

Southern Illinois University Carbondale

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November 2003

Daily Egyptian 2003

11-5-2003

The Daily Egyptian, November 05, 2003

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Volume 89, Issue 57

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Making more than rain



Josh Kimbrough works on what will eventually become a fountain Tuesday afternoon at Rainmaker Arts. Although the majority of the other businesses on the boardwalk are open Wednesday through Sunday, Rainmaker is open seven days a week.

Faculty report card exposes problem with ethnic diversity

ICBCHE study shows faculty parity grades poor

Andy Horonzy
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Many of the state's public universities are falling short of their goal of achieving parity for African-American faculty, according to a report card recently released by the Illinois Committee on Black Concerns in Higher Education.

The ICBCHE Fall 2003 Faculty Report Card, an evaluation of instructors at Illinois' 12 public universities and seven Chicago area private institutions, said most state schools grade poorly in terms of how African Americans fare as tenured faculty, full-time instructional faculty, other faculty and total faculty.

As a whole, the 12 public institutions received grades of "D" in each of those four categories. They fared only slightly better in the area of tenure-track faculty, earning a group grade of "C."

And SIUC was not immune to the defi-

ciencies in parity either, earning a "D" or below in each of the four major categories, including an "F" in tenured faculty and full-time instructional faculty.

According to the ICBCHE, faculty parity is defined as the extent to which institutions of higher education approach having the same percentage of African-American faculty members as the percentage of African Americans in the total population in the state.

The most recent numbers from the U.S. Census Bureau place that mark at 15.3 percent for Illinois.

Seymour Bryson, SIUC's associate chancellor for diversity, helped compile the report, which he said he thinks is one of the most comprehensive ever conducted in the state of Illinois.

"This is a wake-up call to policymakers and educators in the state of Illinois that says there is a problem here that they need to be aware of," Bryson said.

Traci Antonovich, developmental skill training specialist for the Center for Basic Skills, also collaborated with Bryson on the report, which she said was created using

Man convicted in student's death

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After almost five hours of deliberation Tuesday, a Jackson County jury found a Carbondale man guilty of the March involuntary manslaughter of an SIUC senior.

Cory T. Simmons, 27, was convicted on the Class 3 felony charge of involuntary manslaughter for choking 25-year-old Kendron Lacey to death. Simmons had put Lacey in a chokehold after he found Lacey in bed with his girlfriend, Veronica Brooks, at her Carbondale Towers apartment.

Jackson County Circuit Court Judge E. Dan Kimmel set Simmons' sentencing date for 10 a.m. Dec. 18 at the Jackson County Courthouse in Murphysboro. Simmons could face a two-to-five-year prison sentence in an Illinois correctional facility and be fined a maximum \$25,000.

Despite an appeal made by Jackson County

State's Attorney Michael Wepsiec to revoke Simmons' prior bond payment, Kimmel ruled Simmons will remain free on his original bond until the sentencing date.

Lacey's family was noticeably relieved when Kimmel read the guilty verdict to the courtroom as Kendron's father, Michael Lacey, breathed out a barely audible "Yes!" and then held his wife sitting next to him.

Simmons' parents sat in stunned silence when their son was ruled guilty and showed almost no reaction until the trial commenced and Simmons' face sunk in his hands.

Lacey's choking death occurred during the early morning hours of March 23 inside Brooks' apartment at 820 W. Mill St. Simmons had also been living with her in the apartment since February.

Simmons testified Tuesday he did not mean

See VERDICT, page 9

Police suspect family acquaintance in assault

Child allegedly sexually assaulted for month

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A family acquaintance is a suspect in the alleged sexual assault of a 5-year-old boy that occurred for more than a month, according to police.

The boy was reported sexually assaulted at 4:51 p.m. Sunday at Evergreen Terrace. Police said a mother reported the aggravated criminal sexual assault. They said the suspect is not a resident of the housing complex.

Captain Todd Sigler of the SIUC Police Department said no arrests have been made.

SIUC Police are working with the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services on the investigation.

According to police, the boy was sexually assaulted at different times in the past month with no incidents in the past few weeks.

Evergreen Terrace is an area of University

Housing for students who are married.

Residents were not informed of the incident through fliers, and the University did not issue a campus safety alert because police had identified a suspect, officials said.

Evergreen Terrace residents said the community is child-oriented and generally safe for children.

Jay Cravens, a graduate teaching assistant, lives in Evergreen Terrace with his children. He said he will keep a better watch over his children, ages six and four, even though he trusts the majority of his neighbors.

The sexual assault of the 5-year-old Carbondale boy stems after two 10-year-old girls from Du Quoin were sexually assaulted at 1 p.m. Friday while walking through the woods. In the past two months, there were two other sexual assaults and one assault on a female in Perry County.

Sigler said the sexual assault is not related to the incidents that have occurred in the Perry County area.

"We have no reason to believe that they are associated," Sigler said.

Gus Bode



Gus says: Oh, come on, you didn't even grade on a curve.

posted are on par with those from the past decade.

"This is an issue that has been discussed nationally for the past 20 years," Bryson said. "But when people see things in numbers, they have a tendency to pay a lot more attention to it."

Rebecca Kovar, a representative of the office of diversity and affirmative action at Illinois State University, said while the findings of the report card may illustrate a discrepancy, it might be a hard problem to remedy without breaching ethics codes.

"Well, for one thing, it is illegal to have a set quota of hires for a certain race," Kovar said. "It's against the law to say that you need

See GRADE, page 9

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NATIONAL NEWS

New York bans supplement ephedra

ALBANY, N.Y. (CNN) — New York became the second state Monday to ban ephedra, an over-the-counter herbal supplement linked to scores of deaths.

The law, signed by Gov. George Pataki, includes a fine of up to \$500 for each sale of the supplement. Ephedra's prescription sales are not affected.

Manufacturers of ephedra are facing lawsuits and a possible ban by the Food and Drug Administration. Illinois and several New York counties already ban the substance. In May, Florida banned ephedra sales to minors.

Broad bans are under consideration in Massachusetts, Nebraska, New Jersey and Hawaii.

In June, the federal government began building a case that could lead to banning ephedra, which is used to lose weight and boost athletic performance and has been linked to scores of deaths, according to the FDA.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Political crisis hits Sri Lanka

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (CNN) — Sri Lanka's President Chandika Kumaratunga has deployed troops to key buildings in Colombo, hours after she removed three powerful ministers from their posts in cabinet.

Kumaratunga took over the defense, interior and media ministries after she sacked the ministers and fired other top officials, sources inside the presidential and prime minister's offices said.

Kumaratunga — who is commander of the armed forces and has wide executive authority — made the moves while her political rival, Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe, is in Washington where he is scheduled to hold talks with U.S. President George W. Bush.

In the absence of the prime minister, the surprise sackings have thrown Sri Lanka's government into chaos and brought the island's shaky peace process into question.

Kumaratunga has long been at odds with the government over concessions made to the Liberation Tamil Tigers of Eelam (LTTE) rebels during ongoing peace talks aimed at ending a 20-year civil war.

Marine dies in parachuting accident

YUMA, Ariz. (CNN) — A Marine died in a parachuting accident while training at the Army's Yuma Proving Ground, military officials said.

Sgt. Jason G. Maxwell, 25, jumped Thursday with an instructor and others as part of the basic free fall school but his parachute failed to deploy, Maj. Kathleen Devine, a spokeswoman for the Army JFK Special Warfare Center and School, said Friday.

Maxwell, of Fresno, California, was a reconnaissance Marine in the 2nd Marine Expeditionary Force stationed at Camp Lejeune, N.C.

An instructor who had been videotaping the jump was hospitalized after his parachute deployed too close to the ground, Devine said. Gunnery Sgt. Richard Schindler was discharged from the hospital with a sprained back Friday, Devine said.

The cause of the accident is under investigation.

Human HIV vaccine trial begins

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (CNN) — Researchers will begin testing an experimental HIV vaccine on 24 human volunteers in South Africa, a country where more than one in 10 people is infected with the AIDS-causing virus.

The treatment, which is also being tested in the United States, is one of about two dozen potential vaccines being tested by some 12,000 human volunteers in experiments around the world. It is the only one that contains genetic material from the HIV strain most prevalent in South Africa. Some 4.7 million South Africans, roughly 11 percent of the population, are infected with HIV. An estimated 600 to 1,000 South Africans die every day from AIDS-related complications.

The vaccine contains parts of a weakened strain of Venezuelan equine encephalitis and a harmless gene from a South African HIV strain.

By entering human cells, scientists hope it will stimulate the production of antibodies that will fight off AIDS infections and also train specialized cells to identify and eliminate infected cells after someone contracts the virus.

Today		Five-day Forecast	Almanac
High 61 Low 42		Thursday Partly cloudy 55/37 Friday Sunny 54/27 Saturday Sunny 51/33 Sunday Chance of rain 54/45 Monday Chance of rain 62/45	Average high: 60 Average low: 58 Wednesday's hi/low: 83/18
Chance of rain.			

CALENDAR

Today

- Office of Intramural-Recreational Sports
- Backpacking at Garden of the Gods pre-trip meeting. 7 p.m.
- Recreation Center - Adventure Programs

POLICE REPORTS

University

Chocoby Erskin Sargent Jr., 20, of Chicago was arrested and charged with domestic battery that occurred between 12 p.m. and 2 p.m. Monday at Schneider Hall. Sargent was taken to and released from the Jackson County Jail.

Criminal damage to state-supported property occurred when a window was broken between 1 p.m. and 8 p.m. Monday at Boomer Hall III. There are no suspects.

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 Communication Building, Room 1259 at Southern Illinois University at Carbondale, Carbondale, Ill. 62901. Walter Juchacz, fiscal officer. First copy is free, each additional copy 50 cents. Mail subscriptions available.

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Contemporary artist presents art as political, controversial

Mel Chin speaks as part of Visiting Artists Program

Valerie N. Donnals
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Fans of television's nighttime melodrama "Melrose Place" may remember the show for the plot lines of greed, sex and jealousy, but visual subplots imbedded within the sets and props underlined the storylines with more serious and often political tones.

Viewers were witnessing "In the Name of the Place," a multi-media artwork entwined with the show by the GALA Committee, spearheaded by artist Mel Chin who spoke Monday at Browne Auditorium in Parkinson Laboratory.

Showing several clips from the show, Chin pointed out instances of props designed and produced for the show by a group of artists at the University of Georgia, Athens and the California Institute of the Arts in Valencia. Messages included sexuality, abortion, war and other contemporary issues.

"It's an experiment about the viral context of things," Chin said. "It is built upon the presence of a medium that has made its fortune on this."

He said the media's most common message proliferates the conception of negative self-perception. He said even though he has drunk Pepsi for a year, he still does not look like Britney Spears.

Chin, a graduate of Peabody College in Nashville, Tenn., from North Carolina, is known for his art that spans mediums to promote social awareness and provoke social responsibility.

"He's a very dynamic speaker," said a representative from the Visiting Artists Program.

"He's very well-versed and ties in social issues and community

issues and political issues into his work. It's sort of like this alchemy of social issues and art."

The lecture was part of the Visiting Artists Program, sponsored by the fine arts fee.

The program director, Joel Feldman, said Chin was almost universally requested by students, making him a logical choice for this year's program.

"I thought it was excellent," Feldman said.

"He addresses ideas from so many different levels, from conceptual to craft based, that the lecture was very useful for every person that attended."

A representative from the Visiting Artists Program said more than 170 people attended the event.

The representative, a graduate student in the school of art and design, said she did not wish to give her name because she is still considering the implications of his lecture.

"I'm going to wrestle with what I listened to last night for a while and see how it applies to my work," she said.

"I think he does take a responsibility for opening the eyes of the community."

"He wants you to leave thinking about his work. You might not understand it at first, but he definitely wants to leave an impression so you're mulling it around."

After beginning the lecture with an Elvis impersonation, Chin, in a deep southern accent he attributed to his time spent in the South, began a slideshow of his artwork.

