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Daily Egyptian 2003

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Daily Egyptian Staff

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# State shaves SIU cuts to \$6.7 million

**Molly Parker**  
 Daily Egyptian

SIU's budget reduction will not be as dramatic as earlier predicted.

The state will call back 2.9 percent of SIU's overall budget, down from the original request for the University to scroll away 8 percent, according to two state sources.

That reduction will amount to about \$6.7 million for the entire SIU system and will rear in the 2004 fiscal year budget as well, a member of the House Higher Education committee said.

The information on university cuts was sent from the Bureau of the Budget to administrators and members of General Assembly education committees Thursday. The memo stated that the information was for private consumption and would be released in the governor's budget address April 9.

Becky Carroll, spokeswoman for the

Bureau of the Budget, refused comment. An official within state government familiar with budget operations confirmed the numbers. Administrators at SIU also had little to say.

Chancellor Walter Wendler said he wished he had not picked up the phone, when contacted by the Daily Egyptian.

Steve Binder, spokesman for the president's office, said that administrators were aware of the cuts, but would honor the governor's request not to speak about them until after his address.

"Now that the Bureau and IBHE (Illinois Board of Higher Education) have shared information with all the institutions, we are going to honor the state's request and withhold comments until the governor has a chance to give his first budget address," Binder said.

The state requested early March that all state agencies, including universities, put 8 percent of their budget

in reserve in anticipation of future cuts. That holding was \$18.2 million for SIU. The budget office previously said it would examine what universities identified as areas that could be cutback and make decisions about callbacks based on that.

Uncertainty has been rampant on campus about how deep the cuts would actually be and when they would come since the state asked for the reserve.

Wendler earlier said that the 8-percent reserve would have been difficult to come up with. Carroll, from the budget office, said although SIU officials are now cooperating with the state's attempt to plug about a \$5 billion hole, it hasn't been easy dealing with them.

"Well, it's been a long time coming in getting them to make tough choices that the governor and his cabinet and his budget director have asked them to make over the last several weeks," Carroll said. "I would characterize it as

they have come to the table to work with us, but kicking and screaming."

Binder said SIU has tried to cooperate and recognizes the serious budget constraints facing the state and nation.

Deans have also been working to deal with the anticipated cuts. The chancellor asked departments to identify 5 percent short-term cuts and 10 percent long-term cuts in July. The news of the recent 2.9 percent cuts did not reach the dean's level Thursday.

"We planned for the 5 percent and prayed that the 8 percent didn't happen," said George Swisher, dean of the College of Engineering. "We have to be relieved because it could have been 8 percent."

He said he did not want to comment further until the cuts were solidified from the governor's office or SIU administrators.

"Things are just so iffy it's very hard for us to

plan," he said.

And even though it's been difficult to plan, many have been attempting to. Bob York, director of Labor and Employee Relations and Mark Brittingham, general counsel for Labor Relations, met with the president of the Association of Civil Service to talk about potential layoffs.

Ruth Pommier, ACSE president, said in a memo dated April 2 that she was told that 100 of the represented 525 civil service employees could potentially be laid off due to the budget situation.

Brittingham and York, who had not heard of the newest state figures until contacted by the Egyptian, both said the University would reevaluate potential layoffs given the new numbers.

Molly Parker can be reached at editor@siu.edu

# SIUC eliminates eight positions

**Katie Davis**  
 Daily Egyptian

Eight letters were released Wednesday informing SIUC administrative employees that their positions were being eliminated, said University spokeswoman Sue Davis. Two layoffs are expected.

Chancellor Walter Wendler said the layoffs are only indirectly associated with Gov. Rod Blagojevich's expected budget address Wednesday. Blagojevich is expected to slash the University's budget by as much as \$6.7 million, down from earlier estimates of \$18.2 million.

"It's a result of tough financial times and not the result of major decisions made at the state level," Wendler said. "I don't think there will be that many [layoffs] but we won't know anything until the governor's address."

Davis said three positions were cut because of depleted grant money that will dry up on July 1. One was rescinded because of retirement and more grant positions may open after July 1, allowing the two to continue employment. A position was also cut from the College of Applied Science and Arts off-campus military program.

"Our need for those positions are down

and our revenues are down because of the war," Davis said.

Four positions, office systems specialist III, microcomputer support specialist I, instructional communication technical operator III, and administrative assistant I, were also cut in the College of Liberal Arts, but two employees bumped into open positions.

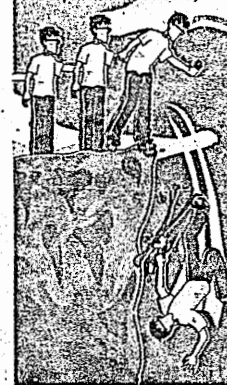
Bumping allows the initial person losing the job to take the last position in their job classification. Though that person cannot stay in classification, they may

See POSITIONS, page 11

## GETTING BUMPED

Position terminations cause a domino effect that can leave many demoted. Eventually the person with the least seniority ends up without a job when a superior takes a lower position.

- 1 A position is terminated. If the person filling that position, who we'll call Don, has any seniority, that person is offered a lower-ranking position in the same classification.
- 2 The person that got bumped by Don, who we'll call Juan, is offered the lowest-ranking position in the classification below Don's.
- 3 If the person displaced by Juan is in the lowest-ranking position in the lowest-ranking classification that person is left without a job.



SHANE PANORAM & DAVID WEBERMAN - DAILY EGYPTIAN

# Layoffs remain a possibility for university employees

**Ben Botkin**  
 Daily Egyptian

More than 500 SIUC employees will receive letters this week from their labor union informing them that as many as 100 layoffs of Civil Service employees are possible.

The letter will come from Ruth Pommier, president of the Association of Civil Service Employees, who met with University administrators Tuesday to discuss impending reductions in state funding. University officials told her that 100 employees could be laid off, and it is possible that notices are sent out to employees this week, Pommier said.

Chancellor Walter Wendler said he didn't believe layoffs would be that drastic but still expects large numbers.

"It's incredibly frustrating for me because I don't know what to do because we have yet to find out, but when we find out, we'll be as quick as we can. We have a lot of problems to deal with."

Tuesday's meeting came on the heels of a written notice administrators sent to 10 labor unions in March that layoffs are possible. ACSE represents 525 Civil Service employees at SIUC, but there are a total 1,838 Civil Service workers who could be legally laid off with a 30-day notice, Pommier said.

Although the notices were only a legal step necessary in case there are terminations, a cloud of uneasiness

shrouds the University as administrators continue to work with Springfield legislators and prepare for possible cutbacks. As part of a plan to reduce the state's reported budget deficit of almost \$5 billion, Gov. Rod Blagojevich initially ordered universities to form plans that could trim 8 percent from their operating budgets, which amounts to \$18.2 million for the SIU system.

SIUC administrators in recent weeks have admitted that layoffs and fewer classes are possible because of the potential cutbacks, but also said the extent is still unknown as the governor reviews the plans universities submitted and prepares the budget address he will give Wednesday.

But already, word is out that there may be a lighter blow than the bleak outlook universities are facing. A softening of the governor's original request is likely, said a source within the House Higher Education Committee.

"I think you will see a reduction in the request," the source said. "It won't be the 8 percent."

It is more likely to see a figure that's closer to cut 2.9 percent, or \$6.7 million, from the University, the source said.

Bob York, director of Labor and Employee relations and Mark Brittingham, General Counsel for Labor Relations who met with Pommier, both said they would reexamine potential layoffs given the new

See LAYOFFS, page 11




"Things are just so iffy, it's very hard for us to plan."

- George Swisher  
 dean, College of Engineering

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY STEVE JANICEK

at Evangelical Presbyterian Church,  
**"The Christian World View"**  
 a conference with  
**Joel Belz**  
 of  
**World magazine**  
 April 4, 7:30pm  
 April 5, 9:30 & 10:45am  
 April 6, 9:45 & 11:00am  
 Detailed information at [www.carbondalepeca.com](http://www.carbondalepeca.com)  
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	\$3 "O" Bombs

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Shuffle Board, Pool | Upscale, 21 and over  
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**INTERNATIONAL NEWS**

**WAR UPDATE**

**Current as of 8 p.m. CST, Thursday**  
 • American armored divisions late Thursday launched an assault on Saddam International Airport, which is 10 miles from the center of Baghdad. Loud explosions were heard coming from the airport as the assault got underway, Reuters reported. Dozens of Iraqis, including civilians and soldiers, were killed in what witnesses called a barrage of U.S. artillery and rocket attacks in the area, according to a Reuters correspondent. (cnn.com)

• Drivers are starting to see relief at the fuel pump as gasoline prices have slipped about 4 to 6 percent from the record highs reached just before fighting began in Iraq two weeks ago. The AAA's Daily Fuel Gauge, which surveys more than 60,000 self-serve gas prices nationwide daily, reports an average price of \$1.647 a gallon, down another 1/10 of a cent from Tuesday. (cnn.com)

• American marines chased away a Republican Guard division Thursday morning and raced almost unimpeded toward the outskirts of Baghdad. There is "increasing evidence" that Saddam Hussein's regime has lost control of its fighting forces and most of the Iraqi population, a Central Command spokesman in Qatar said. Without giving a precise location, the spokesman, Brig. Gen. Vince Brooks, said coalition forces were "in close proximity to Baghdad." Leading elements of military units were reported to be within 10 miles of the capital. (nytimes.com)

• The Arabic news channel al-Jazeera says it is suspending its reports from Iraq in protest after

Baghdad banned two of its correspondents from working there. The station said the Iraqi Information Ministry had barred Diyar al-Omani — an Iraqi — from reporting, and ordered correspondent Tayseer Alouni to leave the country. The channel's editor-in-chief, Ibrahim Helal, told the BBC that the Iraqis had given no reasons for their action, which he called sudden and unjustified. Al-Jazeera says it will continue to transmit images from its offices in Baghdad, Basra and Mosul. (bbc.com)

• A U.S. servicewoman held captive for a week in Iraq has arrived in Germany for treatment at an American military hospital: Pfc. Jessica Lynch, 19, has two broken legs, an injured arm and multiple gunshot wounds, but is said to be in a stable condition. (bbc.com)

• The wife of an ITN cameraman missing in Iraq has been given a personal pledge from US Secretary of State Colin Powell that he will do all he can to find out what happened to her husband. French cameraman Fred Nerac and his colleague have not been seen yet they were caught up in an incident just south of Basra last month in which ITN reporter Terry Lloyd died. (bbc.com)

• Lawmakers are expected to push aggressively for new and expedited benefits and services for military families now that the numbers of killed, missing in action and prisoners of war are increasing, experts say. "Everyone is scrambling to see what they can do," observed Kathy Moakler of the National Military Family Association, a non-profit advocacy group that facilitates aid for military families and educates the public, the military community and Congress on available benefits and services. (foxnews.com)



**Today**

High 71  
 Low 43



Thunderstorms throughout the day, ending in the late evening. Highs in the 70s.

**Five-day Forecast**

<b>Saturday</b>	Mostly Sunny	59/42
<b>Sunday</b>	Thunderstorms	56/56
<b>Monday</b>	Rain Showers	64/47
<b>Tuesday</b>	Partly Cloudy	49/33
<b>Wednesday</b>	Party Cloudy	59/43

**Almanac**

Average high: 60  
 Average low: 39  
 Thursday's precip: 0.00"  
 Thursday's hi/low: 80/54

**CORRECTIONS**

In Tuesday's issue of the DAILY EGYPTIAN, the front page article, "Former U.S. secretary of defense shares views on post-war cleanup," should have said about 300 people attended the event.

The DAILY EGYPTIAN regrets this error.

Readers who spot an error should contact the DAILY EGYPTIAN accuracy desk at 536-3311 ext. 253.

**CALENDAR**

**Today**

**Journeys: Explorations in New Works**  
 annual festival of new plays  
 Christian H. Moe Lab Theater  
 7:30 p.m.

**Japanese Table, Hanami**  
 Kamakura Garden, north end of Faner Hall  
 Christian H. Moe Lab Theater  
 5 p.m.

**German Table — Stammtisch**  
 Corner Diner  
 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

**POLICE REPORTS**

**University**

• Jemaine O. Beard, 20, Broadview, was arrested at 6:11 p.m. Tuesday in the 600 block of East Park Street on a Jackson County warrant for failure to appear in court on an original charge of criminal trespass to land. He was released on \$250 bond.

• Bobby J. Owen, 24, Carbondale, was arrested at 1:38 a.m. Thursday at the intersection of South Illinois Avenue and Pleasant Hill Road on charges with driving under the influence of alcohol and improper lane usage and a Franklin County warrant for failure to appear on an original charge of criminal damage to property. He was taken to the Jackson County Jail.

**Carbondale**

• A red and blue bicycle valued at \$1,000 was reported stolen between an unknown time Sunday and 6 p.m. Wednesday from a bicycle rack in the 500 block of South University Avenue.

• Clifton L. Trevathan, 32, 307 E. Mill St., was arrested at 8:25 p.m. Wednesday at his home on a Jackson County warrant for failure to appear in court on a charge of probation revocation. because of a domestic battery charge. Police said officers came into contact with Trevathan during an investigation into a trespass complaint. He was taken to the Jackson County Jail in lieu of \$500 bond.

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# Affirmative action under fire in Supreme Court

Two lawsuits challenge University of Michigan admissions policy

Lindsey J. Mastis  
Daily Egyptian

Affirmative action, which began 30 years ago, was intended to give an equal opportunity to people of all races.

But in two cases before the U.S. Supreme Court, Grutter v. Bollinger and Gratz v. Bollinger, the students say that in trying to abide by that policy, the University of Michigan was discriminatory to whites by implementing



RICHARD LEE - DETROIT FREE PRESS (KRT)

Rev. Jesse Jackson addressed supporters of affirmative action in front of the U.S. Supreme Court in Washington, D.C. Tuesday.

a point system that gave points based on race.

As President George W. Bush said in a statement on Jan. 15, the University of Michigan awarded a perfect SAT score 12 points and 20 points to applicants of a minority race.

Bush came out in support of the cases against the University of Michigan.

"I strongly support diversity of all kinds, including racial diversity in higher education," he said. "But the method used by the University of Michigan to achieve this important goal is fundamentally flawed."

"At their core, the Michigan policies amount to a quota system that unfairly rewards or penalizes prospective students, based solely on their race."

The plaintiffs in the cases are being represented by the Center for Individual Rights, a nonprofit public interest law firm based in Washington, D.C. Curt Levey, the director of legal and public affairs at the center, said the cases do not oppose affirmative action, but do intend to fight against the racial preferences some universities use to ensure diversity.

"We hope the outcome is that the Supreme Court draws a bright line and says that race can never be used in admissions nearly to achieve a diverse student body," he said.

"If we win, then schools all over the nation are going to have to revamp their admissions policies to achieve diversity in a race-neutral matter."

But some people are worried that the cases, if won by the plaintiffs, would cause a decrease in diversity on college campuses nationwide. Mike Lawrence, associate direc-



OLIVER DOULIERY - ARACA PRESS (KRT)

Thousands of supporters of affirmative action march Tuesday in front of the U.S. Supreme Court in Washington, D.C. The court's wide-reaching decision could affect SIU admissions policy for future classes of students.

tor of the SIUC Public Policy Institute, said he supports the Bush administration on many issues, but disagrees with their stance on affirmative action.

"I believe that we are not at a point in this country that we can achieve diversity without affirmative action," he said. "To me it's very important that people of different races get to know each other as individuals."

Neal Young, Undergraduate Student Government vice president, said USG sup-

ports SIUC affirmative action policies.

"Regardless of what decision the Supreme Court comes to, I think it's important that we as a society continue to strive for diversity in our workplace and educational settings because it ultimately would be to the benefit of all of us," he said.

Reporter Lindsey J. Mastis

can be reached at

ljmastis@dailyegyptian.com

## Student hit near overpass

Greg Cima  
Daily Egyptian

An SIUC student was injured after being struck by a car Thursday afternoon while trying to cross South Illinois Avenue less than 1/2 block from a pedestrian overpass.

