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Student's body found in creek

Madeleine Leroux
DAILY EGYPTIAN

Autopsy results are expected today on the body of a 31-year-old doctoral student found dead in a campus creek Wednesday.

Huaijun Meng, a doctoral student studying electrical and computer engineering, was found just before 8 a.m. near the south pedestrian bridge that crosses U.S. Highway 51 near Wright Hall. Rod Sievers, university spokesman, said the body was discovered by students who were walking over the south overpass.

Sievers said Meng was an international student of China who came to SIUC in fall 2007. Sievers said family members, including Meng's parents in China and brother in New Jersey, have been notified of his death.

Meng was last seen by his roommate, Yiqiang Ding, at roughly 1:15 p.m. Tuesday, Sievers said.

Todd Sigler, director of the Department of Public Safety, said foul play is not suspected. Sievers said authorities expect to confirm the cause of death today.

Baojie Zhang, a graduate student studying mining engineering, lives

in the apartment below Meng's residence in Southern Hills. Zhang said Meng moved into Southern Hills in January and planned to move to a townhouse with some friends.

"We got together a couple times," Zhang said. "He's kind of a quiet person."

Ding, a graduate student studying computer engineering, lived with Meng since January. Ding said he had known Meng for nearly one year and described him as a very good person.

"He's a person with a good heart," Ding said.

Bob Gray, senior pastor of Our Lutheran Church in Carbondale, said he spent most of Wednesday with Ding. Gray said Meng's family would be arriving in Carbondale late Thursday and any plans for a local memorial service will be left up to them.

"Until the autopsy's been done, the family really doesn't know all the details or anything yet, so it's real difficult to deal with that," Gray said.

Gray said anyone wanting to send letters of condolence could

See CREEK, Page 7



From right, a detective from the Illinois State Police crime lab walks with Detective Kevin Cox, Sgt. Stuart, Detective Renee Eberhard and an SIUC police officer from the scene behind Wright Hall where the body of Huaijun Meng, an SIUC doctoral student, was found in a campus creek Wednesday.
JASON JOHNSON
DAILY EGYPTIAN

USG votes down online elections

Organization impeaches two senators

Allison Petty
DAILY EGYPTIAN

After an hour of discussion and several votes, Undergraduate Student Government struck down a proposal to move student elections online and instead voted to keep paper ballots in place at six campus locations.

Senators engaged in a heated question-and-answer session with Election Commissioner John Teresi, who presented the proposal to move student elections online. Teresi said the new system would allow students to vote from any computer through a secure link in their SIU e-mail inboxes. It would also cost the university nothing, because the polling company is already under contract to SIUC, he said.

"I really wish (the senators) would have taken that step," Teresi said after the vote. "They didn't, and I respect that. We'll have to move forward the best we can."

Several senators spoke in support of the online system, saying it would give more students the opportunity and inclination to vote.

But some said the system would



STEPHEN RICKERL ~ DAILY EGYPTIAN

USG senator BreeAnn Hale defends herself against impeachment during the USG meeting Wednesday at the Student Health Center Auditorium. Hale, along with senator Seth Carter, were both removed from the senate for attendance issues.

violate the USG constitution, which states that candidates may not campaign within 100 feet of a polling place. Candidates are also allowed to request the polling places be monitored, according to the constitution.

Senators eventually voted to allow polling places in Trueblood Hall, Student Center, Recreation Center, Lentz Hall, Automotive Technology, Aviation and Lesar Law Building locations.

Teresi said the online system would save money. The election

council must spend a minimum of \$400 at each polling place to hire two workers for election days, Teresi said. That money is wasted at locations such as the automotive technology building, where only six students voted in last year's election, he said.

USG also voted to impeach two senators, Seth Carter and BreeAnn Hale, who had missed more than two meetings. Three senators, Mike Martin, Ian Hardcastle and

See DOWN, Page 5

Administrators work to increase enrollment

New ideas could energize solution to old problem

Allison Petty
DAILY EGYPTIAN

Editor's Note: This is the final installment in a five-part series about enrollment. The first four parts detailed the causes of the university's enrollment problem, the problem's effects, the declining international student population and the low number of female students compared to other universities.

The story of the university's enrollment is a grim one.

This institution is bleeding money and students at a rate its administrators find alarming.

"Oh, everyone's concerned about it," SIU President Glenn Poshard said. "It's been the major issue on people's minds for a long time."

The university created a new position — vice chancellor for enrollment management — to deal with the issue.

Victoria Valle, who

took the job six months ago, is one of several administrators with new ideas to fix the problem, which has plagued the university for more than a decade. The administrators' ideas focus on everything from when students take required math and science courses to when, and how, the university contacts prospective recruits.

Enrollment peaked in 1991 at 24,869 students. By fall 2007, that number had fallen to 20,983. At an institution where tuition and fees make up one-fifth of the budget, this decline presents a serious financial problem.

State funds offer little relief. While the state supplied nearly 70 percent of SIUC's budget in 1968, it provides roughly 32 percent today.

Students who do enroll often don't stay. From fall 2006 to fall 2007, the university lost 671 of 2,222 first-time, full-time freshmen. According to the university's tuition and fees estimator, each of those students would have paid more than \$3,400 per semester in tuition and fees, meaning the university lost more than \$2.3 million for one semester.