Pieces commented on topics from affirmative action to the war on terrorism. He told the audience pieces serve an internal purpose as well.

"Making art can also be making the tools to examine one's life rather than the answers," Chin said.

"I'm inspired by people just doing their thing, students that



MEREDITH MERCIER - DAILY EGYPTIAN

Artist Mel Chin sings an Elvis Presley song into the microphone as an introduction before he speaks about his artwork Monday evening in Browne Auditorium. Chin is one of the many artists participating in the Visiting Artist Program at SIUC.

come up with their own creativity. A lot of this is setting up platforms for that, a climate for that to take place."

A question-and-answer session followed the lecture, and Chin also held a two-hour question-and-answer seminar Tuesday morning.

The representative said students monopolized all of his time, taking him out for meals and driving him to and from the airport.

"Some students have even offered to drive him back to North Carolina just to spend more time with him," the representative said. "His lecture was overwhelmingly well-received."

Chin's work in environmental art, primarily a live sculpture, called the "Revival Field," will ultimately yield the aesthetic of the return of the growth in toxic soil.

He, along with the help of many other sponsors and scientists, use hyperaccumulator plants to remove heavy metals from contaminated soil in a 60-square-foot section of the Pig's Eye landfill in St. Paul, Minn.

Once the plants are harvested, they can be burned to reveal the pure metals from the earth, creating recycled materials while detoxifying landfills.

Chin said the project has been successful thus far, and with the

help of so many outside sponsors, he said the final product may become a reality in his lifetime, something he never expected.

Feldman said Chin's points of commitment, conviction and the resolution to pursue one's view established the methodology to allow students to pursue individual growth more effectively.

"In other words, he's trying to make the world a better place using art and also trying to understand the world so it becomes an arena for dialogue and discussion," he said.

"It initiates a response to not only one's life but to the external realities of existence."

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Student Programming Council

UPCOMING EVENTS

Domino Tournament Wednesday, November 5 • 7:00 - 9:30 pm
The Saga Continues... Student Center Renaissance Room • 1st Floor
 Grand & Consolation Prizes To be Announced • Admission: \$3

Thursday, November 6th • 7 pm
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 Student Center Big Muddy Room
OPEN MUG NIGHT
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City Council dissatisfied by roofing contract bids

City adapts road design for New Era Road, Pay and Display Parking Stations

Nicole Sack
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Where to spend money, how to spend money and who to give it to were questions the Carbondale City Council addressed Tuesday night.

The council delayed action on awarding the contract for roof replacement of the Police Department Building. Mayor Brad Cole suggested the roofing award should go to Baine Roofing Co. in Carbondale, despite the lowest bid coming from Lakeside Roofing Company Inc. of Collinsville, in the amount of \$62,462.

Cole said the money the city would spend paying outside companies to improve the 25-year-old police department roof would be better spent if the award went to a Carbondale business.

However, the bid submitted by Baine

Roofing exceeded the lowest bid by \$8,662. While the council agreed the city should patronize local business, the additional amount was a question for some members.

Councilman Chris Wissman said if the bid were close, he would entertain the idea of awarding the contract to Baine.

"I appreciate the opportunity to give money to local business," Wissman said. "But the gap is too large."

Councilman Lance Jack made a motion to reject all bids and to have the construction companies re-bid, "in the best interest of the city."

However, since all bids meet the city's budget requirements and specifications, rejecting them based on contractor preference would discredit the bidding process.

The city postponed action of the award.

The council did take action to change the design plans of New Era Road. Instead of following the initial rural design of the street that would include open ditches, moving utility poles and the relocation of the gas lines, the city will adopt an urban road design.

Under normal circumstances, a rural design



Councilwoman Maggie Flanagan discusses with the council the need for two new Pay and Display Parking Stations Tuesday night at the Carbondale Civic Center. The City Council awarded Access Parking Systems of Chicago the contract to replace two of the three machines.

would save the city \$600,000 more than an urban design. However, with the relocations of the utilities being so expensive, the city would only pay an additional \$70,000, or 4 percent of the \$1,838,000, to update the road project to meet the specifications of the urban road design.

In addition to the money saved, the city will also receive \$111,000 in "safety money" from the state to defer the construction costs of the project.

By changing the design plans, the original construction cost will increase from \$1.84 million to \$1.91 million.

High school outreach program helps students dig up the past

Local students share in unique after-school program

Andy Horonzy
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Buried in the basement of Parkinson Laboratory, past a score of dark and dingy storerooms and a mass of cluttered cardboard boxes, lies a classroom hidden from the eyes of the SIUC campus.

Locked away in tiny, windowless quarters at the end of a hallway stained by mold and grime, on first glance this particular classroom appears to be all but forgotten. But each Monday afternoon, this latent room springs to life with the kind of enthusiasm not often found on college campuses, where the thought of going to class is typically met with the same excitement as being drummed in the face by a paint can.

These students are not here to simply satisfy a requirement or earn a degree. Some are still not yet old enough to drive a car or buy a ticket to an R-rated movie. And as most of their friends are rushing off to basketball practice or the mall after school, these junior and senior high school students are gathering once a week to discuss the one thing that binds them all together — bones.

Dinosaur bones, that is.

For nearly seven years, SIUC geophysicist Harvey Henson has been opening the doors of this cramped classroom to local teens whose interests have been piqued by geology. A free class open to students of all academic standing and background, this outreach program was created by Henson to give students practice and experience in the field that sparked their curiosity.

Henson said while the program is running smoothly now, it almost never even came to exist. In fact, it was not until Henson was approached by the parents of several Carbondale area teens the idea even occurred to him.

"I had been working with some local students on different kinds of projects, collecting fossils, I think, when some of the parents started coming up to me and saying 'What else do you do?'" Henson said. "Once I saw that there was that kind of interest, I sought out a way to fulfill that interest."

Hunter Bruns, now a senior at Carbondale Community High School, was one of the first to benefit from Henson's ingenuity. Already an avid collector of dinosaur fossils, the 10-year-old Bruns found a class that perfectly complemented his hobby, which evolved into something more.

"Studying things that had been around for millions of years was something that had always appealed to me," said Bruns, now 17. "And this was a chance to do it outside of regular school."

That appeal has not waned over the years, either. Bruns said he plans on attending SIUC next fall, where he is strongly considering studying geology.

"I'll be here next year, and I would say most



Hunter Bruns, a senior at Carbondale Community High School, reconstructs a triceratops vertebra in the basement of Parkinson's Laboratory Monday afternoon. Bruns has participated in the after-school geology class, held by geophysicist Harvey Henson, for the past seven years and has been working on this particular bone for a year.

likely I'll be majoring in geology," Bruns said. "I don't know what part of it specifically yet, but I'm sure it'll have something to do with it."

While it was ancient fossils that first brought Bruns to Henson's door seven years ago, it was something different that moved Sarah Starkey to join the outreach program. The CCHS junior was working on a school project detailing earthquakes when she first discovered Henson's group.

Now, less than 12 months later, she is still undecided on which college she will attend, but the outreach program has helped her already decide what her major will be.

"I'm pretty positive that it's going to be geology," Starkey said. "I've only been in the program for a year, but there's a lot of things about it that I'm really interested in."

But while Henson's class has helped augment both Bruns' and Starkey's fondness of geology, one student involved in the program has seen his already ample interest skyrocket as a result of his participation.

Although his appearance is a little different from the other students — he is a little

taller and little older — Joe Peterson is basically the same as the rest. While his denim jacket littered with patches celebrating punk rock acts like The Ramones and The Misfits sets him apart, there is nothing ordinary about the way the SIUC senior approaches dinosaur fossils.

As he gleefully rubs his fingers along the edge of a bone that has now been decaying for several centuries, Peterson is adamant he is here to do more than simply assist Henson.

"I've been working with dinosaurs pretty much every summer since I was 14," said the geology major. "And then when I heard about this outreach program and I figured, 'Hey, why not?'"

In addition to his involvement in the outreach program, Peterson is also a part-time employee at the Burpee Museum of Natural History in Rockford. The Burpee Museum also happens to have the dinosaur bones and fossils the class uses from week to week.

And while Henson is grateful to the museum for the generosity extended to his program, he often schedules field trips so his

students can search for their own artifacts.

"We know that not everyone involved is going to end up being a geologist," Henson said. "But we just want to keep doing the things that will provide them with the best hands-on experience."

Some of the experiences the program has provided already this year have been working in seismology and geoarcheology, as well as conducting an ongoing search for dinosaur fossils in Illinois, something has yet to be unearthed in the Prairie State.

But whether or not Henson and his students discover dinosaur fossils buried somewhere within the Cretaceous sediments that stretch across the landscape of Southern Illinois, he said he believes the tasks already completed by his students only scratch the surface of what lies ahead for them.

"Just being involved with this is going to give them a leg up on other students," Henson said. "And then there are some students who just come here to have fun, and that's fine. Because, after all, learning's supposed to be fun."

AMBER ARNOLD - DAILY EGYPTIAN

Churchill's speech begins Native American Heritage Month

Speech discusses topic of 'Genocide in America'

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The month of November is designated as Native American Heritage Month and will be offered to SIUC students and community members a chance to learn about the past and present issues facing Native Americans.

As part of Native American Heritage Month, Ward Churchill was chosen as the keynote speaker Monday to begin the month of events. The topic of the speech, which took place at the Student Center in Ballroom D, was the issue of genocide in America.

"Genocide is not a unique problem in America," Churchill said. "It happens everywhere and is not acceptable."

The College of Mass Communication and Media Arts, Multicultural Programs and Services, University Housing and the newly formed RSO, the Native American Student Organization, are sponsors of the month of events promoting awareness of the Native American culture.

Churchill, a Keetowah Band Cherokee, is a longtime Native rights activist, acclaimed public speaker and an award-winning writer. As a member of the Governing Council of the American Indian Movement of the Colorado Chapter of the American Indian Movement, Churchill also teaches as a professor of ethnic studies and coordinator of American Indian studies at the University of



Ward Churchill, longtime Native rights activist and award-winning writer, came Monday evening to the Student Center to speak in support of Native American Heritage Month. Churchill is a professor at the University of Colorado and a member of the Governing Council of American Indian Movement of the Colorado Chapter.

Colorado. He has written numerous books about the topic of genocide in America. political and educational forums about the topic of genocide in America.

Nicole Boyd, a junior in university studies who organized the month's events, said she was excited to have Churchill speak at SIUC.

"He is a very well-known speaker," Boyd said. "He discussed issues that affect everyone."

Boyd said the events planned for this month are open to public, and attendees do not have to be Native American to be involved.

Churchill, a resident of Colorado, began his speech by telling the audience he was brought up in Urbana, Ill. He said it was a strange experience to be back at SIUC since he has not been on the campus since 1970.

"I cannot believe in the year 2003 I am standing in the campus of a major institution that is how many miles above Cairo? And there is not a single course offering a focus on indigenous people," Churchill said.

Churchill went on to mention the proximity of the Shawnee National Forest and other locations significant to Native Americans and the absence of courses offered at SIU focusing on indigenous people.

"There are fewer than 100 Native Americans in a campus with 20,000 students or greater," Churchill said. "Take a deep breath and think about that."

He paused for a brief second and then said the greater reality of the matter is something he referred to as the "g-word," meaning genocide.

Churchill said to the audience if he were to ask the meaning of genocide, at least 50 percent of the audience would say mass murder.

"First of all, genocide does not mean mass murder," Churchill said. "It is not a synonym."

He said he was glad to be speaking at such an important time of the year, which is between the Columbus

Day and Thanksgiving holidays.

"On the 12th of October in 1492, a lost Italian seaman washed upon shore a million miles from where he thought he was," Churchill said. "And he got known as a great navigator and hero."

Churchill said the two holidays offend him as a Native American.

"What are we giving thanks for? Who is thankful? Us?" Churchill asked the audience. "Why are we supposed to be thankful for two holidays that are supposed to celebrate just for the matter of celebrating?"