Richard Charles Simmers, 26, Carbondale, was transported to the emergency room at Carbondale Memorial Hospital after he was hit by a vehicle driven by Matthew J. Meyer, 24, Carbondale, at about 3:32 p.m. at the beginning of the construction area near McAndrew Stadium. Hospital officials refused to release Simmers' condition.

Meyer, a junior at SIUC, was the driver of the white Kia Sephia that hit Simmers, who is a junior in geology. Meyer said he was on his way home when the man stepped out into traffic, and his vehicle's passenger side rear view mirror clipped Simmers. Both men live in the 1900 block of Evergreen Terrace.

A strip of gray cloth was dangling from the mirror's housing and the mirror's face was missing.

Meyer said he was already slowing down to turn right onto Lincoln Drive to go home and was traveling between 20 and 25 miles per hour at the time of the accident.

He said Simmers looked his direction when his car was passing Davies Gymnasium, but looked the other direction and never turned his head back.

A passenger in the car, who refused to be identified, said the man was conscious after the accident and Meyer said it did not look like he had serious injuries. Meyer said the man's ankle was swollen.

"He definitely broke his ankle," Meyer said. Meyer said it looked like the man's ankle was the only place hit by the car, but said it happened "too fast to tell."

Simmers was cited by the Carbondale Police Department for crossing at a location other than a crosswalk.

Pedestrian safety on and near campus has been under scrutiny since the September 2001 death of SIUC student Anne F. Coleman, who died of injuries sustained after she was struck by a vehicle while riding her bike through a crosswalk, and a series of pedestrian related traffic accidents that occurred through spring 2002.

Reporter Greg Cima can be reached at gcima@dailyegyptian.com

## Illinois representatives turn down proposal for death penalty bill

Bill proposing end to execution pulled due to lack of support

Andy Horonzy  
Daily Egyptian

A bill that proposes the abolishment of the death penalty was withdrawn by its sponsor Wednesday after failing to gather the support needed to bring it to a vote.

Rep. Arthur L. Turner, D-Chicago, sponsor of House Bill 213, spoke at length to lawmakers on the floor before finally removing his proposal.

Turner, who after numerous attempts could not be reached for comment, once even referred to the death penalty as "uncivilized" during his speech.

Rep. Mike Bost, R-Murphysboro, said it was the first time he had ever seen a legislator propose a bill and talk for an extended period of time about it, only to pull his or her proposal minutes later.

"I think it finally sunk in that he was going to be shy of the votes he needed," Bost said.

Bost said he estimated that Turner's bill, which was approved by a majority of the House Criminal Judiciary Committee last month, had the support of nearly 50 House members, but would have needed 60 votes for passage.

The bill, which proposed replacing the death penalty with life in prison without the possibility of parole, had come hot on the heels of former Gov. George Ryan's Death

Penalty Commission's recommendation that the capital punishment system needed scores of reforms.

The commission reported that Illinois exonerated more death row inmates than it had executed since the death penalty was reinstated in 1997.

Another catalyst behind the bill was Ryan's commutation of all death row inmates during his last week in office.

Although the commission's findings may have initially set the bill in motion, several factors helped contribute to its failure to build steam.

One was the opposition of the most powerful House member of Turner's party, House Speaker Michael Madigan, D-Chicago.

Steve Brown, Madigan's spokesman, said the speaker would have voted no had the bill ever come to a vote, but he never expected it to get that far.

"I think it was just a matter of time before it became obvious that the support just wasn't going to be there," Brown said.

Brown also said he fully expects a death penalty proposal similar to Turner's to surface before the House ends its session, but not without several revisions.

Another explanation for the bill's flameout was the large number of lawmakers who felt executions could still serve a purpose.

Bost said he objected to Turner's proposal because he felt the death penalty was an effective deterrent to criminals.

According to Bost, Turner failed to produce enough visible flaws in the death penalty to change many

House members' views that those who commit certain heinous crimes should be sentenced to death.

Bost said he, along with many other legislators, believes there are noticeable problems with the current system, but he is not prepared to do away with it just yet.

"I think the first thing we have to look at is our current prison system," Bost said.

"Right now life imprisonment is hard, but not near as hard as it could be."

Bost said two alternatives to execution he would like to eventually see enacted are solitary confinement and hard labor, but without the threat of interference from the American Civil Liberties Union.

Other provisions he said he would like to see taken under consideration are providing defendants facing a charge punishable by death with an attorney of their choosing and also making DNA evidence a requirement for conviction.

Bost said the main controversy currently surrounding the death penalty is the assumption that innocent people could be executed, a perception he vehemently opposes.

"In our position, you have to make sure innocent people are not put to death, and I believe you can do that, no question," Bost said.

Reporter Andy Horonzy

can be reached at

ahoronzy@dailyegyptian.com

### Provisions considered for death penalty bill

- Providing defendants facing a charge punishable by death with an attorney of their choosing
- Making DNA evidence a requirement for conviction
- Replacing the death penalty with life in prison without the possibility of parole

*"In our position, you have to make sure innocent people are not put to death, and I believe you can do that, no question."*

— Mike Bost  
Representative

# SIU student remembered as great friend, hard worker

*Kendron Lacey led a life of generosity, service and dedication*

**Burke Wasson**  
Daily Egyptian

On the night that his best friend Kendron Lacey passed away, Jerry Turini said that Lacey stopped by his house for one last visit. The two had known each other since grade school and both graduated from Carbondale Community High School.

The two were supposed to be groomsmen this summer in two weddings for lifelong friends. Turini said that Lacey, 25, had specific plans on his mind for both occasions.

"He was talking about planning bachelor parties for both of our friends," Turini said. "We've known these guys for awhile, and Kenny just wanted to send them off right."

On Saturday afternoon, Lacey was sent off in a fashion that amazed even his closest friends and family. At his funeral service, they saw that Lacey had touched more people than they had ever realized. Turini said he was shocked at the number of people in wanting to say goodbye.

"There must have been 600 people there," Turini said. "It was so unreal. I thought I knew everybody Kenny knew, but I had no idea how many people care about him."

Turini said that former classmates of Lacey's from grade school to SIUC were in attendance and some took the opportunity to speak kind words about the young man.

"People I had never seen before were speaking at the service talking about how Kenny would brighten up their day," Turini said. "I'm surprised. But at the same time, I'm not. That just tells you how great a guy he was."

Lacey, a senior in respiratory therapy at SIUC, died Mar. 23 from asphyxiation. Corey T. Simmons, 26, was arrested and charged in Lacey's death. Simmons is being held at the Jackson County Jail in Murphysboro on \$50,000 bail.

Lacey's friends and family are also absorbing the shock of losing one of Lacey's friends, Kelly Steinmetz, also of Carbondale, on Tuesday. Lacey's father, Michael Lacey, coached his son, Steinmetz and Turini in youth soccer. Michael Lacey said the family has been through tough times in the past week and politely declined to comment.

SIUC science professor Stanley Pearson had the opportunity to teach Lacey in classes in the University's respiratory therapy program. He recalls Lacey as very personable and said he was a pleasure to have in the classroom.

Although Pearson said he didn't know Lacey well on a personal level, he knew he was a hard worker in and out of the classroom.

"He was involved in so many things," Pearson said. "That really impressed me. He never tried to hold himself higher than other people with that, either."

Turini said that Lacey would volunteer to help people with disabilities and would often



Kendron Lacey poses with German shepherd Molly. Lacey, 25, passed away Mar. 23 due to asphyxiation.

cut his house visits short to help them out.

"Even if we were sitting around watching a game, he'd go," Turini said. "He worked for them to help put them to bed and other things. He cared and he was a hard worker."

Pearson said that he first realized the nature of Lacey's motivation when he saw him struggling in one of his classes. Pearson said that Lacey used it a chance to show what he was made of.

"Like a lot of students, he had some problems in a class," Pearson said. "What separated him from them was the way he came right back. All of a sudden, he was coming right along."

Lacey was set to graduate in May, and had a job lined up at Barnes-Jewish Hospital in St. Louis. Pearson said that it was Lacey's hard-working attitude that got him into the system.

"He was such a hard worker that the people at Barnes-Jewish Hospital were shocked," Pearson said. "They went out of their way to help him because he was such a go-getter."

Turini said that Lacey also talked about starting his job in St. Louis during their last conversation.

"He was all excited," Turini said. "He's worked for a long time in this program and he deserved it."

Lacey had planned on using the money from his signing bonus at the hospital to buy an engagement ring for his girlfriend, LaKesta Maxwell. The two had known each other since kindergarten, Turini said.

"He told me he was going to buy her a ring," Turini said. "I know he liked her a lot. She's a great girl and she doesn't deserve this."

No matter how busy they were, Lacey and Turini would always make time for each other. Watching football games together on Sundays

became a ritual for the two friends. They would also walk their dogs together. Turini said that Lacey's 3-year-old German shepherd, Molly, was very special to his best friend.

"Molly was his boy," Turini said. "He loved dogs, and he'd walk that dog with me or his girlfriend all the time. He had to leave the dog with his parents, but I know how much he loved him."

Turini said that the days since Lacey's death have been a very rough ordeal to handle. He said he is still in shock and doesn't know if he'll ever completely get over it.

"There's nothing I've done that's been harder than putting your best friend in the ground," Turini said. "Talking about him is like scratching wounds. It just rips me up."

The nature of Lacey's death has been the hardest thing for Turini to deal with. He said that his best friend was, in no way, a violent kind of person.

"He never looked for trouble," Turini said. "It makes me kind of mad. He didn't have to pass away that night. Not like that, either."

Pearson said that Lacey's death is a bigger loss than most people realize.

"It's a big loss to the field and to the community," Pearson said. "I know I didn't know him that well, but you don't come across many people like him."

Turini said that there are a thousand things to say about Lacey, but that no matter how much is said, it will never do him justice.

"It's tough to talk about him, but I want to let everybody know that Kenny was the greatest person," Turini said. "I'll miss him every day."

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

## USG passes SOAF account separation legislation

Resolution passes by acclimation to separate funding into four units

**Kristina Dailing**  
Daily Egyptian

The Student Organizational Activity Fee should only provide funding for activities for students or programs run by students according to the Undergraduate Student Government.

A resolution, that passed by acclimation at the last USG meeting, stated that four units that receive funding out of the SOAF account be transferred into a separately named fee account.

Rainbow's End, Campus Safety, Staffing Overhead, Bussar charges, are the four other units besides the Graduate and Professional Student Council and Undergraduate Student Government that receive funding from the SOAF account.

The resolution states that USG "does not request that the funding received by these units

remain in the SOAF, but be transferred from the SOAF with each unit into a separately named fee account."

The resolution was submitted by College of Liberal Arts senators Mary Wallace and Erik Wiatt to clear up any confusion about what the SOAF money is used for.

"This is just a way of letting students know where their money is going," said Wiatt, a senior in history. "When students pay the health fee, the money goes to the health fee. But there are so many things mixed up in the SOAF account it is hard for students to know where the money is going."

Larry Dietz, vice chancellor for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management, said he would consider the resolution as long as the units are given the funding that is outlined for them.

"It seems that the functions (USG) are remaining committed to the functions that were outlined in the resolution but they just would like to see them accounted for in a different kind of way," Dietz said.

He said that he would also look into whether putting sub codes on the funds for the four other

units could clear up any confusion about what the SOAF account money is used for.

He said making separate accounts for the different units would create excess administrative costs that could be avoided by creating sub codes within the SOAF account.

"If we can accomplish the same thing by developing some sub codes I think we wouldn't have to have the extra staff time it would take to do this kind of thing," Dietz said. "And it would give them the kind of accountability they wanted."

Every student that attends SIUC pays a student activity fee that is put into the SOAF account to provide money for RSOs and programs for students.

Out of the nearly \$1 million in the SOAF account for fiscal year 2003, \$222,631 was allocated to the four units.

The resolution has been passed onto the Office of Student Affairs and the SIU Board of Trustees for approval.

Reporter Kristina Dailing can be reached at kdailing@dailyegyptian.com

## NEWS BRIEFS

### ON CAMPUS

#### Student-written journeys to be performed Saturday

Journeys: Explorations in New Works will be at 7:30 p.m. Saturday in the Christian H. Moe Lab Theater. The Department of Theater presents an annual festival of new plays by SIUC student playwrights. The festival is an eclectic menu of five plays. Come take part in the world premieres of these new works.

The Box Office is open noon until 5:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, and one hour before each performance. Tickets cost \$5 each. To charge by phone with your Visa, MasterCard or Discover, call 618/453-3001.

#### First annual SIUC class ring ceremony today

Students and alumni who ordered class rings this year will be honored at the first annual ceremony tonight at 6 in the Student Center Auditorium.

This is the first year SIUC has an official class ring. Students and alumni who want to purchase a ring must have completed at least 56 credit hours and achieved a junior year standing.

Edward Buerger, executive director of the SIU Alumni Association, and his wife are also getting their class rings. Buerger already had a ring, but said he wanted to be a part of the new tradition.

"The ring for me symbolizes my own perseverance in choosing to attend SIUC and getting a degree from this institution in business," he said. "It's my way of saying to the world that I'm proud of the University."

### CARBONDALE

#### Book sale with more than 300 titles next week

There will be a spring book sale featuring more than 300 titles from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday at 1915 University Press Drive. Paperbacks cost \$2 and hardbacks cost \$4. Types of books sold will be books on Illinois history, Civil War, theatre, baseball, poetry and film. For more information, call 453-2281.

#### Servants of the call invite people to Jesus

Won By One Youth Group of Christ Community Church is hosting "Below the Noise - Revolution: Phase 1" which is presented by Servants of the Call. The event, featuring music by S.K.U.F., will be at 7 p.m. April 6 at Carbondale Middle School on East Grand Avenue. Servants of the Call envision reaching out to thousands of junior high, high school and college students commissioning them to surrender their lives to Jesus.

If you would like to make a financial contribution to host this event please contact Ellie Starck, Won By One Event Coordinator at 618-922-9469. Admission is free.

#### Peace Is Action Project to put on a picnic

Peace Is Action Project is presenting a spring picnic from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Saturday in the Town Square Pavilion. T-shirt and banner making will begin at 9 a.m. and will continue all day.

Open mic begins at noon and will run until 4 p.m. Participants can bring original songs, poems and essays. People can also bring food, a blanket, drums and other musical instruments. There will be an open jam from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. There will also be a kinetic prayer for peace.

The Peace Is Action Project is an effort to explore, shape and share a vision of world-at-peace. For more information, contact Seth at 684-4017.

### REGIONAL

#### One killed, two injured in accident west of Murphysboro Tuesday

A Murphysboro man died and a Carbondale woman and her 2-year-old daughter were injured Tuesday afternoon after trying to avoid hitting a deer west of Murphysboro.

Police said Kelley D. Steinmetz, 23, died after he was partially ejected from a Ford Escort and the car rolled on top of him. He was driving west on Highway 149 in a car belonging to Monica R. Dame, 21, who told police she grabbed the steering wheel to help steer out of the way of a deer.

Police said Dame told officers the car went to the opposite side of the road and Steinmetz lost control of it. The vehicle rolled several times.

Dame and her daughter were transported to St. Joseph's Hospital in Murphysboro where they were treated and released.

The Jackson County Coroner's office will perform toxicology tests and an inquest at a later date.

# Road to USG funding allocations not smooth

USG maintains it's the best system

Valerie N. Donnals  
Daily Egyptian

Each year, the Student Organizational Activity Fee has been the proverbial pot at the end of the rainbow for Registered Student Organizations.

It represents the means by which they will put on events and how their organization will survive into the next year.

However, obtaining the fee money from the Undergraduate Student Government is not always an easy task. USG has often received criticism over how it allocates the \$500,000 in fee money.

Neal Young, the vice president of USG, said until two years ago there was no formal system for allocation and funding was based more on popularity.

The current guidelines, available on the USG website, outline what can and cannot be funded and the process RSOs need to go through before USG will fund their event.

