From left, Benjamin Bruhn, Bill Davis, Andrea Okrasinski, Jason Agriopoulos, Ebony Thomas, and Daily Egyptian reporter Ryan Rendleman sit for a short break after a field leader's action course debrief Sunday morning.

Two ROTC cadets discuss plans on land navigation before they set out to find markers in the woods using a compass and map Saturday afternoon.

**USG committed to being heard**

Wayne Utterback  
**DAILY EGYPTIAN**

One of the main goals for Undergraduate Student Government this year was to improve "customer service." USG Vice President Paul Ogwal said the group has more than accomplished that task.

"We always keep an open door," Ogwal said. "We don't want to keep anything a secret."

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Ogwal said the relaxed mood of the USG office is more "customer service." The group has more than accomplished that task.

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I headdress and thought about it for a night and realized this would probably be the only chance I would ever have to shoot an M-16 and train with the U.S. Army.

Army Lt. Col. Misty Wallingford, professor of military sciences, said twice a year the Army ROTC does field training exercises at the SIUC police firing range. He said the training was different because it brings together 22 other schools and meets Ft. Leonard Wood, Mo. The fall and spring training is supervised by Warrant Fong at Ft. Lewis Wash., in the summer. He said 272 ROTC programs throughout the nation gather for this, and the cadets are assessed based on their performances.

I picked up my gear Thursday — without having a clue how to really wear or pack any of it — and headed to work, anxious out having a clue how to really wear or pack any of it — and headed to work, anxious.

At the time, I didn’t think I would come away from the weekend having gained much more than basic Army skills. Not only was I taught how to take apart and put together an M-16, but I learned to look past the uniform, I learned to see people, not camouflage.

And so, my 48-hour Army career began late Friday afternoon.

**Story continued on page 8**

**Election 2006**

County Board candidates face tough questions

Brandon Augsburg  
**DAILY EGYPTIAN**

Tempers simmered and discussion became heated at the Jackson County Board candidate forum held at the Holiday Inn Conference Center in Carbondale.

The Carbondale and Murphysboro chambers of commerce teamed up to host the event, and the Paul Simon Public Policy Institute director Mike Lawrence moderated the discussion.

Ten of the 14 candidates attended the event, and they were granted approximately eight minutes at the beginning of the meeting to inform voters about their experience and to ask for their constitu- ent votes. After the introduction period, the floor opened for candidates to field questions from the audience.

The discussion centered on Jackson County’s budget problems and the purchase of the old Crain furniture building in Murphysboro.

Retiring County Board Chairman Gary Harthlieb previously said Jackson County, like many other counties in Illinois, is running out of money. Many questions from the audience pertained to advanced budgetary planning and the thinly stretched funds.

About 15 percent of the property taxes citizens of Jackson County pay go to the county budget, and many of the incumbent board members at the event said that number made financing county operations tricky.

District 3 candidate Dan Bost, a Republican from Murphyboro, said the county board has to work together to plan ahead five to 10 years, and the county must have a good relationship with businesses. He also said the county must take every advantage of the money it does have.

“We have to somehow get more bene- fit out of the taxes we’re paying,” he said.

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Pathologist examines mental state in stun-gun death
ST. LOUIS (AP) — An Illinois teenager who died after police shot him twice with a stun gun might have been in an agitated mental state where unusual strength is possible, possibly supporting police claims of a wide struggle with the 130-pound boy, a pathologist said Wednesday.

Dr. Phillip Burch, St. Louis' deputy chief medical examiner, said an autopsy Tuesday on 17-year-old Roger Holfield showed no overt signs of trauma or foul play that might have explained why the boy died.

Holfield died Sunday, a day after the confrontation with police in Jerseyville.

Burch said it's investigating the possibility that Holfield died from "delerium," which he described as a mental state "where someone is out of control and can do physically harmful actions normally considered impossible."

Such feats also could include continued struggle even after being shot with a high-voltage stun gun, he said.

"They shot up heavy objects, can pick up a human being and throw them — things they wouldn't normally be able to do," Burch said, calling such a state in Holfield's case "definitely a possibility."

Described as an overdose of adrenaline, the heart-racing condition affects mostly young men with histories of drug use or mental illness, and what are thought to be brain abnormalities, Vincent DiDiano, a Texas medical examiner and proponent of the diagnosis, told The Associated Press recently.

