

Southern Illinois University Carbondale

OpenSIUC

January 2003

Daily Egyptian 2003

1-15-2003

The Daily Egyptian, January 15, 2003

Daily Egyptian Staff

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Volume 88, Issue 80

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ALEX HAGLUND - DAILY EGYPTIAN

Thirty riders gather at Carbondale Cycle bike shop on the morning of Dec. 15 for a memorial ride in honor of the late Somsak 'Saki' Thipkositkhun. Before stopping at Saki's house, the 25-mile ride wound through Southern Illinois on the same roads that Saki once led group rides every Monday, Wednesday and Friday evening.

'Just smile & THINK LIGHT'

Brendan Collier
 Daily Egyptian

The fabric of Carbondale's cycling community was torn Dec. 9 — the day Somsak "Saki" Thipkositkhun died of cancer. His philosophy for tackling Southern Illinois' toughest climbs—"Just smile and think light!"—helped his followers overcome whatever big hills they encountered.

Saki, 45, managed Carbondale Cycle, 303 S. Illinois Ave., which is owned by his brother, Samchai Thipkositkhun, and spread his love for cycling through his group rides through the back roads of Southern Illinois.

Saki organized Carbondale's group rides in 1997 and invited anyone interested in riding, free of charge. Local racers, weight watchers and recreational cyclists turned out every Monday, Wednesday and Friday, rain or shine. The rides commenced with as few as two or three cyclists and often swelled to more than 30.

"He was an inspiration. No matter what the weather he'd ride."
 — Fred Gustave bicyclist

"He was really an inspiration. No matter what the weather was like, he'd ride," said Fred Gustave, a Carbondale oral surgeon and group-ride regular. Saki often stayed in the back of the pack with beginning riders to keep them from becoming discouraged. Otherwise, he could be found in the front, leading riders nearly half his age up the toughest climbs in Southern Illinois.

Saki was a native of Thailand and moved to the United States to attend high school in Carbondale. He managed Carbondale Cycle since 1986 and became an American citizen last year.

Friends say his years of riding experience gave him valuable insight for the veteran riders, while his positive attitude and love for life gave him the compassion to cultivate and inspire the beginners.

"He was the glue that kept the groups together," Gustave said.

Many of his followers were amazed to see what a difference Saki's infectious positive attitude made on their riding skills, as well as their lifestyle off the bike.

Saki also knew when not to give advice.

Local legend leaves legacy of cohesion in Carbondale cycling community

"He'd let me make my mistakes, then I'd learn from them," said Loren Easter, an SIUC alumnus and group-ride regular.

In the bike shop, Saki offered advice for anything from bicycle fit to marriage counseling. His shop became a meeting place for area cyclists to show off their children, talk politics and hang out. The local cycling community became closer, and Saki's rides were valued as much for their social aspects as the physical conditioning. Friendships that forged on Saki's rides have endured career moves, the passing of time and address changes.

"Saki had a genuine interest in every single person who came in the shop. He was curious to know how you were doing," said Matt Gindlesparger, a senior in Architectural Studies, and shop customer since 1998. Gindlesparger said the personal service he received from Saki was the main reason he came to the shop time and time again, despite the fact the shop couldn't always match the prices found on the Internet.

See LEGACY, page 9

Blagojevich boots Ryan's appointments

35 fired on governor's second day in office

Katie Davis
 Daily Egyptian

Gov. Rod Blagojevich completed his first full day in office Tuesday by firing 35 state employees that George Ryan appointed on his way out the door.

The Illinois Senate overwhelmingly approved Ryan's appointments Jan. 7, by margins as large as 47-2, despite objections from Blagojevich, who reportedly said Ryan did not have the right to fill positions so late in his term. Blagojevich said that eliminating and filling positions should be left to the incoming governor.

Carbondale city councilman and mayoral candidate Brad Cole was among those pulled from the state payroll.

Cole worked under Ryan as his deputy chief of staff in the governor's Southern Illinois office in Marion. Ryan appointed him to a property manager position, which came with an \$8,000 raise, increasing his salary to \$82,000.

Cole could not be reached for comment.

The Blagojevich administration believes it has the legal authority to fire Ryan's last minute appointments, some of whom make \$100,000 a year, according to the Chicago Sun-Times.

Rep. Mike Bost, R-Murphystown, said he would support Blagojevich's decision to fire the new hires if it was fiscally motivated.

Bost said Blagojevich promised a bi-partisan government, and if in fact he is refilling those positions, it goes against his campaign promise.

"These weren't exactly key positions," he said. "So, if he is doing it for the budget so be it. We have a tight budget and not replacing people in these nonessential positions is a way to cope."

"But if he let go of those people to fill the positions with his own people, then it doesn't go with forming a bi-partisan government."

Blagojevich has placed executive freezes on all new hires and new promotions throughout Illinois, as well as on all state purchases and leases of vehicles.

Reporter Katie Davis can be reached at kdavis@dailyegyptian.com

Students, community to benefit from 200 new local jobs

Company attracted to Carbondale by educated workforce

Sara Hooker
 Daily Egyptian

A new technology company is setting up shop in Carbondale's Industrial Park East and unpacking a couple hundred jobs and economic benefits for the region.

Affiliated Computer Services, a worldwide business technology pro-

vider, will be sponsoring a job fair throughout this week at its new location, 1050 Reed Station Rd., to fill both full and part-time positions.

ACS provides companies with business processes and information technology, offering computer assistance on a variety of levels varying from data entry to billing and claims.

John Lineham, executive director of the Carbondale Business Development Corporation, said ACS is looking to fill 100 positions this week during the job fair and another 100-plus after the company opens for business sometime in the

next few weeks.

He said the company chose Carbondale for its new location for a variety of reasons. First and foremost, he said it liked the idea of the city's status as a University town and the large workforce provided by SIUC and John A. Logan College.

In addition, the amenities offered by the Carbondale Industrial Park East such as high-speed Internet access further swayed the decision.

"They were looking to secure a Class A office space with the proper high-speed access and with bandwidth capabilities they need for their

business," Lineham said.

ACS will share the 30,000 sq. foot building with three tenants — Neon Internet, a small marketing firm and the School Center. It is sub-leasing the space formerly occupied by Earthlink. The Industrial Park East is jointly owned by the CBDC and the City of Carbondale.

ACS, a Fortune 1000 company, has another location in Mt. Vernon, and employs nearly 40,000 employees in 48 countries.

It offers a benefits package includ-

ing vacation, medical, dental, 401(k), employee stock purchase and tuition reimbursement.

Lineham said along with the jobs, the ACS will be bringing an economic boom to the region.

"Any time we get anyone who will employ that number of people will be a major boost," Lineham said. "It's going to have a very positive impact."

Reporter Sara Hooker can be reached at shooker@dailyegyptian.com

ACS Job Fair
 1050 Reed Station Road
 Today: 8 a.m. - 6 p.m.
 Thursday: 8 a.m. - 6 p.m.
 Friday: 8 a.m. - 11 a.m.

Advertise your Super Bowl Entertainment and Specials in the **Daily Egyptian** Super Bowl Party Guide runs Jan. 24th

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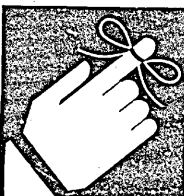
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**Deadline To Apply For A
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Extended Care Fee
Refund Is Friday,
January 24, 2003!**

The DEADLINE to apply for a Student Medical Benefit Extended Care Fee refund is Friday, January 24, 2003. To apply for a refund, a student must present his/her insurance policy booklet or the schedule of benefits along with the insurance wallet I.D. card to Student Health Programs, Student Medical Benefit (Insurance) office, Kesnar Hall, Room 118. All students, including those who have applied for a Cancellation Waiver and whose fees are not yet paid, must apply for the refund before the deadline. Students 17 and under need a parent's signature.

Download refund form at:
<http://www.siu.edu/~shp/DLForms.html>



NATIONAL NEWS

Va. may try sniper suspect Malvo as adult

Prosecutors say they have extensive evidence to present at a hearing to determine if teenage sniper John Lee Malvo should be tried as an adult for capital murder and face the possibility of being put to death.

A juvenile court was expected to hear from more than 20 prosecution witnesses over two days, beginning Tuesday, to determine if the evidence against Malvo is sufficient to forward the case to a grand jury.

If the judge determines prosecutors have demonstrated probable cause, Malvo 17, would be tried in adult court, where he would face the death penalty if convicted of the Oct. 14 slaying of FBI analyst Linda Franklin.

Malvo and John Allen Muhammad have been accused of shooting 18 people, killing 13 and wounding five in Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, Maryland, Virginia and Washington D.C.

Kmart to cut up to 35,000 jobs

Kmart said Tuesday it will cut 30,000 to 35,000 jobs and close 35 stores to cut costs as the company announced plans for a spring exit from bankruptcy. The news came as Kmart, which filed for Chapter 11

protection nearly a year ago, reported another year of disappointing holiday sales as it continues to struggle against discount rivals Target and Wal-Mart.

The store closings are subject to cost approval; Kmart is scheduled to appear in U.S. Bankruptcy Court in Chicago on Jan. 28. The Troy-based retailer currently operates roughly 1,830 stores and has about 228,000 employees.

Tail assembly eyed in N.C. plane crash

A jammed tail assembly may be to blame for the Jan. 8 commuter airline crash that killed 21 people at Charlotte/Douglas International Airport, a federal investigator said.

A possible malfunction of the Air Midwest plane's elevator, a flap on the tail used to control a plane's angle of climb or descent, would have hampered the pilot's efforts to control the aircraft.

John Goglia of the National Transportation Safety Board said Monday that the five-member panel had reached no official conclusions about the crash's cause. A final determination will probably take months. "I think they pulled back (the controls) and the elevator jammed," Goglia told the News and Observer of Raleigh.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Venezuela govt. firm against strike

One person was shot and injured in clashes between rival Venezuelan protesters and police on Tuesday as President Hugo Chavez's government denied a six-week-old opposition strike was causing chaos.

In scattered skirmishes in west Caracas, police fired tear gas and shotgun pellets to drive back groups of pro-Chavez militants hurling rocks and bottles who moved to attack a march by opponents of the left-wing president.

The Chavez supporters, some of them masked, stoned reporters, smashed the facade of a closed McDonald's restaurant, and threw a Molotov cocktail at a van belonging to a local TV channel, witnesses said.

It was the third consecutive day of street clashes in Venezuela, the world's No. 5 oil exporter, where the growing opposition strike has slashed petroleum output and shipments and pushed the oil-reliant economy further into recession.

In Tuesday's confused, running battles, one man was injured in the leg by a bullet, but it was not clear who had opened fire, Caracas fire chief Rodolfo Briceño told Reuters.

Fighting to keep the two feuding sides apart, police also used tear gas against some of the opposition protesters.

Death toll from South Asia's cold snap nears 900

Thousands of people struggled to cope with a brutal winter sweeping northern India, Bangladesh and Nepal as the death toll from a month-long cold spell neared 900 Tuesday.

A weak sun could be seen after almost two gray and cloudy weeks, but temperatures were still low as chilly winds lashed parts of India's populous northern states near the Himalayas.

The India Meteorological Department said the cold spell was likely to continue for the next two days.

Today

High 31
Low 17



Partly cloudy. Winds from the North at 4 mph.

Five-day Forecast

Thursday	Snow	28/6
Friday	Partly Cloudy	26/11
Saturday	Snow Shower	31/11
Sunday	Partly Cloudy	23/25
Monday	Partly Cloudy	42/18

Almanac

Average high: 39
Average low: 21
Wednesday's precip: 0.00"
Wednesday's hi/low: 31/17

POLICE REPORTS

No items to report.

CALENDAR

- Today**
- Choral Union-concert choir - choral auditions sign-up sheets in Northwest Annex 133
- Thursday**
- Teach-in for War on Iraq and MLK Jr. Student Center, Ballroom D 7p.m.

DAILY EGYPTIAN is published Monday through Friday during the fall semester 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.

The DAILY EGYPTIAN has a fall and spring circulations of 20,000. Copies are distributed on campus and in the Carbondale, Murphysboro, and Carterville communities.

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DAILY EGYPTIAN is published by Southern Illinois University. Offices are in the Communications Building, Room 1139 at Southern Illinois University at Carbondale, Carbondale, IL 62901. Walter J. Juchacz, fiscal officer. First copy is free, each additional copy 50 cents. Mail subscriptions available.

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

103.5 The X
Southern Illinois New Rock Alternative

BRAND A MORNING SHOW
6am-10am

Student packs his bags for 'destination unknown'

Rumsfeld signs orders for another 60,000 troops

Jackie Keane
Daily Egyptian

With the words of Unit Administrator Pamela Gray, "all right gentlemen, let's get on the road," three Army Reservists at the 348th Engineering Company in Cape Girardeau bid farewell to family and friends and climbed into an Army-issued vehicle en route to Kansas City on the first leg of their journey to Destination Unknown.

Specialist Ben Bayless, a junior in outdoor recreation, was one of these three men to throw their assigned army duffle bags into the back of the blue van.

It was a short phone call from a commander last Thursday that dramatically changed this semester's plan for Bayless. He was given five days to alert his family and friends of his deployment to the 89th Regional Support Command and show up to the reserve center mentally prepared with his bags packed.

How long he would be away and what will happen there remain questions unanswered for security reasons.

"All they told me is that I was going to Kansas City to transport tanks," Bayless said. "I don't have a TV, I don't read the newspaper, don't listen to the radio. I don't really know what is going on. I don't know why I am going."

