

Dave Colombo, a Carbondale resident, was most interested in landlord-tenant relationships.

"Landlord maintenance; they'll have somebody mow the lawn but there is no beautification," he said. "I'd like to see more awareness of everyone's perspective."

Ideas to increase communication between the city government and students included having more town meetings and having non-voting students on the City Council and the Carbondale

Chamber of Commerce board.

Mark Terry, former GPSC president, said the City Council could have meetings on SIUC's campus four times each year.

Some recommendations to involve students with Carbondale businesses included creating student internships at local businesses or allowing students to could exchange services for goods.

Mayor Neil Dillard said the meeting was positive, but the current interaction

It (the meeting) showed a willingness of the whole community to work together.

MAGGIE FLANAGAN
CARBONDALE CITY COUNCILWOMAN

between the city and the University should be discussed.

"Many of these items have been and are being done, by the city and University," he said.

Flanagan said there will be another meeting in about two weeks in which "action committees" will work on the ideas generated at Monday's meeting.

"I am so excited at the momentum we've built up," Flanagan said. "It (the meeting) showed a willingness of the whole community to work together."

ELK

continued from page 1

Trails, 222 W. Freeman St. said releasing elk would be a burden on many people because elk and deer behave similarly. He has had two car accidents involving deer.

"It would be a great idea if we already weren't overwhelmed with the white-tailed deer population," Reeves said. "I don't think there's enough habitat to support them all together."

Carol Knowles, director of public affairs for the department, said concerns like Reeves' have caused the delayed decision.

"Right now, we're trying to address public concerns," Knowles said. "Deer would be restoring a species that previously was on Illinois landscape

more than 100 years ago."

Schweizer said the state plan is to gradually introduce elk to the area over a period of seven years.

He said although elk are not endangered, bringing them back to the area would increase tourism and opportunities for hunters.

"Our biologists have said they will create a herd up to 200 elk within seven years," he said.

Knowles said elk and deer have separate traits. A department study indicated that elk probably would not cause car accidents.

She said the elk release first was suggested by some residents who heard other states, such as Michigan and Kentucky, successfully reintroduced elk.

"Elk is an entirely different species," she said. "Deer would bound out onto the highway, where elk tend not to because they move

slower. People would have more notice of elk than deer."

Elk herds are another of Reeves' concerns.

He said they will not affect many residents, "but definitely will have farmers in a rage if they trample crops."

Knowles said the department has been planning ways to avoid crop damage.

"We may be able to work in conjunction with farmers to plant crops in the area, or we may have to do it on our own," she said.

Although Reeves said the elk release would be great for hunters like Humphrey and draw a lot of tourists, he said they should not be reintroduced.

"They're good for the scenery, but I don't think they will co-exist," he said. "On the same note, bears used to be here, too."

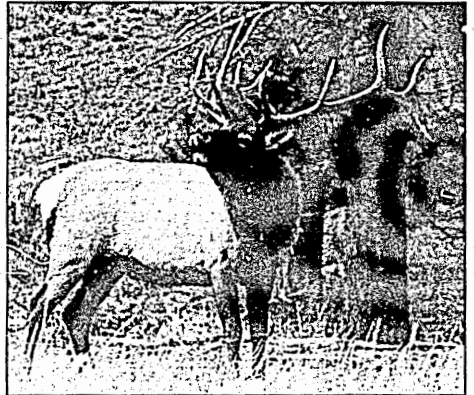



Photo courtesy of Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation

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U.S. tie means little

TREADING WATER:
United States did little to help its position in World Cup qualifier.

THE WASHINGTON POST

SAN SALVADOR, El Salvador—Very little was resolved by the U.S. national soccer team's 1-1 tie with El Salvador in a World Cup qualifier here Sunday.

The U.S. squad didn't distance itself from the weaker countries in its six-team, round-robin qualifying group that will send three sides to next summer's championship tournament in France.

Questions linger about who should join Eric Wynalda on the U.S. forward line; about who will fill the playmaking role; and about who is the starting goalkeeper.

The most critical issue—qualifying for the World Cup—is far from being settled, but Sunday's result kept the U.S. team on course to earn a berth. At the halfway point of the final qualifying round, the Americans are in third place with a 1-3 record and six standings points. Mexico is first with 11 points, followed by Costa Rica (seven) and the United States. El Salvador, Canada and Jamaica all have five.

"Some of the best teams in the world reach their peak at the time of the World Cup," goalkeeper Brad Friedel said. "I saw Germany a few

weeks ago and they didn't look all that good, but I guarantee you they'll be ready for the World Cup.

"We just have to concentrate on qualifying for France. It doesn't matter how we do it. We can play good soccer, we can play bad soccer—as long as we qualify."