Tuition and fees continue to rise as administrators struggle to fix crumbling buildings, supplement

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Campus
Poshard takes suggestions on how to jump-start capital bill.
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Pulse
Women fly onto the stage.
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Currents
Rainforest plight highlighted in Panama.
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Sports
Salukis search for starting signal caller.
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Construction coalition gets Carbondale input

Poshard, Hastert to submit recommendations at month's end

Barton Lorimor
DAILY EGYPTIAN

Local business owners and representatives shared their thoughts about funding a \$25 billion state construction plan Wednesday.

SIU President Glenn Poshard led a hearing at Carbondale City Hall to collect public ideas and concerns about state infrastructure needs and construction projects. Members of the audience consisted of local business owners, laborers and community representatives who could benefit from a capital plan to distribute state and federal dollars for construction projects.

Poshard and Dennis Hastert, a former Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, lead the Illinois Works Coalition. The coalition was formed by Gov. Rod Blagojevich after the Illinois House rejected the Capital Construction Plan.

The plan would have used expanded gambling as a revenue source for \$25 billion worth of state construction projects. Hastert, who was absent from Wednesday's hearing, and Poshard were tapped by the governor to recommend an alternative revenue source state legislators could support.

Blagojevich said the coalition could not recommend an income tax increase since it conflicts with a campaign promise he made in 2006. Poshard told members of the



SIU President Glenn Poshard answers a question from an audience of business owners and community representatives about the campaign for construction projects paid for by the state and federal government at Carbondale City Hall Tuesday. Poshard and former U.S. Speaker of the House, Dennis Hastert, are leading the Illinois Works Coalition.

EMILY SUNBLADE
DAILY EGYPTIAN

audience that those choosing to speak would be wasting their time by debating the governor's ruling.

The capital plan includes building SIUC's Transportation and Education Facility to house the aviation and automotive programs at Southern Illinois Airport, and \$21.8 million needed for the final stages of Morris Library's renovation. In southern Illinois, a capital plan would fund primary and secondary school construction projects previously promised by former Gov. George Ryan, and road improvements, such as an expansion of Illinois Route. 13.

The hearing in Carbondale was the first time Poshard said he had heard about continued interest in expanding gambling, especially through horse racing. He said that is because horse farms are more common in the southern part of the state.

Brenda Watson, a horse breeder from Fairfield, said the horse racing industry has the potential to create new jobs, such as horse trainers, breeders and veterinarians.

"Horse racing is vital to the agriculture economy in Illinois," Watson said. "Other states have had the foresight to recognize that such a revenue

“Horse racing is vital to the agriculture economy in Illinois.”

— Brenda Watson
horse breeder from Fairfield

enhancer would lead to a healthier agriculture history and protect thousands of jobs.”

Former Green Party gubernatorial candidate Rich Whitney said the coalition should consider recommending the use of capital bonds as an alternative revenue source, even though they take longer to process.

The coalition will have its next meeting in the Metro-east area within the next two weeks. Poshard and Hastert are expected to deliver recommendations by the end of this month.

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Fuel prices put strain on military

Anne Flaherty
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Think you're being gouged by Big Oil? U.S. troops in Iraq are paying almost as much as Americans back home, despite burning fuel at staggering rates in a war to stabilize a country known for its oil reserves.

Military units pay an average of \$3.23 a gallon for gasoline, diesel and jet fuel, some \$88 a day per service member in Iraq, according to an Associated Press review and interviews with defense officials. A penny or two increase in the price of fuel can add millions of dollars to U.S. costs.

Critics in Congress are fuming. The U.S., they say, is getting suckered as the cost of the war exceeds half a trillion dollars — \$10.3 billion a month, according to the Congressional Research Service.

Some lawmakers say oil-rich allies in the Middle East should be doing more to subsidize fuel costs because of the stake they have in a secure Iraq. Others point to Iraq's own burgeoning surplus as crude oil prices top \$100 a barrel. Baghdad subsidies let Iraqis pay only about \$1.36 a gallon.

The U.S. military, through its Defense Energy Support Center, buys fuel on the open market, paying from \$1.99 a gallon to as much as \$5.30 a gallon under contracts with private and government-owned oil companies. The center then sets a fixed rate for troops, currently \$3.51 a gallon for diesel, \$3.15 for gasoline, \$3.04 for jet fuel and \$13.61 for avgas, a high-octane fuel used mostly in unmanned aerial vehicles.

Kuwait does grant substantial subsidies, but they cover only about half the fuel used by the U.S. in Iraq. And the discount is eaten up by the Energy Support Center's administrative costs and fluctuations in the market.

Overall, the military consumes

about 1.2 million barrels, or more than 50 million gallons of fuel, each month in Iraq at an average \$127.68 a barrel. That works out to about \$153 million a month.

Historically, these figures are astounding. In World War II, the average fuel consumption per soldier or Marine was about 1.67 gallons a day; in Iraq, it's 27.3 gallons, according to briefing slides prepared by a Pentagon task force established to review consumption.

The surge in demand can be attributed in part to the military's expanding aviation fleet, including helicopters, and its reliance on planes to shuttle cargo and troops between the U.S. and Iraq. Vehicles, too, are more heavily armored and require more energy to run. Another major contributor is the widespread use of generators to cool troops.

The Pentagon's demand for fuel in Iraq has had little if any effect on global oil prices. Frank Verrastro, director of the energy and national security program at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington, said the military's use of 1.2 million barrels a month — or roughly 40,000 barrels a day — represents a small chunk of the 86 million barrels demanded each day on the global market.

Instead, Verrastro says, the hike in oil prices since the 2003 invasion is more likely due to a "fear factor."