According to the Washington Post website, the top Democrat on the House Armed Services Committee said Monday he believes war with Iraq is inevitable. Although the United States has not yet decided to use military force to disarm Iraq, 60,000 American troops were already in the area, and Defense Secretary

Donald Rumsfeld has signed orders for an additional 60,000 American troops, including 20,000 Marines. Eventually, the size of U.S. forces in Iraq could reach 250,000.

As the size of U.S. forces increase, this could mean more students leaving throughout the semester.

Bayless signed up for the Army Reserves after one semester of college because it was just something he knew he wanted to do. It was a decision made entirely on his own, lacking the persuasion of a recruiting officer.

"I was bored with everything else," he said. "The reserves are great. You get your fix. You go one weekend a month and two weekends a year. You play Army for the weekend."

In the case of students needing to take a military leave, the University offers several special accommodations so they do not lose money and schoolwork does not go unnoticed.

The Transitional Program Office provides the activation papers and allows for the student to choose which of the options they prefer. At any time within the semester, a deployed student can receive a 100-percent refund.

If a student is required to leave six to 10 weeks into the semester, they can receive one-half of a credit per class without a letter grade. With this choice, the refund is prorated and the student must be passing. The second option, offered 10 weeks into the semester, is the student can receive the grade obtained before being deployed.

Upon returning to the University, students must simply inform the Office of Admission and Records of their return. Campus jobs are required to be held for the student until they return.

Bayless, a generator mechanic, Sgt. Jesse Seabaugh and Sgt. Leo Mcclath IV, heavy equipment operators, were deployed out of the 398 Engineer Company in Cape



MARY COLLIER - DAILY EGYPTIAN

SIUC junior Ben Bayless prepares to depart Cape Girardeau, Missouri after being called up to the 89th Regional Support Command. Bayless's studies were put on hold this semester to serve the country.

Girardeau Monday morning.

This is the first time reserves have been called from any of the three units in the 398 Engineer Company because they are a new unit.

The company concentrates on constructing pipelines. In a time of war, the pipelines serve as a petroleum distribution system from the beach to the area of land where the troops are located. The pipelines can be used to transport sources such as water, as well, but fuel is the most common, Gray said.

Sgt. Seabaugh's mother saw him off to leave out of Cape Girardeau. "When he joined in the summer, I wondered if he realized what he was doing. Once called, he must go. Now he is going. I've been watching the news, so I kind of expected, but

you're never ready," Helen Seabaugh said.

The job skills these three men provide for the Army Reserves is needed by a unit located at the 89th Regional Support Command. The unit was alerted by the government to be prepared, which requires it to be fully staffed. This command, located in Kansas City, operates over 140 units, and controls reserve centers in Missouri, Iowa, Kansas and Nebraska.

"They were involuntary transferred based on the need of the government. When a unit is alerted for mobilization, we have to fill vacant spots," Gray said.

"Some will go this week; some will go the week after; some will go three weeks from now and some

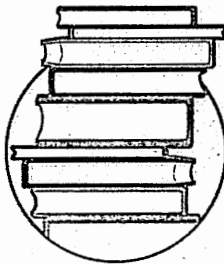
will go four weeks from now," a Senior Defense Official told the Washington Post. "There could be more."

Due to security reasons, many troops are not informed of where they will be located or what they will do, yet it does not seem to bother them. Their job is an officer of the military. In order to perform their job they must perform their duties even in time of war.

"It's just my job. Any job is dangerous, my stage crew job is dangerous," said Bayless. "I am looking forward to going for personal reasons. It will be a good experience."

Reporter Jackie Keane
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Bush readies plans for North Korea, Iraq

North Korea receives diplomacy from U.S.

Kristina Herrndobler
Daily Egyptian

Both countries could be threats to the United States and the world at large. Both have been accused of having or trying to maintain weapons of mass destruction. But both are not created equal.

So what is the difference between Iraq and North Korea?

They are the same in that President George W. Bush named both countries as members of the "axis of evil," and said he vowed not to "reward bad behavior" to either.

Still, the Bush Administration says aid is possible for North Korea if they disarm their nuclear weapons program, while none of the sort is being offered to the Iraqi government.

In fact, Iraq has denied possessing weapons of mass destruction and has readmitted inspectors. All the while, North Korea, which already has advanced missile technology, has boasted that it is restarting its nuclear program. U. N. inspectors have also been expelled and the communist country withdrew from the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty.

In response, the United States is preparing for war with Iraq, while in quest of a diplomatic solution with North Korea.

But this comes as no big surprise to Eddie Frieda, a doctoral student and teaching assistant in the political

science department. In fact, he thinks that should be the case.

"People are really starving to death in North Korea," Frieda said. "Their government is spending money it doesn't have on developing weapons. But I think at this point it is really a threat to the United States from the government there that if they don't feed our people, well, they are using this to bargain."

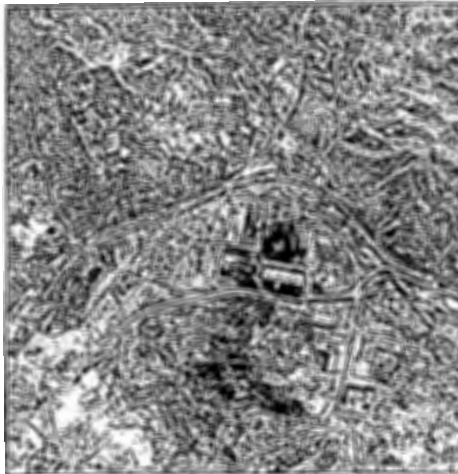
While the situation in North Korea may be worse, it is also grave in Iraq, where the government and its people have lived under U. S. and U.N. sanctions for years.

Frieda said the United States is more threatened by the Iraqi government because, for one, they may already have such weapons. In addition, he said, there is no question of what Saddam Hussein might want to do with them, while the biggest fear at the moment from North Korea is the sale of nuclear weapons on the black market.

"While the black market can also be dangerous — the whole point of it is not knowing who buys them — at least they are probably just looking to make money. Saddam Hussein isn't looking to make money with his weapons."

Still the question remains as to whether or not Iraq even has weapons of mass destruction.

Last week, Chief U.N. weapons inspector Hans Blix said the inspectors have found "no smoking gun" in Iraq thus far. But the tone changed a bit Monday as he said that Iraq must provide new evidence about its nuclear,



This undated satellite image from DigitalGlobe, a satellite imaging company, shows a dormant construction site of a nuclear reactor at Taechon, North Korea.

chemical and biological programs or face the possibility of war.

In the meantime, messages continue to spill from the White House offering food and energy aid to North Korea if the impoverished country disarms its nuclear weapons program.

Director of the Interfaith Center and anti-war activist Hugh Muldoon applauds the diplomatic efforts the United States is offering North Korea, but says the same should be offered in regard to Iraq.

"Diplomacy is the way things need to be done," Muldoon said. "They haven't exhausted such efforts with North Korea yet, but they haven't

exhausted diplomatic efforts with Iraq either."

In pursuit of the exhaustion of all diplomatic efforts, Muldoon and other advocates for non-violent solutions are having the fourth in a series of teach-ins on Thursday.

Randy Auxier, associate professor of philosophy, and Joseph Brown, director of Black American Studies, will speak on "Martin Luther King Jr. and the War in Iraq" at 7 p.m. in Ballroom D of the Student Center.

Reporter Kristina Herrndobler

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NEWS BRIEFS

CARZONDALE

Mark Twain activities at the Public Library

Falls of any age can register at the Carbondale Public Library, 405 W. Main, until the end of January to read or listen to novels, short stories, essays, and poems by Midwestern author Mark Twain. They will receive information and a list of events centered on Twain. Paperback copies of five of Twain's books will be available for a small donation.

Feb. 17 at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m., the Eisenpeter Marionettes will perform Tom Sawyer for children of all ages. Free tickets will be given out at the circulation desk at the library beginning Jan. 27. There will also be a frog-jumping contest.

Feb. 23 at 2 p.m. Mark Twain impersonator Warren Brown will perform his one-man show. This will be followed by a second frog-jumping contest and a book discussion held by a panel of Mark Twain enthusiasts.

Finally, there will be a trip to Hannibal in Missouri. For more information on the trip or any other of the activities, visit the Public Library or call 457-0354.

REGIONAL

Entry forms for artist competition accepted through Feb. 14

The deadline for entries in the Southern Illinois Artists Open Competition is February 14. Sponsored by Cedarhurst, the exhibition will be featured in the Main Gallery of the Mitchell Museum at 2400 Richview Road in Mt. Vernon June 14 through August 24.

Artists may apply in the following media: painting, drawing, graphics, mixed media, fibers, sculpture and clay and ceramics. Entry forms and slides will be accepted through Feb. 14. For more information and an entry form, call Cedarhurst at 618-242-1236.

Lake Land College ag students can study in Effingham

Lake Land College students who plan to earn bachelor's degrees here at SIUC's College of Agricultural Sciences will be able to work on junior-level classes in Effingham when spring semester starts.

Under an agreement signed between the two schools in November, SIUC will offer three night courses worth a total of seven credits to Lake Land students at that college's Kluke Center for Higher Education and Technology, 1204 Network Centre Drive in Effingham.

Lake Land staff can assist students with admission and registration questions. Prospective students also may contact David Shoup, dean of the agriculture sciences college, who will teach two of the three courses, at 453-2469.

Anyone who used CPR could be eligible for Heartsaver Award

Nominations will close for this year's American Heartsaver Awards Friday. The American Heart Association would like nominations if anyone has used CPR or an automated external defibrillator in the last year.

On Feb. 26, people in Illinois will be recognized for helping save a life by using CPR or a heart-shocker machine. Nominees will be recognized at a luncheon and then be formally awarded at a press conference in Springfield.

Anyone wanting more information about American Heartsaver Day or requesting a nomination form may call 1-800-252-8511 and ask for Susan Ruffs.

Help available to offset energy bills

Jackson County, along with three other counties, are receiving energy and service grants to reduce heat and/or electricity that has been disconnected.

Gross income of an entire family over a 30-day period is used to determine who will receive the grants, which are issued by Western Egyptian Economic Opportunity Council in Steelville.

Those in need of energy assistance, which was first given out in September, should contact the Western Egyptian Outreach Office in the county where they reside to make an appointment or for a home visit. The number for Jackson County is 684-3341.

Civil Service Employees prepare to bargain

Ben Botkin
Daily Egyptian

Against a backdrop of deadlocked negotiations between the Faculty Association and SIUC administration, another campus union is gearing up for contract talks.

Ruth Pommier, president of the Association of Civil Service Employees, said she plans to file an intent to bargain later this month with Bob York, SIUC's director of Labor and Employee Relations.

The initial meeting will probably take place in February or early March, Pommier said. The union has a bargaining unit of 535 civil service employees who work at SIUC performing clerical and administrative tasks.

York could not be reached for comment.

At this point, Pommier is accepting feedback from union members about bargaining issues and says that pay is one point she plans to bring to the table. She said bargaining teams won't discuss salaries until after state appropriations in May.

"Money is important," Pommier said. "To this group, it is central."

That's one reason why Pommier is wondering what happened to the more than \$1 million she says the University saved last year by a reduction of civil-service employees.

The union, which Pommier said has a bargaining unit that fluctuates with staff changes, dropped last year from 571 employees to 521. Pommier said she doesn't believe SIUC intentionally misappropriated the money — she just wants to know where it went.

"We've certainly pursued this and everyone says 'We don't know,'" she said. "My reaction is: If you don't know, you need to find out."

But SIUC Chancellor Walter Wendler said the money disappeared in state funding reductions that hit the

University. He has said that reduced state funding combined with additional money spent on group health insurance created a roughly \$15.5 million budget hole.

In a recent interview, Wendler expressed frustration that some don't see the situation from his perspective.

"Tell her (Pommier) to put on her thinking cap," he said. "I don't know what to tell these people."

But for Pommier, more explanation is needed.

"I think it does not serve them well to be secretive and silent," she said.

Wendler, though, said his own department has also been affected by the budget shortfall.

"I didn't go buy new furniture for my office. I haven't gotten a raise since I've been here and I probably never will," said Wendler, who earned \$251,100 last year.

While the Association of Civil Service Employees is far from preparing for a possible strike, Pommier said her union supports the efforts of the Faculty Association, which is embroiled in negotiations with the University.

Members of the Faculty Association voted in November in favor of allowing Norzeta Daneshdoost, their president, to call a strike on or after Feb. 3 if talks at the bargaining table don't lead to a new contract beforehand.

Pommier said her union could not join with faculty in a strike if there is a walkout because of a no-strike clause in their contract. However, civil service members, in the event of a strike, are free to use their free time to join in picketing and aid the faculty with clerical work or other needed tasks.

Although the duties of the civil service workers are different from those of faculty, Pommier said the work of both groups has the same goal.

"Our core mission is the same — to serve students," she said.

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Sheriff's office drops non-emergency calls

Ambulance picks up service

Greg Cima
Daily Egyptian

The Jackson County Ambulance Service will take over calls for non-emergency transports today.

Jackson County Sheriff William Kilquist said his office cut the handling of the calls from its budget because they were hurting the department's ability to respond to emergencies.

Dottie Miles, director of the Jackson County Ambulance Service, said the service transferred its handling of phone calls for scheduling transportation to doctors' offices, optometrists, and dialysis for people with disabilities. The operations of vans themselves have always been handled by the ambulance service.