RSOs say that the process has improved during the past few years because new guidelines have helped to ensure fairness for all organizations.

"The Inter-Greek Council is satisfied overall with the Undergraduate Student Government's RSO funding procedures," said John Corso, the treasurer of Inter-Greek Council. "While the funding process is not perfect and

discrepancies are bound to arise, IGC does appreciate the hard work and effort the finance committee puts in each year."

Young said the guidelines have created more work for USG and the RSOs have to deal with a lot more paperwork, but it has been worth it.

"Through the new guidelines, we have been able to increase the amount of RSOs and the amount we've been able to give them," Young said. "Not nearly as much is being wasted. We're keeping track of it to make sure we get the maximum efficient use out of the money."

The funding process has already begun for next fall, and RSOs say that the process is still improving as glitches are worked out of the system.

Steve Landgras, the general manager of WIDB radio, said he recently attended a meeting with the finance committee and was very pleased with the results.

"It was very quick, and they asked a lot of educated questions," Landgras said. "I think they did a good job funding us this year."

"They doubled our allocations from the year before, and I was pleased with how things ran Monday for next year."

However, he said that WIDB does not conform to their guidelines very well and the long process makes it difficult to do his job.

Ana Velitchkova, the president of the International Student Council, said the process is a lot of work for organizations like hers to complete since there is no flexibility in the budgeting.

"It would be good if priority

groups, such as ISC and WIDB, had something steady to start with so people can plan ahead to book events," Velitchkova said. "Instead of concentrating on how to find the money they can concentrate on how to do the event a better way."

The director of Student Programming Council, Steve Annen, agreed that the process is running smoothly so far this year but said there's room for improvement.

He said that a set fee would work better for their organization so that they would be able to book bigger and better events without having to worry about money being cut because other RSOs need the funding.

However, he said that their main goal is what is important.

"We're here for the students, and all we ask for is to benefit the students as much as possible," Annen said. "I hope we'll get the opportunity to do that."

"USG's balance is a little bit more toward micro managing," Landgras said. "We should be held accountable, but we should be trusted to be good stewards with the money. It is the students' money."

Senator Peter Normand suggested a new system for allocating funds to be voted on by students in the spring election. The referendum proposed a new fee of \$8 per semester for the Student Programming Council and set percentage allocations for other priority organizations.

A board of representatives be from several campus constituencies would oversee the money; however, the resolution did not receive support from USG and met mixed reactions from

## The Rules

The following are the funding guidelines set up by USG. Failure to adhere to these guidelines will result in automatic denial of funds.

- 1 RSOs must submit general funding applications to the finance committee at least 20 business days prior to the event.
- 2 RSOs must keep their funds in on campus accounts through Student Development.
- 3 All advertisements for events funded by USG must have "Paid for by the Student Activity Fee" printed on them.
- 4 The event must be open and advertised to the entire campus. RSOs must consult the list of items and events that will not be funded.
- 5 USG allocated funds cannot be invested.
- 6 RSOs must have complete and accurate records of what USG funds were spent on for review by the finance committee.
- 7 RSOs must show official proof for each item they are requesting funds for.
- 8 RSOs must provide a share of the expenses.
- 9 RSOs are required to fill out an After Action Report describing exact expenses and the outcome of the event within 10 days for review by the finance committee. Failing to submit this report will result in ineligibility to receive funding for the next fiscal year.

JOSH MISKINIS - DAILY EGYPTIAN

the RSOs.

"I liked the idea of SPC getting its own fee, but the proposal wasn't planned out enough," Annen said.

He added that he doubted people would be in favor of another fee increase for the upcoming year.

Normand was unable to get the 2,000 student signatures required by the April 1 deadline to add the referendum to the ballot, but he said it is important for students to start thinking of better ways to allocate the SOAF money.

USG said that they do not support entitled allocations in a resolution passed Feb. 28. They said that using the process in the past has led to the demise of smaller and less powerful RSOs on campus.

Their current system provides equal access to the SOAF money and they said they proud of their progress to ensure equality and fairness in the allocation process.

Young said that the system is about as efficient as it can be at this point, but there is always room for improvement.

"I think we need to continue working with all of the organizations to try to get a grasp on what they really need and their goals for the future as well as the short term and compare that to what we have available and try to find a balance," Young said.

Reporter Valerie N. Donnals can be reached at vdonnals@dailyegyptian.com

# Regional organization sponsors unique event

Tri-State Alliance sponsors prom for gays, lesbians, transsexuals, supportive friends

Jessica Yorama  
Daily Egyptian

The announcement of king and queen at the Tri-State Alliance prom will be like the crowning ceremony at any other prom, except there will be two queens, two kings and an "in-between."

The person crowned "in-between" will wear a crown made of half a king's and half of a queen's crown.

This Saturday, the Tri-State Alliance, a

non-profit organization will sponsor a prom for gays, lesbians and transsexuals younger than 21. The prom will take place in Evansville, Ind., and although it is geared toward homosexuals, is also open to heterosexual friends of attendants.

"It's basically a time for gays and lesbians to have a safe place to dance and celebrate who they are," said Wally Paynter, director of the Tri-State Alliance. "It's a great opportunity for people who didn't get to go to their prom with more than just a token date."

Paynter said that there were no problems with the event last year, and did not anticipate anything but an entertaining time for those participating in the prom. However, he said that, as a safety precaution, the location of the prom would only be disclosed at the time of the ticket purchase.

This is the second year for the event, which,

although it takes place in Indiana, receives attendants from various areas, including southern Illinois. Paynter said that while the event was a success with 60 attendants the previous year, he is hoping for at least 100 people.

Paynter said that press releases and word-of-mouth helped to inform individuals in the organization's wide service area which includes parts of Missouri, Indiana and Illinois. While co-director of the Saluki Rainbow Network, Jenae Williams, said SRN was aware of the prom, few people had contacted her about attending.

"We [SRN] thought about going this year but we didn't get things together in time," said Williams, a sophomore in fashion design from Chicago. "It's a good idea because a lot of us went to schools that weren't necessarily conservative but didn't allow gay or lesbian couples."

It's a big part of your high school career and

it would just be great to relive a part of your life that was supposed to be special."

Although Paynter said proms such as this one had taken place in the past, they are not common in the area. Those involved with SRN said that if membership increased in the future, they would definitely be interested in sponsoring a similar event on campus.

"It's an important option because this is the one singular event that seems to be contributed to heterosexual privilege," said SRN member Jason Vaughan, a graduate student in creative writing from Columbus, Ga. "It's a fun event that makes a statement. When a man is able to go in public with the man he loves, it's an important precedent for intolerance and inclusion."

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

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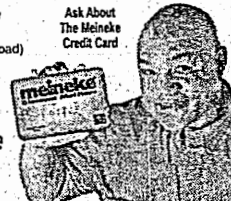
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THEIR WORD

## Affirmative action must stay

U. California- Los Angeles (U-Wire) — The Supreme Court heard oral arguments for the University of Michigan affirmative action case, which has gained notoriety over the past few months, on Tuesday. It is widely expected that if Michigan's affirmative action policies are struck down, the case can be used as precedent to end affirmative action completely. Whether or not the Supreme Court decides Michigan's affirmative action methods are illegal, it should not rule that using race as a factor in itself is not allowable.

Michigan's admissions system attracts anti-affirmative action sentiment because it bluntly rewards race in relation to other academic factors, rather than using other colleges' more subjective means. For example, the university's system awards applicants 20 points out of a possible 150 for minority status, 12 for a perfect SAT score, and one for an outstanding essay. The plaintiffs, using the 1978 case Regents of the University of California vs. Bakke, in which the court ruled racial quotas were a violation of the Fourteenth Amendment's equal protection clause, argue Michigan's program constitutes a quota system.

However, it can be argued Michigan's point system is not technically a quota system as described in Bakke because it does not set aside a finite number of positions for minorities. It instead gives a large boost to minority applicants. Quotas were found illegal because they excluded non-minorities prior to their applying. Granting minorities a boost makes them more competitive, but it doesn't automatically exclude others.

Critics argue that Michigan's system is a form of discrimination. In the absolutist sense, they are right. But there is a difference between discrimination maliciously applied to groups, and that used in the pursuit of a larger social good.

Affirmative action programs increase opportunities for minorities who do not have access to the same resources as others born into privileged circumstances. The programs are meant to have a trickle-down effect that will ideally lead to minorities who can both serve as role models for their community and increase representation of their group in society's higher echelons.

True, affirmative action programs based mostly or exclusively on race are no panacea for curing society's ills in admissions and hiring. There are many poor whites who do not reap the benefits of affirmative action even though they are born into similar or worse circumstances than minorities who benefit from affirmative action. But race should still remain an independent factor in admissions because of institutionalized racism's undeniable existence in our society.

As for the argument that affirmative action creates white "victims" of reverse discrimination, it technically does. But the discrimination against qualified whites that results in their denied admission — but likely acceptance at another university of comparable caliber — is a small price to pay for minorities being denied access to the higher education they desperately need.

Along with affirmative action programs at the college level, there must be more focus on righting educational inequality for K-12 students in poor areas that more often than not have disproportionately high numbers of minorities. Many poor minorities do not have the grades or SAT scores to get into top tier colleges and universities because their prior education started them off far behind more privileged students whose parents could make up for the state's educational shortcomings. If society's problem of racial inequality and inequality of opportunity is going to be solved, it must be nipped in the bud, earlier than college admissions. Fixing K-12 schools and affirmative action are not mutually exclusive goals. Affirmative action may become unnecessary in the future, but until we fix inequality in lower school levels, it needs to stay.

ARNETT GETS NEW JOB WITH THE DAILY MIRROR, A BRITISH TABLOID



GUEST COLUMNIST

## Relationship tips for everyone

Cherie Hinds  
The Wellness Center

Let's face it. Relationships are difficult and maintaining a healthy relationship requires energy and time. For some, the way out of a stressful relationship will be to merely end the connection. For others who decide to work it out, but want less stress and more peace, there is help! Following some simple guidelines will help to increase the amount of joy and fulfillment you receive from your relationship.

**Set Your Personal Standards:** An ideal way to reduce conflict, get your needs met, and have more joy is to select a partner that embraces the same values and standards you possess. This means you need to do your homework and take a few moments to clarify what your personal standards and values are before you decide to get into a relationship. To do this, make a list of the qualities that are important to you that would need to be present in a life partner. Some examples might be....kind, loving, attentive, hard worker, good provider, stable, etc. Being clear as to what you want and need allows you to make a better partner choice up front, without putting in a lot of time and energy into a relationship that clearly does not meet your standards.

For those who are already in a relationship, after you have finished your list compare it to the qualities your current flame has. You may luck out and find that s/he already has similar standards. Or, you may be surprised to find s/he has only a few of the standards you are looking for. Important to remember is that each quality your partner did not possess could be a possible source of conflict, either now or later. You will need to determine if you are willing to sacrifice any of your standards for the sake of staying in the relationship.

**Communication:** If we want to be heard, being a good listener is vital. This means listening without interruption. After all, the reason for communication is to get to know and understand the thoughts, feelings, attitudes, and beliefs of your special person.

To create emotional intimacy, practice being vulnerable in your relationship by sharing deeper insights about yourself when it is safe to do so. This is the stay-

ing power in long lasting relationships.

**Spirituality:** For couples who have a spiritual/religious ideology, setting aside time to share in those beliefs is a way to enhance and build on that spiritual connectedness with the Higher Power of your understanding, the universe, and each other.

**Resolving Conflict:** When faced with conflict in a relationship it is important to not only identify the cause of the conflict (partner not coming home when expected) but also the underlying feelings ("I felt scared and neglected when you didn't call me"). Anger is often a feeling used to hide deeper feelings. Take the time to look inside and get to the real feelings and then share them appropriately. Try to focus on only one issue at a time. Bringing up several problems at once is non productive and the original issue may never be fully addressed. In addition, it is important to validate the feelings of your partner ("I can understand how you must feel very stressed at school"). The use of "I" statements when presenting your side will go far in reducing conflict. The typical use of "You" statements places the listener in a defensive position and the likelihood of continued listening will decrease, or could even escalate the conflict. Setting aside time to discuss the issue in a setting where there are no distractions is desirable. Avoid name calling and cursing as this tends to only escalate an already heated situation and will do little to resolve the issue. Remember, fight fair! The goal is to resolve the conflict and enhance the relationship, not to win the battle.

It is important to note that it is not appropriate at any time to use physical aggression. If you find yourself in a relationship that has escalated to the use of physical force or emotional abuse, seek assistance from a trusted friend, your clergyman, a counselor, or through resources on campus such as the Wellness Center or the Counseling Center.

The relationship tools mentioned will go far in achieving a worthwhile emotionally intimate relationship full of rich experiences and memories.

For additional help in dealing with relationship issues, please contact the Wellness Center located in Kesar Hall 215 A Kesar Hall (on Greek Row), at 536-4441.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

“Love looks not with the eyes, but with the mind; And therefore is winged Cupid painted blind.”

William Shakespeare

WORDS OVERHEARD

“I want people to see the war from a Turkish view, not the American view that shows it to make people feel better in the United States. The real stuff is very brutal. It's like fireworks on TV.”

Burqa Akh'tan commenting on the difference between war coverage in Turkey and the United States

COLUMNISTS

# Lawlessness in the Illinois Senate

**John O. Jones,**  
state senator, 54<sup>th</sup> district

When players cheat in basketball, they are called for a foul. When players make illegal hits in hockey, they are put in the penalty box. In football, an infraction of the rules results in a loss of yards.

In the Illinois Senate, though, there are apparently no repercussions for breaking the rules. Instead, the rules are merely changed to accommodate the whims of the majority party. It was not exactly front-page news and there certainly was no public outcry to restore law and order to the Illinois Senate. But that does not negate the seriousness of what happened last week.

As the Senate considered bill after bill on the Senate floor, the Senate Democrat leadership made the decision to approve 247 legislative proposals on one roll call vote. They did not allow for questions to be asked on the intent behind the legislation. They did not

## The rule of law was violated in the Illinois Senate.

allow for members to even vote on the bills separately. Instead, they asked all of us to vote on the bills with one vote.

The bills addressed topics ranging from airports to wineries. The

legislative proposals lacked specific language, but they were introduced for specific purposes — purposes the sponsors never had an opportunity to explain. The actions taken last week were in direct violation of the Senate Rules. Senate Rule 7-14 states, "If the question in debate contains several points, any Senator may have the same divided."

Now, I am not a lawyer, but this seems pretty clear to me: If there is a question before the Senate with many points, any Senator can divide the question. Well, there was a question before the Senate with 247 parts and one Senator asked to divide the question and

consider each piece of legislation individually. But this request was ignored and one vote was taken for all 247 pieces of legislation.

On the surface, this appears as nothing more than an inconsequential procedural issue. After all, the votes were there for the legislation to pass regardless of how the vote was taken. Even if each of the 247 proposals were individually considered, they would have all passed.

But hidden in this procedural battle between Democrats and Republicans is a violation of a basic principle of representative government. Each Senator in the Illinois Senate represents a little more than 200,000 people. Those citizens send their Senator to Springfield to be their voice. The citizens of this state expect their Senators to be given an opportunity to voice opposition or support for a particular piece of legislation.

Denying a Senator the chance to speak on a bill and debate it properly essentially silences the only voice in the Illinois Senate that people living in that legislative district have. It does not matter if the outcome of legislation is a foregone conclusion. What matters is that the individuals elected to represent 210,000 Illinois residents have an opportunity to do their duty on behalf of their constituents.

The rule of law was violated in the Illinois Senate. The majority party broke their own rules and silenced the voice of thousands of Illinois residents for the sake of saving time. It seems like a small thing, but how can we expect the people of this state to respect and obey the laws the Senate approves when this chamber cannot even follow its own rules?

We expect athletes to follow the rules. We teach our children to follow the rules. It is not asking too much to expect the leaders of the Illinois Senate to also follow the rules. La wlessness of any kind is not acceptable in a country governed by the rule of law.