He said the word genocide did not exist before 1944, yet the meaning has evolved. Churchill said Auschwitz was the event that created the assumption that genocide equals Auschwitz.

Churchill said the term genocide is a confusing definition. He explained there are three different groups of genocide, which include physical, biological and cultural genocide.

Churchill said the high measures Americans performed to eradicate Native Americans was inconceivable and unknown to many people.

One example Churchill gave was "scalp bounties," where sterling (money) was awarded for the death of Indians.

Churchill said 40 pounds of sterling were given for the scalping of an adult male.

"Forty pounds of sterling was the annual wage of an average worker," Churchill said. "By taking the bloody scalp of an adult male, it was an easy way of earning a year salary."

He said pregnant Native American women were easy targets for scalp bounties.

"They couldn't defend themselves."

See **CHURCHILL**, page 9

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OUR WORD

Until U.S. government helps, Canadian drugs are the answer

In less than two weeks, more than 15,000 people have signed Gov. Rod Blagojevich's online petition aimed at putting pressure on the Food and Drug Administration to allow the state to purchase prescription drugs from Canada.

Blagojevich has also been rounding up support from various political leaders, including New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg, for his plan to save taxpayers millions by providing Illinois' employees with much cheaper Canadian drugs.

In an 85-page report, member of a special task force, who were appointed by the governor to look into the possible savings and safety of the idea, said drug imports would save state employees and retirees a total of \$34.2 million annually. The report also said taxpayers, who fund the state's prescription drug program, would save \$56.5 million for a combined savings of \$90.7 million.

But the numbers still don't seem to be enough to convince the FDA to allow Blagojevich to move forward with the plan.

According to a report in the Chicago Sun-Times, William Hubbard of the FDA said the state's study would make no difference in the FDA's stance on the issue.

Besides the considerable savings, the task force found Canadian drugs to be as safe, if not safer, than those in the United States.

"Everything that the experts looked at, from training and education for pharmacists, all the way down to the packaging, labeling and distribution of medications, were similar to if not stronger than what is done in America," Abby Ortenhoff, spokeswoman for Blagojevich, told the DAILY EGYPTIAN.

Although most people support Blagojevich's effort to provide cheaper drugs to a struggling state and its people, he is taking some political risks and will certainly receive backlash come campaign time, as major drug companies often dish out millions in campaign contributions.

We are certain Blagojevich won't be getting a dime from any of those companies come 2006, if he is up for re-election.

But if he can get this plan approved by the appropriate people and actually start saving Illinoisans millions, he might not need their contributions.

Even if the FDA doesn't take notice and approve the plan, or at least come up with an excuse that can hold up against criticism, we applaud the governor and his staff for taking notice of this very important issue and working relentlessly to resolve it.

We are certain Blagojevich won't be getting a dime from any of those companies come 2006, if he is up for re-election.

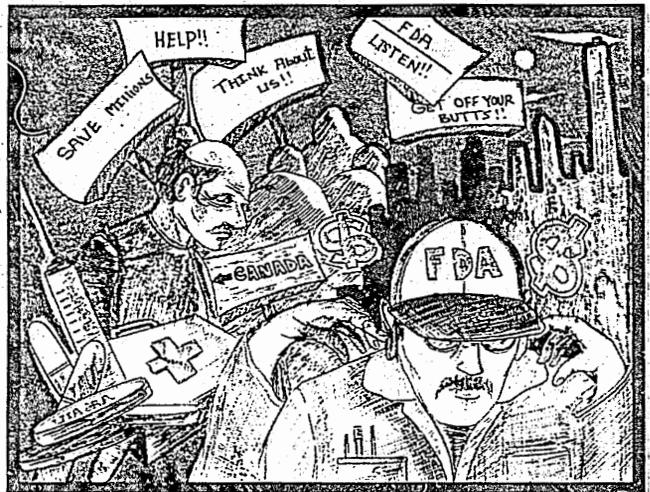
It is our sincere hope that U.S. policymakers continue to take notice of Illinois' efforts. If and when they do, it won't be a second too early, as millions of Americans — young and old — are suffering

financially and, even worse, physically because of the high costs of medicines.

Rep. Mike Bost, R-Murphysboro, said he did not support the plan because it involves taking business out of the state to give it not to another state but to another country. He also said he worries about the safety of the drugs and feels the problem of health care should be dealt with on a national, and not a state, level.

And in many ways, Bost is right. Health care is not a state issue, as it affects every person in this country the same. However, the national government has allowed this issue to get way out of control, and it doesn't seem like anyone in Washington is making progress on bringing the American people some relief anytime soon.

Until they get their act together, it is vital this state moves forward in helping Illinoisans — all Illinoisans, not just the ones who work for the state — cope with the cost of health care.



ALEX AYALA - DAILY EGYPTIAN

GUEST COLUMNIST

Prohibiting same-sex marriage is discriminatory

Leslie Heuer

Iowa State Daily (Iowa State U.)

AMES, Iowa (U-WIRE) — I met "Mark" through the church youth choir. He was a year ahead of me in high school. His father serves as the music director, and his mother volunteers on several church committees and sings in the adult choir. His family is an integral part of the church.

I always admired him — he was cute, smart and always seemed to get us girls giggling. His parents had high hopes for him, including college, a meaningful career, marriage and grandchildren. Mark thought he wanted all that, too.

Three years later, he made the shocking announcement at the pulpit during a service that he is gay. I remember it well. He told almost 200 people that day about his agony, his efforts to resist it, his anger with God for his circumstances and, finally, his journey toward self-acceptance.

Mark is gay, but I have never thought any less of him. And now, Mark has found someone he'd like to spend the rest of his life with. Unfortunately, the law will not allow him to legally marry another man.

Our families are good friends, and friends support each other and love each other unconditionally, not because of what they do but because of who they are. That's why it doesn't seem so unreasonable to me to grant gay and lesbian couples the same rights and benefits of a legal marriage.

A ruling in Canada's courts legalizing same-sex marriages shocked the United States. What does that mean for us? Washington social Conservatives are grumbling, growling and shaking self-righteous fingers to damn all homosexuals to hell and are declaring such a preposterous idea immoral and unnatural. Meanwhile, the gay community has one more excuse to grab the spotlight to whine about inequality and accuse the government of discrimination.

The most compelling argument those opposed to legalizing same-sex marriages make is regarding the sanctity of a union between a man and a woman as created by God for procreation and security. There are,

however, many things created by God that we have already shattered, misused and destroyed.

Like divorce. Why not make that illegal? Last time I checked, the Bible declared divorce to be sinful. The "traditional family" is more the exception than the norm since the divorce rate skyrocketed. Yet today it's socially acceptable. Women have already proven they can raise children on their own.

There seems to be some fear that the social and moral fabric of society will collapse if same-sex couples are allowed the same legal rights as heterosexual couples, like buying houses, sharing bank accounts or raising children. Research published in the American Journal of Pediatrics has not shown evidence that children raised by same-sex couples are maladjusted, disadvantaged or become homosexuals themselves.

How many maladjusted, troubled children have some heterosexual couples created through abuse or neglect? If a committed, loving, same-sex couple has the means to provide a safer, more nurturing environment conducive to child rearing, there's no reason why they shouldn't be awarded legal custody of children as well.

Some argue this issue is more about the separation of church and state. President Bush and other Conservative leaders who oppose gay marriages often use religious terminology in explaining why the state must defend heterosexual-only marriage laws. Los Angeles Times columnist Robert Scheer wrote, "Man's age is a civic institution not in any way requiring the participation of religious organizations. Government policies favor the family unit. If the state is offering special benefits for those couples who marry, then to exclude gays is simply unconstitutional."

Mark has a long road ahead of him, but he's got a lot of courage and the support of his friends and family. We were created with the desire to love and be loved. We are commanded by God to love one another. Can those who oppose homosexuality look beyond their self-righteous wall of hate and recognize the common thread of humanity we share?

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

QUOTE OF THE DAY

“It has long been an axiom of mine that the little things are infinitely the most important.”

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle
author, "Sherlock Holmes"

WORDS OVERHEARD

“Usually, I trust most of my neighbors, and it's kind of disheartening to think about something like that happening to a little 5-year-old kid.”

Jay Gravens
Evergreen Terrace resident,
in reaction to a five-year-old boy being reportedly sexually assaulted Sunday.

COLUMNISTS

Sittin' on the edge of the curb ... just wasting some time

This past weekend I was leaving the Wal-Mart wonderland parking lot and happened to see a homeless man as I passed. His face stuck in my mind as I continued driving, the weathered face, the unkempt hair and tired eyes. He just sat there in the farthest corner from the store on a curb by some trees, staring off into the distance with only his thoughts and a knapsack with everything he owned in the world tucked away inside.

I couldn't get this image out of my head, so I quickly turned around and headed back to that corner curb where he sat undisturbed by the passing cars. I rolled down my window and motioned him to me. I asked him if everything was all right and if I could help him with anything. He replied that he was looking for work and was having trouble finding it.

We chatted for another minute about his situation, and I told him I had to go. It is that wonderful time of the semester when all the big projects and papers are conveniently due at the same time, so I had to get going. I asked him if I could give him money for a meal, and he accepted. So, I gave him \$5, shook his hand, said good luck and drove away.

I couldn't help but feel awkward as I was leaving. When I first saw the man sitting there, all I could think about was going back and helping him. It is the right thing to do, I told myself. Yet as I drove away I couldn't help but think about how insignificant my stopping and helping him really was.

I began to wonder if I really helped him at all. Sure, on the surface it looks good; it feels good. I mean, the guy could buy something to eat, so it was a good and civil thing to do. Even though all of these thoughts made perfect sense, I still couldn't help but think about the bigger picture. Did I do what most people in our busy and closed-off lives normally do? Did I just recognize the problem and show my sympathy by giving him money — money enough for a meal, but not enough to change his lot in life.

Could it be that I was just another character in this man's tragic play, another wheel whipping by in a vicious cycle?

Now I can go to bed and sleep easily, content with my good deed for the day while he lays on the cold ground outside wondering what went wrong in his life.



Piattology

BY JACK PIATT
piattology@yahoo.com

What did I really do? Should I feel better because I was the good citizen? Now I can go to bed and sleep easily, content with my good deed for the day while he lays on the cold ground outside wondering what went wrong in his life.

The reality is, he is a fellow human being, with lungs and a heart, a brain and a soul, no matter what his place is in life. I still can't figure out why I should ever feel like throwing some green his way while making it all better for him and me. It is a cop out, a way to turn my head and feel better about it because I don't have the time to really help him. Besides, no one else was stopping. Why do I have to be the one to help this man?

That is exactly why I felt like writing this column. The only way we can ever really help anyone in this world is to take a little time to stop and take a longer look at a much bigger picture. This man I met was only one of so many in this world that need more than a handout; they need friends and family and support, something many of them may have never had. Instead of taking the time to get to know this man and listening to what he had to say, I did what everyone else did that day — I drove away. Yeah, he might have had a green piece of paper in his hand, but his eyes were just as tired and lonely when I pulled away as they were when I pulled up to him.

So that night I didn't sleep well, as I imagine he didn't. I actually haven't cleared this out of my mind since it first hit me as I drove away. All I can think about now is that I could have done more, and I can still do more. We can all do more. The question is, will we? Will I forget this in a couple of days because, hey, I have plenty of food and a place to sleep and it's not my problem? Will I?

Will you?

Piattology appears every Wednesday. Jack is a senior in advertising. His views do not necessarily reflect those of the DAILY EGYPTIAN.

Christmas season is near — start shopping, Carbondale



Not just another priddy face

BY GRACE PRIDDY
vulcanlogic81@hotmail.com

This will do nicely for the secretary at work."

If I were the Grinch, I'd spend this year collecting all of the ugly Christmas mugs and recycled, candy-filled Christmas tins of the world and pitching them off the side of Mount Crummit.

There's still decency left in the gift-giving holiday, but we need to thin the herd a bit.

And besides, no one is ever eating that fruitcake anyway. Let's put it out of its misery.