The Sheriff's office has provided dispatch services for the "wheelchair vans" since 1994, but has cut the program because of "undue stress" on dispatchers, Kilquist said.

Kilquist said his dispatchers were overwhelmed by the extra requests to schedule rides that were coming in at the same time as the 911 calls. He said the change in policy and responsibility will relieve stress and reduce liability in his dispatch center.

The sheriff's office began ambulance-dispatch services for the county in 1988 in order to reduce duplication of services by both departments. Kilquist said that the department began taking a small number of

non-emergency calls, but they have increased to almost 5,000 annually.

He said the calls also require additional phone time for dispatchers to determine Medicare and private-pay eligibility.

Miles estimated the additional manpower needed will cost about \$33,500 annually. She said the department is trying to keep costs down, but there has been talk of the County Board reallocating some money it has been giving to the Sheriff's Department for dispatch services.

Sheriff Kilquist said the money given to the sheriff's office was given for the emergency dispatch calls, not the non-emergency services it voluntarily took up in 1994.

Miles said the change will also require her department to buy new equipment and hire more personnel for the non-emergency line, but she expects a smooth transition.

She said there will be someone answering phones beginning at 6 a.m. today to handle the additional duties. There will be about four more people hired part-time to take calls and schedule driving times for the three vans.

Miles said the ambulance service will relieve the sheriff's office from about 400 calls every month. She said this will help with "a pretty good chunk of work causing this burden."

The new phone number for non-emergency transportation in Jackson County is 549-8500.

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Consumers not as consuming

Year-end figures barely above last year's

Brian Peach
Daily Egyptian

With the holiday rush over, local and national businesses are counting up their receipts, and the 2002 season showed the lowest sales increase from previous years in more than a decade.

The annual National Retail Sales Report issued Monday by ShopperTrak, a national retail analysis firm, found the growth to be a mere 1.6 percent nationally.

"We review retailers, businesses and food chains throughout the country," said Jim Martin, vice president of data management for ShopperTrak. "This was a soft year for sales overall."

Some local businesses in Carbondale felt the pressure as well. P Mac Music, 100 N. Glenview, has been open since 1998, and Manager Josh Rayburn said the music store experienced its worst holiday season so far. Rayburn attributes this mainly to the economy. He said that with a local hospital and prison closing in the past year, which caused more than 2,000 people to lose their jobs, a slight decrease in sales was almost to be expected.

"The economy was hit hard this past year, and the holidays aren't usually as busy for us as the rest of the year is," Rayburn said. "Students head out of town for break. But, now that they're back, business is back on track."

According to a separate report issued by the International Council of Shopping Centers (ICSC), music, video and home entertainment sales were down more than 8 percent nationally.

Frank Ward, co-owner of 2 Girls & a Guy Boutique, 601 W. Main St., said the jewelry store has been open for three years and although the final numbers have not been calculated, he said it was probably the slowest season so far.

"It wasn't an outstanding year, but it wasn't bad for us either," Ward said. "We did a lot of business in November, but during the holidays, people just didn't seem as sure about shopping and spending money as they usually are."

"The economy was a little unsettled, and I think everyone felt it."

Bob Hardy, general manager for Illinois Centre Mall in Marion, said he has talked to managers of all the stores in the mall, and the figures show a close to 1-percent increase for the total sales.

In relation to national figures, Hardy said electronic and book sales did very well, while apparel sales were much lower.

According to the NRS Report, this season also had six fewer shopping days than in 2001, and Patrice Duken, manager of Media Relations for the ICSC said that could be one of the reasons for the low numbers.

"Fever days always bring less spending, while geopolitical concerns and the threat of war add to people's apprehension," Duken said.

"Consumers were unsure of the stock market and concerned with job security, so they just weren't as motivated this year."

Hardy said that the lower sales during the holiday season brought big sales in the new year, but even then shoppers were apathetic about spending money.

"Drastic price reductions after Christmas, some up to 50 percent, didn't seem to stir consumers into spending the money they might not have spent before the holidays," he said.

Counting the days following Thanksgiving, and ending in early January, Duken said the 2003 shopping season will have one more shopping day than last year, bringing the total to 27.

"Sales are projected to gradually go up, assuming we don't have a major economic crisis," she said. "Wars, for example, tend to decrease sales over the holidays."

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Strike concerns parents

Andy Horonzy
Daily Egyptian

The Faculty Association has yet to back down from its position and the administration still remains hesitant to grant the faculty's request for a 21-percent salary increase and benefits during the next three years.

As a result, many students are beginning to wonder what will happen if the strike date arrives without an agreement being reached. Ben Blacker, a sophomore in architecture from Mansfield said he is most concerned about how a strike would impact seniors who are expected to graduate this spring.

"Some of the older students in my classes are really upset," Blacker said. "I think they are sympathetic to the teachers' situation, but also don't want to risk sacrificing what they've worked so hard for."

Blacker's mother, Martha Willi, said she was involved in a strike when she was a high school teacher, but has never seen it happen at the collegiate level.

"As a former teacher I know how important it is for the faculty to stick up for themselves, but at the same time I wonder what kind of irreversible damage it could do to the University," Willi said.

Kris Smith, a freshman in education from Springfield said his family is most troubled by the possibility of graduate assistants taking over if the faculty walks out. Smith's aunt, Jackie Richie, doesn't believe that graduate assistants would be able to provide the quality of education necessary for the students.

"I think one of the main reasons you go to college is to be taught by professors, not their assistants," Richie said.

Although several students said their parents were following the strike very closely, many said their parents had shown little interest in the situation up to this point.

SIUC spokeswoman Sue Davis said that she has received very little contact from

parents interested in the possibility of a strike. Of the 1,500 students who missed the spring tuition deadline, only a few parents listed concern about a strike as the reason for missing the deadline.

"There have only been a few calls from parents worried about a strike," Davis said.

Tyler Sapp, an undeclared sophomore from Mahomet said his parents hadn't said anything about the strike and didn't imagine they would unless a strike happened.

"I think it would be a devastating blow to the University, but I think many parents are waiting to see if it actually happens before they begin to show concern," Sapp said.

The Faculty Association, who just began renting out a storefront on South Illinois Avenue to serve as a possible strike headquarters, has thus far managed to remain organized throughout the negotiations. Professor Mary Lamb said that the most important issue currently facing the faculty is their ability to maintain faculty lines.

"Failure to do so could lead to an eventual loss of programs and students that could hinder the University," Lamb said.

In order to address the Faculty Association and the students and parents who may be concerned, the administration recently began producing an Internet newsletter to help communicate its position on issues they feel pertinent to the University community.

The newsletter, called Straight Talk, began appearing at <http://news.siu.edu/negotiations/straighttalk/index.html> on Jan. 8 to respond to faculty statements and present the administration's own message.

A large part of Straight Talk has been devoted to the differences in views between the administration and faculty, but a recurring theme has been the administration's high level of respect for the faculty and their opinions.

Reporter Andy Horonzy can be reached at
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OUR WORD

HRC: Once more, with feeling

And again. The Human Relations Commission has now been on the City Council's agenda for about one year. It began as an idea for change, but like many other good ideas, it has fallen victim to those unwilling to see the possibilities.

We find this disturbing. The DAILY EGYPTIAN has voiced concerns several times in regard to the Human Relations Commission and the lack of strong action by the City Council to get this thing off the ground.

The council displayed its stubborn on-the-fence position yet again at its Jan. 7 meeting when the question of whether the Human Relations Commission should have subpoena power arrived at the table. Although no formal votes were made, the decision to pass on the issue and begin deciding how the commission will work without subpoena power appears to be the laid-back, no-decision action the City Council was looking for.

During the meeting, a local lawyer and one candidate for the spring City Council elections stood and spoke against the subpoena power in favor of businesses. They expressed the concern that businesses would have financial trouble if forced to pay attorney's fees when subpoenaed.

But two people are not enough on which to base an entire decision, even if that decision was not formally made. We understand that many businesses may be concerned about the financial costs involved when dealing with lawyers and subpoenas, but we believe that creating a commission without power to accomplish anything would make last year's work worthless.

Bill Norwood, co-chair of the original task force and a strong advocate of subpoena power, was only given one-day's notice and could not attend the meeting. In addition, the meeting took place during a school break, when few students could attend. Feb. 4 is the next time the council will likely discuss this issue. While the city will simply be bypassing the issue, we hope that supporters of the subpoena power will voice their opinions.

We've said it before, and we will say it again. The HRC needs subpoena power. Because of this no-decision action, it appears that the City Council has no true interest in accomplishing the goal of creating a Human Relations Commission at all.

The idea began in 2001, when the SIU/Carbondale Task Force on Race and Community Relations suggested a Human Relations Commission. The task force was organized in April 2001 after Carbondale Police officers used Mace on about 80 black students while dispersing a block party. It was a response to a problem.

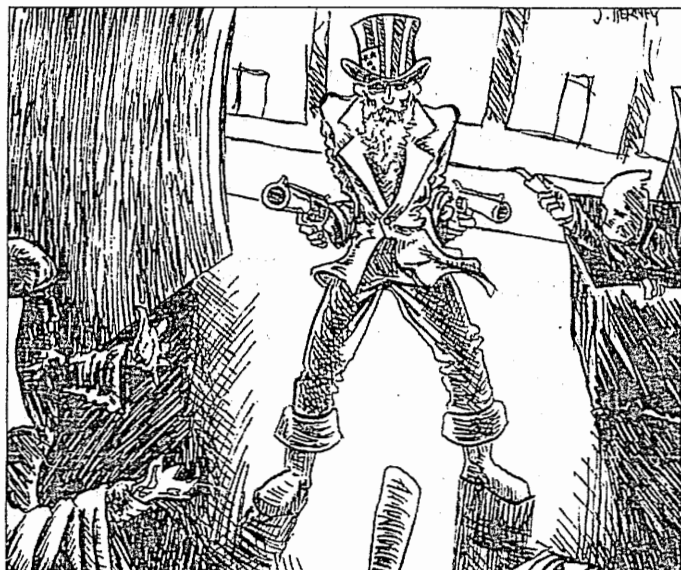
This commission was inspired with the idea of helping people and bringing positive change to Carbondale. If a worker at a local business has a complaint and takes it to the commission, what good can a commission do if they can take no action to investigate? If they can subpoena the people involved, progress may be achieved. Without subpoena power, in the end, the commission would serve as nothing more than a forum for voicing complaints.

If the City Council is honestly committed to providing a voice to wronged minorities, they will improve their approach to the process of creating such a commission. The process has taken two years; racial problems have plagued Carbondale for many more.

While the EGYPTIAN would love to see the HRC finally realized, there's no use skipping the important steps. So let's try it once more.

This time, with feeling.

We will say it again.
The HRC needs
subpoena power.



Supreme Court deliberations threaten Boy Scouts

Tim Czerwienski
Boston College Heights (U-wire)

CHESTNUT HILL, Mass. — The California Supreme Court is considering forbidding the state's 1,600 judges from participating in the Boy Scouts of America. Canon 2C of the Code of Judicial Ethics bars judges from belonging to groups that discriminate based on race or sexual orientation. An amendment to that canon permits judges to participate in non-profit youth groups like the Boy Scouts. Several county bar associations, including Los Angeles and San Francisco, have petitioned the Supreme Court, asking that this amendment be revoked. They believe that membership in the Boy Scouts of America compromises a judge's impartiality when faced with a homosexual litigant or defendant. The Supreme Court is conducting a study to determine its course of action. A decision to eliminate the amendment would essentially require judges who are Scouts to leave that organization, or lose their jobs.

The Boy Scouts of America have faced a barrage of legal and economic setbacks since their dubious victory in 2000's *Boy Scouts of America vs. Dale* US Supreme Court decision. In the Dale case, the Supreme Court ruled that the Boy Scouts of America, as a private organization, could refuse membership to openly homosexual youths and leaders. The Boy Scouts consider homosexuality to be incongruous with their focus on traditional family values.

As an Eagle Scout, I consider it unfortunate that the organization that I love so much has such an antiquated view of sexual orientation. I don't consider the Dale decision to be a victory for anyone. I have several friends who in addition to being Eagles are also homosexual. They are some of the most admirable and upstanding men I've had the pleasure of knowing. I believe the Boy Scouts of America needs to seriously reconsider its archaic and narrow-minded perspective, and realize that homosexuals can be positive role models.

In spite of this shortcoming, I believe my membership in the Boy Scouts of America has shaped me into

the kind of person I am today. If I had done anything laudable in my life so far, it is because I've tried to be a good Scout. The Boy Scouts of America has been shaping young men better than me for almost ninety-two years. I'm afraid that too many people judge the Boy Scouts by the blemish of their exclusion policy and not the immense good they do. The Boy Scouts of America is not an organization dedicated to the exclusion of homosexuals, but rather to the shaping of good citizens and good leaders.

A decision by the California Supreme Court to prevent its judges from being members of the Boy Scouts of America is a threat not only to one of our country's oldest youth organizations, but to the Constitution itself. The First Amendment gives all citizens the right to peacefully assemble with other like-minded individuals.

Furthermore, our nation's highest court has upheld the constitutionality of the Boy Scouts' membership policies. For an arm of the government to force a judge to choose between his occupation and his constitutionally guaranteed right to assemble is farcical.