Medical examiners across the country increasingly have cited delirium resulting from drug use or psychiatric problems when suspects die in police custody. But there are no reliable national data on how many suspects die from excited delirium, and some civil rights groups question whether it exists.

Officials expect fewer Chicago-area voting problems
CHICAGO (AP) — Election officials in Tuesday's races are beefing up training and made equipment changes they expect will help next Tuesday's election go much smoother than last March, when the primary was plagued by confusion and embarrassing delays.

Cook County Clerk David Orr and Chicago Election Board Chairman Langdon Neal said every precinct will have at least one touch-screen voting machine that allow the votes and transmitting them will be sped up, officials said.

Another major change concerns the high-tech voting machines that allow the

In Wednesday's issue of the Daily Egyptian, the story "UK golf finishes season on high note" should have stated that the women's team remained in first place throughout the tournament. The Daily Egyptian regrets this error.

In today's Puck, the caption for the page 8 photo on the front page should read, "Mr. and Mrs. Sameh Soliman." Eric Felsenthal, Wes Weland, Andrew Blackwell and Josh Harbomrode. The Daily Egyptian regrets this error.

If you spot an error, please contact the Daily Egyptian accuracy desk at sxc3131, ext. 262.

Tommy Kennah/Louisiana indigenous people expressed their gratitude for the gift of the American flag on Nov. 7 during the National Day of Prayer. This event is co-sponsored by the Department of Student Development, the Office of Student Affairs, the Office of University Ministry and the Ankeny Heritage House.

Praise for the Day: We can send this page from a cell phone to your friends.

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CALC 459-5326
Agriculture students honor classmate with memorial garden

Sean McGahan

People who knew Kara Gruenenfelder during her time at SIUC will never forget her. She was a constant reminder right on campus.

Kara’s Garden, a 45-by-15-foot bed located on the east side of the Agriculture Building, was constructed in August by several of the late agriculture education student’s classmates.

Gruenenfelder was killed March 10, 2005, in a single-car crash while visiting her hometown of Highland during spring break.

The memorial, which was paid for by student fundraising and donations from several local garden centers, includes a plethora of different plants and a 5-foot concrete bench with Gruenenfelder’s name inscribed.

Alicia Garcia, a senior from Atlanta, Ill., studying plant and soil science who helped create the garden, said Gruenenfelder had a deep love for horticulture and plants.

“She was the garden. She was the garden. We were just happy to be a part of it,” Garcia said.

The garden is more symbolic of her love for ag and her love for gardening,” Garcia said. “It was just a great collaborative effort on everybody’s part to put it together.”

The effort included the work of several clubs within the College of Agricultural Sciences, including the Agriculture Education Club, which Gruenenfelder helped to create.

“Bison is what the Indians had to catch them, so that is why people eat. They would have to run fast and how he tries to appeal to the American consumer. He breeds his bison on grass, hay and water and said American consumers are used to corn and grain fed animals.

“I know you heard the rumors that Indians never died of heart attacks,” Howell said. “Bison is their main food, and it is high in protein and low in cholesterol.”

Garcia said she hopes the future College of Agricultural Sciences students will keep the memorial intact.

“We think we accomplished our goal, and we hope that she’s smiling down looking at us and enjoying it as much as we did making it,” Garcia said.

Nichole Boyd, a graduate student studying History from Chicago and who is in her fourth year studying at SIUC in 2001.

Wakelief said he was impressed by Gruenenfelder’s openness and willingness to learn — so much so that he donated a pair of gloves and worked on the construction of the memorial with his students.

“I am a person that considers my students part of a family,” Wakelief said. “Since Kara was a part of the family, I wanted to be with my students out there working.”

Wakelief said he plans to organize a dedication of Kara’s Garden for classmates and family of the late Gruenenfelder that will occur sometime in April.

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Bush says Rumsfeld and Cheney should stay in office until the end

Terence Hunt / The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Bush said Wednesday he was relying on former Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld and Vice President Dick Cheney to help him with the end of his presidency, extending a job guarantee to two of the most vilified members of his administration.

"Both those men are doing fantas
tic jobs and I strongly support them," Bush said in an interview with The Associated Press and others.

On the war in Iraq, Bush said the military has not asked for an increase in U.S. forces beyond the 140,000 already there. He said U.S. generals have told him "that the troop level is just right now," and "they are pleased with the progress we’re making," the president said. He rep
d the idea of walking away from negotiations.