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

# Movies can be smart



## Fekless Pondering

BY ABIGAIL WHEETLEY  
godiva42200@yahoo.com

I love going to the movies; I love having my ticket torn, eating the popcorn and enjoying the shared experience, in the dark, watching something so beautiful and elaborate. I saw two movies this past week: Having been on a junk movie binge lately, craving formula romances and comedies that seem to almost make fun of themselves, I drove over to the Varsity and saw *View From The Top*, the mischievously titled comedy starring nearly perfect Owen Paltrow as a nearly perfect flight attendant. It was more than a little awkward seeing this movie as I was the only person in the theater and it was only reason that they had to run the film at all. It was shown in the upstairs theatre and the projectionist had to actually walk past where I was sitting alone to get to the projection room.

He really shouldn't have bothered. I sat through an hour and a half of Gwyneth patiently and valiantly striving through all sorts of odds and barriers to fulfill her dream of being a flight attendant, only to have her give it up in the last five minutes for love and instead becoming (spoiler warning) a pilot.

I went out of town the next day and took advantage of my freedom and went to see *Adaptation* with Nicholas Cage playing twin brothers. I left feeling delighted. No, it wasn't a feel-good movie, but my brain felt better. It wasn't an easy movie to watch; there weren't a lot of bright and shiny things to hold my attention, or any formula to help me find my way. It was a novel in film and it felt so good to be able to give my trust to a movie, and not be disappointed.

America is too often happy with an entertainment diet of candy bars and cotton candy. At the very least I need a torte or soufflé; I think we all do. Being entertained should not mean being visually condescended to for two hours. Too many

times I can tell that a film could have been wonderful if the film makers and the producers had just trusted the intellect of the film goes a little more. I don't need to see sweeping epics or heart wrenching dramas to feel fulfilled. I just need to be respected enough for the film to be a piece of work, not a manufactured good.

I may sound like a snob; but believe me I want to see good bad movies as much as the next person. I went and saw *How to Lose a Guy in Ten Days* with the expectation of being mildly amused and passively entertained and it could not even deliver that much. That movie, like so many others, has been designed for the preview, and once they have your money the pad the plot with filler that is less believable than it is interesting. The current movie trend is a waste of time for the actors, writers, directors and most of all the audiences. Collectively it is lowering the expectations of audiences and contributing to shorter attention spans and greater tolerance for stupidity in plots. Let's all expect more, and see less. I intend to spend a little more time in the classic section of my local video store than in line at the movies until things improve.

*Fekless Pondering appears every other Friday. Abigail is a sophomore in English. Her views do not necessarily reflect those of the DAILY EGYPTIAN.*

# LETTERS

## Child's view of war different from Faner chalk

DEAR EDITOR:

My name is Kodee and I am almost 8. My dad is in Iraq and I miss him. Since three years ago my dad is all I have. But now he's gone to war and he might not come home ever. But he promised me he would. I am proud my dad is a soldier, but I wish he could stay home and be a soldier like he used to. I don't understand really why we have to have a war, but my dad said there are two really bad guys that could hurt us and soldiers have to go protect us. That makes me proud of him.

I live with my dad's best friend and he takes me with him to school sometimes. It's a lot of fun. But where we go — I think the building is called Faner — there is a bunch of writing on the ground about war. It's not the good kind. But first of all they should use paper because they are going to get in trouble if gnupnops see that. I know firsthand about that. But besides that, the words aren't the good kind. They say stuff like "no war" and people who support the war are bad people. And one day there were a bunch of people yelling at your school that the war was bad and that the military was bad and mean. Well, my dad isn't a bad guy and he isn't mean. He's a good guy. Sometimes, he looks scary when he paints his face all green, but he's not mean. My dad told me when he left that people have different opinions about soldiers and the war, but to hold my head up high and to always remember

that being a soldier is one of the greatest honors ever bestowed on him. He said he could have been a garbage man or a doctor but he chose being a soldier because he could help everybody, not just a few people.

Even though I know people can have different opinions, sometimes they don't make me feel very good. Especially the ones who say mean stuff. Those people think they can say anything they want to and nobody will get their feelings hurt. But that's not true. There were a lot of people saying a lot of stuff that was mean and it made my head hurt. We didn't even get to stay for class because what they said made me cry.

See, on base you don't hear bad stuff about soldiers. And I think that if people knew that when moms and dads have to leave for duty, kids have to live other places like here, then they might not be so mean. Or maybe if they would think about how soldiers are moms and dads and not just people who are mean, then maybe they might not be so quick to say bad things about them. Matt, the guy I live with, said that people are against the war because they think that soldiers should stay home and not get killed.

Well, my dad promised me he would not get killed and he has done his job long enough that he knows what to do. But nobody wants soldiers to get killed, but they still have to be supported. I guess what I want to say to end my letter is that my dad doesn't want any more towers to fall and people to get killed. He wants people to not be scared to ride in airplanes or kids to be scared about moms and dads going to work in New York. I hope my dad and the other soldiers accomplish their mission so

that people can be safe.

Kodee  
Cortlandt

## USG helps SIUC with positive actions

DEAR EDITOR:

In Wednesday's issue, Paul Ray attacked USG on several issues. USG has done a lot this year, and will continue to do more for students and I would like to defend ourselves against this negative attack. USG registered 800 students to vote and the results of that work were clearly seen in the city elections this week. USG has organized trips to Springfield where students discussed education issues with their representatives and won some very strong supporters in the Legislature.

The state is now considering a bill to limit tuition hikes at Illinois colleges and we feel that our work influenced this decision. USG also worked year against the current tuition hikes and organized a letter-writing campaign that garnered more than 1,000 student participants. We have continued to voice our opposition to more increases while working constructively with the Administration on more efficient spending at this University.

USG spent less than half of the Administration from two years ago and has proposed a budget to spend even less next year, which means \$40,000 more for student events. USG has won conces-

sions from the Administration on spending student money on Administrative salaries and will no longer pay for the USG advisor — another \$12,500 for events next year. We also developed a funding system that is consistent and fair without catering to special interests. This has allowed a more equitable distribution of the fee money and more diversity in student activities.

While USG did not lead any protests, some USG members were part of the 100 students picketing to support resumed negotiations because we were concerned about the educational mission of SIU. We were happy to see that within 24 hours of the student picket, the faculty and administration were back at the table. The non-violent resolution for Iraqi disarmament resolution was pushed for by many students outside of USG and is an issue that has directly affected 93 SIU students that have been called to duty. This is also the reason we chose to pass a resolution supporting the troops that are fighting for this country.

I wish I had space to give you dozens of other examples of what USG has done for students in the last two years and what we will continue to do. I'm just worried that the slanders actions of this student are attempting to downplay the strength and influence of the student body at SIU that USG has worked so hard to empower. I hope that Paul will stop negative campaign tactics and be more constructive for the students and a healthy USG election.

Neal Young,  
vice president, USG

# 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 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.

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# Illness or Plague

STORY BY SAMANTHA ROBINSON  
GRAPHIC BY RANDY WILLIAMS

As of April 3, a total of 2,223 cases of Sudden Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) have been reported with 78 resulting in death.

The majority of cases have been in China and Hong Kong, but there have been 88 reported in the United States with no deaths.

This mysterious illness has been found in people who have traveled overseas. There have been few cases in the United States, but it is feared the numbers will rise and eventually result in death.

The five people in Illinois reported to have the illness are between the ages of 33 to 84.

According to Kim Pyatt, administrative nurse at Student Health Services, not many students have been calling with concern of being infected with the mysterious illness and attributes it to the notion that there have not been any cases nearby.

"Though there have been five cases in Illinois, none have been in the southern Illinois area," Pyatt said.

Some students said they think about SARS and that it may be more to the illness than just an outbreak making people sick.

Ed Reed, a junior in cinema and photography from Champaign, said he thinks this is connected with the war in some way. He said he has been following the news about the illness and thinks it could possibly be some type of chemical released in the air.

"This is a shame for China and other countries that have been affected," Reed said. "We're battling it, just not on the same level as them, but it's going to eventually shock us as well."

He said if it gets here he thinks it will be a terrible situation that he hopes we will be ready to handle on a massive level.

## Signs and symptoms

The symptoms of SARS are so common that it is hard to tell if someone actually has the illness or if they are just suffering from cold or the flu.

Much like the common cold, SARS has signs and symptoms such as high fever, chills, headache, heavy coughing, difficulty breathing and shortness of breath or X-rays that suggest pneumonia.

After being exposed to the illness for several days, the cough may become a dry, hacking cough, producing nothing from inside the lungs.

Signs and symptoms normally do not appear until the person has been exposed for seven to 10 days. The fever is usually the first sign to appear.

## Spread of SARS

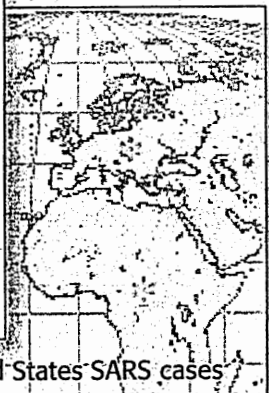
Jenry Bell, a sophomore in early childhood education from Atlanta, Ill., said she had not heard much about the illness until her roommate, who works at the hospital, was worried that she may have caught it from a woman who went to the hospital in fear that she was infected.

"I didn't really know what it was, but after she told me what happened, I knew a little more about it," Bell said.

In China and Hong Kong, it has been

## Worldwide reported SARS cases

Country	Cases	Deaths
Canada	58	6
China	1190	50
Hong Kong	708	16
Singapore	95	4
United States	88	0
Australia	1	0
Belgium	1	0
Taiwan	13	0
France	1	0
Germany	5	0
Italy	3	0
Ireland	2	0
Romania	3	0
Spain	1	0
Switzerland	2	0
Thailand	7	2
U. K.	3	0
Viet Nam	58	4
Total	2223	82



## United States SARS cases

State	Cases	State	Cases
California	19	Missouri	2
New York	13	N.C.	2
Illinois	5	Vermont	2
Hawaii	4	Alaska	1
Mass.	4	Georgia	1
Utah	4	Kansas	1
Wash.	4	Miss.	1
Va.	3	N.H.	1
Mich.	3	New Jersey	1
Minn.	3	New Mexico	1
Pa.	3	Ohio	1
Texas	3	R.I.	1
Conn.	2	Wis.	1
Maine	2		

**Sudden Acute Respiratory Syndrome** has been reported worldwide with a majority of deaths around China. However, there has not been any deaths that have occurred in the United States.

reported infections have been transmitted through persons living in the same household and health care workers who have treated patients with the illness.

According to the Center for Disease Control, SARS is reportedly spread through the air. If someone infected coughs or sneezes, droplets are released and someone else breathes them in. It is believed, but not proven that a microbe called coronavirus causes the illness, but scientist have not been able to officially identify the cause.

Also, it can be transmitted through objects that have been contaminated.

At this time, it is not known how many of the infections have spread in the United States but some cases have been linked to international travel.

Reed, said he worries about how the illness first appeared and eventually spread. He said that this reminds him of the super flu from Stephen King's "The Stand"

"The reports I've heard makes me think it was chemically generated because nothing just pops up," Reed said. "This thing is serious if a cold or flu can kill you, it's bigger than anything we can ever comprehend."

## Where it all began

One concrete fact known is where SARS is reported to have originated. According to the Chicago Sun-times, China agreed to allow health investigators into Guangdong—a southern province of China.

The first cases of SARS were reported in November and since then, China has been secretive about the illness. It was not until March 16, that the China Health Ministry reported that the situation was under control and the patients were cured one by one.

But since the first case was reported, there have been new cases nearly every day around the world.

United States (subhead)  
Of the 88 cases, 19 were reported in California, 13 in New York and five in Illinois.

Reportedly, the five people in Illinois all trav-

eled to Hong Kong, Beijing and mainland China and began showing symptoms within 10 days of returning to the U.S.

Four of the patients in Illinois are from suburban Chicago and one is from downtown.

Some students said they were ashamed they did not know it was a problem in the United States and more importantly in Illinois.

"This is crazy, I mean even though the first case was reported last year, it still scares you that this may have something to do with the war because we are just now hearing about it on a full media scale," said a junior in political science from Chicago who refused to give his name.

## Treatment

Since there are so many unknowns about the illness, there is no clear treatment for those who may suffer from SARS.

CDC and the World Health Organization have both posted information on their websites about the illness. As of yet, there is no specific cure, but because the symptoms are cold and flu-like, treatments include antibiotics normally used to treat bacteria common with pneumonia.

"It's terrible they are telling us there is no cure for this," Bell said. "Whatever is going on with it, they should be telling us everything they know and why there is no cure."

As of yesterday, the death toll had not risen, but the deaths that have occurred since November were believed to be because the patients were older and some were exposed to the symptoms for a long period of time without any type of antibiotics.

Reed said he thinks this could be possibly man-made, and if it is, whoever would do something like this would have to be crazy and not care about, or value life.

"We are messing with darkness," Reed said. "The worst mankind has ever faced. If we can't find a cure for cancer or AIDS, we are way behind for any new stuff we are facing."

CDC and WHO have issued guidelines on infection control precautions. According to both websites, after health investigators inspect Guangdong, China, more information on the illness and its effects and possible treatment will be released.

"The whole situation is scary," Bell said. "Just about as scary as the West Nile Virus."

Reporter Samantha Robinson can be reached at srobinson@dailyegyptian.com

# Official vote count today

Flanagan eligible to contest count, county clerk says

Sara Hooker  
Daily Egyptian

City Councilwoman Maggie Flanagan has until April 11 to contest her 21-vote loss Tuesday in her run for mayor, according to Jackson County Clerk and Recorder Larry Reinhardt.

Reinhardt said a petition for discovery could be filed as soon as the official vote canvassing is completed. It takes place today at 10:30 a.m. at the Civic Center and is open to the public.

If requested, the discovery process would examine up to 25 percent of the precincts, or 6 precincts of Flanagan's choice. Among the aspects that could be examined are particular problems

within the precincts, ballots and voting devices and their operation and layout. The candidates can be present.

Flanagan did not return the Daily Egyptian's phone calls Wednesday.

Reinhardt said Flanagan can always ask for an entire recount, but he typically discourages candidates to do so because of cost. In order to rerun the ballots, the county has to call the company back in to operate the machine. In addition, the preliminary tests must be performed again, with the entire process costing about \$2,000.

He said the ballots could be recounted, more accurately and more thoroughly by hand.

In order to file for discovery, the unsuccessful candidate must be within 5 percent of the votes of the winner. Flanagan received 1,753 votes and winner Brad Cole accumulated 1,774, about a 1.2 percent differential.

Reinhardt said repairs were made

on some of the devices at various precincts Tuesday, but repairs are not uncommon on Election Day.

"That's not something that would ever hold water in a challenge," Reinhardt said. "It's standard that people break the stylus."

He said hopefully repairs will be a thing of the past, as Tuesday's election will probably be the last time Jackson County will see punch cards. He said the county should be transitioning to the paper scan, which will save time and money.

"It's tremendously more convenient for voters and election judges," Reinhardt said.

Reinhardt said the Federal Help America Vote Act inspired the conversion and that the federal government might be picking up the tab. More information will be available this summer.

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

# Teacher says he's victim of anti-Arab bias at Florida Atlantic University

Jennifer Peltz  
South Florida Sun-Sentinel

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. (KRT) — Mohammed Khalid Hamza, an educational technology researcher, saw his star rise steadily in his first five years at Florida Atlantic University.

But his fortunes took a sharp turn last year. After an education-college committee concluded he wasn't on course for tenure, he was told this would be his last year at FAU, according to Florida Commission on Human Relations documents.

Hamza, an advocate for Muslims on campus and in the community, thinks he's a victim of anti-Arab and anti-Muslim bias. So does the human relations commission's executive director, who issued a finding last month supporting Hamza's allegations of employment discrimination.

There is an abundance of evidence that Dr. Hamza's national origin and religion played a major role in the decisions that the university made, commission chief Derick Daniel wrote.

