Candidates await election results

Joe Crawford
Daily Egyptian

A few coins, a small bag of animal crackers and a student ID lay on the gray carpet in the Undergraduate Student Government office in the Student Center Wednesday night.

Candidate for USG president, student trustee and USG senator positions sat in the office, some joking about the morley collection of items that was to be a prize for the new USG president.

As at press time at roughly 11:30 p.m., the prizewinner was yet to be determined.

Although voting in student government and student trustee elections was over at 8 p.m. Wednesday, no official results were available by press time.

It was determined, however, that 1,274 students voted in the elections, which took place Tuesday and Wednesday at seven different locations.

Last year, 1,226 students cast ballots in the elections.

Current USG President Akrem Mustapha urged anxious candidates to go home and get some rest, but only USG presidential candidate Matt Pichietti had taken his advice at press time.

Pichietti said he had guests in town so he chose to hear the results by phone instead of in person.

He said he was nervous about the results but he was confident he ran a good campaign.

“I talked to as many students as I could and I think that’s the most important thing,” he said.

Presidential candidate Demetrious White said he was too uptight about the outcomes of the elections to leave before the results were announced.

He said he doubted he could sleep without knowing the results.

“It’ll be a long night regardless,” he said.

Student trustee candidate Megan Pulliam said she wasn’t nervous about the results of the election, but expected she would be right before a winner was announced.

She said waiting for the results was somewhat enjoyable.

“Everybody’s free. We’re all supporting each other,” she said.

“It’s a good time.”

--via phone

View the results of the elections

www.ouid.com

The peach and apple trees at Rendleman Orchards in Alto Pass have suffered from the recently cold temperatures. Many of the buds died due to long exposure to freezing temperatures. For the story see COLD WEATHER SLAMS ORCHARDS on page 9.

Fee increases hinge on board vote

New students could see 14.2 percent rise in cost

Ryan Rendleman
Daily Egyptian

Students could pay an additional $300 to come to the university next year, pending the voting of the Board of Trustees today.

The board is set to meet at 10 a.m. in Edwardsville to vote on the proposed fee increases and a rise in tuition.

Many of the increased fees reflect a rising utility cost, decrease in state funding and increase in the minimum wage, said Larry Diets, vice chancellor for Student Affairs.

All together, the fees account for an overall increase of 14.2 percent in student fees for new students in the fall 2007 semester, or $352 per student.

The Undergraduate Student Government voted against most of the fees at its Feb. 21 meeting. The senators approved the $5 mass transit fee and $9 primary care fee.

Dietz said administrators understand many students oppose the idea of spending more money to attend school, but the university has to make up the money it needs to continue running the university.

“Now one wants to pay more, but the bottom line is that the cost of this enterprise that we call Southern Illinois University Carbondale is increasing and we’ve got to figure out ways to come to those costs,” he said.

“Unfortunately, we don’t have a lot of places to go.”

See FEES, Page 18

Non-tenure track faculty finally reach agreement

Sarah Lohman
Daily Egyptian

After more than a year of negotiations, the Non-Tenure Track Faculty Association and SIUC have reached a tentative agreement.

The agreement—produced from 14 months of debate—will improve job security, increase pay and regulate workload for faculty not on track for tenure.

According to a joint press release from the association and the university, the centerpiece of the agreement makes it possible for term appointments to receive continuing appointments after five years of full-time employment with the university.

“This was one of the major issues for the bargaining unit,” NTTFA President Keith Wilson said.

The agreement also requires the university to notify faculty of reappointment and changes in teaching assignments prior to the beginning of the next semester and allow them to participate in decision making for their individual departments.

Faculty on term appointments will also have the same access to professional development funds and be guaranteed academic freedom, which ensures faculty have the right to research and discuss controversial matters pertaining to their area of study without punishment.

Another big part of the agreement was salary increases, Wilson said.

He said there were no set rules for non-tenure track faculty salaries before this contract.

“Typically when an increase went into effect an individual department was given less, less, less, or a percentage of a salary increase, but it was up to the chair or dean to distribute that money,” Wilson said.

“There wasn’t really any uniformity in how increases were negotiated.”

The NTTFA House of Delegates is set to vote on the contract tonight. If approved, the contract will be sent to the general membership to vote on it through the mail. The ballots must be post-marked by April 27 and will be tallied shortly thereafter.

See AGREEMENT, Page 9
Weather

The weather is brought to you by:

Carbonado

MONDAY

National Cities

Chicago 40/31
Springfield 39/27
Cincinnati 40/28
Quincy 46/29

Sunday's high/low.............................................. 70/47
Normal high/low.............................................. 69/41
Precipitation....................................................... 0.00

Sun and Moon

Sunrise: 6:27 a.m.
Sunset: 7:29 p.m.