Bush credited Rumsfeld with over
seeing wars in Iraq and Afghanistan "with skill and confidence," adding that Rumsfeld "could make a joke in the middle of a tax raid." The president said he was making a joke critical of Bush, not the troops.

Referring to the U.S. military’s actions in the Middle East, Bush said they were "the right thing to do," adding that he did not regret经贸 talks.

In addition, Bush said he was determined that there would be no military action on his presidency, with a special focus on the situation in Iraq, where the U.S. forces in Iraq would be returning to stalled nuclear talks.

Bush opened the interview by say
ing he was pleased that North Korea was returning to stalled nuclear negotiations, and that Bush had "expressed disappointment" about the intentions of Kim Jong Il, North Korea’s leader. "It’s his word," Bush said. "I would hope he is sincere." He said that any deal with North Korea would have to be "clear and verifiable." The president said he did not accept North Korea as a nuclear weapon
country, even though it tested a nuclear device. He said he did not "believe it was a nuclear weapon state," the president said. Bush said he was "not a potential contender for the 2008 nomination."

He reiterated his statement that he would never get it." The president opened the interview by say
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Kerry apologizes for remark about troops

David Espo / The Associated Press

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"It’s a real dumb thing to say," Kerry said. "I should say sorry," the president said Dana Perino, deputy press secretary. "I’m sorry," he said. "That was a stupid thing to say." Kerry said he hoped people would understand his words had been taken out of context.

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d the idea of walking away from negotiations.
Old bar finds new life as clothing store

It has been months since the once lively Cadillac Lounge has seen any of its regulars sit down at the bar. Since its closing, the lounge has been transformed from one of the oldest bars in Carbondale to one of its latest new clothing stores.

The new store, named Urban 2, is located 215 N. Washington St. and is owned and operated by the Greer family, who also ran the Cadillac Lounge for 25 years. Owner Charles Greer decided to switch businesses after his teenaged grandchildren complained about the difficulty of finding quality urban apparel in the area.

"I just thought it'd try something different," Greer said.

The new store is located where the old dance floor used to be and carries some of the biggest brands in the industry, such as Rocawear, Seanjohn, Baby Phat and Applebottom. Patrons can place a special order if they cannot find something in stock.

"We're trying to fulfill the need for these products in this area," Greer said.

The Cadillac Lounge originally opened its doors in 1981 and was one of several black-owned bars in the area, Greer said. In the '80s and early '90s, many of these establishments, including The Tropicana, The Palms and Superdisco, closed down.

Angie Lewis was a frequent customer of the Cadillac Lounge and a family friend of the Greers. On certain days, you can find her in the store reminiscing with the family about the old days, when the bar stood as a family friend of the Greers. On one of several black-owned bars in the area, Greer said. In the '80s and early '90s, many of these establishments, including The Tropicana, The Palms and Superdisco, closed down.

"It's just the nature of the beast," Greer said, in reference to the alcohol business.

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"We had to go to all the way out of the way," Lewis said. "We had to go to all the way out of the way," Lewis said. "It's just the nature of the beast," Greer said, in reference to the alcohol business.

"It probably will make that area nice for a area to travel," he said. Indeed, the Strip, the area in front of the Cadillac Lounge would sometimes see drunken fistfights and vandalism late at night.

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The Cadillac Lounge originally opened its doors in 1981 and was one of several black-owned bars in the area, Greer said. In the '80s and early '90s, many of these establishments, including The Tropicana, The Palms and Superdisco, closed down.
A small world? Not really

The steady decrease in international students at SIUC — it's a nebulous problem to say the least.

Any number of things could lead to numbers such as 1,149, the number of international students at SIUC this year — or 384, the number marking the decline of international enrollment since 2002.

Growing parity exists between international universities and universities in the United States, which leaves an American education looking less prestigious than in years past. There are the difficulties involved with adjusting to another culture and way of life. There's the lack of job opportunities for international students, who are ineligible for federal work-study. Also, let's not forget about the breaking of connections between universities.

The university has gone through this specifically, having to close down its Niigata campus in Nakajo, Japan, in May. The Niigata campus proved itself to be a free resource for international students, for a time providing SIUC with 20 students a semester. By the time of Niigata's closing, only a handful of students were arriving each semester.