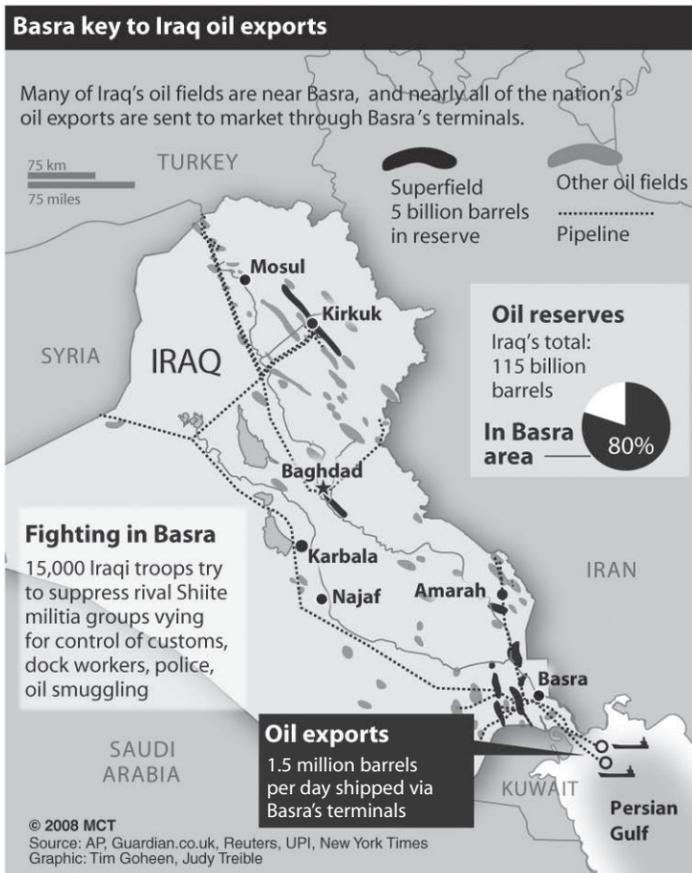
"Prices rise when Iran saber-rattles, or there's a disruption potential in Nigeria," he said. An even larger driver of fuel costs is global demand, fed by robust economies

in Asia and the lack of available alternative fuel sources, according to Verrastro.

Still, some lawmakers say the U.S. is paying too much to secure an oil-rich nation that resides in a neighborhood swimming in the natural resource.

It is our view that all of those forces, whether they are semi-stationed in Kuwait ... or those transitioning into Iraq, should receive that fuel at a reduced rate.

— Mark Kimmitt
deputy assistant secretary of defense
for the Middle East



Rep. Gene Taylor, D-Miss., a member of the House Armed Services Committee, said he was shocked last December to watch U.S. troops in Kuwait filling diesel tanks at higher prices than he would have paid to fill up his boat in Mississippi. "The Kuwaitis have been good allies. But let's face it, that nation would not be there if not for the American liberation of Kuwait," he said, referring to the 1991 conflict.

When Taylor pressed Pentagon and embassy officials on the matter, he was told Kuwait was actually offering a rare discount. Unlike other oil-rich allies, Kuwait is estimated to have saved the U.S. government \$1.2 billion in four years, from 2002 to 2006, U.S. Embassy officials told the congressman in a Jan. 3 letter.

Under the current agreement, the Kuwait-owned company supplies 7,000 gallons per day of free fuel to U.S. forces operating inside Kuwait. For troops in Iraq, Kuwait offers 860,000 gallons of jet fuel a day at

less than half the market price. This discounted fuel represents more than half the fuel the U.S. uses in Iraq each day.

The rest of the fuel — about 100,000 to 200,000 gallons a day — is sold to the U.S. military at market rate.

When Taylor asked whether more could be done by Kuwait and other oil-rich allies in the Middle East, a senior Pentagon official said the U.S. wants to see an even bigger reduction in prices from Kuwait but indicated there was no guarantee that would happen.

"It is our view that all of those forces, whether they are semi-stationed in Kuwait ... or those transitioning into Iraq, should receive that fuel at a reduced rate, and that is continuing dialogue that goes on between our government and the government of Kuwait," Mark Kimmitt, deputy assistant secretary of defense for the Middle East, said in a January hearing.

Senate leaders agree on bill to ease housing crisis

Andrew Taylor
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Momentum built Wednesday for a bipartisan Senate bill designed to ease the slumping housing market and help millions of families threatened by foreclosure, though economists are skeptical that it will help much.

The scaled-back proposal released by Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., and GOP leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky contains an amalgam of ideas aimed at boosting demand for housing and helping homeowners saddled with subprime mortgages avoid foreclosure.

The plan contains \$4 billion in grants to local governments to buy and refurbish foreclosed homes, new authority for states to issue bonds to be used to refinance subprime mortgages and a \$7,000 tax credit for people buying new homes or properties in foreclosure.

"It is a robust package," Reid said. "This is good news for the American people."

But economists across the political spectrum were skeptical that the measure would have much practical effect to ease the wrenching crisis in the housing market and the wave

of foreclosures spreading across the country.

"They're good steps, but they're small steps and certainly not big enough steps to solve the problem," said Mark Zandi, chief economist for Moody's Economy.com. "I don't think it's going to be enough to solve the housing problem, at least not in 2008."

While supporters said the measure would boost demand for housing, help people refinance adjustable-rate mortgages and help communities beset with abandoned homes, many economists cautioned that the measure's benefits would be modest — and would help banks and homebuilders while doing hardly anything for people facing foreclosure.