Moon Phases

Moonset: Saturday May 2 2:01 P.M.

Almanac

 Temperatures: High/Low

Thermometers:
Chicago
Springfield

Sunrise: 6:30 a.m.
Sunset: 7:32 p.m.

Moon Phases

Moonset: Sunday May 3 2:01 P.M.

Almanac

 Temperatures: High/Low

Thermometers:
Chicago
Springfield

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Sunset: 7:29 p.m.

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Mayoral power play

Candidates take different views on duties

Andrea Zimmermann
Daily Egyptian

Voters will have to choose Tuesday between two mayoral candi-
didates with distinct approaches to city leadership.

Incumbent Brad Cole and Councilwoman Sheila Simon both recog-
nize that the existing government structure — where the City Coun-
cil and city manager control most of the power — is vital to the
city, but each interprets the mayor's job differently.

Cole said the $8,500-a-year position is his full-time job. Simon, who is an assistant professor at the SIU School of Law, said the city's structure is set up for a part-time mayor, and has said she would con-
tinue her teaching duties if elected.

Fourty years ago, Carbondale voters decided to entrust the City Coun-
cil and the city manager with most of the government-
ar power and responsibil-
ity. At the time, it was be-
lieved the mayor would be more busy with the city's business interests. The change made the mayor a voting member of the council and the figurehead of the city with little official power.

Both candidates have banded about which style is better at vari-
ous forums throughout the camp-
aign season.

Cole called himself a "full-
time advocate for the community" during one of the election season forums. Later during an interview, he said though he is not pushing for the city to revert back to a strong-mayor structure, there are very few council-manager government forms left in the country.

"Nothing in the city code says it is a part-time job except salary," he said.

Professor Kim Nelson, of the public administration department at Northern Illinois University, said the council-manager form is one of the most popular in the country. According to the International City/ County Management Association, U.S. council-manager governments increased from 35 percent in 1984 to nearly 50 percent in 2006. More than 60 percent of American cit-
ies with populations more than 25,000 use this form.

Simon said she wants to respect the voters of 1967, who chose to put most of the governing power in the hands of the council and city manager.

"The system of government can only be changed by referendum — not by choice or whim." — Sheila Simon

Carbondale mayor candidate

Cole called himself an active mayor — one that takes trips on behalf of the city, meets personally with developers and even does his own clerical work.

"If you want somebody to come in a couple of times a week and cut ribbons, that's what you can get," Cole said.

Nelson said mayors in council-
manager governments are set up as largely a figurehead position. Some of that is to avoid corruption in the office, she said, as well as to estab-
lish more professionalism.

"For him to say the only thing about his position that is part-time is his salary is an overstatement of his power," she said.

The council may have also allowed the mayor to have more power than the traditional setup, she said.

Because studies show that vot-
ers are often uninformed when casting their ballots, Nelson said the full-time, part-time debate won't be decided by whoever is elected.

Cole said he hasn't heard the City Council complaining that he is taking on too many duties and until that happens, he will take that as indication that he is doing a fine job.

"I am fulfilling the job," he said. "The difference I want to be mayor. I realize it is a job. It is not a hobby."

Simon said she could still per-
form well in the job without being there full-time.

"I think my connections with the community will allow me to do a better job as mayor," she said.

The comments were the clearest North Korean reac-
tions to an announcement that authorities have released North Korea's money held in Banco Delta Asia — a Macau bank blacklisted by Washington — and raised hope for the implementation of a landmark Feb. 13 agreement in which Pyongyang promised to shut its main nuclear reactor by Saturday.
IRAQ

israeli militiamen being trained in Iran

WASHINGTON — The military situation in Iraq is so grave that President Bush today ordered in January as part of his re-energized strategy for stabilizing Baghdad and averting a U.S. defeat. Troop levels are being boosted from 15 brigades to 20 brigades, and in order to keep that up beyond summer the Army must pay to sustain a second time, eliciting complaints from battle. The longer tours will be in line to deploy to Iraq for the troop buildup in Baghdad.

The change, announced Wednesday by Defense Secretary Robert Gates, is the latest blow to a plan that Pentagon planners accused the news media and the public of disregarding the presumption of innocence and portraying them as thugs in the weeks following the March 2006 party that led to the allegations.

"It’s painful to remember what we went through in those first days, and it’s just a testament to all of our character we never lost faith, we stood three strong," Evans said.

Defense attorney Joe Chesnutt said: "We’re angry, very angry. But we’re very relieved." Cooper dropped all charges against the players, all but ensuring that the whole scandal will be held to account: Durham County District Attorney Mike Nifong.