At the moment the U.S. team is playing a combination of good and bad soccer, but most important, it has been getting good results. Since

able first half—albeit scoreless—was followed by an excellent second half, and forward Roy Lassiter nearly gave the Americans a last-minute victory.

The speedy Lassiter scored in the 52nd minute, and it appears he will join Wynalda—who missed Sunday's game with a groin injury—in the starting lineup for the next game. Sunday's starters at forward, David Wagner and Jovan Kirovski, did not cause any problems for El Salvador's mediocre defense.

Asked whether the ineffective Wagner, who was replaced by Lassiter at halftime, had played his final game in a U.S. uniform, Sampson replied: "Good question. We'll wait and see how he does with his new (German) club team. We'll be watching closely."

The goalkeeping position also is up in the air. Friedel played very well here, but English League veteran Kasey Keller is generally considered a little better. Sampson used Friedel on Sunday because Keller is coming off elbow surgery and has not played competitively since mid-May.

As for the playmaking role, D.C. United's John Harkes was instrumental in the U.S. attack in the second half Sunday but he is suspended from the next match for accumulating yellow cards. Claudio Reyna, not in top form at the moment, and Tab Ramos, out since November with a knee injury, are the other options. Ramos likely will be available for the Sept. 7 match.

“**We can play good soccer, we can play bad soccer — as long as we qualify.**”

UNITED STATES GOALKEEPER BRAD FRIEDEL

the qualifying process began last fall, the United States is 5-2-4, with both losses coming in Costa Rica.

Three of its final five games will be played in the United States, including the next two—vs. Costa Rica on Sept. 7 in Portland, Ore., and vs. Jamaica on Oct. 3 at RFK Stadium. Two victories would bring a World Cup berth within reach.

"Coming away with (a tie on Sunday) was critical to maintain our level of confidence," Coach Steve Sampson said. "We need to reinforce the positive ... and this team will only get stronger."

Sampson's squad got stronger as Sunday's game went on. A miser-

NHL facing lean free agent market

WISH LIST:
Messier, Belfour among big names up for grabs

THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON—Six-time Stanley Cup champion Mark Messier may be officially up for grabs when the NHL's free agency period begins Tuesday, but don't expect to see him in a Washington Capitals uniform anytime soon. The 36-year-old center is expected to re-sign with the New York Rangers, and although he is entertaining other serious offers, Washington probably won't make one.

"We'll look at a few things and talk to a few people, but I don't expect we'll sign anyone," Capitals General Manager George McPhee said Monday. "If you look at the (unrestricted) free agents out there, it's pretty lean."

Among the unrestricted free agents with less certain destinations than Messier are Detroit's Igor Larionov, Florida's Brian Skrudland, Colorado's Mike Keane, Dallas's Brent Gilchrist and

Calgary's Gary Roberts. Goaltenders Andy Moog (Dallas) and Ed Belfour (San Jose) are available, and right wing Rick Tocchet, traded to Washington from Boston on March 1, also will be testing the market.

All of these players are 32 or older, classifying them as Group 3 free agents. Teams who sign them will not need to give any compensation to their former clubs. But most of these players carry risks. Skrudland, integral to the Panthers' trip to the Stanley Cup finals in 1996, scored five goals in 51 games this season. Roberts sat out this season after having neck surgery.

Tocchet also has a history of injuries, although he now says he is healthy. In fact, he's so sure his 34-year-old body can withstand another three seasons of his rough-and-umble style of play, on June 15 he turned down the option year of his contract with Washington, which would have paid him \$2.18 million.

"I'm confident in myself that I'm healthy," Tocchet said at the time. "If I wasn't, I'd say it's better to grab (the option) when I can, but I am. I want to go somewhere where I'm really wanted, and where I can end my career."

BASEBALL

continued from page 12

were the largest in the new Comiskey Park.

The Cubs' record for a three-game series is 120,000. During a three-game series with the American League's Milwaukee Brewers, the team drew 112,690 to Wrigley Field, said Cubs media relations assistant Wanda Taylor.

While the numbers appear to indicate interleague play is a success, Luke Smith, a senior in elementary education from Chicago, said the high attendance comes from the novelty.

He said ultimately, interleague play will be

bad for baseball.

"I think it messes up the schedule," Smith said. "It screws up everybody's record."

He said the two leagues are too different, and it is difficult to gauge what teams should play each other. Because the games count, he said, a team could win a division without a true reflection of how well that team did in its own league.

But interleague play is something Jerry Hairston Sr., a former Chicago White Sox player, says should have been scheduled a long time ago.

"I have always wanted this," Hairston said. "As a rookie in 1973, I thought, 'What's the

deal with the two leagues?' I've always thought there should some interleague play at the regional level."

But, he said, both leagues need their own identities. That is why he likes teams from the same region playing, such as the Cubs and the Brewers.