Reid did not release details, but staff aides described a bill containing elements Democrats have touted for weeks.

The measure also contains a provision dropped from February's stimulus measure that would permit homebuilders and other money-los-

ing businesses to reclaim previously paid taxes, new disclosure requirements aimed at preventing unsophisticated borrowers from being duped by mortgage brokers, and additional money to provide counseling to people threatened with foreclosure and help them in negotiating with their lenders.

Republicans forced Democrats to drop efforts that Zandi and other economists said might have proven more effective in alleviating the crisis, including a controversial plan opposed by banks and their GOP allies to change bankruptcy laws to help borrowers trapped in subprime mortgages keep their homes.

Banking Committee Chairman Christopher Dodd, D-Conn., was also forced to leave out of the bill a plan to have the Federal Housing Administration guarantee perhaps \$400 billion worth of refinanced loans if lenders reduce loan amounts to reflect reduced home values.

Republicans won a scaled-back version of a plan by Johnny Isakson,

R-Ga., to provide a tax credit to people buying foreclosed or newly built homes. Isakson sought \$15,000 in tax credits spread over three years — aimed at boosting demand in the slumping housing market — but GOP negotiators settled for a \$7,000 credit awarded over two years.

Liberals and conservative economists alike questioned the merits of the idea, however, saying it would have relatively little effect on demand and that to the extent it would lift demand it would boost sales for banks who made bad loans and homebuilders who built homes despite signs that the market was slowing.

"There's ample incentive to buy foreclosed homes," said conservative economist William Niskanen, chairman of the CATO institute.

"Basically, you're giving money to builders that overbuilt and banks that issued bad loans," said Dean Baker, co-director of the Center for Economic and Policy Research. "It's giving money to the villains in this story."

Economists also questioned how effective it would be to have local governments buy and refurbish foreclosed homes. Advocates of the idea say it would stabilize neighborhoods and protect home values.

WIRE REPORTS

POLITICS

Obama, Clinton woo labor vote as race tightens in Pennsylvania

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Sen. Barack Obama received endorsements Wednesday from a labor union and two Democratic superdelegates as a poll showed he has cut Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton's lead in Pennsylvania almost in half since mid-February as he strives to deny her a resounding victory in the state's presidential primary.

The Illinois senator peeled off an affiliate of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, which has endorsed Clinton. The Philadelphia-based local of the National Union of Hospital and Health Care Employees has about 16,000 members.

Its president, Henry Nicholas, announced the endorsement while introducing Obama at a meeting of the Pennsylvania AFL-CIO in Philadelphia.

Nicholas, who also is president of the 150,000-member national union and an AFSCME international vice president, said he took the step "because justice told me it was the right position to take."

Meanwhile Wednesday, Wyoming Gov. Dave Freudenthal and former Montana Sen. John Melcher both endorsed Obama. As superdelegates to the national convention, they are among the Democratic Party leaders who will decide the nomination, because although Obama leads Clinton in delegates neither one can win solely with pledged delegates awarded through primaries and caucuses. Obama handily won Wyoming's March 8 caucus; Montana holds a Democratic primary June 3.

McCain working to announce his choice of running mate before GOP convention

PENSACOLA, Fla. (AP) — Sen. John McCain disclosed Wednesday he is in the "embryonic stages" of selecting a vice presidential running mate and hopes to unveil his choice before the Republican National Convention to avoid the type of problems that plagued Dan Quayle's debut two decades ago.

"It's every name imaginable" he said of his list-in-the-making, about 20 in all.

He disclosed none of them and declined even to identify the individuals he has approached to supervise the vetting that will inevitably winnow the field.

In expressing his hope to announce his choice before the convention opens in September, McCain added, "I'm aware of enhanced importance of this issue because of my age." He is 71, and if he wins, would be the oldest president elected.

McCain's comments seemed to startle his top aides, who have scripted an elaborate weeklong series of events designed to introduce the Republican to a wider audience of voters and emphasize his military service.

GEORGIA

Experts doubt Georgia third-graders would have carried out plot to attack teacher

WAYCROSS, Ga. (AP) — Allegations that third-graders hatched an elaborate plot to knock out, handcuff and stab their teacher were met with shock by neighbors and with doubt by psychiatry experts who said it is unlikely that children that young seriously intended to hurt anyone.

Police say the plot at Center Elementary School began because the children, ages 8 to 10, were apparently angry after the teacher disciplined one of the students for standing on a chair.

Students brought a crystal paperweight, a steak knife with a broken handle, steel handcuffs and other items as part of last week's plot, police said Tuesday. They said nine students were involved, but prosecutors are seeking juvenile charges against only three of them.

Experts said children that age are certainly imaginative and capable of creating elaborate games. But Dr. Louis Kraus, a child psychiatry expert at Rush University Medical Center in Chicago, said he doubts they would have actually attacked.

"The reality is it is highly unlikely they would have been successful at this," Kraus said. "Even if it had begun, it's unclear whether they actually would have followed through with it."



JASON JOHNSON ~ DAILY EGYPTIAN

Carbondale Police officers and Express Towing employees worked quickly to clear a head-on crash that occurred Wednesday on South U.S. Highway 51 in front of The Reserves at Saluki Pointe.

Down

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Maya Effort, were nominated for impeachment, but the organization voted to keep them in office.

The impeachment proceedings took about 40 minutes of the meeting. Senators shouted at each other and USG Vice President Candace Fletcher banged her gavel to restore order multiple times.