Cooper, who took over the case in January after Nifong was charged with ethics violations that could get him disbarred, said his own investigation into a stripper’s claim that she was sexually assaulted at a team party found nothing to corroborate her story, and "led us to the conclusion that no attack occurred."
Mike L’Hommedieu, a sophomore from Macomb studying marketing, twirls a frisbee on his finger during ultimate frisbee practice for the SIU team Full Tilt. The team is heading to Naperville this weekend to participate in the sectionals tournament, which features over 20 teams from around the area.
Time to get to work

The students have spoken and new leaders will soon be in office. We hope the voters made the right decision.

With an ongoing battle for relevancy and the struggle to do what their jobs ask them to, the challenges are abound for the new student trustee and Undergraduate Student Government president. But they also have the prime opportunity to enact change.

The Daily Egyptian this week allowed student government candidates to tell us what they think the campus’ main issues are. Now, it’s our turn.

Out of both positions, we want outspoken leaders who are not afraid to step into the spotlight.

We want a president who will grab USG by the horns, whip it into shape and make a loud proclamation that makes the administration aware the student voice will be heard.

USG by its very structure is meant to be powerless, except for its responsibility to shell out dollars to student groups every spring. As a constituency head, USG does little more than put opinions on paper.

But there’s more that can be done than passing resolutions every other Wednesday.

Rallies can be held. Informational sessions can be held. Senators and the USG president can try to shake the hand and talk to every undergraduate student on campus.

It seems like a far-fetched idea, but people do amazing things every day.

Last we checked, students outnumber administrators at SIUC. With a big enough force of students rallied around a certain issue, the higher ups will have to listen sometime.

Out of the student trustee, we want someone who will not submit to the Board of Trustees’ groupthink and politics.

This campus needs someone who will speak out during trustee meetings on the issues that matter most to this campus.

If marketing stinks, the student trustee should not be afraid to say so. If there’s a beef that students have, the student trustee should be the one to take that to the board.

BOT members should be concerned about the vote of the student trustee and worry when the student takes the microphone.

We heard a lot from candidates about how the cost of higher education is the No. 1 issue. As long as enrollment slips and the cost of running a university rises, fees will increase.

Since the costs can’t be lowered, retention and enrollment must be raised.

We won’t ask the newly elected student leaders to go out and promote the university to high school students. But, we will ask them to help keep students here.

Actions as simple as passing out bags of popcorn between classes or handing out cheap plastic ponchos on rainy days would let students know that their student government cares about them. Such things would also provide the perfect opportunity for leaders to communicate with their constituents.

Both USG president and student trustee positions have been relatively ineffective the past few years.

We’re holding out for a change.
Letters to the Editor

USG voting form needs a Rossetta Stone
DEAR EDITOR:

I am not a resident of Palm Beach County. I do, however, think I voted for Buchanan when I meant to vote for Gore. When I want to vote Tuesday, I spent a good 10 minutes trying to vote for everyone without invalidating my ballot. This voting form was harder to decipher than binary code.

Lena Philpott

Wake up Carbondale
DEAR EDITOR:

I didn’t want to respond to Joseph Yancey’s letter to the editor in Tuesday’s paper. I think it is interesting that Yancey, a friend of Picchietti and co-founder of Fight Club with Picchietti, felt the need to write in to shrivel a letter of support for Banoff. The student wrote in your opinion, simply as a way, where as Yancey

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Mrs. Yancey states “so what?” to Picchietti’s unproven

corruption, not taken into consideration. The DAILY EGYPTIAN is a “designated public forum.” Student editors have authority to make all content decisions without censorship or advance approval.

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Wayne Utterback

The Elder Scrolls IV: Oblivion

Platform: PlayStation 3

In most video games, players are confined to a linear storyline with very few deviations from the plot. In “Oblivion,” there is no path, there’s an entire world — and it’s all for the taking.

The primary story in “Oblivion” revolves around the player being player’s hands. Everything from a battle-mage to spell caster get more devastating every time before they return to reality. Even with very few deviations from the main storyline, you will always know where you are going and what you are doing. Too often in RPGs, players can take a break and then forget where they left off. “Oblivion” has that covered.

To make the game even more unique, players get to create their own character with a detailed character customization tool. Add in a wide range of races and limitless tweaks that can be made to the character’s looks, you can make the hero you’ve always wanted.