SIUC has harbored international students steadily for the past six decades as part of its commitment to diversity, a philosophy this university loves to trumpet. It's easy to hear the success stories, such as those of Iraqi Saad Jahn. Jahn was the first international student to graduate from SIUC and say this school has been doing its job in regard to being progressive on an international level. There was a time when SIUC ranked fourth in the nation in international enrollment — but apparently our administrators are not resting on their laurels.

Recently, we've heard Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Larry Dietz say, "Our future is a multicultural future," and Chancellor Walter Wendler say, "We want to change the world, but we have to know how the world works."

Dietz made his statement while stumping for a new committee that will focus on how to attract more international students and keep them here. It appears that our school's leaders are recognizing that SIU has a problem here and that it is a part of an already established national dilemma. The United States lost more than 21,000 international students from 2002 to 2004. The stats for the last two years are not available, but that type of fall is likely to have continued.

How to remedy this situation: Let's, for a slight moment, listen to the chancellor and his idea that we should learn how the world works. This new international student committee is expected to look into such issues as increasing dialogue with overseas institutions and promoting study abroad opportunities. It should be easy to do both, especially promoting study abroad courses.

Really pushing these aspects of higher education can do quick work in increasing our understanding of international students and the institutions they come from. In the meantime, something needs to be done to help those who do choose to come over here feel more comfortable and not restricted to their own homogenous cliques.

Maybe a job would help, a lot of talking is done at work.

Derrick B. Reese
Guest Columnist

I am writing to set the record straight about the story that was carried last week regarding the nine suspensions handed down by the university and the incredible blog activity that followed.

First, the students who were suspended came from various areas of Illinois. They filled out the admission applications separately. They sat for the ACT or SAT separately. They attended separate high schools, and they were accepted to the university separately on their merits. They earned the right to be students at Southern Illinois University.

Second, they met each other and became friends at SIUC. Some had classes together, some lived in the same dorms, some tried out for the Saluki football team together and some lived in the same dorms. They did not beat that student according to simple "blood evidence." They did not complain and did as they were told. When they were required to remove their clothes and shoes looking for blood evidence or street battle marks, they did not. When the DPS proceeded to take pictures of their hands, they did not complain and did as they were told. They were suspended for a combined total of 17 years.

Fourth, the Student Judicial Affairs office did not follow its own policies and procedures. The SJA utilizes a preponderance of the evidence standard to determine violations at the suspension hearings. Simply put, this standard means "more likely than not." However, to reach a finding of the preponderance of the evidence, you must evaluate all the evidence.

Here, the only evidence the SJA considered was the police report. The police report can never constitute evidence — it can only be the framework from which the charges evolve. The charges are proved or disproved by testimony of witnesses.

In this case there were none.

Fifth, the SIUC Department of Public Safety failed to do an adequate job investigating the crime. A call went out on the wire saying that 15 to 30 African-American males were battering a fellow student. The DPS stopped the first group it came across based on that description. The students did not run when the police lights came on to effectuate that stop. They all stopped. When the DPS asked them to line-up, they did. When the DPS proceeded to take pictures of their hands, clothes and shoes looking for blood evidence or street battle marks, they did not complain and did as they were told.

When the police found no evidence of blood, abrasions, swelling or cuts, they sent for the victim to identify the suspects by cloth marks, they did not complain and did as they were told. When the DPS proceeded to take pictures of their hands, clothes and shoes looking for blood evidence or street battle marks, they did not complain and did as they were told. When the police found no evidence of blood, abrasions, swelling or cuts, they sent for the victim to identify the suspects by cloth marks, they did not complain and did as they were told.

Finally, the blog traffic Responses from the university community to that article were a "companionship rush to judgment." I read everything from the university should not recruit from certain areas of Illinois to the university did the right thing in suspending the students. I am appalled at my university community.

These students were deprived of an education they earned. They did not beat student according to simple "blood spatter evidence" that a "black light" revealed was not present on any of those students. Yet, these students were told to go home! You should be ashamed, SIUC. I am ashamed of you!

What if it was your child?

Derrick B. Reese, Sr. is the father of the suspended student, Derrick B. Reese, Jr.
InSight

Getting caught up

Photo Column by Melissa Barr

America's favorite pastime has never really been mine. When I was a kid, I played baseball with my family during the summers out in the country next to an old schoolhouse. My last encounter with baseball was when my uncle hit a line drive toward the pitcher's mound and sent my aunt to the hospital, leaving her with 11 stitches and a black eye. We never played again.