Fletcher exhibited visible frustration at several points during the meeting such as when Hale said she had been absent because of academic demands.

"You (saying that you have) classes and all of that is really just repetitive and it's a lame excuse," Fletcher said. She added that when senators miss meetings, it is disrespectful and keeps the organization from voting and allocating money for student groups.

Anyone who wants to run for Student Trustee can still do so, Teresi said. The deadline to appear on the ballot has been extended to Wednesday to widen the playing field for candidates. Teresi said interested students must submit a petition with at least 200 signatures to the USG office on the third floor of the Student Center by 4:30 p.m. Monday. USG President Demetrous White is currently unopposed for the position of Student Trustee, but Dylan Burns, a senator representing the College of Liberal Arts, said he was collecting signatures to run against White.

2008 SIUC
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OUR WORD

COACHING THROUGH IT

Less than a year after SIU women's basketball coach Dana Eikenberg was awarded a \$125,000, five-year contract extension for turning the program around, the locker room is in jeopardy of taking on a deserted feeling next season.

Since last season, four players have separately announced plans to leave. Two more, freshmen Ellen Young and Brenna Saline, have since asked for their releases.

And according to them, Eikenberg is to blame.

The charges: mistreatment, disrespect and verbal abuse.

Eikenberg has been known for being an energetic, competitively charged coach. Athletic Director Mario Moccia knew this when he asked her to stay. Who can blame him? From 2006-2007, she made the team better than it had been in 15 years. They won the Missouri Valley Conference Championship. The Pink Out, a breast cancer awareness initiative, took off, contributing to a huge jump in revenue during the last two years.

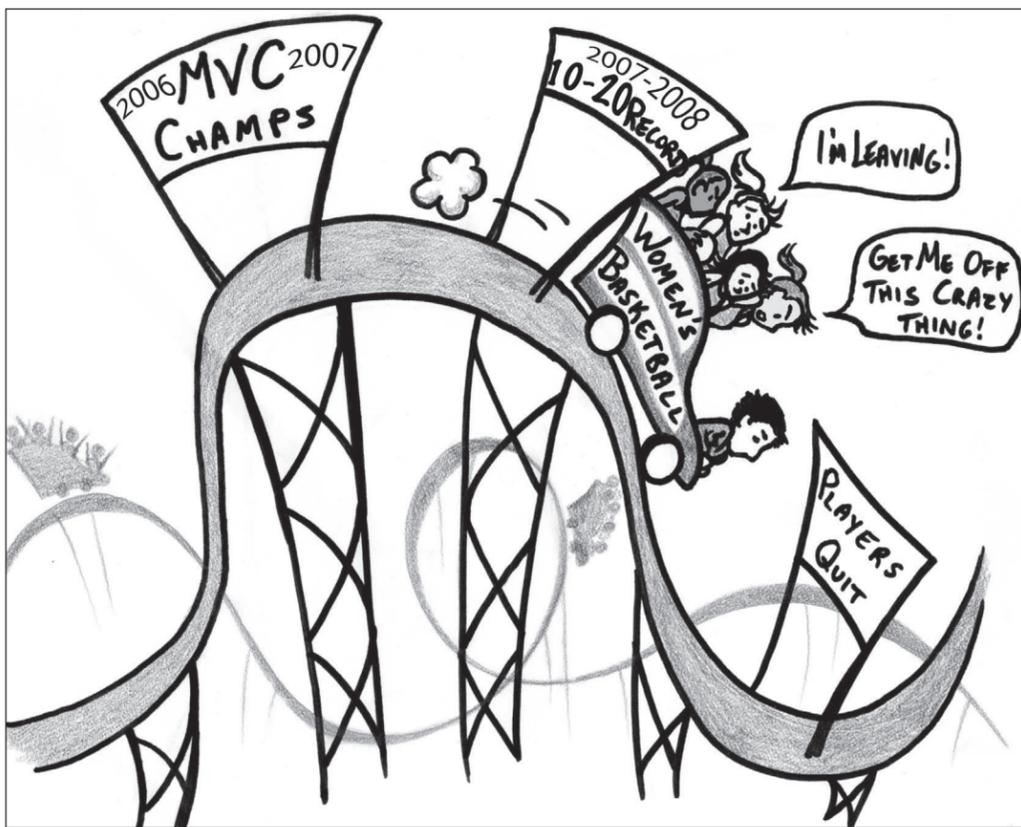
From an outside perspective, one could only assume she was doing something right.

But then something changed. Assistant coach Jody Adams, who senior forward Cortney Sales attests to being the calming force of Eikenberg's wrath, left and assistant coach Megan Lanham, stepped in. According to some of the players, the good cop, bad cop aura disappeared.

And then they started losing. The team's record practically flip-flopped, going from 21-11 to 10-20 this season.

Low morale could have led to these losses. But it could also be vice versa. It's just hard telling if this situation would still exist if the team had the same run it did last year.

What the DAILY EGYPTIAN can agree on is that there should be a line drawn between demeaning someone and giving them what they deserve — respect. Everyone's coaching style is different, but at the end of the day, a coach should motivate and



LYDIA BARGIELSKI ~ DAILY EGYPTIAN

inspire. From some accounts, this might not have always been Eikenberg's No. 1 priority.

A coach should not hurl out expletives at his or her players, no matter what it is in the name of — getting a play right, setting an example or winning a championship — if it's not countered with a sense of benevolence. It's hard denying the language coaches sometimes resort to. Most of us have played for organized teams and can recall some of the more colorful terms our coaches have used. It's part of the game.