For a game that is nearly flaw- less, it was hard to see how it could ever be improved. With a new set of songs and upgrades, “Guitar Hero 2” for Xbox 360 has never been better. The only true problem with the gui- ter hero 2” that hasn’t been released yet is the control aspect. Looking into the control aspect of Guitar Hero, the Xbox version comes with a new guitar based on the Gibson Explorer. The button layout is similar to the PlayStation 2 guitar except it comes with a control pad to navigate and the Xbox Guide button. The only true problem with the gui- ter hero 2” that hasn’t been released yet is the control aspect. Looking into the control aspect of Guitar Hero, the Xbox version comes with a new guitar based on the Gibson Explorer. The button layout is similar to the PlayStation 2 guitar except it comes with a control pad to navigate and the Xbox Guide button. The only true problem with the gui- ter hero 2” that hasn’t been released yet is the control aspect. Looking into the control aspect of Guitar Hero, the Xbox version comes with a new guitar based on the Gibson Explorer. The button layout is similar to the PlayStation 2 guitar except it comes with a control pad to navigate and the Xbox Guide button. The only true problem with the gui- ter hero 2” that hasn’t been released yet is the control aspect. Looking into the control aspect of Guitar Hero, the Xbox version comes with a new guitar based on the Gibson Explorer. The button layout is similar to the PlayStation 2 guitar except it comes with a control pad to navigate and the Xbox Guide button. The only true problem with the gui- ter hero 2” that hasn’t been released yet is the control aspect. Looking into the control aspect of Guitar Hero, the Xbox version comes with a new guitar based on the Gibson Explorer. The button layout is similar to the PlayStation 2 guitar except it comes with a control pad to navigate and the Xbox Guide button. The only true problem with the gui-
Local businesses deal with loss of flowers, fruit plants

Danny Wenger
Alicia Wade
Daily Egyptian

The buds on an apple tree at Rendleman Orchards have wilted due to the freezing temperatures during the past week. Max Brittain Daily Egyptian

Cold weather slams orchards

The buds on an apple tree at Rendleman Orchards have wilted due to the freezing temperatures during the past week.

Local businesses deal with loss of flowers, fruit plants

Danny Wenger
Alicia Wade
Daily Egyptian

The last throes of winter cold sliced through local orchards and vineyards and marred the approaching harvests.

Many local orchards lost both their apple and peach harvests. Grape vineyards were also damaged by the cold, though in some cases not as severely. Some stores that sell plants also lost their merchandise.

Brad Colwell, who served as the university’s lead negotiator on the bargaining process.

The agreement will

be backdated to July 1, 2006 if ratified. Faculty will receive back pay for the dates already passed.

The agreed salary increase will give a 3 percent increase for all full-time employees in 2006, 2007 and 2008. All employees on continuing appointment will receive a $300 a month raise.

The raise will be phased in $100 for the non-tenure track faculty.

The three-year agreement will be ratified. Faculty will receive back pay for the dates already passed.

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CURRENTS

Agility, battle and pride

Lipizzaner Stallions were once bred specifically for battle, but today they make the perfect show horse. Thirteen of these stallions visited Carbondale for a spectacular show of agility, dedication and relationship between horse and rider.

As the Lipizzans move in and out of each other while moving in unison, Trainer talks to the centuries-old traditions of the horses dancing to classical music, the art of dressage and the purpose of the horses’ maneuvers to aid ridden in battle.

“Just imagine that our coat symbolized the purity of the warrior’s spirit. When was was fought without tanks, those (servants) were the tanks of their lap,” he said.

Trainer narrates the show to help the audience appreciate the maneuver more than on their glasses.

“Some really a wild lot going on,” he said, “it’s just look at that! Think. Uh, think that’s all that’s happening in their going on, is Lipizzanism. Every single move the horse does is a show, they are remarkable for every horse does every movement.”

Trainer also makes sure to infuse the audience that the animals are healthy and safe. During performance, the horse turns into the middle, which doesn’t look quite natural, but it’s the homes have accepted it. Sylvius, brown body and keeps the horse’s smooth health.

“Everything is individually just like the people, you work at. He said ‘they are one another, they are our friends and nobody better have a hit on these horses.”

While some audience members appreciated the extreme footwork and choreography of the horses, others thought they just because they love the animals.

What’s more, the Lipizzan stallions are also capable of showing off their riders’ skills.

As the horses move quickly, the riders move with them, showing off their riders’ skills.

“A horse is a very special animal, it becomes a part of you,” Trainer said. “It’s a close relationship between the horse and rider.”

The Lipizzaner Stallions were performed in Carbondale as part of the “World Famous Lipizzaner Stallions at the Arena.”

Above: Head rider Rehda Gharas, adorned in the traditional clothing of the Spanish Riding School in Vienna, Austria, performs for a crowd Sunday afternoon at the SU Arena.

Left: A rider walks one of the Lipizzan Stallions backstage after Trainer Tony Triner explained the horse’s brands to the crowd Sunday afternoon.