Despite childhood encounters with the game, I never really enjoyed watching baseball, though I did enjoy movies such as "Field of Dreams," "The Sandlot" and "Angels in the Outfield." Watching games on television felt like endless hours of waiting for something to happen. Although I did go to a couple of Cardinals games the year Mark McGwire broke Roger Maris' single season home run record, and I remember feeling a little excited.

Last weekend, I was in downtown St. Louis for a college media convention. Something about the excitement in the city was absolutely contagious. I knew something important about the excitement in the city was absolutely uproar, and I fit in right along with the rest of the crazed fans who were hugging each other and taking photos together like they were family.

I don't know what will happen with the sudden interest in baseball that ignited in me on Oct. 27, but I can definitely say it was one of the most thrilling experiences of my life.
Austin Timmons demonstrates how to properly hold an M-16 before cadets fire their weapons at the range Saturday morning.

Suit up a reporter for Army ROTC field training and imagine what happens.

Friday

My first stop was Kesnar Hall, where we used to shooting guns, and my shooting was mediocre. Twenty-five out of 50 shots hit the target, and I fell proud for at least Dlapm.

Saturday

We received the M-16, the doomsday land navigation course, where we would map and points to find markers in the surrounding area. I was paired with Thomas, a sophomore from Oak Park studying administration of justice, and Delia Himmon, a sophomore from Chicago studying administration of justice. We were called "Griffith" and "Griffith" but I knew why.

The early morning was cool and with a dark sky, I almost wanted to sit in my rucksack and stare at the stars. The forest was so beautiful, but loud music blared from a truck stereo. As I thought about the friends I have in far from civilization, my thoughts were interrupted when my squad leader, Matt O’Hara, a junior from Springfield, asked me to go back to camp. The operation was over.

Sunday

As we journeyed into the forest and thorn bushes, I strained my eyes to look into the distance. Cold water terrorized our equipment into the tent.

When everyone was done, we did a final inspection. The last thing I sat was for the cold. Ice "burns," I was nervous walking onto the range and to complete land navigation Saturday afternoon.

"We do 10-hour firing," Thomas said as we noticed the beautiful sound of music coming from a nearby van. The noise was eerie, but it was a reality. I strained my eyes to look into the distance. The night was over, but the forest and the thorn bushes were still there, and the black silhouette of trees. Cold water terrorized our M-16s. I was exhausted from the experience.

Every rifle cadet must fit the rifle. I knew I was dead. The early morning was cool and with a dark sky, I almost wanted to sit in my rucksack and stare at the stars. The forest was so beautiful, but loud music blared from a truck stereo. As I thought about the friends I have in far from civilization, my thoughts were interrupted when my squad leader, Matt O’Hara, a junior from Springfield, asked me to go back to camp. The operation was over.

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While he has yet to attend a USG meeting this year, former USG President Nate Brown said the main difference he has noticed is the dialogue the students have with administrators.

Brown is now an undergradate assistant in the chancellor's office. During the summer, Brown drafted a model for a new form of student government that would eliminate USG and the Graduate and Professional Student Council while giving college administrators the responsibility of appointing student leaders.

The model, which Brown composed on the charge of Chancellor Walter Wendler, evolved into a student government task force that is currently looking at ways to make student government bodies at SIUC more efficient.

The model and the task force came after USG failed multiple times in the spring semester to allocate money to student groups for events. In one meeting designated for allocations, senators censured then-president Brown and urged Wendler to look for a job elsewhere before time restraints forced money distribution to another day.

Even though USG has been on the right track, improvements and changes can still be made to make student government better, Ogwal said.

Ogwal mentioned that senators Matt Picchietti and Joe Yancey recently started a group called “Fight Club,” in which senators talk with students about campus issues such as the delays on the new Wall and Grand Apartments. Interaction has been the main focus of improvement, USG chief of staff Jimmy Toriola said.

“Toriola said, “Senators now find it easier to come to USG.”

Student Development director and USG adviser Katie Sermersheim said the group is committed to making its voice and the student body’s voice heard on campus.

“They are definitely off on the right foot,” Sermersheim said.

Wayne Utterback can be reached at 536-3311 ext. 268 or wayne_utterback@dailyegyptian.com.
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

It would be fitting if it indeed came on.