It is a sad trend in our country that what is politically correct often takes precedence over what is actually right. We, as a society, live in such abject fear of offending certain sensitive groups that we are willing to sacrifice our core principles. In our ravenous quest for diversity, we forget that if everyone could belong to every group, we would eliminate that which makes us diverse.

Churches regularly discriminate on the basis of religion. Same-sex high schools and colleges regularly discriminate on the basis of gender. We accept these institutions. The Boy Scouts of America, unfortunately, discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation. That doesn't make its members bigots. That doesn't make its members bad men and women. Most importantly, that shouldn't cost its members their jobs.

These views do not necessarily reflect those of the DAILY EGYPTIAN.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

“I find that the harder I work, the more luck I seem to have.”

Thomas Jefferson
former President

WORDS OVERHEARD

“We are totally for this country living securely and peacefully in the world. And that is what I call real patriotism.”

Hugh Muldoon
director of the Interfaith Center
and organizer of a war protest trip to Washington, D.C.

COLUMNISTS

SWF seeks ... grandparents

People often say, "Youth is wasted on the young." If that's the case, I wonder where I fit into that statement.

I suppose a politically correct term for my situation could be, "ancestrally-challenged." In other words, I have spent most of my life surrounding myself with surrogate grandparents, trying desperately to fill the void in my life where actual living relatives would have been. I admit I have even formed friendships with people in the past with an almost completely one-track mind. The sooner I became like family, the sooner I could move in on their grandparents.

It feels strange to admit, but I have never felt like I belonged among my peers. Every Christmas break, I listen to my friends' stories about going back home, what they did over the holidays, whom they visited.

I want a grandmother there to nag me that I'm working too many hours or that I don't go to church enough.

I've always been a little jealous to hear their stories about grandma and grandpa's house, the older generation fussing over them with loving concern. I've always felt a little left out.

During New Year's, my one remaining grandparent passed away. And strangely, while my holiday was filled with an inevitable flood of memories and grief, few actual tears fell. My grandmother had suffered for many years from advanced stages of Alzheimer's disease. And while the finality of the service and burial registered with all of us, we all knew that he had said goodbye to the woman we knew long ago. Yet throughout the funeral, I couldn't help but reflect on the way I'd acted and felt guilty.

Of course, I've always visited Grandma, despite her inability to communicate or even recognize me. But all the while, I was out scavenging the leftover affection of my friend's families. I felt like a thief.



Not Just Another Priddy Face

BY GRACE PRIDDY
vleancolleg81@hotmail.com

Lame as it might seem to other students, I spend a lot of my own college nights simply longing for dinner at Ma and Pa's house, enjoying the company of a grandfather complaining about politics and taping PBS specials. I want a grandmother there to nag me that I'm working too many hours or that I don't go to church enough.

As I listened to the eulogy, I thought of my grandparents watching over me from heaven as I grow older in their absence, and it suddenly struck me. Here I am down here, wondering how grandma and grandpa would react if they knew I have tried desperately to fill their vacancies in my life. But meanwhile, I wonder if they have spent all of this time, themselves, worrying that no one was keeping track of me the way they would have. I also wonder if they have, all along, been secretly praying that I would find someone else. I think it would do them well to know someone is still watching out for Grace, pointing out when I'm following car bumpers too closely and making sure I'm still getting enough chocolate chips in my diet.

And it is in this manner that I say good-bye today to my grandmother, and to the loved ones I lost during my childhood. And as the New Year begins, I thank God for the others in the community through which you continue to speak to me. It is through them, and through me that your legacy lives on.

Grace is a senior in architecture. Her views don't necessarily reflect those of the DAILY EGYPTIAN.

Strom can't wipe the blood from his hands

Every column that I write at the beginning of the semester I always say how good it is to be back at the DAILY EGYPTIAN and SIU every semester it is true. It is also good to be here in Southern Illinois, which I have learned is an integral part of Illinois. Unless you were living in a cave, you have heard about Sen. Trent Lott's comments and while I will not dissect all of his comments, I am sure we all know them. I would like to reflect on one aspect of his comments, which were his sentence that he and Mississippi supported Strom Thurmond and the Dixiecrats when he ran for president. I thought about what Strom Thurmond and the Dixiecrats stood for in 1948 and it is terrifying.

What is even more shocking are those who minimized his statements. It will not seek to question his sincerity in his apologies since only he knows his true feelings. Nevertheless, it is noteworthy that he has said publicly that Jefferson Davis, a war criminal and a man who supported domestic terrorism was his hero. However, the outcome of fighting segregation and Jim Crow policies were death and mayhem. Many people were killed who attempted to eradicate segregation. Which is what Thurmond, Lott and the Dixiecrats espoused. I thought about Medgar Evers, the Scottsboro Boys, Emmitt Till, the three murdered civil rights workers killed in Mississippi. I thought about the four little black girls killed in a church bombing on a Sunday morning in 1963 while attending Sunday school. I thought about the church bombings and house bombings. I thought about Viola Luzzoli, the murdered white woman from Detroit, who went to the south to protest.

I thought about the white minister who was murdered during freedom summer. I thought about the dogs that bit innocent people who were only exercising their rights as Americans. I thought about Dr. King who was killed because he stood against the Strom Thurmond's of the world. I thought about all the Americans who were beaten and killed because they were opposed to Strom Thurmond's vision of America, which Trent Lott said we would have been better off if it was continued. I heard conservative pundits and editorials that stated, "Oh what Lott said was not so bad; it was said to



Having My Say

BY LENIE ADOLPHSON
lenieadolphson@yahoo.com

make an old man feel good on his birthday."

Well, to this I say how about telling an old man on his birthday, you lived to be 100, but because of the system that you supported many of your fellow Americans did not live to see their next birthday. The racism and bigotry that you practiced and advocated was dreadful and appalling. However, I am sure that there was no one at the party who had the courage to tell him these facts. Strom should have been told that he has the blood of hundreds of people on his hands. I have read that Strom Thurmond changed, and now he is a kinder and gentler racist. I wish those who were lynched and murdered could be here to witness his transformation from an extremist to a conservative, but maybe that is an oxymoron. There should be no grand senatorial birthday parties for bigots whether Democrats like former Klansman, Robert Byrd or Republicans like Strom Thurmond or any bigots of any color. Every time an American, whether black or white fought against segregation and discrimination, their lives were in danger and many were killed to preserve racism and segregation.

We cannot excuse bigotry or serve as apologists for a racist. The worst part of the Lott debacle is that many are angry with Lott not for what he said, but that he was foolish enough to say it publicly and that is more frightening than Strom Thurmond ever was. This is evident by a letter that was written in a local paper recently, in which the writer stated, "All Lott said is what many of us think." Unfortunately, this comes as no surprise to African-Americans — including this writer.

LeNie is a junior in history. Her views do not necessarily reflect those of the DAILY EGYPTIAN.

GUEST COLUMNIST

Colombia: A paradise overlooked

Jason Moulton
supreme571@aol.com

Everyone told me that I shouldn't go. They all thought the guerrillas might kidnap me. Or maybe the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) rebels would kill me in some attack. These thoughts were a bit extreme, but when peoples' imaginations wander, the impressions that they turn to are from what they read in a newspaper, see on TV, or what's depicted in movies. Seriously though, it is true. What's the first thing that pops into someone's mind when they say Colombia? Most likely, a typical person would say cocaine. This mental image of Colombia has tarnished its reputation for decades. Who's to blame?

Pablo Escobar or the FARC rebels? Well, they played their part, but it is mostly from what we see and hear from the movies and media.

When I went, I forgot about all of that stupefied hearsay. I knew of the current political situation but I didn't care. What did my family and friends think? No one really wanted me to go to Colombia. But I had to. I had to see and feel for myself.

Upon my arrival to Cartagena (coastal city), I became anxious to see how it was. The airport was not full of live rock (like it is in movies) but it was rather full of something else. It was full of the most exotic, gorgeous women I had ever seen in my life. After having been temporarily stunned by their beauty, I realized my friends had arrived to pick me up.

We went back to our apartment, dropped off the luggage and went off to the old section of the city where everything went on. We cruised through the city, picked up a few drinks, and walked on. While walking around, I noticed a heavy presence of police/military patrolling the streets. This made all my insecurities disappear with the snap of a finger. As I slowly sipped on my Caipirina, we slipped into a club. Upon entering, two things made a smile grace my face. 1) The number of beautiful women. 2) Everyone was dancing...everyone. Salsa, meringue, discotheque, and dance music inspired everyone to be out on the floor moving. This was another thing that amazed me about this country. Everyone was born and raised to dance. It was all very impressive. But

for me, being the gringo that I am, I couldn't meet to their standards for dancing.

At around 4 a.m., the night winded down and we made headway for home. As the cab driver sped down the road, my thoughts dwinded and I realized I had only been in Colombia for 5 hours. Those 5 hours proved to be a taste for what was to come. Within the timeframe of my stay, all the negative impressions of Colombia were erased from my head. They were replaced by visions of a lush, tropical jungle, the fresh aroma of coffee, and the enticing allure of the women from this beautiful country.

Jason's views do not necessarily reflect those of the DAILY EGYPTIAN.

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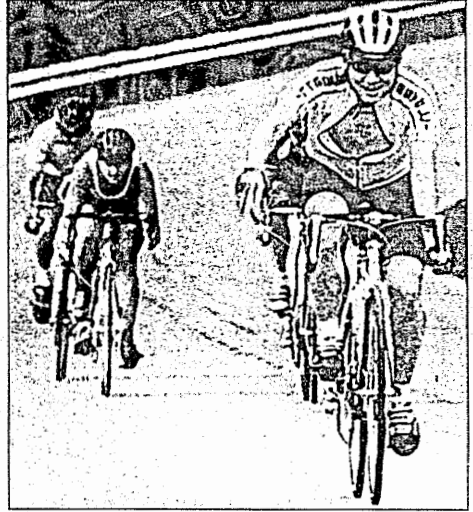
“When I met him, I owned a couple of bikes. Now I’m a cyclist—I owe that to him for the rest of my life.”

—Mike Magnuson
Professor, creative writing



MARY COLLIER - DAILY EGYPTIAN

Saki Thiphkosithkun, originally from Thailand, led group rides through the back roads and highways of Southern Illinois three times a week for six years. Saki was known throughout the country for his contributions to the sport of cycling and especially in the Southern Illinois area, through his group rides, sponsorship of local teams and work at Carbondale Cycle.



MARY COLLIER - DAILY EGYPTIAN

Saki encouraged riders to ‘smile and think light’ as they hefted their bikes up the steep hill leading from Makanda to U.S. Highway 51. This philosophy that Saki imparted to riders also applied to life, believing that no matter how tough things got in life, if you smiled and kept your head up, things would come out all right.

LEGACY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

“They took care of me, so I kept my business with them,” he said.

This network of friends quickly spread the word of Saki’s death. People from the area and around the country organized a memorial service and group ride in his honor.

More than 30 cyclists met early in the morning of Dec. 15 for a 25-mile ride on some of Saki’s favorite roads, and paused for a moment of silence at his house. According to Gindlesparger and Easter, the ride was upbeat and relaxed, not depressing. The weather was beautiful, a perfect day for cycling.

“We were doing something that all of us loved and Saki loved. That made it easier on everyone,” Gindlesparger said.

“We were doing something that all of us loved and Saki loved. That made it easier on everyone.”

—Matt Gindlesparger
senior, architectural studies

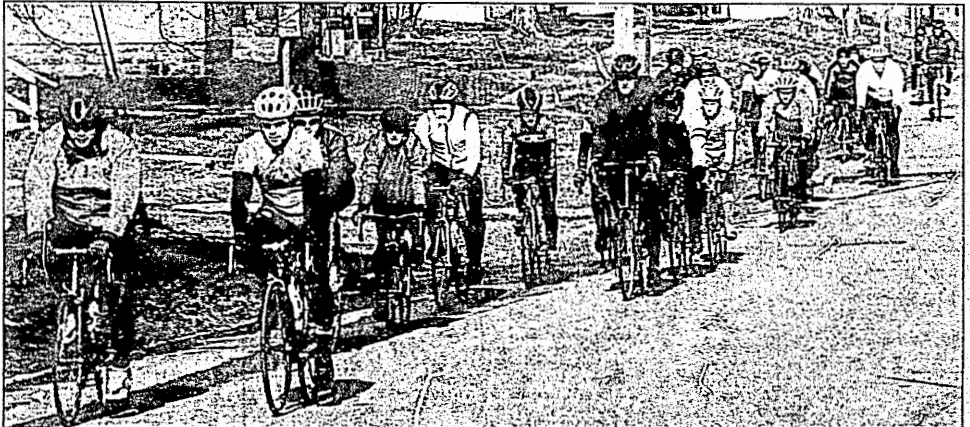
Saki’s group riders and old friends came together for the memorial service at the Unitarian Fellowship Hall in Carbondale the Sunday night following the ride to share stories and reflect on his life. They gathered in a circle and shared stories and experiences they’d had with him.

Saki’s legacy will live on in the riders he’s touched over the years, who will always remember to “smile and think light.”

Mike Magnuson, professor of creative writing, said area cyclists will continue Saki’s rides, and a commemorative ride will be held in his name every June. He said the group will remain strong despite Saki’s passing.

“When I met him, I owned a couple of bikes. Now I’m a cyclist—I owe that to him for the rest of my life.”

Reporter Brendan Collier can be reached at
bcollier@daily-egyptian.com



MARY COLLIER - DAILY EGYPTIAN

Local cyclists ride through town the morning of Dec. 15 for a memorial ride in honor of Saki. Riders spoke of hearing Saki’s laughter as they strolled through Southern Illinois on his favorite roads where he once led them.