By JUDE NGUYEN • Photos by ANTHONY SOUFLÉ

The Lipizzaner Stallions are European Stubeners, show all things. These white stallions, performed as part of the Spanish Riding School in Vienna Austria, Lipizzan Stallions handmade all as the equestrian and all w the world, performing between fires to seven shows a week, totaling more than 200 shows per year.

Lipizzaner Stallions use motion at heart, the leaps and balancing maneuvers performed by these horses all reveal an important factor that can be found in all animals: their balance.

If a horse does an excise of the neck, it is doing so to maintain its balance. For example, a horse with a broken leg will lean on the other leg to maintain its balance.

When they are not used for training, the horses are brought into Carbondale for two and three displays of exactly, what these horses are, and also entertain as audience the old-fashioned way, without the help of tents, technology.

With bright spotlights shining on their white coats, six Lipizzan Stallions circled around the SIU Arena Saturday while narrator Tony Triner introduced some scenes from the audience.

“Triner was the main force to move the horses out of the ring,” he said. “I believe they do when they are performing, and they really know when people like the show,” said head rider Rehda Gharas. “I don’t know whether they go for it then, or they just don’t know, but it’s very good.”

The audience appreciated the maneuver more than on their glasses. “It’s really a wild lot going on, he said, “It’s just look at that! Think. Uh, think that’s all that’s happening in their going on, is Lipizzanism. Every single move the horse does is a show, they are remarkable for every horse does every movement.”

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Above: Head rider Rehda Gharas, adorned in the traditional clothing of the Spanish Riding School in Vienna, Austria, performs for a crowd Sunday afternoon at the SU Arena.

Left: A rider walks one of the Lipizzan Stallions backstage after Trainer Tony Triner explained the horse’s brands to the crowd Sunday afternoon.

By JUDE NGUYEN • Photos by ANTHONY SOUFLÉ

The Lipizzaner Stallions are European Stubeners, show all things. These white stallions, performed as part of the Spanish Riding School in Vienna Austria, Lipizzan Stallions handmade all as the equestrian and all w the world, performing between fires to seven shows a week, totaling more than 200 shows per year.

Lipizzaner Stallions use motion at heart, the leaps and balancing maneuvers performed by these horses all reveal an important factor that can be found in all animals: their balance.

If a horse does an excise of the neck, it is doing so to maintain its balance. For example, a horse with a broken leg will lean on the other leg to maintain its balance.

When they are not used for training, the horses are brought into Carbondale for two and three displays of exactly, what these horses are, and also entertain as audience the old-fashioned way, without the help of tents, technology.

With bright spotlights shining on their white coats, six Lipizzan Stallions circled around the SIU Arena Saturday while narrator Tony Triner introduced some scenes from the audience.

“Triner was the main force to move the horses out of the ring,” he said. “I believe they do when they are performing, and they really know when people like the show,” said head rider Rehda Gharas. “I don’t know whether they go for it then, or they just don’t know, but it’s very good.”

The audience appreciated the maneuver more than on their glasses. “It’s really a wild lot going on, he said, “It’s just look at that! Think. Uh, think that’s all that’s happening in their going on, is Lipizzanism. Every single move the horse does is a show, they are remarkable for every horse does every movement.”

Trainer also makes sure to infuse the audience that the animals are healthy and safe. During performance, the horse turns into the middle, which doesn’t look quite natural, but it’s the homes have accepted it. Sylvius, brown body and keeps the horse’s smooth health.

“Everything is individually just like the people, you work at,” he said. “They are one another, they are our friends and nobody better have a hit on these horses.”

While some audience members appreciated the extreme footwork and choreography of the horses, others thought they just because they love the animals.

What’s more, the Lipizzan stallions are also capable of showing off their riders’ skills.

As the horses move quickly, the riders move with them, showing off their riders’ skills.

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The Lipizzaner Stallions were performed in Carbondale as part of the “World Famous Lipizzaner Stallions at the Arena.”

Above: Head rider Rehda Gharas, adorned in the traditional clothing of the Spanish Riding School in Vienna, Austria, performs for a crowd Sunday afternoon at the SU Arena.

Left: A rider walks one of the Lipizzan Stallions backstage after Trainer Tony Triner explained the horse’s brands to the crowd Sunday afternoon.
Israel caught on video using Palestinian as human shield

Josef Federman
The Associated Press

JERUSALEM — Sameh Amira was fast asleep when he was jolted awake by pounding at the front door. Israeli troops were on a manhunt for wanted militants in the West Bank and decided to draft help.

The terror-stricken 24-year-old Palestinian soon found himself forced onto the front lines of Israel’s shadowy war against militants, a human shield as he led heavily armed soldiers from house to house. “I was afraid I would die,” he said in a recent interview.