FAU, however, says its reasons for not renewing Hamza's contract are purely academic. University officials would give few details, pointing to state laws protecting professors' academic evaluations. But FAU maintains Hamza had a history of misstatements in his resume and unprofessional conduct in the classroom, according to the human relations commission's report and portions of a university response. Hamza says the supposed misstatements were typographical errors, and the classroom complaints just retaliation toward a tough teacher.

"We vehemently deny that either his religious beliefs or his ethnic origin had any bearing on the decision," said

FAU's chief attorney, Ondina Felipe.

The university is petitioning the commission to reconsider its findings, which are an early step in a state employment-discrimination claim. The commission is charged with evaluating claims of employment, housing and some other forms of discrimination.

The findings, if they stand, would allow Hamza to take his case to civil court or a state administrative hearing. He says he hopes not to have to.

"I'm still hoping that with the new administration of (FAU President Frank) Brogan, that the hardships will come to an end," Hamza said. "I want everything back that was taken away from me unjustly."

Hamza told the human relations commission he was the subject of ethnic slurs and slights among colleagues almost as soon as he arrived at FAU in 1997. He says he differed with colleagues over grading standards. A group of five education professors, he told the commission, determined to get rid of him. Four of the professors could not be reached Monday. The fifth declined to comment.

Hamza brought his concerns to College of Education officials in 2000, and they arranged a meeting that soothed relations for a time.

But tensions flamed again after the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, Hamza says.

"My being outspoken made some people not so happy ... but I'm an immigrant — I believe in American freedom of speech," said Hamza, a naturalized American citizen who was born in Syria and raised in Kuwait. He has lived in the United States for more than 20 years.

An adviser to the FAU Muslim Student Organization and the Islamic

Center of Boca Raton, Hamza also has written about anti-Arab sentiment and Israeli-Palestinian conflict in the South Florida Sun-Sentinel.

Still, according to the commission's findings, Hamza had five years of superb evaluations, enjoying an "excellent" rating in every category each year as he approached the tenure process last year.

The College of Education had recognized his research on educational technology, and students had nominated him for a teaching honor. With a computer-science colleague, he had applied for a patent for designing a system for conducting laboratory experiments online. In 2000, he won one of four university-wide President's Leadership Awards.

In June, a committee of his fellow education-technology faculty narrowly agreed Hamza was on track to apply for tenure last fall, according to the commission findings. Two months later, the education faculty's tenure committee concluded he was not. He was told soon after that his contract would not be renewed, the commission found.

Meanwhile, four white male faculty members were recommended for tenure with far less scrutiny, according to the commission report.

But the university says it developed qualms about Hamza because he had exaggerated his academic accomplishments in applying for university awards, and several students had complained that his course materials were confusing and he was unhelpful, according to commission and FAU documents. Further, the university questioned whether Hamza had offered students extra credit if they would nominate him for an award.

Hamza says the university's claims are not true.

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## SAFETY bound

photos & words by LESTER E. MURRAY

Trent Perkins, junior in electrical engineering and German from Wayne, checks over one of 234 motorcycles owned by the Motorcycle Rider Program. The program is one of several operated throughout the state. Perkins is a certified rider coach. He teaches motorcycle safety at weekend classes that take place every week at the SIUC location and consists of a 24-hour course. The classes are a maximum of 36 people and one instructor per every six students. The motorcycle he is checking out is a Honda 250 Nighthawk. All the motorcycles owned by the program are maintained at the site. The program is funded by grant money and has been for the last 30 years. Eddie Starkey is the assistant coordinator for the program. Anyone interested in taking the program must fill out a mail-in form, which is available at locations such as motorcycle dealerships or the Illinois Department of Motor Vehicles.

# U.S. forces reach Baghdad, take control of airport

Drew Brown, Juan O. Tamayo & Martin Merzer  
Knight Ridder Newspapers

**OUTSIDE BAGHDAD, Iraq (KRT)** — The vanguard of U.S. ground forces dashed to the gates of Baghdad, stormed one of Saddam Hussein's presidential palaces and seized a key objective Thursday night — Saddam International Airport.

The occupation of an airport bearing his name dealt a humiliating symbolic blow to Saddam and could allow U.S. forces to airlift troops, equipment and possibly a new, provisional government directly to the regime's doorstep.

"Gentlemen," Army Capt. John Whyte, 31, of Billerica, Mass., told an infantry company over the radio, "we are now entering Baghdad International Airport, formerly known as Saddam International."

Other U.S. units established a new front line within six miles of the capital, a city of 5 million people that lost much of its electrical power Thursday night for the first time in the war.

Iraqi soldiers offered only modest resistance. Some Iraqi civilians cheered and flashed the thumbs-up sign to advancing American troops.

Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld said U.S. troops "are closer to the center of the Iraqi capital than many American commuters are from their downtown offices."

U.S. special operations troops also controlled the road between Baghdad and Tikrit, Saddam's home town about 100 miles north of the capital, blocking that escape route, though new questions about Saddam's physical condition emerged on Thursday.

A senior U.S. intelligence official said that recent intercepts have picked up no trace of Saddam and no evidence that he is still in charge. The intelligence official said CIA analysts now believe that videotapes of the Iraqi leader broadcast since the war began were made prior to the conflict. The evidence suggests that Baghdad's defense is being run by Defense Minister

Sultan Hashim Akhmed, said the official, who requested anonymity.

"It increasingly seems that Iraq is running out of real soldiers and soon all that will be left will be war criminals," Rumsfeld said. Asked if Saddam could cut a deal now, Rumsfeld said: "There's not a chance."

Firefights erupted along several fronts Thursday, but most were fleeting.

At the airport, just 10 miles southwest of the city center, elements of the U.S. Army's 3rd Infantry Division blasted Iraqi positions with airstrikes and tank fire. Iraqi troops responded with only light weapons and brief bursts of artillery.

The runways initially were believed to be undamaged. A series of loud explosions rocked the area early Friday. The source was not immediately known.

Armored columns passed sweltering Iraqi personnel carriers and foxholes containing the mangled bodies of Iraqi soldiers.

"I don't know what kind of bomb did that, but it sure as hell worked," said 1st Sgt. Michael "Todd" Hibbe, 36, of Boise, Idaho.

As organized Iraqi opposition seemingly wilted in most areas, commanders worried about ambushes and cautioned that heavy combat still could loom if Iraqi soldiers are hiding in cities and towns.

The relatively easy advance of U.S. troops suggested that Iraqi commanders could no longer coordinate the remnants of their forces — or that large numbers of Iraqi soldiers have slipped into Baghdad to conduct urban warfare.

"The tactical situation could be very different from what we suppose, and so, you're just going to have to be ready for lots of things," said Gen. Richard Myers, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

He seemed to rule out trying to conquer Baghdad block by block, saying that U.S. forces would isolate the regime, strengthen ties with the Shiites who make up half the city's population and set up an interim government outside the city.

A senior U.S. official said the U.S. plans to establish a civil administration run by retired Gen. Jay Garner as rapidly as possible and will begin delivering relief supplies almost immediately.

The offensive moved so swiftly Thursday that it left military planners scrambling to keep up. Col. Fred Milburn, chief planner for the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force, said his staff was still working on a contingency plan to invade the city.

Asked if the plan had a name, Milburn said: "Just 'The Attack on Baghdad.'"

U.S. commanders refused to say whether they would immediately press the advance and attempt to penetrate closer to the core of Saddam's power or wait for any remaining resistance to collapse.

But Marine and Army officers said they received orders giving them eventual responsibility for specific sections of Baghdad.

"A vise is closing and the days of a brutal regime are coming to an end," President Bush told Marines and their families at Camp Lejeune in North Carolina. "Our destination is Baghdad and we will accept nothing less than complete and final victory."

U.S. commanders said one U.S. soldier was killed Thursday and an unannounced number were wounded or missing in two possible friendly fire incidents.

Officers said they were investigating the possibility that a U.S. Patriot missile mistakenly brought down a U.S. Navy F/A-18C Hornet, triggering a search for the pilot, and that an Air Force F-15E Strike Eagle warplane mistakenly fired on U.S. ground forces.

They also confirmed that six were killed and four injured in the crash late Wednesday of a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter that might have been caused by mechanical trouble.

The incidents raised the U.S. death toll to at least 52, with many others wounded.

For the first time since the war began more than two weeks ago, power outages cascaded through much of the capital. Myers said allied

forces had "not targeted the power grid in Baghdad," raising the possibility that Iraqis blacked out the city, perhaps to make invasion more difficult or to prevent news from the capital from reaching other parts of Iraq where fighting continues.

U.S. advances also were reported in northern Iraq, where a small force of U.S. special operations soldiers linked up with hundreds of anti-Saddam Kurdish guerrillas. In Najaf, a key Shiite Muslim holy site in central Iraq, U.S. troops moved into the city center after a top local Shiite leader issued an edict urging citizens not to interfere.

U.S. special forces raided a presidential palace near Lake Tharthar, about 55 miles north of Baghdad, after setting down in a helicopter under cover of darkness, officials said.

U.S. Brig. Gen. Vincent Brooks called it "a known residence used by Saddam Hussein and his sons." Analysts said it served as a recreational retreat for Iraqi leaders.

No regime leaders were captured there, Brooks said, but valuable intelligence documents were seized.

Other commandos, in some cases joined by conventional forces, raided three headquarters buildings of Saddam's Baath Party and captured Iraqi command posts and other strategic facilities, officials said.

To the east, where 20,000 Marines surged toward Baghdad, Cobra helicopter gunships raked apparent Republican Guard positions with rocket and machine gun fire for two hours. Then, they halted for 30 minutes while Marines with loudspeakers urged enemy soldiers to surrender. Few did.

"There may not be enough to surrender," Marine Col. Larry Brown said. "They may have already run."

Still, the absence thus far of organized resistance remained a concern.

"I don't know if that's a good thing or not because sooner or later we have to run into this dude's army somewhere," said Whyte, a company commander in the Army's 3rd Infantry Division.

## LETTERS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

number.

Pommier said she hasn't heard the specifics, but welcomes any efforts that may lead to fewer layoffs.

"That would be very good news," she said. "If they don't need as much, of course nobody's going to be disappointed."

If the administration desires, it could still send out 30-day layoff notices to employees, and then retract them if SIUC's budget outlook improves, Pommier said.

Glenn Poshard, vice chancellor for Administration, declined to comment on any hints from Springfield that the budget cuts will be less severe.

"Whatever the governor's office put out, they embargoed, so we're not at liberty to discuss that," he said. "We're still waiting on the official word from Springfield. Once we have that we will be turning in recommendations to the chancellor."

But Pommier also noted that the Illinois Education Association, which represents ACSE, is a powerful lobby group in Springfield that's working hard to protect workers from potential layoffs.

And although she hadn't heard word from legislators of lighter cut-backs, Pommier said there is hope.

"There is some sense that the governor is softening on this," she said.

Jim Clark, an IEA representative for ACSE, said lobbyists in Springfield are working behind-the-

scenes to make their case and push for less severe measures.

"They do their work quietly," Clark said. "We spent the last 48 hours letting our lobbyists know how much we are affected. That message is just in the process of working through the pipeline."

And although Clark acknowledged that the state budget deficit needs to be fixed, he said it's not fair for Civil Service employees to bear the brunt of the burden.

The impact of the 8-percent figure, if implemented, is that it would come from the entire year's budget but only applied to the remaining months of the fiscal period, which ends June 30.

If indeed an 8 percent cut takes place, it would be the equivalent of a 32-percent reduction.

"If the governor would ask me, I would say it's too late in the year, let's deal with next year's budget," Clark said.

Although the reductions could very well affect office and clerical workers represented by ACSE, Pommier doesn't think that's what Blagojevich wants.

"I don't believe the governor's interested in balancing the budget on the backs of the most low-paid employees," she said.

Reporter Katie Davis contributed to this report.

Reporter Ben Botkin can be reached at bbotkin@dailyegyptian.com

# Bush visits Camp Lejeune, shares burdens of war with families

Ron Hutcheson  
Knight Ridder Newspapers

**CAMP LEJEUNE, N.C. (KRT)** — Linda Romasco limits her intake of news from Iraq to late at night or early in the morning, to avoid scaring her children. Jennifer O'Brien says she watches "almost until it hurts," even though it leaves her unable to sleep at night.

Both women were in the crowd Thursday when President Bush came to North Carolina to share the burdens of war with some of the people who feel them most directly.

Few communities have as much personal stake in Operation Iraqi Freedom as the neighborhoods clustered around Camp Lejeune, a 246-square-mile installation that has sent about 20,000 Marines to the battlefield.

"Everybody in my neighborhood is deployed, just about. It's just all women and children," Romasco said, cradling a newborn daughter whom her husband has seen only in e-mailed photographs. "All the families are in the same boat."

At least a dozen Camp Lejeune Marines have died in the war with Iraq. About a half-dozen more are

missing. Bush assured their loved ones that their sacrifices will not be in vain.

"These missions are difficult and they are dangerous, but no one becomes a Marine because it's easy," Bush said to applause. "Marines are in the thick of the battle. Having traveled hundreds of miles, we will now go the last 200 yards. We're on the advance. Our destination is Baghdad, and we will accept nothing less than complete and total victory."

But the cheers that the president's visit generated were tinged with tears for those who will come home in caskets. After his speech to more than 12,000 Marines, family members and supporters, Bush met privately with about 20 relatives of five Marines who have died in the war. Many wore lapel-pin pictures of the dead Marines.

The 35-minute session was "teary" and Bush himself was "teary-eyed," according to a senior administration official who briefed reporters afterward on the condition of anonymity. The families included several small children, including 6-week-old twin girls and a 2-week-old baby. "These were young Marines," the official

said.

Bush tried to comfort the grieving family members with comments including "you're an inspiration," "a tower of strength," "he's in heaven," "God bless you all," "the world will be more peaceful" and "I'm proud of you."

Among comments from family members to the president: "He loved being a Marine," "he loved his country" and "he was proud to serve," the official said.

Asked how Bush handles such situations, increasingly common since the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, the official said the president "doesn't relish it" but realizes it is the job of the commander-in-chief to "lead the nation in joy and sorrow. ... You never get used to consoling someone who just lost their son."

Bush, who traveled to the base with his wife, Laura, assured the families that the nation shares their pride, as well as their grief when a loved one dies.

"Camp Lejeune has lost some good Marines. Every person who dies in the line of duty leaves a family that grieves," he said in his speech. "No one who falls will be forgotten by this grateful nation."

## LAYOFFS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

down to the next level and take that classification and salary. That person, in turn, may go down, and it dominoes until an open position is filled or there are no lower classifications, in which case, someone is laid off.

One COLA employee, who wished to remain anonymous, said she was bumped out of her position and intends to go down the line, though she doesn't want anyone else to lose their job either.

"It's either that, or I'm out of a job," the source said. "I don't want to do it, but I don't have a choice."

More layoffs are expected after the governor announces the budget April 9.

"We ask the patience of the campus," Wendler said. "I know how hard this is for people and if I had answers to give, I would. I know there are a lot of rumors flying around, but all I can do is beg for patience and let everyone know we're sensitive to people's jobs."

Ruth Pommier, president of the Association of Civil Service Employees at SIUC, said she was told to expect as many as 100 layoffs in a single portion of her bargaining unit of 525.

Wendler said that he does not expect numbers to be that high, but admits there could be several lay-offs.

"As soon as we get the clarity to reveal what needs to be done, we will," he said. "But right now, there is no

clarity."

The SIUC campus employs nearly 2,000 civil service employees, about 25 percent of which operate under unions other than ACSE. More than 750 are not represented at all.

It is unclear whether or not the employees were union members or represented in a bargaining unit, but Pommier said they were not ACSE employees.

Pommier said she expects most layoffs for ACSE-represented employees to be confined mainly to Academic Affairs, office systems specialists, office systems assistants and Administration.