Other fans such as John LaFlamby, a senior in theater from Chicago, like interleague play because as a Cubs fan, he wants to see the two Chicago teams play games that count.

"Why put in your best pitcher if he could get hurt or tired in a game that doesn't count?" he said. "Before, when the Cubs would play

the White Sox, both teams would put in the scrubs and save the guys they need for the next game."

He said the increased attendance will continue because rivalries will bring fans to the ballpark.

The increased attendance even has convinced a few fans who before were skeptical. Saluki head baseball coach Dan Callahan said it took him awhile, but he now is in favor of interleague play.

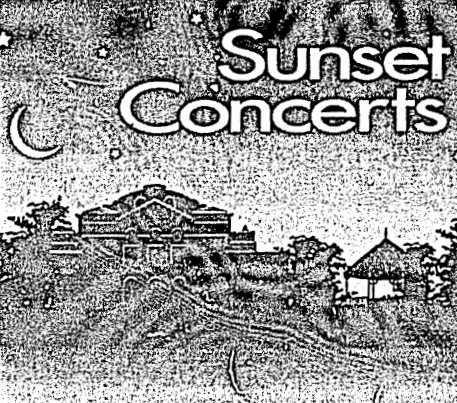
"I consider myself more of a traditionalist," he said. "But after seeing what has happened, I like the idea. It is something baseball needed."

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PostGame

HOCKEY

Expansion Nashville franchise names president

John C. Diller was named president of the new National Hockey League expansion franchise in Nashville on Tuesday.

Diller, a 25-year veteran of professional sports management, became involved in professional hockey as vice president of the NHL's New York Rangers in the 1970s.

His most recent job was president of National Basketball Association's San Antonio Spurs.

NCAA BASKETBALL

Pairings announced for Great Eight Classic

Participants for the annual Great Eight Basketball Classic at the United Center this winter were announced on Monday.

The four games to be played Dec. 2-3 are Kentucky vs. Purdue, Kansas vs. Arizona, North Carolina vs. Louisville and Utah vs. Providence.

The teams were the eight regional finalists from the 1996 NCAA tournament, except for Kansas and Purdue.

NCAA rules allow only one school from each conference to participate. Kansas replaces UCLA because UCLA is in the Pacific-10 conference, the same as Arizona. Purdue replaces Minnesota, which had a prior commitment.

The games will be televised on ESPN.

Florida State hires its first African-American coach

Former University of Tulsa coach Steve Robinson was named Florida State University's new men's head basketball coach on Monday.

He compiled a 46-18 record with the Golden Hurricane, leading the team to the NCAA tournament in each of his two seasons.

Robinson becomes FSU's first African-American coach, and the only African-American head basketball coach in Atlantic Coast Conference.

He will succeed Pat Kennedy, who left to become head coach at DePaul University.

BASEBALL

Griffey heads American League All-Stars

Seattle Mariner outfielder Ken Griffey Jr. was the leading vote-getter for American League All-Star team for the second consecutive year.

Griffey, who has missed the past two Major League Baseball All-Star games because of injuries, received 3,514,340 votes.

Joining Griffey on the starting lineup will be Baltimore third baseman Cal Ripken, Texas catcher Ivan Rodriguez, New York first baseman Tino Martinez, Baltimore second baseman Roberto Alomar, Seattle shortstop Alex Rodriguez, Seattle designated hitter Edgar Martinez, Cleveland outfielder David Justice and Baltimore outfielder Brady Anderson.

BOXING

Tyson apologizes

Mike Tyson apologized on Tuesday for biting the ear of heavyweight champion Evander Holyfield during Saturday night's title bout in Las Vegas.

Tyson was disqualified for his actions in the third round of the fight.

Ex-SIUC star shines in Prarie Games

DECORATED: Tai ready for coaching after dedicating medals to his brother.

TRAVIS AKIN
DE SPORTS EDITOR

Leaping his way to a gold-medal finish in an amateur track and field tournament last weekend, former Saluki long jumper Jesse Tai dedicated his victory to his brother who died in a car accident.

Tai's brother, Reggie Williams, died in a car accident early last semester.

"I was shaken up, and I didn't go to class for a while," Tai said. "I am dedicating the whole year to him."

Tai competed in the Prairie State Games in Fairview Heights, an annual festival of 23 Olympic-style sports in which more than 6,500 participate.

He won the gold medal with a jump of 23-10. Tai also won the silver medal in the triple jump with a jump of 44-5 and was a member of the silver-medal-winning 4x400 relay team, which finished with a time of 3:34.

Tai competed against about 20 athletes in the long jump and triple jump. His team was one of five competing in the relay.

Tai plans to continue competing in amateur events, but ultimately, he would like to coach.