I had a great dream about being a champion. That’s the first time for me in my championship battles ... I had the sensation of being a champion,” he said. “I didn’t have the full visual. I was seeing (everything), but every thought I have about it fills me up with excitement and happiness, because in the past, I almost had nightmares.

When I would think of the championship looming there before I’d go to sleep at night ... everything was kind of dream-based. This year, everything as I dozed off and go to sleep, I’m smiling and I’m like, ‘Man, I can’t wait to get to Texas and Phoenix and Homestead and race for this thing.’”

“Now we head into the final three races of the year with just 26 points separating Kenseth from second-place Johnson. Although Denovy Hamlin, Jeff Burton and Dale Earnhardt Jr. are all within striking distance, the Nextel Cup is more than likely Kenseth’s or Johnson’s to lose.

Chase shaping up to be a 2-man race between Kenseth and Johnson

Jenna Fryer
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — What looked to be a wide-open Chase for the championship last week might actually only be a two-man race to the title.

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Chris Lowery doesn’t need to be reminded of what a Division II team can do. Less than a year ago, the SIU men’s basketball team suffered an embarrassing loss to the University of Alaska-Anchorage, its first D-II loss in 10 years. So when the Salukis open their season tonight at 7:05 with an exhibition game against Division II Quincy University, chances are the Salukis won’t be dallying around, given the lower-division competition. “We lost to a D-II team last year,” Lowery said. “If you don’t respect them, you’ll get beat.”

Last season, the Salukis pounded their two exhibition opponents, SIU-Edwardsville and the University of Missouri-St. Louis by a 22-point average. Even though there’s a noticeable dip in the competition, the Salukis’ play on the court won’t show it. “We go out there like it’s a regular game,” sophomore point guard Bryan Mullins said. “Like it’s a conference game.”

The Hawks might or might not put up a legitimate threat to the Salukis. Their track record, though, shows the Hawks are capable. Quincy finished the 2005-06 season with a 22-10 mark, comparable to the Salukis’ 22-11 record a season ago. Quincy finished 2-1 against SIU-Edwardsville, a squad that ended up going to the Division II semifinals. Lowery said his team is viewing the Hawks as a “very good opponent.”

Senior guard and co-captain Tony Young echoed that and noted playing a lower-division team can be dangerous. “They’re feeling like underdogs, so they’re going to come in here like they have something to prove with a chip on their shoulder,” Young said. While the Hawks enter the game looking to beat on the Salukis, the Salukis enter the game tired of beating on themselves.

Since summer, SIU players have scrimmaged, practiced and trained with each other. There have been short spurts between teammates, headlocks, bloody battles and constant collisions. High-intensity practices have the Salukis eager to participate in the aforementioned activities against people they don’t call teammates. “We compete so hard in practice, you get tired of constantly fighting the same people every day,” Lowery said.

Against Quincy, the Salukis will see a familiar face. Ryan Walker played for SIU from 2002 to 2004. He averaged 1.3 points a game for the Salukis before transferring to Quincy for the 2004-2005 season. The Salukis are hoping to douse the feud with a victory Thursday. “He likes to talk smack sometimes, but we’re cool for the most part,” Young said.

SIU will be without a handful of players because of injury and suspension. Freshman Josh Bone is expected to be out four to six weeks with a broken bone in his right foot, and redshirt freshman Christian Cornelius is likely out for the year with an torn ACL. The Salukis will also be without the services of junior Jamaal Foster, who is serving a one-game suspension and senior Jamaal Tatum, who is serving a three-game suspension. Sophomore Tony Boyle will serve a one-game suspension in Sunday’s exhibition matchup with Henderson State University.

Jordan Wilson can be reached at 536-3311 ext. 256 or jordan_wilson@dailyegyptian.com.
Grand jury to charge track coach

Jim Litke
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The NBA tipped off Tuesday night with plenty of new rules and one less fan. The one didn’t lead to the second, though that’s not to say this isn’t complicated.

Not to commissioner David Stern, anyway.

In the season-ticket holder named Hoonam Hammelstock was banned from attending games at any of the league’s arenas after allegedly calling Houston’s Dikembe Mutombo a “monkey” last week at a game in Denver.