The funniest thing I ever encountered was during my years working at Cracker Barrel.

I used to watch people come into the store, already carrying generic office gifts with them, and simply pay for the logo-endowed Cracker Barrel gift-wrapping.

It's like, "Well, this may be a meaningless piece of junk, but as long as I make it look like a \$15 piece of meaningless junk I selected just for my boss at an upscale craft boutique, she'll be thrilled and see how much I care." How sweet.

So ho, ho, ho, Carbondale! This is Grace Priddy, wishing you all a merry Nov. 5 from the bottom of my heart.

And don't think I've forgotten any of you in my Christmas shopping. Why, I've spent hours carefully selecting each of your gifts.

Now let me just head over to the store and get these thoughtful gifts hand-wrapped for you before we start exchanging presents next month. Come to think of it, I better make a quick stop at the grocery store first, too. These peppermints are starting to look pretty stale.

Not just another priddy face appears every Wednesday. Grace is a senior in architecture. Her views do not necessarily reflect those of the DAILY EGYPTIAN.

LETTERS

Legend of Charlie Birger is part of history

DEAR EDITOR:

This letter is in response to Grace Priddy's column in the DAILY EGYPTIAN on Oct. 29. The people of this region asked WSIU, again and again, to produce "The Legend of Charlie Birger." WSIU also produces numerous programs throughout the year that reflect positively on SIUC and the Southern Illinois region, including "SIUC Connections," "Southern Issues," "Saluki Sports Live," "Live Sa'uki Basketball," "Concerns from Southern," "altnews 26:46" (a multiple-EMMY winner), annual coverage of "The Apple Festival Grand Parade" and "Scholastic HiQ." I produce

"Backroads," a magazine-style series featuring the interesting and positive things about the people and places of Southern Illinois. Yet programs like "Backroads" have received very little attention from newspaper columnists in the past.

Over 500 people attended "The Legend of Charlie Birger" pre-broadcast premiere at the Benton Civic Center in October. Most area newspapers wrote front-page or large feature articles about this documentary and were familiar with its content. It was also partially funded by the Illinois Humanities Council. Should every one of them be condemned for covering the story about this local production?

"The Legend of Charlie Birger" enjoyed widespread support both during production and now after its release. We were being a responsive public television station by

packaging a subject that the public wanted to know more about. It was history, and — like it or not — it happened here in Southern Illinois.

I believe I covered this story in the most socially responsible manner possible. Philosopher George Santayana said, "Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it." After over two years of painstaking research and production work by our staff and over 25 SIUC students — who gained invaluable, hands-on experience in the making of a television documentary — we deserve a little more credit for our efforts to bring this chapter in Southern Illinois history to life.

Perhaps Ms. Priddy is not clear about the message of the documentary, which is "Who deserves to be remembered?" It is a law of human nature that tales of bad people like

Charlie Birger excite us and that we elevate such individuals to the status of a legend. I have tried to exploit this local legend in order to get people to seriously ask themselves, "Why do we do this?"

Sensational stories fill our headlines every day... as the saying goes, "If it bleeds, it leads." Rather than chastising our station's efforts to present an accurate local historical documentary, as requested by our viewing public, I propose a different "self-examination." Perhaps it is the values espoused by some media, the stories pursued and how those stories are covered that needs to be addressed. Start by looking at the front page of the DE from Thursday, and you'll see what I mean.

David Kidd
senior producer, WSIU Public Broadcasting

READER COMMENTARY

* LETTERS AND COLUMNS must be typewritten, double-spaced and submitted with author's photo ID. All letters are limited to 300 words and guest columns to 500 words. Any topics are accepted. All are subject to editing.

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



* LETTERS taken by e-mail (editor@siu.edu) and fax (453-8244).

* Phone number needed (not for publication) to verify authorship. STUDENTS must include year and major. FACULTY must include rank and department. NON-ACADEMIC STAFF include position and department. OTHERS include author's hometown.



* Bring letters and guest columns to the DAILY EGYPTIAN newsroom, Communications Building Room 1247.

* The DAILY EGYPTIAN welcomes all content suggestions.

* Letters and columns do not necessarily reflect the views of the DAILY EGYPTIAN.



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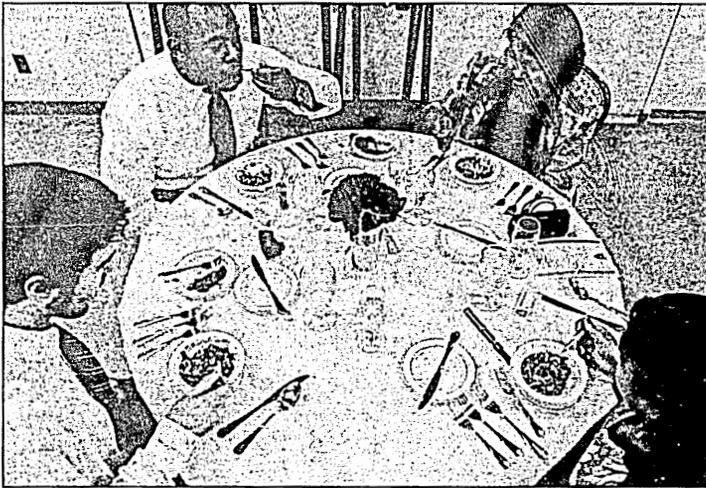
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Meredith Mercer - Daily Egyptian

(Left to right) Benjamin Crutcher, Joe Robinson, Sylvia Shultz and Carina Shultz enjoy an etiquette dinner sponsored by the Food & Nutrition 360 class Tuesday night in Lentz Hall.

CHURCHILL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

They were easy prey," Churchill said. "And when you're done, you could cut open her belly and scalp the fetus."

One member of the audience, Barb Skills, a Murphysboro resident, said she was shocked by the many facts and statistics Churchill gave.

"I came to this event because my daughter is dating a Native American," Skills said.

"I am not familiar with the culture

and traditions, and I thought this would be a great way of letting him know I am interested."

Churchill also discussed negative connotations toward Native Americans, such as sports' team names and misinterpretation of traditional Indian words.

There are 14,000 places with the name Squaw," Churchill said, referring to different ski resorts, campsites and restaurants.

He said the word squaw is a Mohawk word slang for the female genital, which is extremely offending

for him and most people.

"I am angry," Churchill said. "This is my grandmother, my mother, my sister you are talking about."

Churchill thanked the audience for listening and offered a chance for those more interested to stay after the lecture for a more in-depth discussion.

"We owe it [being familiar with the Native American culture] to each other, ourselves and most importantly to our children and our children's children."

GRADE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

to hire someone of this specific ethnicity. Now you can gear your advertising to reach as many different types of applicants as possible, but it's easier to keep track of what you don't have than what you do have."

The results of the report card, which were last compiled in 2001, were issued during the ICBCHE's annual fall conference two weeks ago. The ICBCHE was founded in 1982 as a statewide education organization committed to the enhancement of education and employment opportunities for African Americans in Illinois.

Byrson said there are currently

no plans to issue the report card on an annual basis, but he does expect the study to be repeated, especially considering the light it has shed on the problem.

"These are areas that need to be exposed to the policymakers and educators in the state of Illinois," Byrson said. "Issuing letter grades is a way of paying more attention to the problem."

VERDICT

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

to kill Lacey when he placed him in a chokehold and was not aware of the dangers a chokehold could cause.

Dr. John Heidingsfelder, an Evansville, Ind., forensic pathologist, said in court Tuesday a chokehold with only 11.5 pounds of pressure per square inch would cause dramatic effects. He testified much pressure would make a normal person unconscious after 10 seconds, suffer brain damage after 45 seconds and die after a minute.

Simmons said he administered the chokehold because he was concerned for Brooks' safety when he saw Lacey on top of her. He testified she

had previously told him Lacey had raped her. He also said he told her to call the police while he was scuffling with Lacey.

Simmons testified Brooks told him she obtained an order of protection against Lacey from the Carbondale Police. According to police testimony, Brooks never requested such an order.

Simmons said he was not aware the recipient of such an order receives paper documentation and never thought to ask for it.

At the time of the incident, Lacey was in possession of a key to Brooks' apartment. Simmons and Brooks both said Lacey helped her open the door with her key approximately a week before Lacey's death. Simmons said Lacey opened the door, took one

step in the door, saw him and ran from the apartment building with the key still in his hand.

Brooks testified Monday she had a sexual relationship with Lacey before she met Simmons in February. She said she first met Lacey at the Center for Comprehensive Services, where she was a resident of the facility and he was an employee.

She testified Monday she tried to end the sexual relationship with Lacey after Simmons moved into her apartment. Both Simmons and Brooks said Lacey continued to call her and would ask her for sexual favors, which irritated Simmons.

Reporter Katie Davis
contributed to this story.

SIUC Equestrian Team starts off with successful year

Team had its first competition

For more information, email Nicole Gilmore at itsadeal@rocketmail.com.

Jennifer Rios
jrios@dailyegyptian.com

SIUC Equestrian Team members arrive at horse shows unaware of what is in store for them. Students draw a name of a horse, which will be the horse they rely on to have a successful competition. With no previous training with that particular horse, they depend on their individual skills and a little luck to achieve a winning ride.

"It is an opportunity to build confidence in a unique situation," said Nicole Gilmore, a junior in psychology and president of the Equestrian Club. "Most people never have the opportunity to compete while riding a random horse."

The Equestrian Team competed in their first shows Oct. 25 and Oct. 26 at the King Farm Equestrian Center in Marion. They sponsored seven university teams, receiving third place on the first day and ranking second on the last day of competition.

The SIUC Equestrian Team, which has approximately 15 members, competes through the intercollegiate horse show circuit under two different categories, which are the stock seat and the hunt seat. The stock seat (Western saddle) riders will compete in 10 shows over the course of the school year and the hunt seat (English saddle) in eight competitions.

"We have been ranking well this year," said Katy Henry, hunt seat co-captain and senior in animal equine science from New Jersey. "I think the hunt team may be doing a little better just because there are more people to compete on that

team right now."

The team competes against other colleges in the Midwest region and can compete in region, zone and national levels depending on how well they rank.

Each member receives a certain number of points after they compete, and the total number of points they acquire determines whether or not they will make it to regional or national competitions as a group or as individuals.

The team consists of a combination of both beginner and advanced riders.

Nicole Gilmore, the president of the team and a junior in psychology, said the coaches can teach students who have never ridden before if they are interested in becoming a part of the team.

The team hopes to gain new members so they can have a competitor in every division.

Henry said if they do not have someone to compete in a particular division or category, the team automatically receives a zero for that round.

Henry said she thinks the team will definitely qualify for the regional competition. The team will be hosting the regionals March 21 in Marion at the King Farm Equestrian Center. There will also be a regular competition March 20 at the same location.

The team raises the majority of their own money through bake sales in the breezeway between Pullium Hall and the Wham Building every other Wednesday.

However, local businesses and volunteers also support the team. The school gives the team money for the spring show.

Supreme Court to rule HMO lawsuits

Stephen Henderson
Knight Ridder Newspapers

ERISA protects insurers from state-enforced regulations or lawsuits brought in state courts.

Soon after ERISA was passed in 1974, the Supreme Court made clear in a series of opinions that states were not permitted to get involved with employer-sponsored health plans, which cover more than 100 million Americans.

Patients could sue in federal court to have benefits enforced, and Congress has always been free to establish uniform federal health-care standards.

But patients were barred from suing in state courts, where large damages could be awarded.

But in recent years, as Congress has failed to act and the shift to managed care has fueled rage over the state of health insurance, lower courts have whittled away at insurers' immunity from state suits.

Insurers may not be sued for decisions about the administration of a plan, but they can be held responsible for medical decisions, some courts have ruled.

The Supreme Court also has revisited ERISA's restrictions on state regulation and, in an important case last year, said states should be free to force insurers to open their networks to nonmember physicians.