For several years, Palestinians had complained about the army’s use of human shields, but proof was difficult to come by. Then, in late February, Associated Press Television News captured footage of the incident involving Amira.

The video has prompted the army to launch a rare criminal investigation into whether its soldiers violated a landmark Israeli Supreme Court 2005 ruling barring the use of human shields. Others, including an 11-year-old girl, have been emboldened to come forward with similar accounts of being compelled to walk ahead of soldiers looking for militants.

International law, including the Geneva Conventions and Hague regulations, prohibits placing civilians in harm’s way during military operations.

The army promises a vigorous investigation. “Violations of the law or of rulings of the Israeli High Court of Justice are viewed with severity,” said Capt. Noa Meir, a spokeswoman.

The case highlights one of the many human rights issues the army is dealing with as it enters its fifth decade of military occupation in the West Bank. The army says operations like the raid in Nablus are needed to protect Israelis and Israel’s security. But after six years of fighting in the latest intifada, the army’s tactics have become increasingly tough on Palestinians not part of the conflict.

The army moved into Nablus— a major West Bank city known as a militant stronghold — on Feb. 24 in a broad sweep targeting militants and weapons labs. The operation shut down large parts of the city for six days and confined thousands of people to their homes.

Residents have given harrowing accounts as troops moved house to house in search of wanted men. The soldiers reached Jihan Dadoush’s home in the poor Jasmine quarter of Nablus’ Old city on Feb. 28.

Dadoush, 11, said she was watching the news with her family at about 8:30 p.m. when there was a knock on the door. She said the troops questioned her father and older sister before turning to her.

“I was shouting, ‘Where are you taking my daughter? Bring her back! Bring her back!’” her father, Nime Dadoush, said in an interview, explaining the girl has a heart condition. “They didn’t answer me.”

Dadoush, 38, who sells vegetables and works in construction, said he is not politically active.

Jihan said the troops ordered her to show them the hideout. “They made me walk in front of them. There were many soldiers behind me with their weapons and they frightened me,” she said, breaking into tears.

Questions about army practices peaked in the spring of 2002 during an offensive in the West Bank in response to suicide bombings. During the operation, soldiers often forced Palestinian civilians to approach the homes and hideouts of wanted people.

The army at that time defended the practice, known as “the neighbor procedure,” saying it took civilians out of harm’s way and encouraged militants to surrender peacefully.

The army says it never allowed troops to use civilians for cover during battles.

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By Linda Black
Today’s Birthday (04-12-07). It takes a team effort this year to propel you to victory. Learn how to share the excitement, danger, strategizing and the success. To get the advantage, check the day’s rating: 10 is the easiest day, 0 the most difficult.

Aries (March 21-April 19) - Today is an 8 - You won’t have to push other people around to get them to obey your orders. You’re developing a righteously admirable command presence.

Taurus (April 20-May 20) - Today is a 7 - People are starting to recognize how important you are. It’s nice that they’ve noticed but don’t forget to ask for the financial rewards that are due. Don’t feel the least bit guilty.

Gemini (May 21-June 21) - Today is an 8 - You’ll find it easier to take control of the situation for the next several weeks. You’re charming and you’re lucky, even more than usual.

Cancer (June 22-July 22) - Today is a 7 - There’s lots of work. Don’t feel overwhelmed. Don’t try to do it all at once. Set a pace that works for you and nibble away at it.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) - Today is an 8 - Let your opinion be known when you select an assistant. You don’t have to agree upon everything, just on your final objectives. Get that part down in writing.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) - Today is an 8 - You’re very imaginative now in your work, so don’t worry. Even if you’ve never done this task before, you’ll think of a way.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) - Today is a 6 - The truth is revealed, much to your delight. You couldn’t be more pleased. A person you think is marvelous feels the same way about you.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) - Today is a 7 - A suggestion postulated by a family member or loved one turns out to be just the thing you’ve been looking for! You’re going to be protected and actually listened.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) - Today is a 6 - You’re coming up with proofs for concepts that are way out on the edges. Is there a scientific basis for God, or vice versa? You’re one of the ones who’ll find out.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) - Today is an 8 - Business is going well the way your routine has been arranged. Now, consider making a few technical improvements. Take your time, and do it right.

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Sudoku

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Sudoku by Michael Mepham

Level: 1 2 3 4

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

Solution to Wednesday’s puzzle

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>5</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

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

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

3 8 7 5 4 1 6 2 9

Sudoku on your cell phone. Enter 782650.com in your mobile Web browser. Get a free game!

(Answers tomorrow)

Keep doing, Arthur. You won’t lose!