Ueberroth said in a conference call Wednesday that the NBA does not “want to fire off racial epithets,” but the ink was still drying on the order that Hoonam was banned from competition for two years, although he never tested positive for a banned substance.

Graham also coached sprinter Marion Jones, who won five medals at the 2000 Sydney Games with co-world record holder Justin Gatlin, and other steroids in April.

Some of Graham’s athletes, however, have tested positive for banned substances, and the coach is being investigated for lying to investigators looking into doping among elite athletes connected to the infamous Bay Area Laboratory Co-Operative, the now-defunct Burlingame supplement company that served as a front for a nationwide ring.

In August, Nike terminated its contract with the coach and the U.S. Olympic Committee banned Graham from its training centers. He’s the first coach to receive such a penalty, “based on the unusual number of athletes he has coached who have been convicted of dop- ing offenses,” USOC chairman Peter Ueberroth said in a conference call at the time.

In Sten’s mind, this is a test case.

He may be a lawyer by training, but he’s a judge by instinct. His approach to discipline has always been retribution and sometimes downright imperial. He makes decisions swiftly and often unilaterally, which explains the “King David” nickname occasionally applied behind his back.

People who thought Sten would be too distracted, or too busy squashing dissent about the controversial new basketball, counting the players’ wristbands and measuring the length of their shorts surely forgot who they were dealing with. To him, this is all cut from the same cloth.

Do you have questions for the Saluki Banter that you want answered?

E-mail de_editor@dailyegyptian.com
Preseason injury forces Christian Cornelius to miss another year

Jordan Wilson
DAILY EGYPTIAN

Ask Christian Cornelius about patience.

After graduating from high school in 2004 and attending prep school for a year, the freshman fiercely wanted to progress through his redshirt year for his chance to contribute to the SIU basketball team. As the Salukis kick off their exhibition schedule tonight against Quincy University, the 6-foot-7-inch Cornelius will still be waiting.

Cornelius is out for the season with a torn ACL (Anterior Cruciate Ligament), fractured femur and a torn meniscus he sustained earlier in the preseason.

For the third straight year, his hopes of playing Division I basketball have been put on hold.

“I don’t know anyone else who has more patience than me when it comes to college basketball,” Cornelius said. “It was tough last year. This year it’s frustrating. I wasn’t expecting it at all.”

The bad news came abruptly.

In an Oct. 2 two-on-two workout, Cornelius fell to the floor after going up for a reverse layup. Although there was no contact with anyone else, Cornelius felt a sharp pain in his right knee.

After nothing wrong was wrong.

An Oct. 10 MRI — along with increased swelling that trickled all the way down to his big toe — confirmed the worst.

His mother, Donna Cotton-Cornelius, didn’t find out about the injury until Oct. 12 surgery until the night before. Until that point, she thought her son’s injury simply required “just a little icing.”

As it turned out, it called for an intensive surgery, a dozen staples and about four months of rehabilitation.

Cotton-Cornelius struggled to find the words to comfort her son — he had already heard them all a year before while being consoling about not playing because of the redshirt.

“It was harder for him to hear it this year,” she said. “He had already been through that and had those speeches.”

At first, Cornelius rejected the news. He had waited long enough. It was his time to shine.

But realization blindingly woke Cornelius after his Oct. 12 surgery, which repaired the torn cartilage.

“I kind of got the tears and stuff out,” he said. “I didn’t know why something like this would happen to me.”

Lessons in patience have come all too often for Cornelius.

After his graduation from Oak Park High School in 2004, Cornelius attended prep school at Brewster Academy in New Hampshire because he was told he wasn’t ready for a high-level Division I team.

The wait wasn’t over when he came to SIU the next year. Cornelius had to redshirt the 2005-2006 year to develop. His early October injury forced Cornelius to put his career on pause for the third straight year.

To put it in perspective, by the time Cornelius plays his first game for the Salukis, Matt Shaw, who also graduated in 2004, will be a senior.

“He has to be itching to get out there and play,” Shaw said.

Cornelius was supposed to take the floor tonight against Quincy University and showcase his newfound perimeter skills after converting from a post player.

Instead, he’ll spend the day down in the half from the Arena floor — in the training room.

There will be no crossovers, inside-out dribbles or reverse layups. Instead, there’ll be grueling cardiac training — running up and down the court for 20 minutes.

“Definitely some bad blood is flowing right now,” Cornelius said. “It just hurts us.”