"There is a great deal of fear and worry of course for the civil service employees," she said. "Many of our employees are older females who returned to the workforce as the primary breadwinner. The average salary is between \$10 and \$12 [per hour]. Many still have mortgages and car payments and their take home salary may only be \$1,000 a month, clear and free."

Vice Chancellor for Administration Glenn Poshard said that he expects most of the layoffs to come from the Physical Plant, which houses the most employees in his department, but no one is absolutely safe.

"The affects go all across the division," he said. "We won't have a unit not affected in one way or another."

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

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# European nations want major role in post-war Iraq

Warren P. Strobel  
Knight Ridder Newspapers

BRUSSELS (KRT) — The United States and European nations met Thursday for the first time since the start of a war that bitterly divided them and confronted another potentially explosive question: Who should reconstruct and rule post-war Iraq?

European diplomats pressed Secretary of State Colin Powell to give the United Nations a major role in establishing a new government in Baghdad and making other key decisions about the future of the country after Saddam Hussein is gone.

But that view is at odds with the Bush administration's Washington, while not ruling out a place for the United Nations, is drawing up plans to oversee Iraq's reconstruction and install an interim Iraqi government.

"I think the coalition has to play the leading role in determining the way forward. That is not to say we will shut others out," Powell said after a hectic day of meetings with colleagues at North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) headquarters.

Powell said it was time to move beyond the "heated disagreements,

serious disagreements" over the U.S. decision to go to war "and align ourselves again, with the need to see the Iraqi people."

His European counterparts agreed, but did not back off their view that the United Nations, which Washington abandoned in its decision to invade Iraq, must be returned to center stage.

France and other European powers, where opposition to the war reflected public opinion, say they will not be able to get domestic backing for reconstruction aid or peacekeeping troops unless the United Nations controls the process.

"If he (Powell) wasn't before, he's very much aware now of the importance that the European Union attaches to a U.N. role," said Christopher Patter, the EU's external affairs commissioner.

Still, Powell's hastily arranged visit here seemed to heal, at least a little, the breach in trans-Atlantic relations caused by the war.

Numerous foreign ministers praised the secretary's decision to come and listen to their views, calling it an example of consultation that the Bush administration has too frequently skipped in the past.

"Today's discussions were characterized by a complete lack

of acrimony," said Lord George Robertson, secretary-general of the 19-nation NATO alliance.

When a reporter suggested Robertson was perhaps too optimistic, the NATO chief replied: "I'm always optimistic, but I'm not stupid."

The picture is further clouded by a raging battle in Washington over post-war Iraq.

Aides to Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld would like symbolic blessing from the United Nations for their plans to install a new Iraqi government, but little else. Some Pentagon officials are pushing a plan to appoint a new administration dominated by Iraqi exiles and members of the Iraqi National Congress, led by controversial figure Ahmed Chalabi.

State Department and CIA officials say the new government must be made of Iraqis who have remained in the country as well as the exiled opposition. And Powell sees a U.N. role that is more than symbolic.

Powell said the nature of that role will still under discussion.

"We can't base European policy on criticizing the U.S. But we also can't base European policy on persuading the Pentagon," said EU official Patter.

The discussions Thursday dwelt mostly on generalities, with the potentially contentious details of a post-war plan put off for later, the diplomats and officials said.

Powell said he told his colleagues that in the initial period after the fighting stops, coalition military commanders would be responsible for stabilizing the security situation, eliminating weapons of mass destruction and disarming remnants of the Iraqi army that pose a threat.

At the same time, Powell said, the coalition will create an interim Iraqi authority that will be given increasing power as time goes by.

He said he hoped U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan will soon appoint a personal representative for Iraq who will supervise the flow of humanitarian aid and work with the coalition that sent military forces to the Persian Gulf.

Virtually every European nation wants a larger U.N. role than that.

Even British Prime Minister Tony Blair, President Bush's staunchest ally in the war on Iraq, has parted ways with him on the issue.

French Foreign Minister Dominique de Villepin acknowledged that the United States and British forces on the ground in Iraq will have initial responsibility for

what happens in the country. "But beyond that the U.N. will have to intervene," he said.

Still, de Villepin, who led international resistance to a war in Iraq, seemed to be at pains to avoid another dust-up.

"I think we should be very pragmatic," he said.

European diplomats also pressed Powell to rapidly begin mediating peace between Israel and the Palestinians, which they see as an antidote to the anger stirred up in the Arab world by the Iraq campaign.

Bush and Powell have said that a "road map" for peace will be released as soon as the new Palestinian prime minister, Mahmoud Abbas, is confirmed in office.

The road map should not merely be published, but rapidly implemented, the Europeans said.

The diplomats also discussed a possible role for NATO in post-war Iraq, but came to no conclusions.

NATO, too, was fractured by the Iraq war, when France and Germany balked at invoking the alliance's self-defense clause to protect Turkey in case it was attacked by neighboring Iraq.

Said Lord Robertson: "I believe today's meeting shows we are through the worst."

## Iraq temperatures to hit triple digits

Tom Infield  
Knight Ridder Newspapers

WASHINGTON (KRT) — As American troops stand poised for an assault on Baghdad, the season's first spate of 100-degree weather could have an impact on combat operations in central Iraq.

For the first time since last fall, the weather forecast is for triple digits Saturday and maybe Sunday in the areas where tens of thousands of U.S. troops are concentrated.

"That could make life hell for soldiers and Marines cooking in their armored vehicles. But the military predicts no significant slowdown in ground action."

"If you have to get into your (chemical) gear, it is going to be detrimental to combat operations," said Army Lt. Col. Gary Keck, a spokesman at the Pentagon for U.S. Central Command.

"If you have to stay buttoned up in your tank, it is going to affect operations," he said.

"But it is going to have an impact that is significant or makes any difference? In my humble opinion, the

answer is no," he said. "I can tell you that soldiers deal with heat very well."

The troops, who usually need 4 gallons of water a day each for drinking and washing from their helmets, may need 6 to 7 gallons on a 100-degree day. But Keck said tanker trucks, even heavy-lift helicopters, in some cases, were delivering adequate water to the front lines.

Having marched 250 miles into Iraq from Kuwait, U.S. troops so far have encountered daytime weather in the 80s and 90s. The worst obstacle hasn't been heat but a huge sandstorm that slowed down combat for two or three days.

Military analysts suggested over the winter that if the United States and its allies invaded Iraq, it would help to do so before the onset of the nearly continuous 100-degree weather that begins in spring and runs into October.

Todd Miner, a meteorologist who tracks Iraq weather from Pennsylvania State University, said Saturday would bring a burst of unseasonably warm weather to the whole Middle East.

Then overnight, the troops will get some relief, he said. Temperatures

should drop into the 60s in Baghdad, a city of nearly 5 million people. In rural areas, the overnight lows could be in the 50s.

Come Monday and Tuesday, daytime highs should fall back into the 80s and 90s, Miner said.

Official military forecasts are classified.

"We just don't want the adversary to know what we know... It's intelligence, really," said Air Force Lt. Col. Tom Frooninckx, who is in charge of weather forecasting for the combat zone.

Frooninckx, who heads a team of more than 200 forecasters at Shaw Air Force Base in South Carolina, said teams of Air Force weather observers were working in Iraq with Army units. The Marines also have forecasters.

The teams sometimes use weather balloons to get high-altitude wind information. They also take ordinary barometric and temperature readings, then report their findings to Shaw by a secure Internet connection.

Frooninckx said that the better the military could predict the weather, the better it could prepare for it.

## New system to track foreign students does not work correctly

Dena Bunis  
The Orange County Register

WASHINGTON (KRT) — The new federal system for tracking foreign students at the nation's colleges is fraught with computer glitches and other problems that must be corrected for it to be effective, experts told a House panel on Wednesday.

Ever since it was revealed after the 9/11 attacks that several terrorists had at one time entered the United States on student visas, Congress has put pressure on immigration officials to get a system in place to ensure that those here on student visas actually attend classes.

Such a system was mandated by Congress in 1996 but was never implemented. Congress demanded it again in the 2001 Patriot Act.

Now, say officials from the new Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the \$38.6 million program, called SEVIS Student and Exchange Visitor Information System, is operational and should be fully functioning in August when roughly one million students are placed into the system.

Not so fast say college officials who complain they can't get accurate help from those running the system and that it can take a month to correct a simple data entry error.

"The system doesn't work," concluded Rep. Zoe Lofgren, D-San Jose, during Wednesday's hearing of the House immigration subcommittee. Lofgren said she received a seven-page letter from Stanford University outlining the deficiencies of the program.

One of the most glaring glitches seems to be one where confidential student data is inputted into the system on one campus but shows up on printouts at another institution. An outside contractor has been hired to deal

with this data transference problem, immigration officials said.

"This has been a very aggressive timetable," said Johnny Williams, interim director for interior enforcement. By August, more than one million international students will be on SEVIS.

Williams promised the subcommittee that he would go through all the criticisms and report back to them.

At Cal State Fullerton, officials who used to be able to spend much of their time working with foreign students and faculty to enhance their college experience and solve problems, now spend more than half of their time trying to figure out how to deal with the new system, said Bob Erickson, director of international education and exchange.

Sally Peterson, dean of students at University of California, Irvine, said there are 165 different "reportable events" that need to be entered into SEVIS from a foreign student changing a major to changing an address.

Higher education officials say they understand and support the need to better track foreign students. But some students say they are worried about what's happening with this information.

Despite such concerns, foreign student enrollment is up 5 percent at Cal State Fullerton, and went from 1,597 last year to 1,859 this year at UCI.

Beyond the computer glitches, said Glenn Fine, Justice Department Inspector General, is the concern that much of the work for this system has been done by poorly-trained and under-supervised contract employees.

In a report issued last month Fine found for example, that contract investigators sent to schools to make sure they were legitimate were filing incomplete and poor reports.

## False bomb threat rattles UCLA

Mari Nicholson & Charlotte Hsu  
Daily Bruin (U. California-Los Angeles)

LOS ANGELES (U-WIRE) — A bomb scare interrupted morning routines at the University of California-Los Angeles Medical Plaza shortly after 9 a.m. Wednesday, but investigations yielded evidence of marijuana rather than explosives.

An announcement on the PA system instructed people inside the 100, 200 and 300 buildings of the medical plaza to evacuate immediately after instructions given by the building manager, according to university police.

UCPD said a relative of a patient at the medical plaza notified hospital security about a "suspicious package" — a book with all its pages torn out. Hospital security contacted

UCPD, which then contacted the Los Angeles Police Department. UCPD said the LAPD bomb squad arrived on scene, and upon further investigation the hollowed-out book was found to be filled with marijuana.

Yvonne Golomb, a sixth-floor sonographer at the medical plaza, was looking out of her window at about 9:30 a.m. when she noticed irregular activities taking place outside.

"Caution tape was being put up, and no one seemed to know why," Golomb said.

The event was unusual, Golomb said, and she was soon after asked to leave the building.

"We've always only had planned fire drills until now," Golomb said.

The drills appear to have worked well, according to Darnell Harness, also a sixth-floor sonographer.

"It was an orderly evacuation; there was no pushing or shoving,"

Harness said.

Golomb added that her unit had fully evacuated the building five minutes after the request to leave the building aired over the announcement system. Because the medical plaza caters to the needs of outpatients, all were able to leave the building in a timely fashion, Harness said.

Despite the smoothness of the evacuation, he added that there was still frustration as tight schedules were disrupted and crowds were forced to stand on Westwood Boulevard outside the plaza for about 40 minutes.

"Everyone had just gotten to work and settled in," Harness said.

In a typical day, sonographers see patients every 15 minutes, Golomb said, and these patients expect to be treated quickly.

"People were just being sent away and traffic was backed up," Golomb said.

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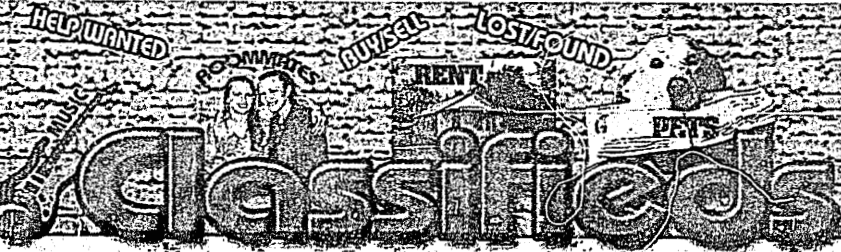
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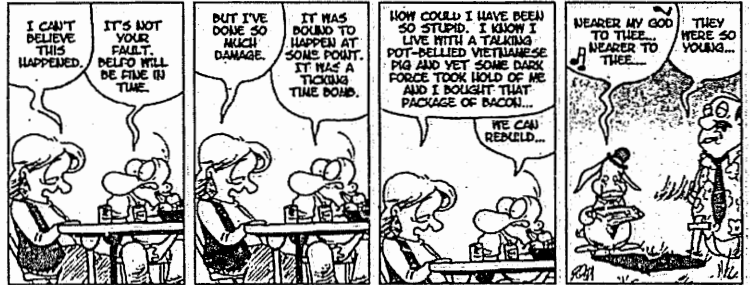
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### BY JAMES KERR



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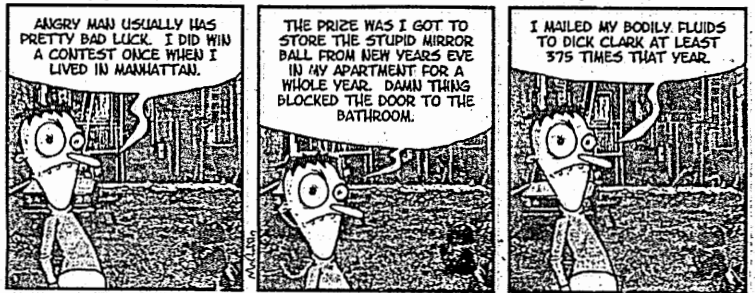
### Dormant Life

### by Shane Pangburn



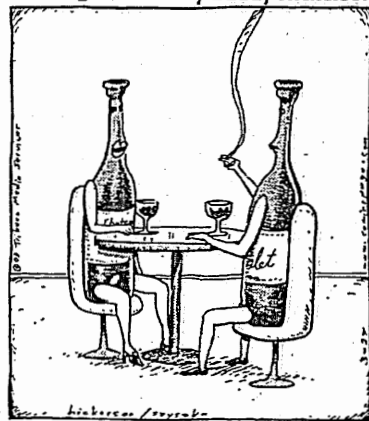
### Little Angry Man

### by Semaj McGuffin



### The Quigmans

### by Buddy Hickerson



"Yeah, I guess I've really mellowed with age."

### Daily Horoscope

#### By Linda C. Black

**Today's Birthday (April 4).** If you're so smart, why aren't you rich? You can be this year if you give it some thought. Work through an old barrier - don't try to avoid it any longer - and achieve abundance.

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

**Aries (March 21-April 19) - Today is an 8 -** That check you've been waiting for could actually be in the mail, and not a moment too soon. Don't spend it all in one place. Plan ahead.

**Taurus (April 20-May 20) - Today is a 7 -** You don't have to overpower your opposition. Just outwait him or her. One who's been resistant is becoming easier to convince.

**Gemini (May 21-June 21) - Today is a 6 -** There's nothing to be gained by hurrying. Move slowly and avoid a big mistake. Think carefully before you speak, too.

**Cancer (June 22-July 22) - Today is a 6 -** Let people know that you expect to be paid handsomely for all your trouble. You've put up with a lot lately. Insist on fair compensation.

**Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) - Today is an 8 -** An anchor you've been dragging is about to be set free. You'll have more energy soon. Meanwhile, don't get impetuous. Be patient.

**Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) - Today is a 7 -** Your imagination is being unleashed. Ideas will soon be abundant. You don't have to act on them all. Start with the ones that look fun.

**Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) - Today is a 7 -** Dig into your hard-earned savings for a household repair or improvement. It's good to patch the roof before the rainy day.

**Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) - Today is a 6 -** Your opinion is important and can help others reach a decision. You'll see something they've missed, so speak up even if you're not asked.

**Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) - Today is a 7 -** If you concentrate and get a difficult job done, you'll be well rewarded. Give up an outgrown fantasy to achieve a realistic goal.

**Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) - Today is a 7 -** Keep your money in your pocket and in the bank. You and your sweetheart feel better knowing it's there. Rather than splurging on a wild night on the town, have a wild night at home.

**Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) - Today is a 6 -** A person who's been dragging his heels could finally get with the program. If you carefully work out what needs to be done, you'll find you have more support.

**Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) - Today is a 7 -** The longer you study the issues, the better your chances of making a wise choice. Don't limit your input. Question everyone.

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**JUMBLE** THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Mike Arghion

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

PAMCH

DUESE

RESNAW

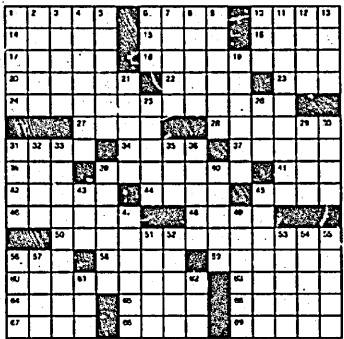
BOYDUL

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_ IN THE \_\_\_\_\_ (Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: MAXIM LEAFY FILLET BEFALL  
Answer: When the mechanic got sick, his boss was LEFT IN A "FIX"

# Crossword

- ACROSS**
- 1 Christmas tune
  - 6 Pronto letters
  - 10 Stibant signal
  - 14 Pope's girl
  - 15 Compaq competitor
  - 16 Marine salutation
  - 17 Rescued
  - 18 Product pitch
  - 20 Develop
  - 22 Side in a contest
  - 23 Maidenname indicator
  - 24 Exchanging letters
  - 27 Bohemian
  - 28 Agitate
  - 31 Twirled
  - 34 Hoople's oath
  - 37 Issai's seaport
  - 38 Actor Linden
  - 39 Like some chairs
  - 41 Dastardly
  - 42 Once more
  - 43 Canine cry
  - 45 Mouth off
  - 46 Signify
  - 48 Mew
  - 50 Posing area
  - 56 Fat farm
  - 58 Continental cash
  - 59 Non-student
  - 60 Dilute
  - 63 Condescend
  - 64 Molecular component
  - 65 First place?
  - 66 Job of the PGA
  - 67 By way of, briefly
  - 68 Bootstraps's cut
  - 69 No longer fresh



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04/04/03

### Solutions

1	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69											
DOWN	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69

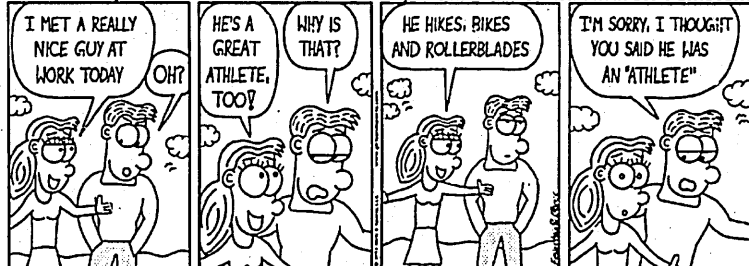
Adam

by J. Tierney



### Girls and Sports

by Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein



### Doonesbury

by Garry Trudeau



### Non Sequitur

by Wiley Miller



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Woe is Me! 4.4.2003

Clay Held - Billy Zane Fan Club President

## Attention! Memories



Hi. My name is Gabo. One day I was at work checking people out. I had to go get change for my register, so I turned off my light. But the people kept getting in my line. So I put out my Lane Closed sign. The people kept getting in my line. So I pulled out my baseball bat and beat them all. I felt a lot better after that I didn't even bother getting change for my register. Every time I got a customer, I just beat them with my bat. I love my job.

by Peter Zale



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**HEAD OF STATE (PG-13) DIGITAL** 4:45 7:15 9:40; Sat/Sun Matinee 2:00  
**DREAMCATCHER (R) DIGITAL** 4:00 7:00 9:55; Sat/Sun Matinee 1:25  
**BRINGING DOWN THE HOUSE (PG-13)** 5:15 7:40 10:05; Sat/Sun Matinee 2:30  
**THE CORE (PG-13) DIGITAL** 4:20 7:45; Sat/Sun Matinee 1:10  
**CHICAGO (PG-13)** 4:30 7:25 10:00; Sat/Sun Matinee 1:45  
**PIGLET'S FUG MOVIE (G)** 5:30 7:30; Sat/Sun Mats 1:00 3:30  
**OLD SCHOOL (R) 9:30 ONLY**  
**THE HUNTED (R) 5:00 7:35 9:50;** Sat/Sun Matinee 2:15

**BASIC (R) 4:30 7:00 9:15;** Sat/Sun Matinee 2:00  
**PHONE BOOTH (R) DIGITAL** 4:45 7:15 9:30; Sat/Sun Matinee 2:15  
**A MAN APART (R) 4:15 6:45 9:00;** Sat/Sun Matinee 1:45

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# Saluki men's tennis is as hot as ever

SIU off to its best start since 1998 with a 3-2 record

Zack Creglow  
Daily Egyptian

The last time the SIU men's tennis team began the season with this torrid of a start, SIU's top player, Peter Bong, was just starting to grow facial hair.

The Salukis carry 3-2 record, which is their best since 1998, into this weekend's doubleheader against Creighton and Drake.

The Dawgs are hosting both games on Saturday at University Courts starting when the Salukis battle Drake (5-9, 1-0) at 10 a.m. and Creighton (4-10, 0-1) at 9 a.m. on Sunday.

"We are playing Creighton and Drake this weekend, and Creighton is going to be weaker than Drake is," said Alon Savidor, SIU's No. 2 player in singles.

"Drake actually poses as a big match up for the Salukis. SIU head coach Missy Jeffrey stated earlier that they are one of the three teams that seemed to be caught in the same logjam, along with the Salukis, in the middle of the Missouri Valley Conference.

"Drake is one of the three teams we

think we need to beat to get into the top three in the conference," Jeffrey said. "Indiana State is kind of sitting at the top of the hill in the MVC and Illinois State, Wichita State and Drake are three of the team we need to beat to get there.

This is a very important match against Drake on Saturday. We are looking forward to it."

Jeffrey insisted that her players understand the magnitude of these games this weekend and will take a no-holds-barred approach to the matches.

Bong offered predictions that would rival the boldness of his Australian accent. Well, he does not necessarily think so, but Drake and Creighton may.

"I reckon we should come pretty close to beating Drake and should get the doubles point on that," Bong said. "I reckon we should beat Creighton pretty easily. No, that is not bold either."

But the Salukis Achilles' heal so far this season seems to be their doubles play. They will have to shore that if they plan to down the Bulldogs.

Bong said the doubles point will be vital against Drake and could be the determining factor as to whether

the Salukis continue their winning ways or slip back into the doldrums of mediocrity.

Jeffrey said that SIU's tough practice schedule in the early part of the spring served as a great tool in shaping and working out the wrinkles — but one more, as Bong said, still rears its ugly head and needs to be ironed out.

"With the doubles we have been doing drills and match play in practice," Jeffrey said. "But we haven't had a lot of practice since the Evansville match (Mar. 22). We practiced very hard earlier in the spring. Now it is just about fine-tuning."

As of right now, though, the team is practically euphoric since going one game over .500. It's something Jeffrey or the players have not seen at SIU

— ever.

"We have won three games in a row," Jeffrey said. "The program is the most confident it has been since I have been trying to turn things around the last three years. We are at a good place right now."

Reporter Zack Creglow can be reached at zcreglow@dailyegyptian.com



SIU's Gian Carlo Remigio returns the ball during the singles match against Evansville earlier this season. The Salukis were defeated by the Aces, 4-3.

## SIU women's tennis hopes to ride momentum

After strong weekend at UT-Martin, Salukis hope the superb play continues

Zack Creglow  
Daily Egyptian

The sun is starting to poke through the seemingly volcanic ash cloud that has haunted the SIU women's tennis during the past year and a half.

The team returned freshman Zuzara Palovic, who was out with a chronic leg injury, last weekend and beat conference foe Evansville 6-1 and host-team Tennessee-Martin 4-3. The wins gave the Salukis (4-10) some much-needed confidence that might enable them to roll over this weekend's foes of Drake, Creighton and Northern Iowa.

Even though two former incumbents in the lineup are still out and

Palovic will more than likely have to battle her injury during her whole career as a Saluki, SIU head coach Judy Auld is starting to have more confidence in the squad she is putting out on the court — enough confidence to string together a win streak, maybe.

"Basically what I told my team was on paper it looks like we can get four out of five wins, including our two last weekend," Auld said.

The players who are currently missing in action are Kari Stark and Tana Trapani. Stark has been shelved with a bulging disc in her back and is scheduled to start hitting balls in the next few weeks. Meanwhile her junior teammate Trapani is now battling a neck injury to go along with the ailing

hip she has been hampered with for the past year. So what kind of teams will SIU have to defeat in order to make Auld's prediction a reality?

"Creighton has been a scrappy team, a hard-fighting team," Auld said. "They are very strong at the top of their lineup, but they don't have the depth. We need to get those points, not just at the top but down below that also."

"Northern Iowa is down this year. Drake is kind of like us, they are 2-9 on the year, but I think it'll be a tough match. They will be the toughest team we face. It could go either direction."

The Bluejays of Creighton are currently 2-11 overall and 1-2 in the Missouri Valley Conference, while Northern Iowa has played a limited number of games and is 1-3, 0-2 on the year. As Auld stated, Drake is 2-9 but holds a 2-1 record in the MVC.

But the recent dramatic improve-

ment of last season's recruiting class will heighten the Salukis' chances.

"Maria [Blanco], Zoya [Honarmand] and Jessica [Knitter] have just really stepped up their games," Auld said. "Sophie [Tedard] has been somewhat held back because of an elbow problem. But she has improved a lot too with her unexpected playing time."

Auld also said much depends on whether the Salukis get the doubles point in their matches against Drake, Creighton and Northern Iowa.

She said that the team has struggled with getting the point, but that also has a lot to do with the injuries that have plagued the squad.

"We have to improve our doubles," Auld said. "There is no consistency there. I hope we can get that worked out. We also need to get the [singles] Nos. 4, 5, 6 games."

The final hurdle to pull off the task

Auld set at hand will be the van job from driving. As one can see, driving to Omaha, Neb., then to Des Moines, Iowa and finally to Cedar Falls, Iowa, is not a fun trip to make.

"This is a long trip, it is rough. The players will just sleep," Auld said.

And if they make the hurdle, it will help immensely.

"I think pulling out four of our last five wins would help our confidence even more," Auld said. "We have been just playing a very, very good schedule. We have played three nationally ranked teams in the span of three weeks. What we do starting last weekend and on is what is critical to us. Winning is always on my mind, I wouldn't be in this profession if it wasn't. Now is the time to capitalize."

Reporter Zack Creglow can be reached at zcreglow@dailyegyptian.com

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### SPORTS ELASH

#### SIU track and field heading to Cardinal Challenge

The SIU men's and women's track and field teams will flock to the Cardinal Challenge Saturday hosted by the University of Louisville.

Field events will begin at 9:30 a.m. CST with the women's hammer throw. Running events commence at noon with the men's 3000m steeplechase.

Along with Louisville, SIU will compete against Cincinnati, Eastern Kentucky, Marquette and Western Kentucky. In the small field meet, only two competitors per team will be allowed to score.

#### Dunbar named MVC athlete of the week

The SIU women's track and field standout Kurto Dunbar has been named as the Missouri Valley Conference female track athlete of the week. It is her first athletic of the week honor this year.

The junior ran under the NCAA regional qualifying standard in the 100m-hurdles her first time out this outdoor season as the Salukis hosted the Spring Classic March 29. Dunbar broke the 14.0 barrier for the first time in her career clocking a 13.84. To add to her first place finish in the hurdles, Dunbar also took second in the 200-meters (25.32) and third in the 100-meters (12.31).

#### MVC baseball action

Wichita State currently holds the top record in the Missouri Valley Conference with an unblemished 4-0 record. The Shockers will take on Northern Iowa at Cedar Falls, Iowa Friday, Saturday at 2 p.m. and are scheduled to take on the Panthers again on Sunday at 1 p.m.

Indiana State currently has the top overall record at 18-5 and 6-2 in the MVC. The Sycamores will be playing host to Lipscomb in a four-game series.

Other league action includes Bradley at Southwest Missouri State in Springfield, Mo., for a four-game set.

Rounding out the weekend slate are Creighton and Evansville, which will battle for four games in Evansville, Ind.

#### MVC softball action

The Illinois State softball team is sitting atop the Missouri Valley Conference with an amazing 11-0 league mark. The Redbirds will try to keep up their momentum when they play host to Bradley this weekend in a three-game series.

Creighton will be taking on the Evansville Purple Aces this weekend in Evansville, Ind. in a three-game set.

The Wichita State Shockers will be playing host to the Indiana State Sycamores this weekend in a three-game series in Wichita, Kan.

Rounding out league play are Northern Iowa and Southwest Missouri State, which will be doing battle in a three-game series in Springfield, Mo., this weekend.

# NCAA Final Four teams at a glance

## Knight Ridder Newspapers (KRI)

*Marquette vs. Kansas*  
6:07 p.m. EST, Saturday

### Marquette (27-5)

Coach: Tom Crean

How the Golden Eagles got to New Orleans: Defeated No. 14 seed Holy Cross 72-68 in the first round; defeated No. 6 seed Missouri 101-92 (OT) in the second round; defeated No. 2 seed Pittsburgh 77-74 in the regional semifinal; defeated top-seeded Kentucky 83-69 in the regional final.

Why they got there: After bowing out in the first round the last two seasons, coach Tom Crean introduced, Destination: New Orleans. He had all his players sign an enlarged photograph of the Louisiana Superdome, site of the Final Four. The photo traveled with the team all season. On the court, Marquette evolved into a dominant defensive unit and a versatile offensive team. Led by 6-5 guard Dwyane Wade, shooters Travis Diener and Steve Novak, and 6-10 senior center Robert Jackson, the Golden Eagles can attack from every position.

NCAA Tournament history: Marquette ranks ninth all-time in the nation with 23 NCAA Tournament appearances, but recent history has been difficult. This season's Sweet 16 appearance was the first since 1994 and the first Elite Eight appearance since 1977.

Last Final Four trip: In 1977, when the late Al McGuire led the then-Warriors to the school's only national championship, a 67-59 victory over North Carolina.

Star player: Dwyane Wade. The 6-foot-5 guard has amazing quickness to get to the basket from anywhere on the court. The Conference USA player of the year averaged

21.3 points, the fourth-highest single average in Marquette history. He can take over games by himself, but he is also remarkably unselfish and puts a high premium on defense.

### Kansas (29-7)

Coach: Roy Williams

How the Jayhawks got to New Orleans: Defeated No. 15 seed Utah State 64-61 in first round; defeated No. 10 seed Arizona State 108-76 in second round; defeated No. 3 seed Duke 69-65 in regional semifinal; defeated No. 1 seed Arizona 78-75 in regional final.

Why they got there: Dadgummit (as coach Roy Williams would say), these guys play their tails off. Effort is rarely a question with a Williams-coached team. The Jayhawks have been overachieving and overcoming adversity all season. Kansas relies on two seniors who have started for five years. Guard Kirk Hinrich and post player Nick Collison are the team's top scorers. The Jayhawks like to score in transition and can be maniacal on defense.

NCAA Tournament history: This is Kansas' 32nd NCAA Tournament. The Jayhawks are 69-31 with two national championships (1952 and 1988). Kansas is making its 12th Final Four trip but its first in consecutive years since 1952-53.

Last Final Four trip: Last season, but lost to eventual national champion Maryland 97-88 in the semifinals in Atlanta.

Star player: Tough call here ... Collison or Hinrich? We'll go with ... Collison. He's the player Kansas can least afford to lose. His scoring, rebounding and defense around the basket makes the Jayhawks a complete team. He leads Kansas in scoring and rebounding. Opposing defenses usually have to commit two players to contain him and that creates opportunities for other Jayhawks.