Legislation proposes financial aid expansion

Jessica Mosby
The California Aggie
(U. California-Davis)

DAVIS, Calif. (U-WIRE) — Red tape, endless paperwork and an increasing cost of education are just some of the factors that the federal Committee on Education and Workforce took into consideration when drafting the FED UP legislation, which aims to make financial aid more readily available and easier for college students to obtain.

The bill is the result of research conducted by the Upping the Effectiveness of Our Federal Student Aid Program, which evaluated responses submitted by college officials and administrators. Participants recommended modifications and reforms to streamline the financial aid process.

If enacted, the legislation will

expedite the time between a student's financial aid application and when they receive funds. It would also expand the Higher Education Act to make scholarships more readily available for low-income and minority students to attend law school.

Additionally, the bill will help students avoid defaulting on educational loans by allowing increased flexibility on payment plans and renegotiations with lenders.

The University of California-Davis has a 2.3 percent student loan default rate, which is considered very low by the federal government. The rate is important in a university's ability to offer loans because a high rate can jeopardize the loans available.

President George W. Bush has also pledged to increase availability of higher education to 8-4 million students through billions in new grants, loans and work-study programs.

Carbondale Chamber of Commerce plans to issue survey on new HRC

Burke Wasson
Daily Egyptian

The Carbondale Chamber of Commerce agreed Tuesday to survey local business owners about their concerns with the pending Human Relations Committee.

The City Council has approved creation of the HRC, which would deal with discrimination based on race, sexual orientation or gender by police officers, city officials and business owners.

The chamber's board of directors wants to gauge opinions from businesses while respecting owners' confidentiality. Its members agreed that an anonymous survey is the best way to accomplish that.

"A lot of business owners want to speak, but are hesitant to do so," executive director Sara Berkbigler said. "Due

to the sensitive nature, they don't want to be publicly critical."

Board members said they have recently heard concerns from local business owners about the HRC.

"We have received comments that the respondent doesn't have enough due process in a complaint," Berkbigler said.

Some board members wish to keep the survey short and to the point. Board member Steven Haynes prefers a survey that is "fast, sweet and simple."

"The survey needs to be straight to the point so that it's more meaningful," Haynes said. "When we do this, don't have more than five, six, seven questions. It would be too redundant."

The board of directors will draw up the survey in a fair and objective manner soon.

"The survey will probably be drawn up by the very end of this week or the

beginning of next week," Berkbigler said. "It will be extremely objective. We'll be pretty careful."

The debate on the new committee's exact makeup, powers and duties continues. The question of whether the HRC should be a guideline for behavior or a government body capable of sanctioning laws and subpoenas is still being debated. The nature of selecting the committee's 11-member board is also being debated.

Mayor Neil Dillard said the HRC is an ongoing project that will continue to be debated. Dillard favors the exploration of all avenues to make the committee work.

"If we're going to do it, do it the right way," Dillard said. "We need to look at every possible way."

Reporter Burke Wasson can be reached at bwasson@dailyegyptian.com

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Book sales competition thickens

Online buying provides alternative

Jessica Yorama
Daily Egyptian

While some students battle long lines in Carbondale's bookstores to buy textbooks, others are making purchases comfortably seated at their computers.

Online buying, although not a major competitor, has come a long way as a supplier of college textbooks.

David Feller, director of marketing and strategy for online purchasing company Half.com, said students should remember Internet companies when buying textbooks.

"It's up to the individual customer to decide if online buying is for them," Feller said. "But as time goes on, people are finding their destinations online."

Feller said that advertising has helped the company achieve the significant increase they see from year to year. Feller said sales for online textbooks typically rises 240 percent during textbook seasons with the help of advertising in college newspapers and welcome packets.

However, even an increase of more than double does not make online companies a fierce competitor against bookstores.

In spite of bookstores' decrease in advertising during spring semester, bookstore manager Chris Croson said sales have been improving from the previous year.

"It's been unusually busy," said Croson, manager of University Bookstore. "Usually in the spring people wait until the weekend to buy books, but this year sales doubled early on."

Comparison of bookstore prices and online buying company				
	710	Saluki	University	Half.com
	Bookstore	Bookstore	Bookstore	
English 101	\$40.50	\$40.50	\$41.75	\$33.75
Math 113	\$69.40	\$69.40	\$74.75	\$24.95
Psychology 102	\$54.75	\$57.00	\$57.00	\$43.95
Zoology 115	\$57.00	\$58.25	\$58.25	\$60.00

JOSH MISHKINIS - DAILY EGYPTIAN

Croson said his store began preparing for the start of spring semester as early as seven weeks before school by stocking supplies and advertising on various forms of media.

Although sales on online companies have risen, Croson is confident this form of purchasing is not yet cause for alarm. According to Croson, this has only been responsible for a two to three-percent loss.

"Online buying is usually something people tend to use more for leisure items and textbooks are definitely not something anyone wants to purchase," said Croson. "After you order the textbook you have to wait, then there's shipping and handling. Then what if the instructor changes the textbook? Returning it is going to be an inconvenience."

Mike Penschbacher, manager of office products for 710 Bookstore agreed that buying from a bookstore is

preferable to purchasing online.

"First of all, I think people like the idea of dealing face to face with someone," said Penschbacher. "People like to have the copy right in front of them so they can be certain it's the right one. Also the process of exchanging is a lot quicker."

Although sales are steadily increasing for Half.com, which opened in 1999, Feller said the intention of the company is hardly to contend with bookstores any time in the near future.

"We have around 200 million items in stock so we offer a lot of value," said Feller. "So far we've been working well with the stores as well as the customer. We give them the opportunity to sell their books online. This enables us to have a relationship with the bookstore."

Reporter Jessica Yorama can be reached at jyorama@dailyegyptian.com

Law students see hope in death penalty decision

Molly Schranz
Chicago Maroon (U. Chicago)

CHICAGO (U-WIRE)—A petition drafted by two University of Chicago Law School students saw vindication when Governor George Ryan commuted the death sentences of all 167 inmates on death row in the state of Illinois during a speech at Northwestern University Law School on Saturday. The letter to the governor was signed by over 140 students from law schools throughout the state.

"We've worked non-stop all fall," said Elizabeth Ericksen, a law student and co-author of the petition to Ryan. "You sort of feel like you've had a victory this past Saturday but you're not done."

Ryan's announcement, which came at the end of his controversial term, was his second of the week-end.

On Friday Ryan pardoned four inmates while speaking at DePaul Law School.

"I believe he did it based on what he thought was the right thing to do," said Jennifer Escalante, co-author of the petition and a law student who works at the MacArthur Center for Justice, of the governor's blanket commutation.

University of Chicago law students were part of a larger network of university students in Illinois working on behalf of death row inmates.

Two classes at Northwestern University had been working on the exonerated of two death row inmates for the past several years.

Both men, Aaron Patterson and Leroy Orange, were pardoned on Friday on account of having been forced to deliver false confessions.

"The Illinois capital punishment system is broken," Ryan said in the speech. He went on to quote former Supreme Court Justice Harry Blackmun, saying, "From this day forward I no longer shall tinker with the machines of death."

The student-led effort was supported by strong advocacy among faculty at law schools throughout the state and was praised for its initiative.

"What the law students did was quite wonderful. It's important for law students to make their voices heard, that they went across the state and gathered so many signatures," said Jean Maclean Snyder, lecturer at the University Law School and the MacArthur Justice Center.

Regarding the motivation of Ryan's final actions, there has been praise as well as suspicion.

He is currently being investigated for a scandal dealing with drivers' licenses granted in exchange for bribes while he was secretary of state, and some have suggested that he used the death penalty as an opportunity to deflect personal criticism.

Still, many maintain that Ryan's actions were larger than any personal issue.

"In the current political climate you have to pinch yourself," said Snyder, who attended the Northwestern speech. "One person, a single act, made such a difference."

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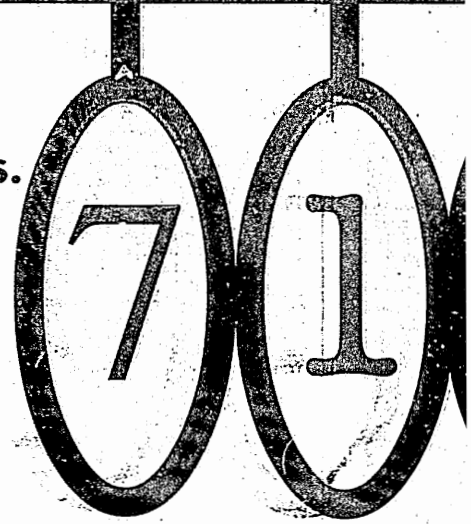
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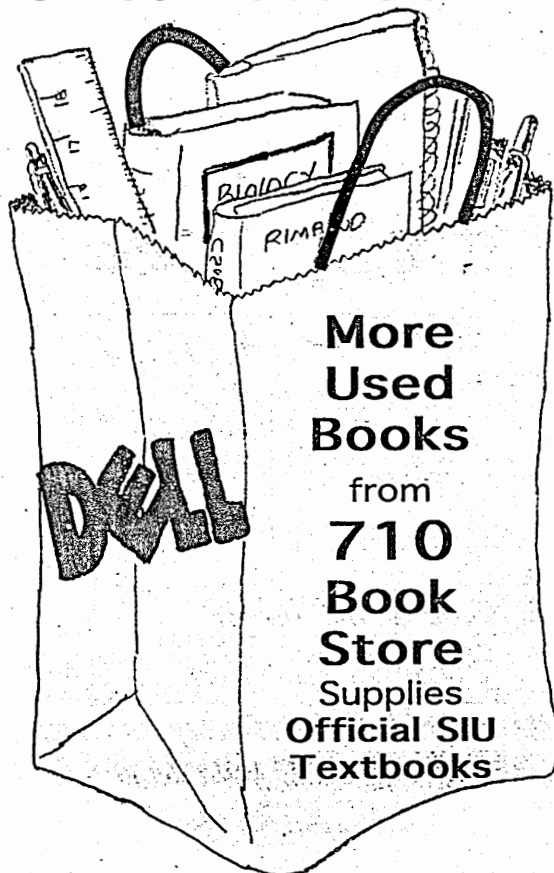
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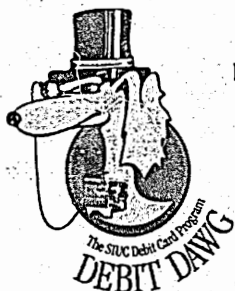
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WSIU-TV needs additional funding for digital conversion

FCC requires station to transmit in digital by May

Lindsey J. Mastis
 Daily Egyptian

Officials of WSIU-TV need \$13 million for improvements to bring the television station's technology up to speed with a government-mandated digital upgrade. The Federal Communications Commission is requiring all public-television stations to make the transition from analog to digital by May 1. All private stations were required to broadcast May 1, 2002.

Delores Kerstein, broadcasting assistant director, has estimated a cost of \$6 million for WSIU-TV to meet the May deadline and be ready for digital transmission.

But a total of \$13 million is needed for a full conversion with long-term capacity. These costs are necessary for a master control station, digital equipment, transmitters, antennae, towers and FCC licenses. The master control station, when complete, will be used in a planned addition to the Mass Communications Building.

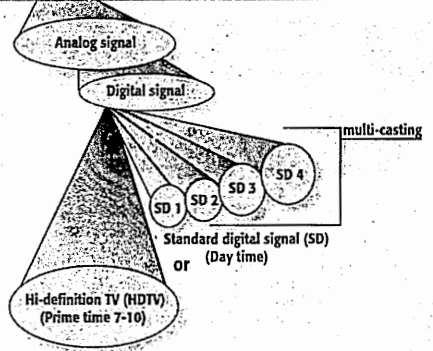
"One of the stipulations is that we have to have the antennae installed by May 1," said Kerstein. She said the companies that deal with installing antennae have been unable to make the deadline and those who have bid are asking for too much money.

WSIU-TV and WUSI-TV are \$7.1 million short for a full conversion from analog to digital. Both stations combined have \$5.9 million from fund-raising efforts, state appropriations, grants and SIU funding. If the deadline is not met, the FCC could deny WSIU the rights to have a digital signal.

"If we do not meet the deadline, then technically we would dissolve as a digital station, [but] we will continue to operate analogue for approximately 10 years," said Leyla Goodsell, broadcasting researcher II for SIUC.

After 85 percent of the viewing

ELECTROMAGNETIC SPECTRUM



SHANE PANGBURN & JOSH MISKINIS - DAILY EGYPTIAN

area has the ability to receive a digital signal, the FCC requires stations to cut off analog signals, Goodsell said. She said Southern Illinois is estimated to reach that percentage around 2013.

The FCC requires stations to broadcast in digital because it takes up less space on the electromagnetic spectrum. Freed space will probably be auctioned and used for cell phones, baby monitors, garage-door openers and emergency services.

It also gives stations the ability to multicast, which allows a person to view multiple standard digital transmissions on the same channel. WSIU can fit four SD transmissions in the allotted space. The same amount of space is needed to broadcast one hi-definition TV program on a channel.

"We consider this to be a very important step," Goodsell said. "The digital conversion is just as important as when color TV came out and is necessary to serve Southern Illinois with quality programs."