Yet, Cornelius won’t let the string of setbacks dampen his demeanor. He could toss in the towel and succumb to the undoing obstacles in his path. He could feel depressed that his younger brother Justin is starting his second year of college basketball at Illinois Central College while he has yet to log any minutes.

But he isn’t. He bottles up that frustration and continues to wait.

“I won’t let anything get in my way.”

FOOTBALL

The fastest Penguin

Mason in middle of terrific season

Brian Feldt
DAILY EGYPTIAN

Mason Mason can single-handily win a ballgame.

The senior tailback for Youngstown State University has done it before, and if teams aren’t careful of him, he will probably do it again.

Mason leads the league in rushing yards and has been nothing short of phenomenal for the Penguins this season. He has gained 1,247 yards in just eight games this season — the quickest player past the century mark in YSU history.

His 155.9 rushing yards per game makes Mason one of the best running backs in all of Division I-AA football.

Simply put, he is an explosive player and can score from anywhere on the field.

Mason has already scored 17 touchdowns this season, amassing to more than a third of YSU’s total points scored, and leads the entire Gateway Conference in scoring.

Needless to say, Mason is a special type of player.

“He has been really good for us this year,” said Youngstown head coach Jon Huschek. “He is just now getting healthy because he has been banged up for us for a while now.”

No matter the injury — Mason has thrived.

In the month of October, Mason averaged 202.5 yards per game and 2.5 touchdowns. He has gained more than 100 rushing yards in five straight games, tying a school record and possibly breaking it during Saturday’s game against SIU.

The last time Mason was held under 100 rushing yards in a game was against the University of California-Davis on Sept. 25 in which he was limited to 99 yards from scrimmage.

Huschek said a lot of Mason’s success with running the ball should be attributed to his Penguins’ solid offensive line, which is loaded with veteran leadership.

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WOMEN’S BASKETBALL

SIU women’s basketball ready to go

Scott Mieszala
DAILY EGYPTIAN

The SIU women’s basketball team has one obstacle standing in its way before the start of the much-anticipated 2006-2007 season.

Before the Salukis can get the regular season under way, they will play Christian Brothers University in an exhibition game Sunday at the SIU Arena.

The game is slated to start at 2:05 p.m.

Head coach Dana Eikenberg said SIU’s major concentration for the game would be team defense and the ability to stay focused throughout the game.

“We’ve got to be able to play 40 minutes of defense,” she said. “We can’t just all of a sudden lose our focus in the second half because of fatigue.”

Eikenberg said the team must be mentally tough to remain focused, which will be one facet she will keep an eye on against the Buccaneers.

The coaches will also gauge the team’s execution — more specifically, how many times the Salukis get a defensive stop and follow up with a score.

SIU will also attempt to apply defensive pressure to Christian Brothers by using man-to-man and zone defenses.

Junior guard Erin Pauk said the key will be to stay aggressive.

“We’re going to try an all-out defense — aggressive, on the ball,” Pauk said. “Trying to get a lot of deflections, a lot of steals, trying to make some chaos out there for them.”

Playing aggressively should come second nature at this point. Eikenberg has stressed tenacity on defense throughout preseason practices.

Although the game doesn’t count toward Mason’s Valley Conference standings, the team isn’t taking the matchup lightly.

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Men’s basketball: Saluki forward Christian Cornelius takes off his knee brace before a physical training session with Ed Thompson, assistant athletic director of athletic training, Tuesday evening in the training room of the SIU Arena.

View from the sidelines

Saluki forward Christian Cornelius takes off his knee brace before a physical training session with Ed Thompson, assistant athletic director of athletic training, Tuesday evening in the training room of the SIU Arena.

Sebastian L i n e - C h r i s t i a n s e n
~ D AILY  EGYPTIAN

There will be no crossovers, inside-out dribbles or reverse layups. Instead, there’ll be grueling cardiac training — running up and down the court for 20 minutes.

“Definitely some bad blood is flowing right now,” Cornelius said. “It just hurts us.”

Yet, Cornelius won’t let the string of setbacks dampen his demeanor. He could toss in the towel and succumb to the undoing obstacles in his path. He could feel depressed that his younger brother Justin is starting his second year of college basketball at Illinois Central College while he has yet to log any minutes.

But he isn’t. He bottles up that frustration and continues to wait.

“I won’t let anything get in my way.”