"I think I could teach as well as learn," he said. "I love the sport of track and field, and I love to study it."

To prepare for a coaching job, Tai is volunteering to coach the SIUC men's track team sprinters next season.

Saluki men's track coach Bill Cornell said he could use Tai's help readying the team for competition.

"We are a young team," he said. "I am hoping this will be a good experience for him and at the same time help us."

Tai said though he will not be paid for his work, the opportunity to learn more about track and field made him volunteer to coach.

"I am just glad to be on the team again," he said. "I want to get the experience here and build on that and coach — if not here, somewhere else."

Tai transferred from Allen County Community College in Kansas to SIUC in 1993. He chose to come to SIUC over other schools recruiting him, such as Nebraska, Wichita State and Louisiana Tech.

"I just sort of threw the cards in air and



FLYING HIGH: Former Saluki long jumper Jesse Tai practices at McAndrew Stadium. Tai won the gold medal in the long jump at the Prairie State Games in Fairview Heights last weekend.

came here," he said. "I liked the facilities here when I saw them."

In 1995, his last year with the Salukis, Tai led the team in two events. He ran the 55-meter dash with a time of 6.53 seconds. His outdoor long jump of 24 3/4 also was the team best.

He also is the No. 10 long jumper in SIUC history with his 1994 jump of 24-7 1/2.

He became interested in track when his father entered him in a track meet when he was about 6.

Tai, who lived in 12 foster homes as a child, said he realized if he put his energy into track, he might find a way out of his circum-

stance.

"It is a way to escape," he said. "Instead of hanging out with friends, I began to hang out with the track team. I took some punishment for that because the kids I hung out with were some tough kids. They were about 13 or 14, and all of them carried firearms."

Tai, who graduated in May, has a degree in administration of justice, but his goal is a career in coaching.

"I want every sprinter (at SIUC) to say that this year was their best season," he said. "To me that is a coach's greatest accomplishment."

Interleague play increases attendance

SUCCESS? AL vs. NL games drawing large numbers of fans as well as critics.

TRAVIS AKIN
DE SPORTS EDITOR

The high attendance at the new interleague major league baseball games indicates they may become permanent fixtures in the season.

But despite their initial success, the games remain controversial among some fans.

Interleague games are regular-season games in which teams from the American League and National League play each other. All games count toward the teams' records.

The interleague play began June 13.

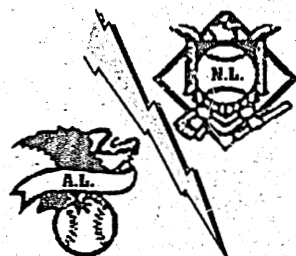
As in World Series play, when an American League team plays in a National League stadium, both teams do not have a designated hitter. But when a National League team visits an American League ballpark, the designated-hitter rule applies.

Also, American League ballparks usually are smaller than National League parks, so home runs are easier to hit.

Joe Cox, a sophomore at John A. Logan College, supports interleague play because it will challenge both leagues.

"I think it draws more interest," he said. "There is nothing wrong with a little change. It will create more rivalries, like the Cubs and the Brewers."

But Russell Saputo, a sophomore in indus-



GRAPHIC BY SUSAN RICH/Daily Egyptian trial technology from Springfield attending JALC, disagrees with interleague play.

"The teams they should be playing are teams in their own division," Saputo said. "Teams need to prove they are better than teams in their own division to get to the playoffs instead of playing interleague games."

Although interleague play has received criticism, the games have drawn large crowds.

Attendance for interleague games has increased in all major league ballparks by an average of 35.1 percent, said Pat Courtney, manager of public relations for major league baseball.

The average attendance for a regular season game is 25,851, but the average attendance for an interleague game is 34,922, Courtney said.

Brian Bartow, director of media relations

for the National League's St. Louis Cardinals, said as long as ticket sales increase, interleague play will be part of major league baseball.

"Initial reports are positive," Bartow said. "I know when the turnstiles click, that is a pretty good barometer. There are a lot of smiles on a lot of people in the seats."

During a three-game series with the American League's Cleveland Indians in St. Louis in June, the Cardinals averaged 44,920 in attendance, exceeding the season average of 30,986 by almost 14,000, Bartow said.

The capacity at the Cardinals' home, Busch Stadium, is 49,676.

Bartow said interleague play allows fans to see the superstars of a different league.

"You see these guys on TV, but it is still not the same seeing them in real life," he said. "I think any time you can get your product into as many markets as possible, it will grow the game."

The Cardinals are not the only team to experience success. The Chicago White Sox of the American League, in an interleague series with the Chicago Cubs of the National League, sold out two of the three games, a White Sox spokesman said.

They drew 44,249 in one game and 44,204 in another game.

The capacity at the White Sox' Comiskey Park is 44,321. The crowds at the two games