Robert Henderson, director of production and programming, said WSIU would probably use multicasting programming during the day and divide the content for

kids, adults, higher education and local programming. The prime-time slot of 7 to 10 p.m. will be used to broadcast one program using HDTV.

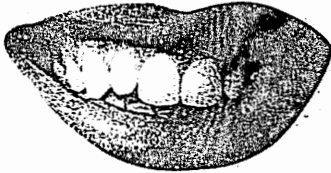
"We have a unique opportunity to fulfill our educational mission in a way that we would never be able to do with analogue TV," said Goodsell. "We would be a lot more comfortable in meeting the May deadline if we had over the minimum amount of monies to make the conversion."

The station has two HDTV displays so viewers can see how digital programming will look, one at WSIU-TV studios and the other in the University Mall across from the Pasta House.

Reporter Lindsey J. Mastis
 can be reached at
 ljmastis@dailyegyptian.com

To make a contribution, label "digital conversion" and send donation to WSIU, Carbondale, Ill. 62901-6602, or call 453-4343 for more information. To donate through renewing membership, send additional funds and specify that it be for the digital conversion.

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 4:10 8:00 10:05

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 4:20 7:10 9:45

CATCH ME IF YOU CAN (PG13) DIGITAL
 4:40 8:00 9:45

TWO WEEKS NOTICE (PG13)
 5:00 7:45 10:00

ANTWONE FISHER (PG13) DIGITAL
 4:00 6:45 9:30

Business students invest in their future on Wall Street

Saluki Student Investment Fund gears up for competition

Moustafa Ayad
Daily Egyptian

Brandon Zanotti is on a computer every day. Watching, analyzing his situation, every moment on a computer, Zanotti is not your average student checking his e-mail. He is one of seven business students involved with managing the award-winning Saluki Student Investment Fund. Zanotti and his investment team are in training, applying their intellectual muscle to real-world problems — researching and carefully plotting every move. Skillfully maneuvering through the jungle known as the stock market. The investment-fund members are assigned sectors or markets allowing them to focus their research. They are then given an allotted amount of money — \$30,000 in Zanotti's case. Given the declining stock market and the fund dropping from \$200,000 in 2000 to approximately \$160,000, the investments are still doing considerably well performing 3 percent to 4 percent above the market.

Three years ago, SIUC alumni Omar Winter donated \$25,000 to jump-start a fledgling student-run investment fund. With his donation, Winter wanted to allow students a hands-on, real-world experience in investing. Along with the \$25,000 start-up money, the SIU Foundation chipped in substantial funding, allowing the students to manage \$200,000.

The select group of students began work right away managing two portfolios. The first consists of donations specifically assigned to the Invest Fund, and the second portion is an SIU Foundation endowment. The group receives a stipend to manage this portfolio, but the principle and the earnings remain with the foundation.

Zanotti is in charge of the energy and industrial portions of the market, sectors marred by the recent Enron energy scandal. Preferably, he steers clear of the more established corporations, choosing to analyze and research lesser-known corporations in an attempt to catch companies on a rise.

After the hours of research and analysis of the various sectors of the market, the students come together at their meetings to share information and gain a better grasp of the market as a whole.

At their meetings, the students are subjected to peer review, and their own take on another member's market situations and stock picks. "Everyone shares everything

about their particular stock picks, and we give each other advice," he said.

At the present moment, the nation is going through an economic downturn, but Zanotti doesn't let that discourage him from being an active participant of the program.

"This is an excellent time to be involved with the fund because you can learn more," he said. "Before you could put your money in anything and it would perform well."

Some days the fund would outperform the markets, and other days the fund may under perform the markets. Whichever way it may be, the students keep their heads up and their eyes open for any upturns and stock picks could benefit their present market situation.

Zanotti hopes that similar to last year, when the Saluki Student Investment Fund took away fourth place in Dayton, Ohio, at the RISE competition that this year is a big success. The regional event, which stands for Redefining Investment Strategy Education, brings together business students from about 20 universities.

This year March 26 to March 28 will be his chance — a chance to win and travel to New York City and participate in the opening bell ceremony at the New York Stock Exchange.

Reporter Moustafa Ayad
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mayad@dailyegyptian.com

Clemency adds fuel to death penalty debate

Steve Mills
& Maurice Possley
Chicago Tribune

CHICAGO (KRT)— Gov. George Ryan's Death Row pardons and mass clemency in Illinois are likely to spark a more intense national debate on capital punishment, but their effect will not be immediately felt in some states.

In Maryland, Gov.-elect Robert Ehrlich has said he will lift the moratorium on executions put in place last May by Gov. Parris Glendening.

Ehrlich, who takes office Wednesday, said he wants to resume executions even though a 2 1/2-year study released last week showed glaring geographic and racial disparities in how capital punishment is applied in Maryland.

In Texas, 13 inmates are scheduled to be put to death over the next six weeks, including seven over a two-week stretch, setting the nation's busiest death chamber on an early pace for a record year.

Still, death penalty opponents hope that once the immediate fury among supporters of capital punishment fades, Ryan's actions and the numerous reforms he had urged will prompt a greater debate and discussion of one of the nation's most divisive social issues.

Many prosecutors expect Ryan's actions to slow, if not kill, death penalty reform.

In part, they believe the outgoing governor's motivations were suspect because of a federal corruption investigation of the secretary

of state's office while Ryan was in charge. Ryan was frequently accused of trying to divert attention from the scandal, an allegation he repeatedly denied.

"Those people who believe that this is going to be some clarion call for reform are sadly mistaken for all the same reasons that many thoughtful people urged Ryan not to grant clemency," said Joshua Marquis, an Oregon prosecutor and the chairman of the capital litigation committee of the National District Attorney's Association.

Ryan, who reset the national death penalty debate when he declared a moratorium on executions in January 2000, made history in his final days in office. On Friday, he pardoned four Death Row inmates. On Saturday, he cleared Death Row with a blanket commutation.

The death sentences of 164 inmates were commuted to life in prison without possibility of parole, and three others were shortened to 40 years.

Ryan said he considered the possibility the commutations would harm chances for reforms in Illinois. But he said he concluded that if there was a backlash, it would not last long. And he pointed to a statement from Illinois Senate President Emil Jones, D-Chicago, who said criminal justice reform would be a top priority.

The governor refused to take a position on how other governors deal with capital punishment, saying they had to make peace with themselves.

deadvert@siu.edu 536-3311

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- * Periods and commas use one space.
- * Skip one space between words.
- * Count any part of a line as a full line.

1 Name _____
 Address _____
 Phone # _____ Date _____

2 Classification # _____

3 Run Ad
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 5 Days
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4 Calculating Payment
 Multiply total number of lines times cost per line as indicated under rates. For example if you run a five line ad for 5 days, total cost is \$25.50 (\$1.02x5linesx5 days). Add 15¢ per word/per day for bold words and 15¢ per line/per day for centering.

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6 Method of Payment
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by James Kerr



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by Shane Pangburn



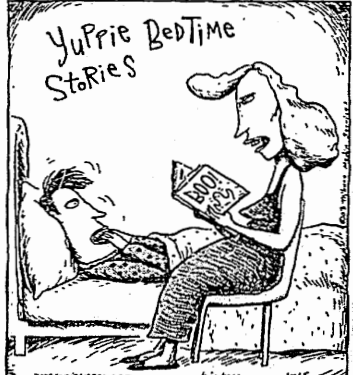
Let's Save Decatur

by Seth Dewhirst



The Quigmans

by Buddy Hickerson



"And then, the evil SEC placed a lien on his assets, and he was never seen again..."

Daily Horoscope

By Linda C. Black

Today's Birthday (Jan. 15). You may feel compelled to explore a new project or line of work. If serendipity or fate seem to be pushing you toward a certain kind of work, don't complain. It could be quite profitable. Go with the flow.

To get the advantage, check the day's rating: 10 is the easiest day, 0 the most challenging.

Aries (March 21-April 19) - Today is a 7 - You have lots of energy, but don't waste it. Call ahead so that you don't take off on the wrong direction. Don't make an old mistake again.

Taurus (April 20-May 20) - Today is a 7 - If somebody owes you, speak up. Make sure you're paid in full. That'll be much more satisfying than chalking it up to experience.

Gemini (May 21-June 21) - Today is a 7 - The lessons you've been learning lately are hands-on lessons that come with experience. Or maybe you're teaching what you've already learned. Either way, you're making a great impression on those who matter most.

Cancer (June 22-July 22) - Today is a 6 - You can't do everything, so you need structure. Set an objective first, then set priorities. Self-discipline makes life easier.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) - Today is a 7 - If you can't get your message across by yourself, get a friend to do it for you. Or two friends. Or many. The more voices offering your opinion, the better. The walls will come tumbling down.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) - Today is a 6 - Don't be distracted by a fast talker who promises you the world. Trust a person who loves you and always tells the truth.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) - Today is a 9 - Old, familiar faces and places are best for you now, even if you have to go a ways to get there. Old familiar voices will do if a phone call is all you can afford. Don't wait.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) - Today is a 6 - Go to an old source of revenue, one that's worked before, to get what you need. Upgrade your appliances and/or technology to make your life easier.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) - Today is a 7 - There may still be foul-ups, especially where money is concerned. Knowing that, continue to discuss your plans with a person who can help you make them happen.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) - Today is a 7 - You and your team can produce the intended results, though it may take a couple of tries. Don't give up, and don't show a foot unfinished work.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) - Today is an 8 - You love innovation, but it's a little-known fact that your greatest creations are based on work done long ago. Dig into the archives for another brilliant discovery.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) - Today is a 6 - Cleaning up a mess isn't easy, but it'll be worth the bother. The more of it you get done now, the more time you'll have for romance tomorrow.

JUMBLE

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

KLEAY

BAITH

ANGOLO

NUTBOT

www.springs.com

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Mike Arg. Ion

It's been 2 years, 4 months, and 5 days.

But he chews 3 packs of gum a day.

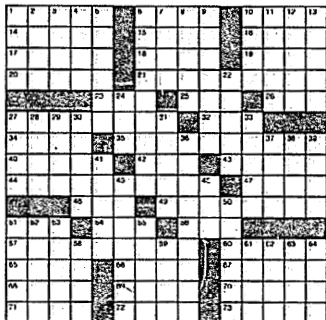
HE COULDN'T STOP THIS WHEN HE QUIT SMOKING.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surly-sa answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Yesterday's Jumble: FRUIT HAVOC LEAVEN HOURLY
Answer: Where the beekeeper found himself when his honey sales tripled — IN THE CLOVER

Crossword

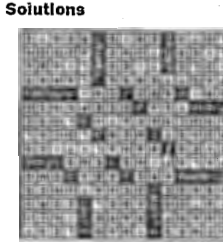
- ACROSS**
 1 Summation
 6 Bill
 10 "we forgot..."
 14 Acute
 15 Unlikely
 16 Ruler fraction
 17 Instruct privately
 18 First victim
 19 Younger
 20 Degrade
 21 Adulterates
 22 Exist
 25 Lawyers' org.
 26 Have debts
 27 Heroic
 28 champions
 32 Printer's
 34 Holiday
 35 Trivial matters
 40 Oven-cook
 42 Adult males
 43 Nearby
 44 Below
 47 Attain also-ran
 status



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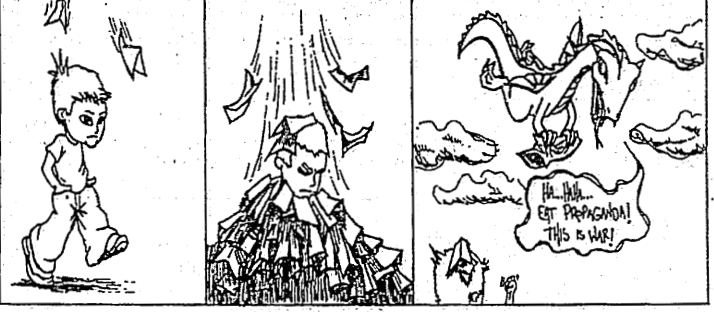
- DOWN**
 1 Movie dog
 2 Mallow cousin
 3 Say Hi
 4 Love god
 5 Propagate
 6 Brand
 7 Small child
 8 Fight site
 9 Put on a new
 tag

- Solutions**
 10 In... of
 11 Jan's winter
 month
 12 The Turn of the
 screw
 13 The ones there
 22 Dravidian
 tongue
 24 Tasse
 27 Jim's land
 28 Bard's river
 29 Set the pace
 30 balance-sheet
 31 Goller Sam
 33 Shoulder
 36 Was the
 precursor of
 37 God's
 reproduction
 38 Relaxation
 39 Rosebud, e.g.
 41 Trick partner
 45 No. No.
 46 Stretched border
 50 Porch-roof
 support



- 51 Overflow
 52 Audio
 53 Small landmark
 55 Leek cousin
 58 Hardy heroine
 59 Big rig
 61 Assistant
 62 Absorbed-dose
 units
 63 Windsor or
 bowline
 64 Without in
 Bordeaux

ADAM



Girls and Sports



by Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein

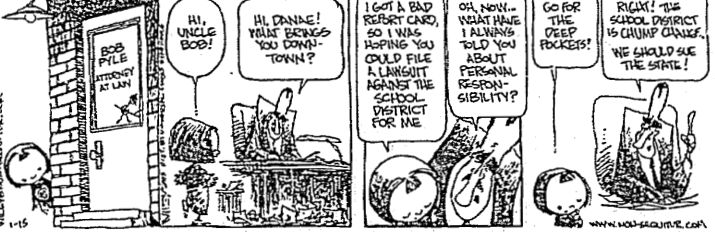


Doonesbury



by Garry Trudeau

Non Sequitur

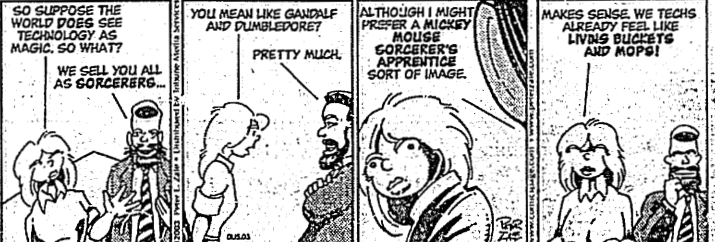


by Wiley Miller



by Peter Zale

Helen, Sweetheart of the Internet



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COMMENTARY

For the good of the team

It is official. The word is in. Dewey Defeats Truman? No, Tom Koutsos ended his sabbatical from being a "maybe returner" to a returner. But that signals a problem, and even though it is what is commonly referred to as a "good" problem, it isn't. It causes ulcers and other bleeding—ask Ram's coach Mike Martz about controversies, you can see the blood stains on his shirts when he wears light colors.