WASHINGTON (KRT) — The Supreme Court agreed Monday to consider whether to permit lawsuits against HMOs for denying patients care in what one lawyer calls the "world series" of ongoing litigation over patients' rights.

If the justices permit two Texas patients to seek big-money awards from HMOs that denied them drugs and care, it could inspire a wave of lawsuits by patients who feel medically wronged by penny-pinching insurers and probably rekindle the debate over a national patients bill of rights.

"This is the central issue" in the struggle between state and federal regulation of health insurers, said Larry Lorber, a partner at the Proskauer, Rose law firm and an architect of the 1974 Employers Retirement Income Security Act, which governs state regulation of employee benefit plans.

The court has dealt with other insurance-related cases in recent years but nothing as directly related to coverage issues as these cases. These are as big as any big-ticket cases you'll find.

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MEREDITH MERCIER - DAILY EGYPTIAN

Left, Katie Nelson and Heather Smith, both freshmen pledges of the Sigma Kappa sorority, rake leaves Tuesday afternoon outside the Law Office of Gene Turk for the Rake-a-Thon sponsored by the Newman Catholic Student Center. Members of the community donate money to each of the organizations participating to rake the yard. The Rake-a-Thon will continue throughout the week with the proceeds going to Habitat for Humanity.

Suit filed against 29 medical schools

Cherise M. Williams
The Hoya (Georgetown U.)

WASHINGTON (U-WIRE) — A group of young physicians has sued a national medical program and 29 medical schools and teaching hospitals, including Georgetown University Hospital, claiming the program engages in anticompetitive practices that create conditions where residents receive insufficient pay for the long hours they work.

While the suit would affect all 126 medical schools and teaching hospitals if the plaintiffs win the suit, only 29 private schools and related medical entities were named in the suit, one of them being Georgetown. The plaintiffs are seeking money damages caused by the program.

The National Resident Matching Program, referred to as the Match, places recent medical school graduates as residents at their top hospital choices to learn more about their professions. The hospitals must also agree to accept the students. The matching is done through a computer system, which places about 80 percent of first-year residents at teaching hospitals.

The plaintiffs contend that the Match program violates antitrust legislation because it limits competition and negotiation of salaries and hours for residents. Since only private institutions can violate antitrust laws, they were the ones specifically named in the suit.

On average, residents are paid annually any-

where from \$37,000 to \$40,000 while completing their residencies, often working between 60 and 100 hours a week. Some say that's not enough to make and that they could bargain for higher wages were it not for the Match program, which is popular among medical schools and teaching hospitals.

According to a website for the plaintiffs, the suit also alleges that the wages do not take into account "such factors as program prestige, medical specialty, geographic location, resident merit and year of employment."

First filed in May 2002, the suit could go on for years, but the Match will still be in place during that time.

Marianne Worley, director of media relations for Georgetown University Hospital, said, "Georgetown University Hospital is a named defendant in the *Jung v. AAMC* suit. Since resident physicians are enrolled as post-graduate trainees of the hospital, and not of Georgetown University, this matter does not affect the university. This suit is in active litigation, and we are therefore unable to comment on any details."

Aaron Grant, a first-year medical student at Georgetown, said that he is not too familiar with the program but knows that it is academically rigorous to get into.

In addition to naming specific schools, the suit also names five medical organizations including the Association of American Medical Colleges, of which all 126 medical schools and

teaching hospitals are members.

Joseph Keyes, senior vice-president at the AAMC and general counsel, said the suit "is going to be fairly long and drawn out."

Last Friday, the plaintiffs in the case submitted the formal complaint, called a class, explaining how their cause affects all schools using the Match program instead of just the 29 named.

The court now has to rule on whether or not this group of plaintiffs is able to represent the whole of students and schools involved in the suit or if they can just file suit regarding their complaints.

The defendants have until about March to respond to the plaintiffs, Keyes said.

In the interim, there will be a lot of "quizzing of plaintiffs," he said. The current proceedings, Keyes said, "don't even get to the merits of the case."

It will not be until March of next year, during the pre-trial, when it will be decided whether or not the case should move on and how it might do so, Keyes explained.

If the judge decides against the plaintiffs' class, then "there will be substantial diminution of motivation for this case to go forward," Keyes said.

Keyes said he hopes the case does not move forward because he feels it has no merit and that residents are paid enough. "We think residents are primarily students. They are there to advance their education," he said. "They work long hours and do get paid a stipend, not a salary."

Binge drinking lower on diverse campuses

Alex Balistreri
The Daily Cardinal (U. Wisconsin)

MADISON, Wis. (U-WIRE) — Campuses that are not racially diverse foster a significant increase in student binge drinking, according to a study appearing in the *American Journal of Public Health's* November 2003 issue.

Henry Wechsler, principal investigator of the study and director of College Alcohol Studies at the Harvard School of Public Health, said he could not reveal whether the study was conducted at University of Wisconsin-Madison, but noted it surveyed alcohol use at 114 predominantly white colleges across the nation and included 52,312 students in its scope.

The study used data collected since 1993 and found two major results: Young white men have the highest binge drinking rates among demographic groups and binge drinking decreases significantly in racially diverse environments.

"Diversity offers other models for behavior, for partying, for recreation," Wechsler explained. "Incoming students who had not been binge drinkers in high school were less likely to take up binge drinking if they came onto a more diverse campus. If they went to a less diverse campus their odds of binge drinking were greater."

UW Clinical Professor of Social Work Beverly Flanigan considers the results of the study valid and pointed to statistics showing black men drink less than white men. Flanigan said blacks' religious and historical tradition of drinking alcohol only at important life events may contribute to their lower rates of binge drinking.

"Guys, I feel, in their nature, have a history of excess and, you know, it kind of comes with the stereotype I'm a man, I'm a big strong guy, I can do whatever," said Phil Jaynes, Interfraternity Council vice president of risk management.

The almost homogeneous concentration of young, white males in fraternities is a significant reason they have the highest binge drinking rates of any group on campus, according to Wechsler.

Jaynes disputed these claims, saying they exaggerated the view of fraternities as centers of drinking.

He agreed, however, that park mentality, especially among freshmen men, leads to increased rates of binge drinking.

Wechsler outlined a number of policies the university could adopt to help lower these rates, including curbing the "exclusive concentration of people in housing arrangements, for example, freshman dorms."

"They might also want to think about the admissions process...to get a more diverse campus both with respect to age and race," Wechsler said.

CBS pulling controversial Reagan film from November schedule

Stephen Battaglio
New York Daily News

(KRT) — CBS is losing one for the Gipper.

The network is dumping "The Reagans," its controversial film about the former First Family on little-watched pay cable channel Showtime.

The unprecedented move away from the film — scheduled to air during the November ratings sweeps — comes amid howls of protests from conservatives and Reagan family friends who have called the film a hatchet job.

Word inside the network was that CBS chairman Leslie Moonves and his top lieutenant, entertainment president Nancy Tellem, agreed the movie does not provide a balanced portrayal of the Republican icon.

On Tuesday, CBS insisted it was not bowing to pressure about portions of the script, but that the decision was made after seeing the finished film.

"Although the miniseries features impressive production values and acting performances, and although the producers have sources to verify each scene in the script, we believe it does not present a balanced portrayal of the Reagans for CBS and its audience," the network said in a statement.

As a broadcast network, CBS has different standards than a pay cable network, CBS said.

The complaints against the movie have been based on portions of the script leaked to the press and promotional clips distributed by the network.

The film generated enough heat to lead to the creation of an anti-CBS Web site and

threats of an advertiser boycott.

The growing controversy even forced Hollywood liberal Barbra Streisand — whose husband, James Brolin, plays Reagan in the film — to issue a statement on her Web site that said she had never seen the script. She also said the casting of her husband had nothing to do with her politics.

"The Reagans," which also stars Judy Davis as Nancy Reagan, was scheduled to air on Nov. 16 and 18 — smack in the middle of the November sweeps ratings period for CBS, which reaches nearly all of the estimated 106.7 million homes with TV.

Instead, the movie will be buried: on the network's corporate cousin Showtime — available in the 28 million homes that pay for it.

Both CBS and Showtime are owned by

The project also became a target because of the political leanings of the people behind it. Moonves has ties to the Democratic Party and former President Bill Clinton.

Executive producers Craig Zadan and Neil Meron are friends and occasional producing partners with Streisand.

Last week, Moonves acknowledged in a TV interview that portions of the movie are unfair. CBS executives were at work re-editing it last week.

But the pressure from Reagan's admirers never let up. On Friday, the Republican National Committee demanded to screen the film with Reagan allies to judge its accuracy.

CBS may also be taking a financial hit from the show. Several advertisers have pulled their commercials out of the film, although there has been no full-scale defec-

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Universities work together for U.S. security

Erik Linstrum
The Daily Princetonian

PRINCETON, N.J. (U-WIRE) — Nuclear scientists, civil engineers and other Princeton University researchers are collaborating with counterparts at universities throughout New Jersey to aid in making the United States more secure against terrorist attacks.

Joining representatives from a half-dozen other institutions, a group of University faculty and staff participated in a statewide "Symposium on Homeland Security Research" at Rutgers University last Wednesday, which included panel discussions and progress reports on a wide range of research projects.

Many of those projects had been in development before Sept. 11 but took on greater urgency after the terrorist attacks, said Maria Godlock, the civil and environmental engineering professor who organized the university's research presentation.

"A lot of these things were being done before 9/11, but that made it more critical in terms of we have to get this done now," she said. "It accelerated things."

The increased collaboration can be traced in part to an expectation that New Jersey universities will have a better chance of winning federal and state research grants if they work together, Godlock said. A joint team of University and Rutgers engineers led by CEE professor Erik van Marcke had already applied for a grant in response to a request from the New Jersey Commerce and Economic Growth Commission.

The outcome of that application is pending approval of a bond issue next year.

Margaret Martonosi, a university electrical engineering professor, was among those who presented work at Rutgers last week. Her research on mobile sensors, used before Sept. 11 as a tool in tracking wildlife, has taken on new significance since then.

"Sensors are anything that measures something about the environment," Martonosi said. "That could mean measuring temperature, detecting gases in the air or capturing images at a particular location and then doing face recognition."

Martonosi said in particular, mobile sensors are a potential boon to domestic security.

Thousands of chemicals approved without safety testing

Tom Avril
Knight Ridder Newspapers

PHILADELPHIA (KRT) — Without requiring tests to determine their safety, the U.S. government has approved thousands of chemicals for use in such products as sofa cushions, soaps, paints and baby bottles.

On average, two more chemicals are approved every day. The result: consumers are unwittingly part of a kind of vast, uncontrolled lab experiment.

"We're treating [people] worse than lab rats," said Karen Florini, an attorney with the non-profit group Environmental Defense.

"At least with lab rats, somebody bothers to collect the data."

The U.S. system of regulating chemicals is under renewed scrutiny as European officials voted last week to adopt much tougher rules, which would require substantial testing of many substances before they can be sold there.

With growing amounts of synthetic substances detected in human blood and breast milk, U.S. critics have stepped up calls for similar rules here.

Chemical makers counter that the European proposal would cost billions, stifling research in an industry whose products are overwhelmingly safe and perform valuable functions in society.

With strong support from the Bush administration, the companies favor a more voluntary approach toward testing.

As the debate continues, new concerns emerge regularly:

Polybrominated diphenyl ethers, used as flame retardants, have been linked to brain damage and lower fertility in lab animals.

The amounts in human breast milk in the United States are doubling every two to five years, in some cases nearing levels linked to health problems in animals.

In a rare move Monday, the chief U.S. maker of two such chemicals agreed to stop making them by the end of 2004.

Bisphenol-A, used in baby bottles, dental sealants and linings of food cans, has been tied to lower fertility in rats and defective

chromosomes in mice eggs.

Perfluorinated compounds, used to make Teflon pans and, formerly, Scotchgard, have been turning up in human blood and breast milk. Some members of this chemical family have been linked to cancer in lab animals; human risks are unclear.

Methyl tertiary-butyl ether (MTBE), a gasoline additive that reduces air pollution, readily infiltrates groundwater because of its high solubility.