But at the end of the day, we can all say we could tell those same coaches obviously shared a goal: to

help us.

If negativity is the only method Eikenberg uses, she should be required to re-evaluate her coaching style. We pay her and the rest of the athletic staff too much to demand anything less than the very best.

Basketball games are fast-paced and exciting, and in the heat of the moment, anyone is capable of doing pretty much anything. It's human nature. Given that imperfect nature, most of the time people do simply deserve another chance.

In this case, we think that if Eikenberg's evaluation proves her behavior is still sanctioned, she should get one.

IN THE LIGHT

Nomophobia: "no mobile phobia"

COLLEEN LINDSAY

celind@siu.edu



Nomophobia.

The fear of being out of cell phone range.

It sounds kind of crazy, but it was the discussion of an entire British article.

Nomophobia stands for "no mobile phobia," according to the article. If you think this is hilarious, start thinking about how mad you have gotten at one of your friends for "dropping" your call or "breaking up" while talking.

At my house, there is exactly two feet of house we can receive a call in. If you dare step out of those designated two feet, all the while leaning into the window, you lose your call and have to call back. It is a frustrating feeling to be talking to someone, only to find out he is

no longer there; You are telling the whole story to yourself.

Another factor in this cell phone rage, according to the article, is the stress that goes along with a cell phone. There is fear that your phone will lose battery power — mine is on charge right now — or that you will lose your phone.

Some other common stressors that I have come across are: your phone, or someone else's, ringing in class; text-message spam; and the knowledge that people think they can always get a hold of you.

We have all sat in class while a fellow students' — or even, gasp — the professor's, phone went off. I don't know how many different ring tones or loud vibrations I have heard while in class. Sometimes it was a distraction; at other times, a relief. But it always was cause for a red face and a hurried hand to the purse or pocket to shut up the phone.

During one class period, the cell

phone began to recite the number of the caller instead of just singing a song. The unexpected recipient was a male student who simply refused to acknowledge that the phone was his. The professor waited for the phone to count down the number and then proclaimed, "And we're off!"

I don't remember what the rest of the lecture was about. I was too busy laughing.

Text message spam is not so bad for people who have free text messages. But those of us who pay 15 cents every time we check our inbox or send a reply get quite irritated. I don't know how many "wonderful" offers I have gotten from unknown people.

This week, I unsubscribed to the SIU text message system. I signed up for it after the NIU shooting. I wanted to make sure that, were an armed gunman to show up on SIU campus and the service who sends out these text messages found out

about it, I would know.

Unfortunately, for the last few weeks, all I have been receiving are warnings about the weather.

Actually, I can look outside and tell that we are going through a thunderstorm. I don't need to pay 15 cents every time SIU thinks it's important that I remember this (often more than once in one thunderstorm). That's why I watch Jim Rasmussen and log on to <http://www.wunderground.com>.

This is one kind of spam that I can control. Unfortunately, should that armed gunman show up, I would need to be sitting next to someone who is still on that system and willing to pay for weather updates.

Finally, I think it's frustrating when people always think they can reach you because you have a cell phone. It also works the other way; when you are wondering why a person is ignoring you and they have really been at work, in a meet-

ing or sitting through a lecture.

One of the suggestions in the article I read was that you simply turn your cell phone off. What good does that do? I have a close family member who will call the police, National Guard or anyone who will listen to rescue me from imminent danger if I don't answer my phone for 15 minutes. And I am only partially kidding.

Sometimes I think maybe if I didn't own a cell phone, I wouldn't stress out so much over missing a call or not being able to talk to someone because he is too busy. But then it wouldn't even be an option to get a hold of anyone.

There is not a good solution to nomophobia other than to practice deep breathing whenever faced with a cell phone rage or an enraged user.

Please — just don't text me weather updates.

Lindsay is a senior studying journalism.

MISSION STATEMENT

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

WORDS OVERHEARD

"The Cold War is over. Russian is not our enemy."

President George W. Bush
defending his Administration
addressing concerns over the plan to install missile defense systems in eastern Europe



History comes alive at Moe

'Fastest Woman Alive' opens tonight

Audra Ord
DAILY EGYPTIAN

With some great acting and a little imagination, simple sets and scaffolding become elaborate aircrafts and students become important historical figures in a play about one woman and her impact on history.

"Fastest Woman Alive" is a biopic play about Jackie Cochran and the influence she had over women's involvement in the military, particularly in the field of aviation.

"Women are often left out of the history books, and (Cochran) is one of those people that we should have heard of," said assistant director Jessica Johnson Frohling, an MFA candidate in directing from Machias, Maine.

"As females, we should know that we're not breaking the first barriers. There were a lot of women before us setting these records and making life easier for us to do whatever job we want to do," Frohling said.

Cochran paved the way for women in aviation and is probably most widely known for being the first woman to break the sound barrier. She was

friends with fellow pilots Amelia Earhart and Chuck Yeager, the first person to break the sound barrier.

Because the characters are historical figures, a large part of preparation for the performance has been researching the characters and learning accents said Aaron Clark, who portrays Chuck Yeager.

"It's kind of hard playing somebody real. I listened to a lot of his interviews, and listened to the way he talked and tried to mimic him as best I can," said Clark, a senior from Urbana studying theater.

The play spans 40 years of Cochran's life, so two actresses share the part of Cochran. Jordan Vakselis, a senior from Palatine studying theater, plays the younger Cochran in the first act. Susan Patrick Benson, an assistant professor in the theater department, plays Cochran in the second act.