Anyone with a working mind and one good eye knows Muhammad Abdulqadir is good, no great now; unlike at the beginning of last season when fans were oblivious to his talents. And Koutsos is Koutsos; a broken arm is not a huge deal to a running back—it is like incest to the royal family.

But what does head coach Jerry Kill do with this plethora of talent? Does he split backs and basically waste their full abilities? It isn't like they are mediocre backs that need to be split. Both have shown the ability to be four-down backs in Division I-AA football, they are true-blue feature runners.

Touchdown Tommy is a redshirt senior next season and thus has no more eligibility. Finito. But a sick thought is bres-ing in my skull. Mo ... yes ... Mo. He has not used his medical redshirt. Smart thinking Jerry Kill. This is perfect. The quandary is fixed. Hallelujah!

Stay with me here. Next season Koutsos will be approaching the Gateway career rushing record, which is currently held by former Eastern Illinois standout Willie High (yes, that is his real name and not some off-the-wall alias). He needs just 485 yards to dethrone High—that's it. Now, Koutsos could get 485 yards in a season with one leg and Verne Troyer choking him around the neck. But just breaking the record isn't good enough.

Say he gets 700 yards, which is a fair estimate figuring he will more than likely split time with Mo. But in a few years, someone else will steal a record that had "SIU" by it. And now our party school's image has been stolen from us. I'll be damned if they take anything else from us.

So with that in mind, it became necessary for us to make sure that Koutsos destroys that record. Koutsos, who has received the brunt of the carries since his true freshman year, has also acknowledged that sharing the ball will be a new-fangled experience for him.

And the only way to do that is to make sure there is no splitting time at back with Mojo—at least for next season.

This is not postulating that someone sticks Abdulqadir on the bench or fans and alumni offer Tonya Harding a 40-ouncer to whack his legs with a steel pipe. This is just merely suggesting that Mo maybe come up with "turf toe" or "an infected eyelash" for the whole 2003 season and be redshirted.

It happens all the time in pro basketball—it is called injured reserve. Phantom injuries are always popping up left and right with unassuming names. This is ethical and is what's best for the team. The Japanese would love this idea.



Fear and loathing at SIU

BY ZACK CREGLAW
zcreglaw@dailyegyptian.com

Ever see the movie "Gung Ho"?

The team might not be as dangerous next season as it could be, but this ensures the longevity of SIU's competitiveness in the toughest I-AA conference in the nation, bar none.

So then next season Koutsos gets the ball, gets the record and by all means, the Salukis should challenge for the Gateway title. About 95 percent of the team is returning.

Then AGAIN the following season, Abdulqadir will get the carries and rush for, by the pace he was this season, about 2,600 yards and 45 touchdowns. And once again the Davys should win for the conference crown and maybe the national championship.

And if Mo has a full season to himself, he'd probably move easily into the top 10 all-time rushing list in the Gateway as well.

This would be the smart thing to do on "NCAA Football 2003" on the Playstation 2. If someone didn't do this, they'd be a fool. A big fool.

But not everyone is ecstatic about this idea. Some may find it almost Republican.

"Man, I don't want anyone to be hurt," sophomore-to-be quarterback Joel Sambursky said with a "How could you ask that" chuckle. "I want as many healthy bodies back there as can be."

Whatever, whatever. Sambursky, who still has three more seasons running the Saluki O, says that he thinks SIU football coach Jerry Kill will reel in some big fish as running back in the future.

Maybe, but until those recruits step foot onto McAndrew's hybrid field of turf and old tires, they are still projects. And some projects fall through and even collapse.

With one of those backs in the Saluki attack, SIU should at the very least finish in the top three of the Gateway next season. No debating that. But if the Salukis use both next season, while the Salukis may be able to beat opposing defense to ad nauseam and whittle our way into the playoffs, SIU still won't be using each back to his fullest potential.

This is still a young squad, and there shouldn't be a rush. Plus, the Salukis should still be able to compete for the playoffs with either starring as the feature back.

* These guys aren't the Golden Corral. They are Red Lobster-type backs.

Be safe. Be wise. Mo, "stub" the toe!

Zack Creglow is a freshman in journalism. His views do not necessarily reflect those of the DAILY EGYPTIAN.

GUEST COMMENTARY

On the road with Sly

What's up SIU? This is Sylvester Willis, junior forward for the men's basketball team. The Daily Egyptian came to me and asked me to write a guest column for the sports section. I really didn't know what to write about, so I thought I'd give everybody a rundown of what the team did during the break.

Well, on the first day of break we were supposed to take a plane to Chicago for a road game against UIC. This road trip, however, turned out to be a bit different.

Right around the time we were scheduled to leave it started to snow real bad. This caused the wings of the plane we were taking to freeze, and, of course, the Carbondale airport didn't have the machine needed to defrost the wings.

So the plane has to pull into a hangar for a couple of hours to defrost. While all this is going on we go back to Davies and practice. Yes, practice.

About three hours later we're back at the airport and ready to leave—or at least that's what we thought. It seems the plane needed to refuel. Sounds simple, right? Uh-uh.

The fuel truck's battery went dead or something, trapping the plane inside the airport hangar. About another hour passed and they got the fuel truck moved. Finally time to take off?

Nope. The plane has to back out of the hangar but it has no reverse. Now tell me this, how in the hell can a machine fly but not go backward?

Since the plane didn't have reverse, everyone on the team had to help push the plane out on the hangar and jump on for the takeoff. By the way, all this happened on Friday the 13th, and on top of all that we lost the game.

After UIC we played at Charlotte. It was a pretty disappointing game for us. We lost by 13 points for our second loss in a row.

But there was one funny thing about that game. They had some guy on their team named Butter Johnson. I don't know if that was what his momma named him, but every time he scored the announcer said, "Butter for two"—and he said it a lot.



Deep thoughts from...

BY SYLVESTER WILLIS
junior-forward, SIU men's basketball

On Dec. 22 we returned home for a game against Cal State-Northridge. It was big game for us after losing two straight, but more importantly, it was the day we got to go home.

We returned to Carbondale on Christmas at about 10 p.m. and had a "light" practice. We beat Northridge by 12.

Our next game was Dec. 28 versus Saint Louis. It was a big game for us, especially having a lot of guys on our team from the St. Louis area. It guess it was big for them too. They beat the mess out of us 71-60 and the coaches were pissed. They made practices more intense and focused more on defense.

The new year came and we had a week to prepare for Drake, our first conference opponent. We seemed to regain our focus defensively. Drake only scored 63 points against us, and Illinois State scored 65.

Now Evansville was a different story. They scored 84, and had a guy get 28 points but we got the win. Our last game was at Indiana State. It was an up and down game but we ended up winning by eight.

So in case you missed it, we were 5-3 during the break, making our overall record 9-3 and 4-0 in conference. We've got a game tonight against Wichita State. They're undefeated in conference so it's going to be a tough game.

Hopefully we can start the semester off right with a win.

I'm out so make sure ya'll come out and support us. It is free.

Sylvester is a junior in electronics from Calumet City. His views do not necessarily reflect those of the DAILY EGYPTIAN.



How Bruce Weber plans to take advantage of cloning technology.

Would you like to see your letter to the sports editor?

Please submit your letters to sports@dailyegyptian.com

The sports staff at the DAILY EGYPTIAN will run a special sports opinion section in every Wednesday's paper.

The section will consist of a column by a sports writer and one by a SIU student-athlete. We will also run letters to the sports editor in the section, which is where you the reader comes in. The letters should pertain to college sports, preferably SIU sports. Please include your year and major, as well as a phone number for verification.

DAWGHOUSE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 22

is. If you know him, there's no way that any static can be built up from that because he's such a great guy. All the recognition he gets is well-deserved and everybody knows that."

Korver has received enough attention to make an NBA career a viable option. It is his goal to play professional basketball and he has been projected from anywhere in the late first round to middle second-round.

He compares himself to Larry Bird as a

player — a comparison that is, for now, far away in talent but dead on in style. Korver is admittedly not a great athlete, but like Bird, said he makes up for it with shooting skills, tenacity and an extreme work ethic.

Korver stayed in Omaha for all but two weeks of summer break to polish his skills, working vigorously to give himself the ability to create his own shot, which he has done with regularity this season.

Korver admitted that with all the attention he is receiving the possibility of playing in the NBA creeps into his mind and distracts him once in a while, but he said his

main focus is his current team and an MVC conference title.

"I try not to think about it a whole lot because there's still a lot of season left and if you start thinking about that you're playing for the wrong reason and that's something you have to try to push to the back of your head," Korver said. "But at the same time, there have been some scouts at some games, so you think about it a little bit. It's tough not to, but at the same time you have to focus on now."

When he graduates and moves on to the NBA, the Korver name will not be removed from the Valley. His little brother Klayton

has committed to Drake — the school that rejected Korver four years ago. Klayton's commitment to Drake already has Korver thinking ahead to the first meeting between the Bulldogs and his alma mater next season. Due to conflicting emotions, he said he may just sit that one out.

"I guess I'll have to stick with my blood, but I guess I'll be rooting for Creighton too," Korver said. "That'll be pretty tough. I might just stay home."

Reporter Michael Brenner can be reached at mbrenner@dailyegyptian.com

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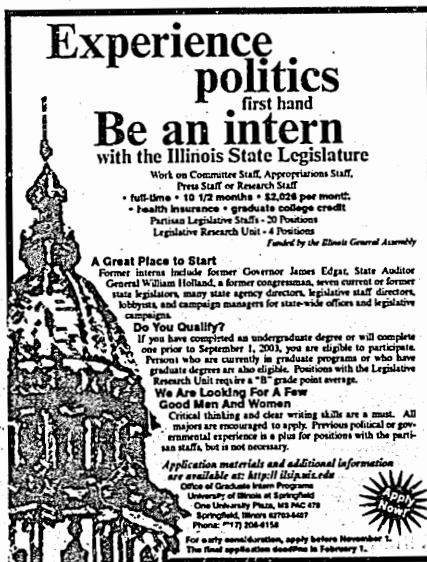


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INSIDE THE DAWG HOUSE

JANUARY 15, 2003

DAILY EGYPTIAN

PAGE 22

A marked man

Creighton senior guard Kyle Korver has used Larry Bird-like style and sharpshooter accuracy to become the most feared man in the Valley

STORY BY • MICHAEL BRENNER

Kyle Korver's parents took him to Paramount High School in California at age five to watch his uncle, Kris Korver, play a game. He was immediately mesmerized, not by the ball, the players or the backboards, but by the wooden floor.

As the game progressed, his attention slowly shifted to the relationship between the crowd and the players and by the time the game was over, Korver was hooked on basketball and on his way to becoming a four-year thorn in the side of SIU.

"I was like wow, man, people are watching and cheering," Korver said of his first basketball experience. "I thought it was the coolest thing ever and thought one day it was going to be me."

It is him on the floor now, but on a much larger scale than any high school game not involving LeBron James. Korver has almost single-handedly taken No. 13 Creighton to the top of the Missouri Valley Conference and vaulted it into national prominence. He is expected to be taken in the NBA draft, has been featured in Sports Illustrated and is the most recent player to be named a potential player of the year by Dick Vitale.

Not bad for a reject.

After high school, he was not considered much of a prospect. Drake, an MVC team from Korver's home state of Iowa, expressed minor interest but later told Korver they had run out of scholarships. Iowa expressed a hint of interest but never showed up for a home visit at Korver's house, unofficially severing ties with the now 6-foot-7 forward.

But Creighton took a chance on an unknown kid who was only known as a shooter and continues to reap the benefits. Bluejay head coach Dana Altman and his staff watched in disbelief as he developed his rebounding, passing and dribbling skills to become a complete and dominant player.

"When I came in I was just a soldier and the coaches said I couldn't do anything else," Korver said. "That drove me to work harder and in my sophomore year I started to rebound and last year I added passing and this year I've improved in all those areas."

According to Altman, Korver's addition of ball-handling skills, which were not crisp until this season, has been responsible for elevating his game and his team to a whole new level.