*Texas vs. Syracuse*  
8:47 p.m. EST, Saturday

### Texas (26-6)

Coach: Rick Barnes

How the Longhorns got to New Orleans: Defeated No. 16 seed UNC-Asheville 82-61 in the first round; defeated No. 9 seed Purdue 77-67 in second round; defeated No. 5 seed Connecticut 82-78 in regional semifinals; defeated No. 7 seed Michigan State in regional championship.

Why they got there: This is a team with a star player in T.J. Ford, a perimeter defensive stopper (Royal Ivey), a tenacious rebounder (James Thomas), a scorer (Brandon Mouton) and a slew of role players who add up to a 10-deep roster.

They are also bound by purpose and, with minor blips, have played with consistent, steady purpose. Sometimes flashy, always businesslike, they have a tendency not to put teams away until late in games, when, in tournament competition, they have been at their best.

NCAA Tournament history: This is Texas' 21st appearance in the Tournament, in which the Longhorns are 23-23. Texas reached the Final Four cons ago in 1943 and 1947, but the furthest they had advanced in the modern era was an Elite Eight berth under Tom Penders in 1990 when the Longhorns lost to Arkansas in the regional championship.

Last Final Four trip: Texas advanced in 1947 out of an eight-team field by defeating Wyoming 42-40 before losing to Oklahoma 55-54.

Star player: Point guard T.J. Ford last season became the first freshman to lead the nation in assists, and followed that up by winning the Naismith Award as college basketball's player of the year. Ford has lived up to that billing in the tournament, win-

ning the award as the South Region's most outstanding player.

### Syracuse (28-5)

Coach: Jim Boheim

How the Orangemen got to New Orleans: Defeated 14th-seeded Manhattan 76-65 in the first round; defeated sixth-seeded Oklahoma State 68-56 in the second round; defeated 10th-seeded Auburn 79-78 in the regional semifinal; defeated No. 1-seeded Oklahoma 63-47 in the regional final.

Why they got there: The third-seeded Orangemen's talented freshmen (Carmelo Anthony, Gerry McNamara, Billy Edelin) and sophomores (Hakim Warrick, Craig Forth, Josh Pace) blended well with role playing upperclassmen (Kuehl Duany and Jeremy McNeil). Syracuse's youth gets it in trouble at times, but its talent has allowed it to reel in victories despite four second-half, double-digit deficits this season.

NCAA Tournament history: This is Syracuse's 28th NCAA Tournament. The Orangemen own a 44-28 record in the NCAA Tournament and earned their fourth Final Four appearance and first since 1996 with Sunday's victory against Oklahoma.

Last Final Four trip: Syracuse advanced to the 1996 title game with a 77-69 victory against Mississippi State, but Kentucky captured the national championship with a 76-67 victory at Continental Airlines Arena in East Rutherford, N.J.

Star player: Carmelo Anthony. The 6-foot-8 freshman phenom from Baltimore is projected as an NBA lottery pick and likely will emerge as one of the first three players selected should he renounce his collegiate eligibility. Anthony can be effective posting up and on the perimeter. He rebounds splendidly, and no one follows his own miss better, Oklahoma coach Kelvin Sampson said.

## BASEBALL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 20

He stepped up his players' time in the batting cages, and this weekend, he'll find out if it paid off.

Senior catcher Toby Barnett is expecting a better performance this weekend but is cautioning his teammates not to be overly aggressive in an attempt to break the team's slump.

"We're pretty confident going into this weekend," said Barnett, who comes into the series with a 13-game hitting streak.

"We can let our skills take care of themselves, but we definitely have to take what the pitchers are going to give us. We definitely have to come out and step up as an offensive force."

Rueger, though he never bats, is confident the offense will turn it around. He said for conference games, players scout the opposition more, practice harder and approach the game with more focus, so he does not expect the team to lag after its loss to SEMO.

"It's going to be hard to turn it around," Rueger said.

"Right now our offense is struggling a little bit, but when it comes to conference play, we pretty much turn it up."

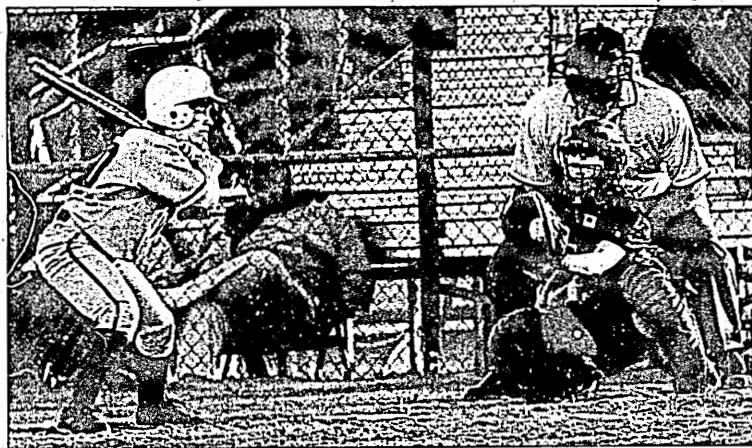
Reporter Michael Brenner can be reached at mbrenner@dailyegyptian.com

SIU will play at 2 p.m. today, a doubleheader Saturday starting at noon and the finale at 1 p.m. Sunday



ROBERT LYONS - DAILY EGYPTIAN

SIU shortstop and relief pitcher PJ Finigan reaches third base safely against Southeast Missouri State Wednesday. The Salukis will play host to Illinois State this weekend for a four-game series beginning today at 2 p.m. at Abe Martin Field.



ROBERT LYONS - DAILY EGYPTIAN

SIU freshman softball player Lauren Roney watches a pitch go by against Southeast Missouri State last week in Cape Girardeau, Mo. This weekend the Salukis will play a three-game series at Charlotte West Stadium against Drake. The Dawgs are off to a 21-5 start with a 7-2 league mark.

## SOFTBALL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 20

know practice is important and treat it as such.

"We're a team that does better when we're a little bit more loose," Blaylock said. "They know that I won't let it get too out of hand before I'll kind of put a clamp on it, but I don't mind. I want them to go out with a smile on their face, that's what it's all about."

Her players approve of this method, with some like Moore saying that since she's been here, the Salukis always play their best when they are just being themselves and are not putting too much pressure on themselves.

"I think the way this team meshes the best together is when we have fun and just go out and relax and really don't care."

One thing the Salukis will care a lot about this weekend is finally getting to play again in their new stadium.

Although the team practices in it

every day, the Salukis have played just three of their 26 games in Carbondale due to poor weather canceling several earlier games.

Blaylock joked that while she is happy to have the home crowd rooting for her team again, the Salukis (21-5, 7-2 Missouri Valley Conference) have been so successful on the road that she would not mind staying away.

"I don't know, we're 19-4 on the road, maybe I'd like to stay away," Blaylock said. "This weekend at Creighton we had three fans from SIU so it's nice to have their families in and it's a great ballpark. I want people in southern Illinois to be able to come watch us play here."

Moore said it still kind of shocks her when she stops to think about the new stadium, especially after three years of playing at the inadequate IAW Fields.

"It's still kind of surreal and you don't really realize how lucky we are until we come back and we're like, 'oh my gosh, this is our stadium,'" she said.

After being on the road for nine straight games, the Salukis will now play nine straight at home starting with this weekend's series against 16-17 Drake.

The last time SIU took the field it knocked off No. 6 Nebraska in Lincoln, Neb. Prior to that game, Blaylock told her team it was not supposed to win, and her players responded by going out and playing one of their best games of the season in what she called the biggest win since she has been with SIU.

True to the Salukis joking manner, Blaylock has teased her players about how they reacted to being told they are not supposed to win.

"If it takes me telling you that we're not supposed to do something, we're not supposed to win the rest of the games all year," Blaylock joked.

Saturday she will see if the strategy will work yet again.

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# FRIDAY SALUKI SPORTS

Kent Williams competed in a 3-point shootout See story, page 19  
Men's and women's tennis are in action See stories, page 18

PAGE 20

DAILY EGYPTIAN

APRIL 4, 2003

## SIU rugby hyped for All Fool's

Christopher Morrical  
Daily Egyptian

The men lined up, one of them holding a ball, and started running across the field.

"Me! Me!" one shouted. The ball was passed to him and he dodged between two teammates and passed the ball to someone else.

Across the way on another pitch, a group of women chased one another. Whoever was holding the ball was destined to be tackled and brought to the ground. The wind was strong, and as her body bounced, a plume of dust went into the air.

Things always get rough at SIU rugby practices.

Tune-ups like these will be needed as SIU sponsors the 13th Annual All Fool's Classic Saturday and Sunday at the rugby fields.

The tournament is the largest collegiate rugby tournament in the Midwest and includes such teams as Eastern Illinois, Colonel's Boys, Memphis, Central Missouri State, Illinois, Illinois State, Western Kentucky, Indiana State and Illinois-Chicago.

In past years, the All Fool's Classic has won the Golden Privet Award for the best rugby tournament in the Midwest.

Last year's competition saw the men's team bring the "Coveted Horns" back to Carbondale, and winning again this year will be extremely important to men's club president Eric Reimer.

"Yes, we're going win it," Reimer said. "I am so hyped about this tour-



The SIU men's rugby club practices Wednesday at the rugby fields in preparation for this weekend's All Fool's Classic. The tournament, which will be sponsored by SIU, is in its 13th year and will feature men's and women's teams from all over the Midwest.

namment, man! This is probably my last year I'm going to be down here and we've won it many times since I've been here. We're gonna win it again. We're gonna come out here and we're gonna play hard and we're gonna walk off champions."

The women's team did nearly as well last year, finishing second to Illinois. This was an especially important occasion because it was the first time since 1993 that there was a women's bracket at the tournament. The women are as psyched as the men about the tournament and want to bring their own set of horns home.

The horns are a set of bull's horns that are given away as a trophy to the winners of the All Fool's. Each

finish is awarded a different sized pair with a plaque on it proclaiming a team the winner. First place garners the largest pair.

"It's always fun to get a trophy that is a little bit different," women's club vice president Cheryl Coulson said. "You work for the horns. It's a nice trophy to get. We're gonna get first this year and we're gonna get the big ones."

The women will take to the pitch against Western Illinois on Saturday at 9 a.m. as Illinois State and Northern Illinois square off.

All Fool's was created by the men's team, and while the women participate, they have their own tournament in September called Ruggapalooza. At this competition,

the award is a little gnome.

The trophies won throughout the years are passed down to each new team and accumulated at one house where sets of horns cover the walls showing the rich history of SIU's oldest club sport.

Now, with another All Fool's only a day a way, SIU rugby tradition will continue.

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For more information on the SIU men's or women's rugby clubs, visit the teams' websites at [www.siu.edu/rugby](http://www.siu.edu/rugby) and [www.siu.edu-wrugby](http://www.siu.edu-wrugby)

## Women's basketball cans two

Michael Brenner  
Daily Egyptian

SIU women's basketball head coach Lori Opp let go of two of her assistants earlier this week, a player confirmed Thursday.

The team has its lips shut about the incident, so which two were let go is not known. But the team has only three non-student assistants, Alex Wellmaker, Tricia Floyd and Staci Starkweather, meaning a huge shake-up for the Salukis.

Opp is out of town visiting the Final Four and could not be reached for comment, and Floyd and Starkweather could not be reached, either. Wellmaker denied comment.

Wellmaker is the most experienced of the three, having been with the Salukis for three years. He is an SIU graduate ('89) and also spent time coaching at Carbondale High School. He's coached for 25 years.

Floyd just completed her second year as an assistant at SIU. Before coming to the Salukis, she was head coach at Odessa College for two years, earning coach of the year honors in 1999-2000. She owns a master's degree in physical education and athletics administration from Ball State.

Starkweather was a rookie with SIU this season. A Pinckneyville native, Starkweather graduated from SIU in 1998. She played one season professionally in Europe and was most recently a camp administrator at Pat Summit's basketball camp.

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## SIU baseball hopes birds can boost bats

Salukis look to break three-game skid with four games against Illinois State

Michael Brenner  
Daily Egyptian

SIU head coach Dan Callahan was fuming mad at his team following Wednesday's loss to Southeast Missouri State. He cut media interviews short to host a team meeting to discuss what had recently become his team's third straight loss.

His team is on a three-game losing streak, but this weekend's opponent, Illinois State, could be the perfect remedy.

The Redbirds come into this weekend's series at Abe Martin Field near or at the bottom of the Missouri Valley Conference in nearly every major statistic. Illinois State is last in fielding percentage (.947), second to last in team ERA (5.95) and third to last in team batting average (.272). It has also lost four of its last five, including an 0-3 stretch in conference play.

Team members say it will take a sweep to maintain their current second-place standing,

which is a real probability against a struggling team such as Illinois State, but refuse to make any guarantees.

"Pretty much, you can't take any team in the MVC lightly because each team can hit it on their given day," said SIU pitcher Bryan Rueger, who expects to start the first game of Saturday's doubleheader. "Every day is different in baseball. Any given team can beat any team, that's why we can't take Illinois State lightly."

Rueger, along with Jake Alley, Andrew Weber and Jerel Deitering, will attempt to keep the Redbirds' cool bats in the freezer.

Rueger said Wednesday's game, which saw the Salukis' pitching staff, mainly Ryan Welch, gave up seven runs, was as aberration. He does not expect the rest of the pitching staff to get shelled as it did Wednesday.

"I don't expect any problems," Rueger said. "As a whole, our pitching staff's been really solid through all parts."

"Welch has had problems trying to find what he had last year, but overall I think we're going to do fine because as a pitching staff overall, we're a pretty solid staff."

But the Salukis have had problems in the other part of the inning, scoring only run in their last two conference games. Before the loss to SEMO, Callahan said consistent hitting is what he wanted out of his team more than anything.

See BASEBALL, page 19

## Salukis are staying loose despite recent success

SIU softball team ready for three-game series against MVC foe Drake

Jens Deju  
Daily Egyptian

A behemoth 20-foot wave towered overhead as 19 women ranging in size from 5-feet-1 to 6-feet stood their ground and prepared for the next vicious sting.

Wave after wave attacked the ground, but the women never backed down. Some stood tall while others lay on the ground and held on firmly.

Finally the waves ceased, and the SIU softball team was able to stretch out the tarp and weigh it down over Roehman Field and stood in celebration of their victory over the vicious winds that swirled all around Charlotte West Stadium Thursday.

The Salukis will have some battles a little more meaningful than this one this weekend when Drake comes to town for a three-game series starting with a noon doubleheader Saturday and the finale Sunday at noon.

Covering the field after practice is a common occurrence for the Salukis, but they usually do not have to battle such strong winds in addition to the bulky tarp.

Freshman infielder Katie Louis also had to lay

down tarp in high school at O'Fallon Township so it is nothing new to her. But even a seasoned tarp layer does not enjoy the wind.

"Windy days are not fun, I'll say that," Louis said. "They'll rip your arms off."

Senior outfielder Kendra Moore, who stands at just 5-feet-1, said laying down the tarp is a necessary evil because if you don't brave the waves and the wind, you risk having to play on a soggy field.

"You can't really ever know what's going to go on with the tarp," Moore said. "It's always kind of annoying because it's huge and I'm not very big."

The battle with the tarp was just one of several light-hearted moments at Thursday's practice.

Star pitcher Amy Hare was playing shortstop while Renee Mueller and Katie Kloess provided some live pitching for Saluki hitters.

Hare was like a happy little child hopping around all over the place and even running as far out as center field to retrieve one of the hits.

Another moment came when junior Lindsey Bonnell hit one over the fence during batting practice and started jumping up and down and dancing at the plate.

"Thank you, wind," Bonnell exclaimed.

Moments like these are not rare around the team. Head coach Kerri Blaylock said she likes to keep her players loose so they perform better once they are out on the field.

At the same time, Blaylock and her players  
See SOFTBALL, page 19