It is linked to cancer in mice and is labeled a potential human carcinogen.

With most chemicals, there is no proven risk to humans; manufacturers often sponsor research that contradicts the findings of possible risk.

And in most cases, that's the end of the story.

Even if health concerns are raised after a chemical is on the U.S. market, the government often does not require that it be tested in any systematic way.

And manufacturers can continue making it for years.

When companies do come across possible risks, they must submit data to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. But companies can — and for most new chemicals, do — claim that the information is confidential.

As a result, the information is never available to the public.

This system for screening chemicals, enacted 27 years ago, allowed continued production of the 62,000 chemicals then in use and required little, if any, lab testing for the 18,000 approved since

then. (Other laws govern chemicals in pesticides, food and drugs, which do require tests.)

EPA has the power to require testing of any chemical, old or new, which it believes may pose a "reasonable risk" to human health or the environment.

Yet the burden of demonstrating risk lies with the agency, a lengthy process that involves estimating exposures for each way a substance might be used.

The agency rarely requires tests through this process; more

often it negotiates with companies to conduct tests.

A 1997 EPA study found that of the 3,000 chemicals imported or produced in the United States in amounts above 1 million pounds, 43 percent had no publicly available data on toxicity.

Soon after, manufacturers volunteered to test these high-volume chemicals, an effort that is ongoing.

Industry officials say they already had some data for most of the high-volume chemicals, though they concede it was not publicly available.

"This allegation that these chemicals haven't been evaluated isn't necessarily accurate," said Steve Russell, an attorney for the American Chemistry Council, an industry group.

Moreover, Russell said, most of the 80,000 approved chemicals are not made in significant amounts.

Courts' officials estimate 15,000 chemicals are actively made but could not provide an exact figure, nor could they say how many have been tested.

If requiring tests is hard, restricting a chemical's use is even harder.

To take such action, the EPA must determine that any risks are not outweighed by a substance's economic and societal benefits, again for each way in which it might be used.

In practice, this provision is so difficult and expensive to implement that it is rarely used.

Restricting new chemicals is easier, through a 90-day screening process.

Using computer models, the EPA predicts which new chemicals may be harmful by comparing their structures to those of existing substances — yet again, safety data on the old chemicals can be limited.

"Just detecting something in the environment doesn't mean it's going to have any effect on human health, or on animal health," said Peter O'Toole, U.S. program director for the Bromine Science and Environmental Forum.

Critics counter that evidence of harm will be elusive without required testing.

"How do you know?" said Joel Tickner, an occupational health professor at the University of Massachusetts in Lowell.

"Unfortunately, the lack of proof of harm is very often misinterpreted as proof of safety."

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"Just detecting something in the environment doesn't mean it's going to have any effect on human health, or on animal health."

— Peter O'Toole
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Officials want student input on visa fee

Gail Bloodworth
Daily Texan (U. Texas-Austin)

AUSTIN, Texas (U-WIRE) — Students have the opportunity to voice their opinions concerning a proposed \$100 fee the Department of Homeland Security may charge to those who apply for visas to study in the United States.

The Department of Homeland Security submitted a proposal to the Federal Register on Oct. 27 that would implement a \$100 fee for most international students applying for visas. The proposal is in a 60-day comment period that will continue until Dec. 26.

Gillie Haynes, a spokeswoman for the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement, said after the comment period, the homeland security department will review all comments and decide whether to make the proposal policy.

"It's hard to speculate right now what will happen. We'll know more after the comment period is over," Haynes said.

The fee is designed to cover costs of administering and maintaining the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System. SEVIS tracks information about foreign students in the United States.

"Students would be required to pay the fee prior to applying for a visa. If the visa application is denied, the fee would not be refunded. The fee would be waived for those who apply for the same status visa within nine months of the original.

"When compared to what universities charge students, it's a relatively small fee," Haynes said. The homeland security department, according to its website, estimates international students pay an average of \$15,000 per year for tuition.

Students who have visas and are already in the United States would not pay the fee unless they apply for a new nonimmigrant visa for a different course of study or they apply for reinstatement of student status.

Currently, there are 4,711 international students at the University of Texas-Austin. This fall, 1,167 new international students were admitted, said Kitty Villa, assistant director at the International Office.

"I don't personally agree with the fee, but I hope they will keep it as low as possible and make it as easy as possible for the students to pay," said Villa.

Natalya Pinkina, an international student from Ukraine, said the fee may be excessive for some international students.

"I think the governments should pay this or possibly share the expense with the students," Pinkina said. "In my country, \$100 is a lot of money. In some cases, it may be a person's monthly income."



JOSH PREZANT — MIAMI HERALD (KRT)

Theodus Times, 18, works in a lab at Miami-Dade Community College's W.L. Philbrick School of Funeral Services Oct. 23. He is practicing facial reconstruction.

Few pick career path for dealing with death

Sara Olkon
Knight Ridder Newspapers

MIAMI (KRT) — One day soon, finding a good mortician could take an eternity.

"Everybody is looking for help," said David Lowery, past president of the Florida Funeral Directors Association and vice president of Panceria Family Funeral Care in Hollywood, Fla.

The National Funeral Directors Association predicts a serious shortage of undertakers within 10 years. It expects a spike in deaths as baby boomers age, as well as a wave of retirements among seasoned funeral directors. And there are not enough trainees in the pipeline to replace them, in part because the children in many family-owned businesses are choosing other paths.

From 1994 to 2000, the number of students who attended mortuary science programs and earned licenses across the United States fell by 12 percent. In Florida, mortuary job openings are expected to be 11 percent higher in 2006 than in 1996.

Bilingual morticians are especially in demand.

And while a mortician is unlikely to be popular at third-grade career day, mortuary teachers are reaching out to prospective students at high school career fairs and elsewhere. Local associations are sponsoring public information campaigns and taking out ads. The first words on the Florida Funeral Directors Association website: "Want to apply for an FFDA scholarship?"

The grief business isn't glamorous: the hours are long and erratic, there is no way to escape Embalming 101 and the average pay is mediocre. In 2000, the median annual salary for

funeral directors was only \$41,110. For embalmers, it was \$32,870, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Sal Passalacqua, the managing director of Fred Hunter's Funeral Home in Hollywood, says media stories about unscrupulous undertakers and desecrated remains may further erode interest. Insiders hope the popular HBO drama "Six Feet Under," about a Los Angeles family that runs a funeral parlor out of its home, might help counter that. The show debuted in 2001.

Still, there is no getting past the emotionally charged, deadline-driven nature of the job. "People think that funeral directing is very soft and mellow," Lowery said. "It's not. You see a woman who loses her husband of 50 years, then parents who lose their child. And there are a lot of deadlines."

Try dealing with death every day for 26 years, said Bill Martinez, vice president of Stanfill Funeral Home in Pinecrest, Fla. Echoing national trend, he hopes to retire at 55 — in about seven years.

Ralph Covert, chairman of the funeral science department at Miami Dade College, was on the staff there in 1974, 10 years after the program debuted. Enrollment was 250 then, 30 percent higher than it is today, he said.

"People are going into other areas," Covert said. "Funeral directors are very hard to find today."

The majority of funeral homes are family-owned, and many children are turning a cold shoulder to the cold-slab business, said David Walkinshaw, spokesman for the National Funeral Directors Association.

"I didn't want to be a funeral director, either," said Walkinshaw, a third-generation mortician. He changed his mind at 21, drawn by the chance to help people in pain. But he said his

two teenage daughters have already said they won't be on board.

Raymond Scott, 40, thought he wanted to escape the family funeral business. The Fort Lauderdale, Fla., man got a graduate degree in chemistry and a job with a pharmaceutical company. Then he had a change of heart.

"You can help people and [your career] can still be profitable," he said.

Scott, who hopes to buy his own funeral home someday, is now back at school, enrolled in Miami Dade's program. He will be a fourth-generation mortician.

To work in Florida, he will need to earn a two-year degree in funeral science, complete a one-year internship and pass state and national exams.

Despite the professionalism and job security, Passalacqua said the career didn't exactly help him get dates. He eventually married another funeral director.

Some women "get really creeped out," said mortuary student Theodus Times, 18, of Deerfield Beach, Fla. "A lot of them are like, 'You touch dead people?'"

On a recent day, Powell held court before nine mortuary students on the art of casket measurement. (A tip: Avoid charging the family of a tall man for an oversize casket by crossing the legs during embalming.)

In a room filled with urns, funeral dress and caskets, Powell showed the class a soft yellow infant casket called the "cherub." Nearby, two walk-in coolers held the bodies of indigents donated by the county. The students will practice embalming — about one gallon of formaldehyde and other chemicals for every 50 pounds of body weight — and funeral makeup.

"You start to understand that death is a process," Times said. "I'm not afraid to die now."

Recent state elections display decrease in female candidates

Grace Sica
Daily Targum (Rutgers U.)

NEW BRUNSWICK, N.J. (U-WIRE) — The number of women running in state elections has decreased in recent years, according to a report by the Center for American Women and Politics at Rutgers University.

CAWP tracks the number of women candidates, as well as the number of winners and holdovers. Although the number of women serving in state legislatures has more than quadrupled since 1971, recent years have shown a slight decrease in women candidates and a plateau in women winners, the data revealed.

These patterns of decline are seen on the local and national level as well. According to the report, the number of women running for U.S. Senate in 1992 totaled 29, while in 2002 there were only 20 candidates. In the House of Representatives race, 1992 had 222 women running, while 2002 offered only 186.

Kathleen Casey, associate director of CAWP, said the decrease on the national level reflects numbers at the state level because state legislatures act as a "pipeline" in sending candidates to Congress.

There are many speculated reasons for this downturn. Casey said the strongest deterrent to a women's ability to run is the

county party structure. "Party is a gatekeeper," she said. "If you want to be listed on a party line, you need backing."

With their support in need, parties have a "stranglehold" on who runs, Casey said.

Studies such as "The Impact of Women in Public Office, published by CAWP, display gender differences in policymaking. Women are generally more liberal and more feminist in their attitudes. They are more inclined to support and cross party lines for family and children's issues as well as the Equal Rights Amendment and abortion rights; they are disinclined to support issues such as the death penalty and the commissioning of nuclear

power plants.

"Women are more likely to open the door" — meaning they are more inclined to let the public in on political issues, Casey said.

One example was the Clinton impeachment hearings, when not one woman voted to keep the doors of the trial closed to the public, she said. Politically, there has been a turn to the right in recent years, especially in the Republican Party, so the women's liberal and moderate beliefs are likely to strain their ability to get party support.

Another reason women may not get party support may be because they generally do not raise as much money as their male counterparts. In recent elections, the amount

a candidate spends on his or her campaign has received as much publicity as his or her viewpoints.

This point was highlighted by state Sen. Nia Gill's comment to The New York Times about the Democratic Party line. "They were saying, 'Senator Gill may be right on the issues but she'll never have the money to be able to galvanize the people with the vote.'"

Gill, who represented New Jersey's District 34, was dropped from the Democratic Party line after a 10-year legislative career, but went on to win the primary race on a different ticket. In Gill's case, the Democratic Party attributed her being dropped to local party disputes and her own impatience.

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2 BDRM, a/c, 12X16 wooden deck, quiet country location, \$225/mo, incl water, sewer & trash, call 687-2518.