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

PUTIL
HACOP
DEPLUH
CLORLS

PUTIL
HACOP
DEPLUH
CLORLS

THAI SILMBANEBI WORD GAME
by Henri Arnold and Mike Aggron

JUMBLES

| PUTIL |
| HACOP |
| DEPLUH |
| CLORLS |

Answers (tomorrow)

Now arrange the circled letters to form the popular answers, as suggested by the above cartoon.

What the Divorced Father Gave His Son.

Soap Waltz Parody Column

When the brothers’ pillow fight ended, it was — DOWN AND OUT
OAKLAND, Calif. — Darin Erstad hit a go-ahead sacrifice fly in the ninth after Jermaine Dye connected for a tying two-run homer an inning earlier, and the Chicago White Sox beat the Oakland Athletics 6-3 Wednesday.

The A’s scored all of their runs in the first inning, then Chicago’s pitchers shut down the struggling Oakland offense the rest of the way — and the defending division champions have yet to win a series through their initial three sets.

Dye, who had a career-best 44 homers last year, hit his first of the year, a drive off Justin Duchscherer after the right-hander had struck out two batters. Erstad hit a bases-loaded sacrifice fly after closer Huston Street (1-1) allowed a single to Juan Uribe and consecutive walks to A.J. Pierzynski and Scott Podsednik. Street intentionally walked Jim Thome to bring up Paul Konerko, who lined a two-run double to left.

David Aardsma (1-0) pitched a perfect eighth for the win, then Bobby Jenks finished for his second save, one day after blowing a chance in Chicago’s 2-1 loss. The White Sox pounded nine hits after getting 12 total in the first two games. Uribe’s RBI double in the second scored the team’s first run Wednesday.

Mike Piazza, who is getting this DH thing down, hit a two-run double in the first to stake Joe Kennedy to an early lead. Eric Chavez added and RBI double after Piazza’s hit, but that was it for the A’s.

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The defending division champion A’s began the day in sole possession of last place in the AL West for the third time this season after not spending a single day in the cellar in 2006.

Marco Scutaro, Oakland’s super sub the past two seasons when shortstop Bobby Crosby was hurt, earned a start in place of the struggling 2004 AL Rookie of the Year and made several nice defensive plays.

Crosby, who was lifted for pinch-hitter Todd Walker in the ninth a night earlier, is batting .190 (4-for-21) with no home runs or RBIs — and is 1-for-10 in his last three starts.

Lisa Madigan
Illinois Attorney General
To speak at the SIU Law School as part of the “Law and Politics Speaker Series”

TODAY at 3:00 in the auditorium

Illinois’ highest ranking legal officer will discuss how her legal education aids her public service career and current policy developments. She will also discuss the role of gender in the legal and political professions and being Illinois’ first female attorney general. A question and answer forum from the crowd will follow.

Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend!

SIU Law School Democrats & Women’s Law Forum
The Salukis had another rainout on Wednesday as they were sched- uled to play Middle Tennessee State on Murfreesboro. This is SIU’s fifth rainout in the last eight days.

The streak of bad weather started in April, against Southeast Missouri State in a doubleheader at Cape Girardeau, Mo. The same violent thunderstorms that Carbondale expe- rienced caused the rainout in Missouri.

The following Saturday was followed by cold weather in Carbondale, which canceled the double- header against Drake.

Wednesday’s rain- out was due to storms early in the morning that caused unplayable field conditions. The Salukis were coming off a thrilling 3-2 extra-inning victory over Evansville Tuesday.

SIU coach Kerri Blaylock said the Salukis were excited to play coming off Tuesday’s win.

“We really want to get another game in this week,” Blaylock said. “Out-of-conference games are good because you get to get a lot of people playing time and work on a lot. We think there are some victories slipping away from us.”

Rainouts are nothing new to the Salukis, who had to cancel 22 games in 2006, compared to eight so far thus season. SIU had a streak of eight out of nine scheduled games being can- celled in 2006.

One of the things that experienced caused the rainout in that streak was against Bradley. The Salukis had to stay at a hotel for two days without ever getting to step on the field as they waited for an opportunity to play.

Blaylock said rainouts like those are harder than usual because the team has to be in an unfamiliar place and sit around hoping to play.

Spokesman Matt Crouch traveled to the field as they waited for an opportunity to play.

“We’re going to practice hard Thursday and Friday and come out to play this weekend because we’re excited to play at home again.”

-Kerri Blaylock

“Kerri does a great job of keeping the team relaxed but focused,” Blaylock said. “We’re going to practice hard Thursday and Friday and come out to play this weekend because we’re excited to play at home again.”

Salukis ability to handle the weather.

“We get used to being out of the weather,” Blaylock said.

The biggest thing it does is gets them ready to play. Out-of-conference games are good because you get to get a lot of people playing time and work on a lot. We think there are some victories slipping away from us.”