Benson is familiar with the play, having been involved in the original reading in New York.

"She's a mentor to all of us, as well as a teacher," Vakselis said. "It's fun not to just be her student in this production but to be a colleague, someone in

the cast with her."

Though the play is primarily a biography of Jackie Cochran's life, it carries a strong undercurrent of female empowerment and the idea that a person can accomplish anything he sets his mind to, Frohling said.

"She's a really cool character to play ... she's very ballsy," Vakselis said. "To get things rolling for women in the Air Force, she wouldn't take no for an answer."

Cochran is responsible for women's involvement in the military; she organized and directed what became the Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASPS).

Vakselis said her grandmother was in the military during World War II and knew Cochran.

"Fastest Woman Alive" is based on historical events, but Clark said the play is much more than just a history show.

"It's not all a straight history show," Clark said. "It's a very frenetic and fast-paced show, and something will catch the audience's eye at all times. You will have no idea that you've been sitting there for a couple of hours."

"Fastest Woman Alive" runs in the Christian H. Moe Theater today



AUDRA ORD ~ DAILY EGYPTIAN

Aaron Clark, Jordan Vakselis and Samantha Pajor play Chuck Yeager, Jackie Cochran and Amelia Earhart in 'Fastest Woman Alive,' which runs in the Moe Theater this weekend.

through Sunday. The show begins at 7:30 p.m. each day, and there is a 2 p.m. matinee on Saturday and Sunday.

Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$12 for seniors and \$6 for students and can be obtained by calling 453-3001. Tickets

can also be purchased one hour before each performance.

Audra Ord can be reached at 536-3311 ext. 275 or at amarie06@siu.edu.

SOLUTION

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

programs and research, maintain competitive salaries for faculty and staff, build a new football stadium, renovate an arena and keep the lights on.

Valle said her department would begin purchasing the names of high school sophomores from testing agencies and sending them a combination of e-mail and print messages. This means the university would market itself in more ways to more students, particularly younger students, than ever before.

Valle added that her \$200,000 budget would be spent carefully.

"We have to be very mindful of every penny that we spend on recruitment, every piece of paper that we print, every e-mail message," Valle said. "We've got to refine it. We've got to make sure we're doing

our job."

Valle said administrators would analyze survey responses from students who left the university and begin polling those who are still here. This data would offer valuable insight into why students leave, she said.

Don Rice, interim provost and vice chancellor, said the university could improve its retention rate by changing the way faculty teach basic, required math and science courses. Students become discouraged by the difficulty of the classes or low grades, he said.

Rice said he thought the courses were taught to prepare students for science and engineering majors, rather than to help them understand the way science in the world works, how it affects world policy and its shaping of environmental and biological processes.

"I'm a bit speaking out of

turn because I don't teach science and I don't teach math, but in my conversations with the deans we're trying to grapple with that problem," Rice said.

He added that students should be encouraged to take required math classes as freshmen. Though they might think they will be better prepared as juniors or seniors, students forget skills learned in high school if they wait longer, Rice said.

Rice said he also hopes to work with other administrators to develop First Year Experience, a program designed to orient freshmen to university life while allowing them to get to know each other.

In 2006, the National Resource Center for First-Year Experience and Students in Transition surveyed 2,646 institutions of higher learning, according to the center's Web site. Of the 968 institutions that

responded, 821 said they offered some type of First-Year Experience seminar. More than half of the respondents said their programs helped students develop academic skills and learn more about campus resources.

"If we start doing those things right, it's not going to be immediate turnaround," Rice said. "(But) I think if the Board of Trustees will give us three or four years, I think we will show an upturn in the number of people we educate and the kind of education they're getting."

Poshard said the university needed to market more heavily to transfer students and would do so through the addition of nine outreach centers on community college campuses in the region.

Valle said administrators would discuss offering in-state tuition to some students from bordering counties in neighboring states.

Institutions such as Murray State University and Southeast Missouri State University have lured students from southern Illinois by offering in-state tuition rates, Valle said.

The Faculty Senate discussed the possibility at its Feb. 19 meeting, and Peggy Stockdale, the organization's president, said the university would need to gain 400 out-of-state students to make the measure profitable.

Despite the problem's complexity, administrators say they believe the university can pull itself out of the slump. But there are no easy answers.

"It's just a lot of stuff. It's not a simple black-and-white issue," Poshard said. "We're just trying to get our arms around it."

Allison Petty can be reached at 536-3311 ext. 259 or allison.petty@siu.edu.

CREEK

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

e-mail them to lutheran@siu.edu and he would deliver them to the family.

Rosemary Simmons, director of the Counseling Center, said counselors had coordinated with Department of Public Safety officials since before noon Wednesday. Simmons said counselors would contact the College of Engineering to arrange counseling for faculty members and Meng's classmates.

"If the student was involved in a close-knit group, with other graduate students or faculty, it's helpful for us

to meet with them as a group and help them process their feelings and talk about the impact of that death on them," Simmons said.

Students can see an on-call "emergency counselor" at the Counseling Center from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., or call 800-273-8255 (TALK) to reach a 24-hour counseling hotline, she added.

"A lot of times, students just need a caring, professional voice to talk to," Simmons said.

Allison Petty contributed to this report.

Madeleine Leroux can be reached at 536-3311 ext. 268 or mleroux@siu.edu.