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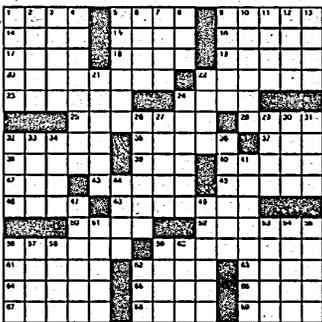
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Crossword

- ACROSS**
- 1 Chewder chunk
 - 5 Blunt
 - 9 Temple table
 - 14 Hibiscus
 - 15 New York canal
 - 16 Sierra Nevada lake
 - 17 Surrounded by
 - 18 Locale
 - 19 Alan Ladd classic
 - 22 Spoke cat
 - 23 Favor
 - 24 Glum drop?
 - 25 Heavens
 - 28 Work for
 - 32 Evicted snooty
 - 35 Make merry
 - 37 Halloween cry
 - 38 Duck
 - 39 Role
 - 40 Greek letter
 - 42 Profit figure
 - 43 River of Colongo
 - 45 Rabbi residence
 - 46 Sgt. and epl.
 - 48 Norme resident
 - 50 Lant sound
 - 52 Consume
 - 56 Creamy
 - 59 Savior
 - 61 Venomous serpent
 - 62 ...the line (Obeyed)
 - 63 City on the Truckee
 - 64 Sharon of Israel
 - 65 Hand or soft fish
 - 66 Formerly, formerly
 - 67 Unkempt
 - 68 Nose alert
 - 69 Colorator
- DOWN**
- 1 Title holder
 - 2 Harry Truman's birthplace
 - 3 Type of skirt
 - 4 Altered
 - 5 Postpones
 - 6 "Exodus" author
 - 7 Dyer tappings
 - 8 Set the pace
 - 9 Lost
 - 10 Cry near
 - 11 Heft
 - 12 Top-drawer
 - 13 Marsh growth (Obeyed)
 - 14 Guitar brand
 - 15 Come together
 - 16 Exchanges
 - 17 Dangers
 - 18 Entertainer
 - 19 Massy
 - 20 Cover for a crook
 - 21 Campus mil.
 - 22 Ark builder
 - 23 Actor Sean
 - 24 With in Arles
 - 25 Sloe
 - 26 philosopher
 - 27 Natural gas constituent
 - 28 Altered
 - 29 Yearned
 - 30 Hodgepodge
 - 31 Beaches
 - 32 Margot of "Superman"
 - 33 Adriatic
 - 34 Fine-grained cornium
 - 35 Inuit
 - 36 Jogs
 - 37 Swirle
 - 38 Olver's request
 - 39 Kimono sashes
 - 40 Word with block or fouse
 - 41 Younger
 - 42 Sautinen
 - 43 Tango team



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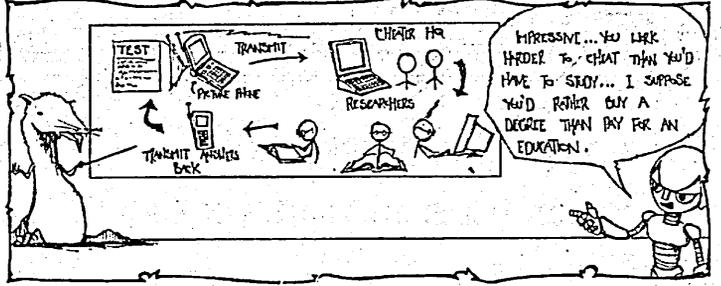
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Adam

by J. Tierney



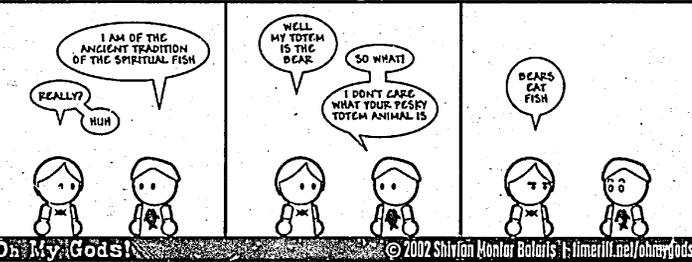
When Tail-Gators Collide

by Alex Ayala
Alex Ayala



Sherbert

by Ryan Wiggins
sherbertwig1ns@yahoo.com



Girls and Sports by Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein



Duckbumps by Zhen Xu



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» GUEST COMMENTARY

Freshmen Jayhawks could be better than in past years

Keith Langford
University Daily Kansan (U. Kansas)

LAWRENCE, Kan. (U-WIRE) — As I write this, I'm sitting on an eight-seat airplane on my way to Dallas for the Big 12 Conference Media Day.

In my opinion, these are the worst kind of airplanes to be on. You feel every bump. It feels like if I jump up and down, it is all she wrote.

The turbulence is not too bad right now, so writing is no big deal.

At least this gives me time to sit and write about some things that have been on my mind.

First of all, it really bothers me sometimes that people who have never stepped foot on a college basketball court for a game think they can analyze and critique a player.

It's funny when a little 5-foot-8 sportswriter who didn't make his high school varsity team makes a ridiculous comment about Jeremy Case not looking like a Division I athlete.

Well, Mr. Sportswriter, take one gigantic look in somebody's mirror, please.

Don't get me wrong, some criticism is necessary and is good as long as it is constructive.

But if someone happens to think someone else sucks, don't hide. Go tell them how you feel.

It's pretty weak to hide behind a computer screen or make anonymous phone calls.

I have always lived by the rule that you are the only one that can talk about your family.

No one else likes to hear another person talking bad about their brother or sister, meaning that you can talk about family but if anyone else does, that is ground for fighting.

The basketball team is my family. Do the math.

On the less controversial side of things, ...ur

» GUEST COMMENTARY

Playing not necessary for writing

Joey Berlin
University Daily Kansan (U. Kansas)

LAWRENCE, Kan. (U-WIRE) — I keep seeing this argument, beaten to death for decades, that sports writers who never played competitive sports at a high level have no grounds to criticize people who do.

On the surface, maybe it seems like a reasonable argument. But when you really think about it, the argument falls apart on every level.

First, it goes without saying that there are tons of good sportswriters who never played the sports they cover at the college or professional levels. But even more amazingly, there are great coaches coaching at levels at which they never played.

Roy Williams, who stands about 5-foot-8 and has spent his career criticizing Keith Langford and others, never played varsity college basketball. Jon Gruden, considered by many to be the best coach in the NFL, never played pro football. Earl Weaver won big managing the Baltimore Orioles despite no experience as a major league player.

If renowned coaches and managers who never played at that level can get in players' faces and tell them what they're doing wrong, there's no reason "5-foot 8-inch" sportswriters, who have watched sports with an analytical eye for years, can't render an opinion in print.

Also, if the "you've never done it" argument worked for sports, then it would have

team is making strides.

The great thing about basketball is that the more you learn about basketball, the more you realize you don't know much at all.

I'm sorry, unless you're a "great sportswriter."

Seriously, though, the athleticism on this team is so seriously unfair, and I don't just mean dunking the ball. In practice I see flashes of it all the time — speed, rebounding, strength and depth.

The one thing the team may lack is the tacit awareness of one another.

There are five new players, and we are using a mixture of lineups so that is understandable.

We are also trying to break two-year habits formed by coach Roy Williams.

It will be fine as long as we continue to understand that there is more than one way to win.

As our first game quickly approaches, I know people have doubts and question marks concerning the team. And that's natural because I do also.

The one thing that bothers me, though, is, "Can they get back to the Final Four without Nick and Kirk?"

Well, hell, I don't know. I can say this, though: this is not a rebuilding year by far.

We still have a strong nucleus returning along with a potential lottery pick, who most of you know sat out a lot of last year, along with a freshman class — fresh unit — that admittedly is probably a little further along than a few freshmen were a couple of years ago.

So can we do it without Nick and Kirk? No, we couldn't have last year, but Kirk and Nick were here two years before they did it with us. Food for thought.

I'll holla.

to work for all professions. So if sportswriters aren't entitled to criticize athletes for their performance, then readers aren't allowed to criticize sportswriters for their writing. Does that sound like a ridiculous philosophy? It ought to.

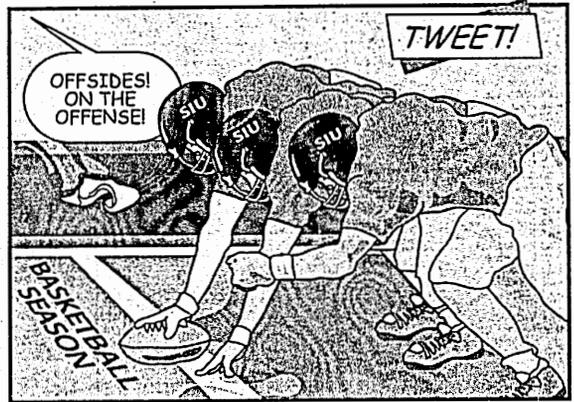
Anyone who believes sportswriters need extensive experience as players to qualify for their jobs needs to imagine a world where all sportswriters were ex-college or pro athletes. What would sportswriting be like then?

For an answer, think of the inarticulate, meaningless ramblings of sports figures such as Bill Walton or Michael Irvin, heard every night on SportsCenter, and try to imagine reading a print version of that every morning. You'd need half a bottle of aspirin to get through the rest of the day.

There are athletes who could probably write about sports effectively, and Langford may turn out to be one of them. But just as there are thousands of sportswriters who have no business playing competitive sports, there are thousands of athletes who have no business writing about sports.

Sportswriters may not have played the games they cover beyond high school, or even beyond eighth grade. But that doesn't mean fans, athletes and coaches can't learn from them.

If they back up their opinions with facts, their thoughts can be as valuable as those of anyone who puts on a uniform — sometimes, more valuable.



For the first time in 20 years, the SIU football team will advance past the regular season — and into basketball season.

» COMMENTARY

Salukis season to hit Tinseltown?

I hear there are already pitches being made, so it is necessary that I get my script finished. That's right. In my estimation, the 2003 SIU football season will be spoken in the same breath as "Remember the Titans," "Rudy" and "Air Bud 2: Golden Receiver" as one of the greatest feel-good football movies of all time.

I figure if Congress is willing to shell out \$87.5 billion to Bush, then Miramax, MGM or Disney will definitely jump at the chance to purchase this potential cash cow.

Every aspect needed to make a great movie is found in the saga of this team.

There is the fallen hero — Tom Koutsos

People knew what the Electoral College's role was more than his. With Muhammad Abdulqadir toting the ball, why give it to Koutsos? He was closing in on the Gateway Conference rushing record, but those yards came prior to "Mo'nesia."

Sure enough, filling in for Abdulqadir, Koutsos broke the record during his last Homecoming game, rushing for 153 yards against Illinois State.

Casting the role of Koutsos is tough, but I feel if Luke Wilson spent two months in the weight room and a few more in the creatine aisle at GNC, he could accurately portray Koutsos. Wilson has shown he can party in "Old School," and not much would have to change to play Koutsos, except anything that may get him in legal troubles such as waking up next to a 17-year-old high-schooler.

Then you have the star — Muhammad Abdulqadir

Abdulqadir is the soft-spoken but amazingly talented running back of the squad. After looking like some anomaly produced by the Matrix last season, Abdulqadir has had a solid season this year, but he has proved to be human.

His season has been riddled with injury, but in his first week back from a bruised knee, he managed to rush for 200 yards against then-No. 2 Western Illinois.

Everyone in Hollywood is 5-foot-7 like Abdulqadir, but not many of them have his 200-plus pound physique. Wesley Snipes still looks young, and has a torn and sculpted body to fit the bill. Cuba Gooding Jr. would have been a decent choice before "Snow Dogs" and "Boat Trip" dropped him off the Hollywood A-list. And if every other sports movie is any indication, Tinseltown will probably develop



Welcome to my world

BY ZACK CREGLOW
zreglow@dailyegyptian.com

some strife between Koutsos and Abdulqadir sometime throughout the course of the movie.

Of course, one must play team leader — Joel Sambursky

Sambursky has had, so far, the best season an SIU quarterback has ever had, which is astonishing when realizing no one wanted him out of high school. The Salukis were competing with Division II schools for him. Luckily, considering how poor the program was, SIU was not beaten out for his services by some juggernaut like Truman State.

Sambursky fits the gritty quarterback stereotype to a T, but he is producing numbers that should place him on the first-team all-conference squad. He is the star that was bound to be waiting in the wings, only to have blown up sooner than anyone thought.