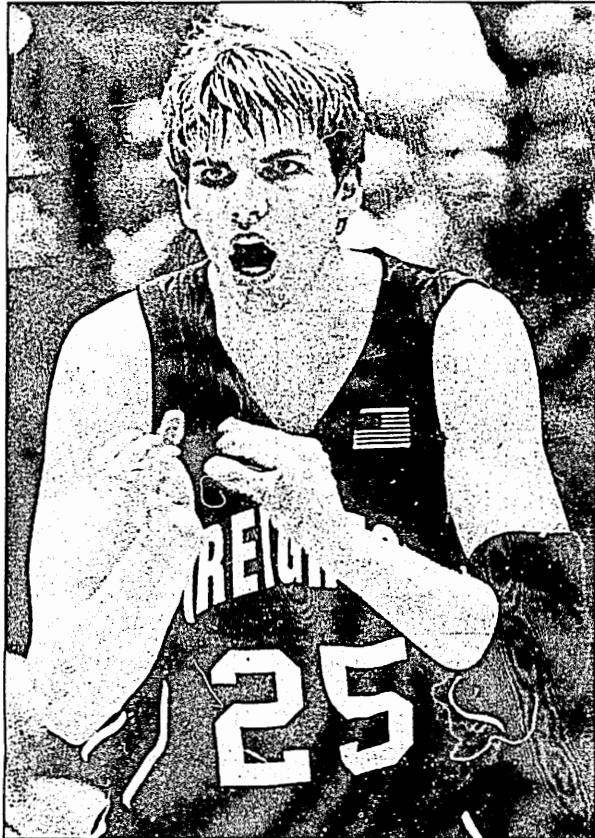
"He's a lot more confident," Altman said of his star player. "He's a little bit more confident because he can put the ball on the floor and create his own shot."

Korver may now be a complete player, but he is still a lights-out shooter. He has shot 45 percent from three-point range this year and is on pace for the 12th best all-time in college basketball. His field goal percentage is 53.7 percent and he is shooting nearly 87 percent from the free-throw line.

Opponents, including SIU, have been relegated to cutting Korver off before he gets the ball because once he does have it, a defense is powerless to stop him.

"For his size, for anybody's size, he's a great shooter," said SIU center Sylvester Willis, who will be one of many Saluki defenders assigned to defend Korver on Saturday when the Dawgs travel Omaha, Neb. "We'll try to throw different guys at him and just hope for the best and limit his touches. If he gets a good look at the basket, it's most likely going to go in."

The explanation for Korver's basketball prowess lies partially in his DNA. He comes



Creighton senior forward Kyle Korver has been giving MVC teams fits ever since joining the Bluejays four years ago. He led his team to the second round of the NCAA tournament last season and was named the Valley's Player of the Year.

DEREK ANDERSON
DAILY EGYPTIAN

from a long line of great athletes. His father, Kevin Korver, his mother, Laine Korver and two of his uncles all played basketball for Division III Central College in Pella, Iowa, where his mother once scored 74 points in a single game. Another uncle played for the Washington Redskins in the 1980s.

Though he said he had no direct family pressure to play basketball, doing anything else would have made him an outsider in the Korver family.

"If you're a Korver, it's just kind of what you do," he said of his family's passion. "If you don't you'd just kind of sit in a corner when the families get together because everyone is talking or playing basketball."

That is when they're not planning sermons or attending church. Korver's father is the

senior pastor of the Third Reformed Church in Pella, his hometown, where he learned the values he holds to this day. Two of his uncles are in the clergy as well, giving Korver the building block for the squeaky clean image he holds at Creighton.

"I was brought up in a very Christian family and those values and morals have always been a part of me," Korver said. "I've always tried to lead by example. But I'm not one that comes out and is preachy. I try to be the type of person where it just shows."

So far, Korver has shown his teammates that they do matter, which is critical on what is to be a one-horse team. He is not a ball hog despite possessing talent that is head and shoulders

above the rest of the team, he does not bash his teammates and Altman said he is easy to coach.

Because of his good example, the team said there have been no internal battles during Creighton's rise to the top of the polls, despite Korver's fame and media attention.

Creighton forward Michael Lindeman offered high praise for his friend and roommate.

"He's pretty much all you could ask for in a teammate," Lindeman said. "He works hard, he sets an example for everyone else, he's unselfish and he's more concerned about how the team's doing than how he's doing."

"Everybody knows the type of person Kyle

See DAWGHOUSE, page 21

"I was like wow, man, people are watching and cheering. I thought it was the coolest thing ever and thought one day it was going to be me."

— Kyle Korver
forward, Creighton



DEREK ANDERSON - DAILY EGYPTIAN

Korver is currently having one of the best seasons the Valley has ever seen. His Creighton team is ranked No. 13 in the nation, and he is among league leaders in scoring, rebounding and three-point percentage.

HOGG

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 24

Warren Central freshman squad was current SIU senior forward Jermaine Dearman.

Tonight as a member of the Wichita State Shockers, Hogg comes to the SIU Arena to face off against his former high school teammate for the first time in his collegiate career.

Besides his love for football, the 6-foot-6 Hogg brought another love from his youth in Texas to the city life of Indianapolis — the love of horses.

In the offseason, Hogg trains barrel horses for rodeos, something his family did and he grew to enjoy.

He spread that love of horses to the 6-foot-8 Dearman.

"Me and Jermaine ride all the time when we're back at home," Hogg said. "We'll go out and go ride for a couple of hours."

Both Hogg and Dearman said this is a game they have been looking forward to.

"I haven't seen [Dearman] in a while so this is a good chance for me to see him and talk to him," Hogg said.

Dearman said he expects to have plenty of family and friends from back home in the stands for the game.

"We've just been talking, getting ready, getting pumped up for the game," Dearman said. "We've got a lot of folks driving up from Indianapolis to watch the game and also some guys are supposed to watch the game on TV so it'll be a good game for both of us."

While the two are anxious to show their stuff against each other, they admit it is going to be strange to be playing on opposite teams.

"We've played against each other before, but just never organized," Dearman said. "It's been like just outdoors pick-up games and things like that ... I really don't know what to expect right now, but I'm just going to treat it like any other game. I'm going to play my hardest, my best, so I hope he brings his best."

Hogg said he too will treat it like any other game, maybe more so as it will be a big road test for the young Shockers who have played just two games away from their home of Wichita, Kan.

While Dearman, a preseason All-MVC pick, is a seasoned veteran in the conference, this is Hogg's first year at Wichita State after stops at Vincennes (Ind.) Junior College and Jacksonville (Texas) Junior College.

Prior to the season, Dearman gave Hogg a call to give him some advice on the ins and outs of the MVC.

"I was just trying to talk to him a little bit, give him pointers, try to help him out on how to react to certain situations from coaches, how to deal with coaches because they're different," Dearman said. "Me and him had the same high school coach and it was a big transition for me and I knew it was one for him too."

Hogg seems to have had little trouble adjusting to Division I basketball as he has been lighting up opponents as of late, averaging 19 points a contest in his past four games.

He credits the recent success to simply getting over the difficulties of adjusting to a higher level of competition.

"I got over that hump," Hogg said. "I think I'm doing okay now."

Dearman, on the other hand, has struggled a little bit as of late after becoming a national name in the NCAA Tournament last season when he helped lead the Salukis to the Sweet 16 and victories over Texas Tech and Georgia.

In a season in which he was supposed to be one of the dominant big men in the MVC, Dearman is currently averaging just 12.6 points a game and scored only seven in Saturday night's road victory over Indiana State. Like Dearman, the Salukis themselves have struggled at times yet hold a 9-3 overall mark and sit tied with No. 13 Creighton atop the MVC with a 4-0 league mark.

Despite his struggles, a big game against an old friend might be just the thing that once



LARRY W. SMITH - WICHITA STATE

Wichita State's Aaron Hogg (above) and SIU's Jermaine Dearman (right) were teammates at Warren Central High School in Indianapolis. They will face each other for the first time at the collegiate level tonight when the Salukis play host to the Shockers at 7 p.m.

again ignites Dearman's inner fire. As far as which of the two was the better high school player, Dearman showed a little modesty before letting his pride take over.

"Actually we both were pretty good," Dearman said. "Either me or him would get player of the game like every other game so I don't know."

"Personally I'm going to say I'm the better guy because I'm me, but we're both pretty good though. I'm not going to say who's better."

Hogg didn't dance around the question quite as much as Dearman did.



"In high school he was better," Hogg admitted. "I think I averaged more points, but he was a more well-rounded player. We played different positions, but he was better at his position than I was at mine."

Dearman isn't bashful about his team's chances tonight either.

"Aaron Hogg, you better be ready because the Salukis are coming."

Reporter Jens Deju can be reached at jdeju@dailyegyptian.com

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HANNAH SIMMONS - DAILY EGYPTIAN

Talking head coach: SIU men's basketball head coach Bruce Weber appeared on a call-in show hosted by Magic 95.1's Mike Reis Monday night at Mugsy McGuire's Bar and Grill. Weber answered questions from both telephone callers and participants in the restaurant. He was put into a tough position while answering a question about the officiating. Weber admitted that many times, the refs are correct, though from certain positions around the court, it is easy to disagree. He answered questions for more than an hour about numerous topics pertaining to the Salukis and the season.

Hogg comes to town to wrangle Dearman, Salukis

Jens Deju
 Daily Egyptian

Growing up in football-crazy Texas, Aaron Hogg always dreamed of one day playing in the NFL.

His first year at Carter High School in Arlington, Texas, Hogg

worked toward that goal as he was a quarterback on the football team.

However, before his freshman year was over, Hogg was instead starring on the basketball team at Warren Central High School in Indianapolis.

"When I moved to Indianapolis, people didn't play football too much,

it was a basketball state so I figured I needed to change," Hogg said. "Plus when I first started, when I was playing basketball the first time, I fell in love with it. I couldn't stop playing.

One of Hogg's teammates on that

See HOGG, page 23

Battle of the unbeatens

Salukis, Shockers put flawless Valley marks on the line tonight at the SIU Arena

Michael Brenner
 Daily Egyptian

It will be a battle for first place in the Missouri Valley Conference, a duel between unbeaten powerhouses and a pivotal game against a hot team.

And it will not be against Creighton.

Wichita State, which has flown under the radar of some in the MVC due to the Bluejays' national ranking and SIU's lingering fame from last season's Sweet 16 run, will bring its 3-0 conference record to the SIU Arena tonight to decide, at least for now, who is the second-best team in the Valley behind Creighton.

Saluki head coach Bruce Weber said tonight's game against the Shockers is of greater value than Saturday's greatly anticipated and nationally televised game with the No. 13 Bluejays. Unlike Saturday in Omaha, Neb., the Salukis are expected to win tonight.

"The two most important games are Wichita and Northern Iowa," Weber said referring to the next three games, which he considers a mini-season. "You have to beat Wichita because it's at home and you've got to beat Northern Iowa at their place because Creighton already won there."

The Shockers have played only two games on the road this season, both losses, and will be playing in an arena that has been a death trap for 19 straight opponents dating back to last season. Wichita is also young, starting only one upperclassman with regularity, something Bruce Weber said will give the Salukis an edge.

"Hopefully that's to our advantage," Weber said of the Shockers' inexperience. "As a young team they haven't had great road success in the past. Hopefully we can get after them and get the crowd involved. But at the same time, they're 3-0. They're feeling good about themselves, so I would expect a hard-fought game."

The Salukis are hoping for a lift from what they hope will be a large student crowd. Tonight's game is the first since classes resumed, and a loud student section is needed to make up

for the drop in attendance that normally accompanies weekday games.

Sophomore center Josh Warren is counting on a full Dawg Pound to help his team knock out the young Shockers early.

"This is our house, we have to defend it," Warren said. "They're young and really don't know how to win on the road and we have the older guys playing. But they're still going to be keyed up because they're young and have a lot of energy, so we're just going to have to break their back in the first half."

To defeat Wichita, SIU has been working vigorously on reducing its turnovers — something that has improved since its early-season road debacles.

But Weber said his team has a long way to go, as evidenced by Jermaine Dearman and Warren recording three turnovers each Saturday at Indiana State.

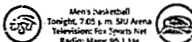
"We talk about taking care of the ball, not making the hard play and not trying to hit a grand slam right away," Weber said. "I always joke with them that they can make the job passes and their behind the back passes if we're up 30 or 40."

"Just be basic, take care of the ball and win the game."

Reporter Michael Brenner
 can be reached at
 mbrenner@dailyegyptian.com



Wichita State (9-4, 3-0 MVC) SIU (9-5, 4-0)



The Word on the Salukis:

SIU has been able to overcome some early season woes to win its first Missouri Valley Conference games. After a 1-3 road start, the Salukis won two in a row against Evansville and Indiana State last week and to even their road record at 3-3. Now the Salukis return home where they have won 19 straight games to face their first road conference test at the second-place Shockers. Senior Guard Kent Williams scored 20 points against Indiana State on Saturday to finish fourth place all-time on the SIU career scoring list.

The Word on the Shockers:

Wichita State is one of just three teams in the MVC with an overall winning record, along with the Salukis and Creighton (13-1). Although the Shockers have won four straight games, they will be the first time they play on the road since Dec. 4. For the season, Wichita State has played just two road games, both losses, as opposed to 10 home games, during which time they went 8-2. Junior college transfer Aaron Hogg has led the Shockers of late averaging 19 points over the past four games. Other key contributors are Sam Henshaw (14.7 points) and Randy Burns (14.5 points).

The Bottom Line:

If the Salukis win in Wichita State, their first road loss of the MVC season, it will take away from the importance of Saturday's game against Creighton, which will be held on ESPN from Omaha, Neb.

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