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Big Ten Network still works to be seen

David Mercer
The Associated Press

CHAMPAIGN — When it launches in August, the Big Ten Network wants to be available in every cable- or satellite-wired home in eight states where its schools play. 

That’s the goal, anyway.

So far, only satellite provider DirecTV and a handful of small local cable companies have signed on, Mark Silverman, the new sports executive as general manager and vice president of ABC Cable Networks, said Wednesday during a news conference at the University of Illinois.

“Everyone we’ve talked to admits and values the Big Ten brand, as a network,” said Silverman, who declined to discuss details of any negotiations or identify the cable companies.

These discussions are just very involved. They’re very complex,” he said.

Silverman joined the new Chicago-based network, owned by the Big Ten and Fox Cable Networks, in December after working as general manager and senior vice president of ABC Cable Networks.

The Big Ten Network plans to show all the conference schools’ football and basketball games that aren’t broadcast elsewhere — at least 35 a year. It also plans to show at least 105 regular-season men’s basketball games, also plans to show all the conference schools’ championships.

The network also owns the rights to tapes of Big Ten football and basketball back to 1960, Silverman said, allowing it to produce “classic” programming similar to that featured on ESPN Classic.

When it launches, the Big Ten Network will be the second TV network in the country devoted to the sports of a single conference.

The Mountain West Conference launched its own — The Mtn. — last fall. Other conferences, notably the Southeastern, have also talked about networks.

The Mtn., a joint venture of Comcast Cable, now is carried by 16 cable companies in seven western states, spokesmen Ron King said. But no satellite carrier has signed on yet and the network is not being carried in one of its biggest states, Texas, he said.

“Thats been a negotiated point for a long time,” he said. “It’s still being pursued.”

League-or team-specific sports networks — even those focused on major leagues such as the NFL, typically have difficulty getting cable and satellite carriers to add their programming as part of basic packages, the kind customers don’t have to pay extra.

The Big Ten Network wants to be available in every cable- or satellite-wired home it can.

“We losing doesn’t guarantee the top pick in the draft, so there really isn’t much of an argument to throwing games. No professional team would lose games on purpose. Even if the team stinks, they are playing for their jobs next season.”

King said.

Silverman said the Big Ten’s national footprint and the size of its schools give its network a much stronger starting point than most other startup networks.

The Big Ten Network’s DirecTV deal, for instance, will put it on one of the satellite carrier’s packages that doesn’t require most customers to pay extra.

Beyond the eight states where Big Ten schools play — Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin — Silverman hopes to negotiate deals that will allow viewers to see the network on nothing more expensive than second-tier programming packages, those just above the basic level.

Comcast Cable spokeswoman Jennifer Khoury declined to discuss talks with the Big Ten Network in detail.

“It’s very early in our discussions, but we are talking and we will continue to do so,” she said.

A spokesman for EchoStar Communications Corporation, DISH Network’s owner, did not return a call.

The new network also is expected to be a revenue generator for the conference’s schools, paying each $7.5 million a year. That’s more than double Illinois’ current TV revenue and will give it $13 million a year, university Sports Information Director Kent Brown said.

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David Mercer
The Associated Press

CHAMPAIGN — When it launches in August, the Big Ten Network wants to be available in every cable- or satellite-wired home in eight states where its schools play.

That’s the goal, anyway.

So far, only satellite provider DirecTV and a handful of small local cable companies have signed on, Mark Silverman, the new sports executive as general manager and vice president of ABC Cable Networks, in December after working as general manager and senior vice president of ABC Cable Networks.

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**Saluki pitcher close to return**

**Injured pitcher looks to come back over weekend**

*Matt Hartwig*

Senior pitcher Dusty Baker's 2006 Missouri Valley Conference Honorable Mention nomination nearly cost him his arm.

At the end of the 2006 season, Baker began to feel discomfort in his throwing arm and his doctor told him he had a torn labrum in addition to a torn rotator cuff. Now, after being medically cleared to pitch for the April 7 game against Valparaiso, Baker's next step will be to pitch in a game for the first time in more than a year.

"I've been waiting on warmer weather to get into the game, but I've been throwing simulated games on the side and I feel physically ready to pitch," Baker said. "It was very frustrating for me because I had a good season the year before and I wanted to finish strong my senior year."

He was one of the first pitchers out of the bullpen in 2006 and led the SIU baseball team with six saves. In 29 appearances, the right-hander accumulated six wins with a 3.64 ERA while striking out 22.

But after the season ended, however, his pitching career came to a halt. It wasn't the first time Baker received bad news about his arm. His freshman year at Olney Central College was cut short due to another arm injury.

"I really wanted to win a national title," Baker said. "So this weekend I think we will be very confident and we'll play better, I'm sure."