Keanu Reeves was my initial choice to portray Sambursky, but Joel has a 3.8 grade point average, and Reeves has a vocabulary that extends to "Whoa" — his famous line from "Bill and Ted's Excellent Adventure" that will forever dog his career. But as money dwindles for casting, we turn to twins Jeremy and Jason London to play the character and low-ball them. Inevitably, the competition destroys the family.

Not to forget the skipper — Jerry Kill

The man looks nothing of a genius but is. He has been able to turn what used to be an excuse to tailgate into the No. 3 squad in the country. He is quick-witted and brutally honest.

No man would better portray Kill than SIU's very own Dennis Franz. Franz, who has been the only person on NYPD Blue to retain his job while remaining among the living, has similar facial features and personality traits. He would have to work on developing some sort of drawl to his voice, but that is details.

If the Salukis win the national championships, this could actually occur. Take a glance at the movies coming out anymore. "Dickie Roberts: Former Child Star" — need I say more.

READER COMMENTARY

• LETTERS AND COLUMNS must be typewritten, double-spaced and submitted with author's photo ID. All letters are limited to 300 words and guest columns to 500 words. Any topics are accepted. All are subject to editing.



• LETTERS taken by fax (453-8244) and e-mail (sports@dailyegyptian.com).

• Phone number needed (not for publication) to verify authorship. STUDENTS must include year and major. FACULTY must include rank and department. NON-ACADEMIC STAFF include position and department. OTHERS include author's hometown.



• Bring letters and guest columns to the DAILY EGYPTIAN newsroom, Communications Building Room 1247.

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Miami's loss has USC thinking Sugar Sooner than expected

Arash Markazi
Daily Trojan
(U. Southern California)

LOS ANGELES (U-WIRE) — They tried not to watch. They tried not to listen. They tried not to care. But it was impossible. Like an adolescent who accidentally finds the adult channel, the temptation was too great.

During the second half of USC's 43-16 drubbing of Washington State, the Jumbo Iron at the Coliseum would continually give updates of the Miami-Virginia Tech game. First it was Virginia Tech 7-0, then 10-0, then 17-0. With each update, the crowd cheered louder and the smiles on the Trojans' faces grew bigger.

By the time the Trojans had reached the locker room, the damage had been done and the result was in: Virginia Tech 31, Miami 7. It was the best news to come out of Virginia since the end of the Civil War.

"How 'bout them Hokies?" USC

coach Pete Carroll said.

USC players admitted they couldn't resist gazing at the big screen during the game to see what was going on in Blacksburg, Va.

"Of course we knew the score," USC defensive end Omar Nazzari said.

As Trojan Marching Band members played Conquest after the game, USC players and coaches gathered in front of them and their fans, as they always do, and raised two fingers. The victory symbol hasn't been as truthful in years. The Trojans were indeed now No. 2.

While the Bowl Championship Series rankings won't be released until Monday, USC, which is ranked second in both The Associated Press and ESPN/USA Today Coaches' Poll, is expected to move past Florida State and into that coveted No. 2 slot. If that were the case, the Trojans would control their own national-title destiny. Win out and they would most likely face No. 1 Oklahoma in the Sugar Bowl Jan. 4.

"We have things to think about," Nazzari said with a smile when asked about possibly playing Oklahoma. "But we can't concentrate on things like that right now."

Although fans at the Coliseum began chanting, "We want Oklahoma!" toward the end of the game, most USC players tried to downplay a possible trip to Bourbon Street in January. They'll leave that Sooner talk for later.

"We saw the score and we knew what was going on, but we tried not to focus on that," USC defensive tackle Mike Patterson said. "We were happy. But at the same time, if you think ahead, you might get tripped up."

While Oklahoma cemented its position as the No. 1 team in the country on Saturday, remaining undefeated after a 52-9 blowout of rival Oklahoma State, USC's performance against the sixth-ranked Cougars shows they are the hottest team in the country. It's a title they held at the end of last year. But most everyone in the

USC locker room says there's a difference between this year's team and last year's Orange Bowl champions.

"I think we're better," Nazzari said. "Our offense is amazing right now. They're just a joy to watch."

With quarterback Matt Leinart putting up Heisman Trophy like numbers — his statistics through nine games are right there with Carson Palmer's last season — USC's offense has never been better. That is a scary thought for any defense.

"The turning point this year has been the offense," said USC defensive tackle Shaun Cody. "When they can run the ball and eat up the clock like that, it changes everything."

After an early season loss to California, USC has rolled past its opposition, winning its last five games by an average score of 42-18 while piling up 514 yards per game in total offense. Not only are the Trojans passing the ball to receivers such as Mike Williams and Keary Colbert, as Leinart has thrown for 16

touchdowns in the last five games, but they are returning USC to Tailback U, averaging 210 yards rushing in the past five games with their tailback trio of Hershel Dennis, Reggie Bush and LenDale White.

In addition to a high-scoring offense, USC's defense is beginning to play up to its preseason hype as one of the best units in the country. "The Wild Bunch II," USC's vaunted defensive line, shut down Washington State on Saturday.

"We're just happy with this victory," Cody said. "We're just trying to add up wins."

Like the boy who gets caught watching something he's not supposed to see, the Trojans don't want to get caught looking ahead. But with the possibility of a national championship within their reach, it's hard not to look at the jump button on the remote control. USC fans, however, need only sit back and stay tuned to their team, because from here on out, that's all that matters.

UW-Milwaukee begins hunt for another Big Dance berth Saturday

Nick Dettmann
UWM Post
(U. Wisconsin-Milwaukee)

MILWAUKEE (U-WIRE) — Fresh off their first-ever berth into the NCAA tournament, the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Panthers began their quest for a return trip to the Big Dance on Saturday.

The Panthers welcomed their first opponent of the season, a team dear to the heart of UWM head coach Bruce Pearl, Southern Indiana University. Pearl spent nine seasons with SIU before becoming a Panther in 2001.

After a sluggish start that was marred by foul trouble and turnovers, the Panthers settled down and easily pulled away for a 99-76 win over Southern Indiana. With the win, Pearl moves to 5-0 in exhibition play for the Panthers.

"It was tough," Pearl said about coaching against his former school. "I saw two of my former secretaries and the minute I saw them, I got emotional. Those ladies put up with a lot and took great care of me."

"But once the game starts you have to turn it off and concentrate on your team and the game. It wasn't a lot of fun in the later parts of the game, but we did get a lot out of it."

During Pearl's tenure at SIU, his team was a remarkable 231-45 with four Great Lakes Valley Conference Championships, six Sweet 16 appearances, a runner-up in the 1994 NCAA Division II national title game and winning the title in 1995.

"I was pleased with the effort," Pearl said. "We got some things exposed. The margin had a lot to do with Dylan [Page] as he was a difference maker."

The Panthers showed many facets

to their game, new and old. The new featured a quicker team on both ends of the floor. The old was the stungy, full-court defense that made UWM famous and put fear into the eyes of their opponents.

All-American candidate Dylan Page picked up right where he left off from his first-team All-Horizon League selection last season. The bigger and stronger Page tore up the smaller Screaming Eagles defense for 34 points, including 10-of-10 from the free-throw line.

Many bright spots were seen at the Klotz Center, but the spots that were the brightest came from the direction of Adrian Tigrert and James Wright. Both spent all of the 2002-03 season recovering from injuries. Tigrert raked in a double-double with 11 points and 10 rebounds in his first game since February 2001. Wright scored five points in his return.

"Welcome back Adrian Tigrert," Pearl said. "He is a smart player and he had a double-double. He was a starter as a freshman and he played very well together with Dylan. That was great to see."

"That was it was supposed to look like," Pearl added about Mark Pancratz, who contributed with 13 points. "That's why he why he won a state championship, playing with confidence and nobody works harder on this team than Mark. We have optional evening shoot-around four nights a week and he has not missed one."

Southern Indiana, a Division II team that plays in the same conference as the University of Wisconsin-Parkside, stayed very tenacious as they hung in for as long as they could until the bigger and stronger UWM took control in the second half. John Oden led the Screaming Eagles as he scored

20 points and snagged seven rebounds in the losing cause.

"They just dominated us on the boards," SIU head coach Rick Herdes said. "We turned them over 29 times. I tell our guys, we've cut the turnovers in half and even out the rebounds; we're back in the game."

"It was a great opportunity to play a Division I program," Herdes added. "They are a top-64 team again this year in my mind. I just wish we could've given them a better game."

The Panthers will next take to the floor as they will take to the Northwest Sports in a 7 p.m. tip-off from the Klotz Center Nov. 13. The regular season will commence Nov. 22 when Big Sky conference favorite Montana helps UWM open a new page in the history book with the first regular season contest at the US Cellular Arena since the 1997-98 season.

INFECTIONS

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University's athletes, while discouraging superstitious practices that are commonplace in many locker rooms.

"Some players have a favorite undershirt or something that they always wear, but that is definitely something we try to steer our athletes away from," Thompson said.

Until recently, MRSA was not of a concern to most athletes, as it was an affliction largely confined to hospitals and nursing homes. But in the past three years, the pathogen has slowly crept its way into the landscape of collegiate athletics.

"Now we're seeing it emerge in settings where people have little or no contact with health care and are generally healthy," Hageman said. "Sports teams are just in the last couple of years."

Sports that produce skin abrasions, such as football and wrestling, give the bacterium a place to take hold, where it is then spread

through skin-to-skin contact.

That was the case earlier this year at a Franklin, Wis., high school where eight members of its football team became infected by MRSA.

Bill Wucherer, health officer for Franklin, told USA Today this could be just the embryo stage of what has the potential to swell into an epidemic.

"I think this is more of a beginning than just a blip," Wucherer said.

And the NCAA is not the only organization taking precautions by alerting its members. The National Federation of High School Associations recently issued a similar alert to its sports bodies, and in August teams in the National Football League were sent copies of a CDC report pertaining to infections in sports related to MRSA.

While it is extremely unlikely an infection like MRSA could lead to the death of a college athlete who is young and otherwise healthy, the NCAA is taking no chances with its latest health concern.

The NCAA alert, released by

its Committee on Competitive Safeguards and Medical Aspects of Sports, implored its members to take note of the impact the relatively new infection could have on its sports-medicine procedures.

"We urge departments of athletics, and in particular the sports-medicine staff, to review the information that identifies risk factors and note that maintaining good hygiene and avoiding contact with drainage from skin lesions are the best methods for preventing the spread of MRSA," the alert said.

While SIU has not been immune to infection, Thompson said, safer and more preemptive measures such as discarding any uniform stained by blood have contributed to a relatively low rate of afflicted athletes.

"Typically we've normally had isolated incidents once or twice a year," Thompson said.

"But I can remember back in the 1980s when we had to quarantine several of our athletes after our teams were hit big. But other than that, we really haven't had any cause for concern."

» SPORTS FLASH

Big East adds five new member schools

In an effort to rebuild its foundation, the Big East Conference announced Tuesday it would add five schools to its membership roster.

Cincinnati, DePaul, Louisville, Marquette and South Florida — all currently members of Conference USA — will join the Big East starting in the 2005-2006 school year.

The move was came after three current Big East schools — Miami, Virginia Tech and Boston College — accepted invitations to join the Atlantic Coast

Conference. That move started a domino effect that officially hit C-USA Tuesday.

The conference immediately announced the five schools that would fill the vacancies. Tulsa, Southern Methodist and Rice of the Western Athletic Conference; and Marshall and Central Florida of the Mid-American Conference will begin play in C-USA in 2005.

Conference USA may not be done with all of its changes. It was reported in Tuesday's Dallas Morning News that Texas Christian may leave C-USA for the Mountain West Conference.

It has also been rumored the WAC would by to lure New Mexico State

and Utah State from the Sun Belt Conference.

UConn, Duke top women's poll

Connecticut and Duke were tabbed Nos. 1 and 2, respectively, in the ESPN/USA Today preseason poll released Tuesday.

Texas, Tennessee and Kansas State rounded out the top five. UConn and Duke also topped the men's poll that was released last week.

Connecticut is the defending national champion.



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