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Bryce Arndt
Second-Year Student

FIND A HOUSE
In the Daily Classifieds

APPC wildlife rescuer Jose Luis Ortega greets the class carrying a three-toed sloth in his backpack. The animal was rescued moments before in Panama City as the rescuer made his way to work.



PANAMA

NOT JUST A CANAL

Story and photos by DuVale Riley

Since my childhood, I have waited for a chance to go to the rain forest.

That dream came true during spring break when my plane landed in the economically developing nation of Panama. Leaving the cold early morning of southern Illinois behind, we arrived in the warm neotropic night of Panama City, Panama. Here we met our hosts, members of the Panamerican Conservation Association.

Our group included a tropical rainforest conservation class — the first acoustic ecology field course of its kind offered at SIU. It was created by professors Andrew Carver, department of forestry, and Jay Needham, department of radio and television.

Our partners, the APPC, work for their mission to protect the integrity of the flora and fauna of the rain forest and educate those not aware of the destruction deforestation has on Panamanian wildlife. If animals have no habitat, their population will decrease. When animals get sold as pets in the black market, under-populated animals become extinct and the ecosystem suffers due to an imbalance.

Because of the canal expansion project, a large amount of wildlife-occupied land is needed for construction. The grassroots association, APPC — where animals in need of rescue outnumber people — has recently focused on rescuing and relocating wildlife in the Canal Zone.

Despite their tireless effort, they were just as excited and eager to work as we were. From the airport they drove us through Panama City. Our wide eyes occupied every win-

dow staring out at the dimly lit cityscape until we reached our destination in the former southern command army base Fort Clayton, now called Ciudad del Saber (City of Knowledge).

As the first group of SIU students to Panama, we had no idea what to expect of our week. It was an experiment, and we were the scientists. We did know we would spend long days in the field with high-end digital recorders collecting sound, learning how the Canal Zone continues to affect the ecosystem and identifying plants and animals of the forest.

The class was really hands-on. The first day APPC Director Nestor Correa introduced us to the APPC headquarters located in the City of Knowledge. There we met Jose Luis Ortega, whom Carver described as Panama's own Steve Irwin, the association's lead worker in animal rescue and relocation. Ortega walked up with a smile on his face and a backpack on, and we thought nothing of it. Ortega turned to reveal the head of a sleeping three-toed sloth poking out of his backpack.

Nothing prepares you for the sensation of holding a sloth in your arms. It was an experience I will not forget. The fur is not soft. It feels like heavily matted coarse wool. Its ligaments firmly grasped my torso, just as a child grasps a teddy bear, and it slowly turned its head from side to side, and occasionally stared at me with an open mouth. Thankfully, the 3-inch claws were bandaged together for safety reasons. Although not a pleasant animal to pet, it had



A student prepares to release a grass snake back into the rain forest.

a winning personality. Its extreme docile nature made me forget my initial hesitation.

And that was just the beginning. The APPC had several other animals that had been rescued: owls, caimans, opossums and a margay.

We were then ready to release the animals we had already grown attached to back into their environment.

The days were full of scheduled blocks to visit the narrow locks of the Panama Canal as cruise ships and cargo ships squeezed their way through to meet another ocean and the adventure through the Chagres River. We stopped briefly to swim in a waterfall known for its fertility, then met the Embera indigenous village. Music greeted us as we climbed out of our canoes, and we were escorted up stairs, which led to hand-crafted huts that overlooked the river. The tribe educated us about the culture, food and envi-

ronment. They even made us lunch, which included fried plantains, tilapia and a corn dish.

This trip showed me how a small group of people can really make a difference with something that really matters. The APPC, along with professors Carver and Needham, found a way to combine students from two disciplines to show the global struggle to conserve wildlife and natural habitat and hopefully do something to lend a hand. I hope to have done the same for you.

DuVale Riley can be reached at 536-3311 ext. 270 or durvaler@siu.edu.

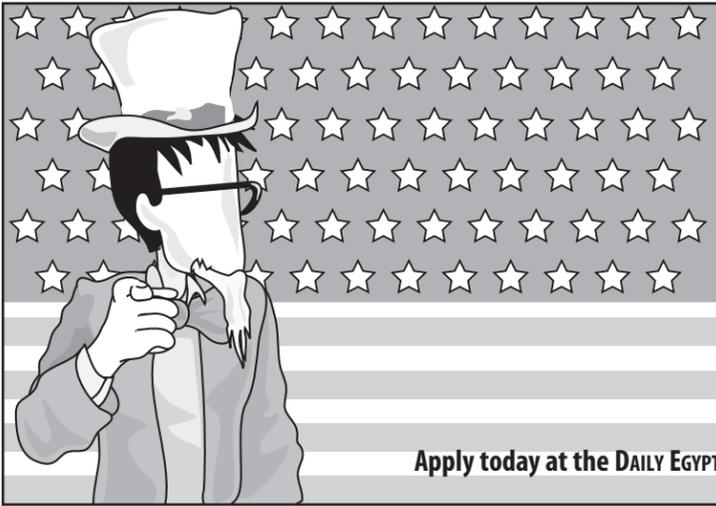
Check out more photos and sound clips online at siuDE.com

Once used as a bombing range by the U.S. military, this portion of the Panama Canal Zone will contain new locks that will allow transit of larger ships through the canal.



ABOVE: Jolene Wright, left, from Sullivan studying forestry, looks on as Ortega holds a pale-bellied mouse opossum rescued from the canal expansion construction site. RIGHT: Rescued wildlife await release during the first hike into the rain forest of Camino de Cruces National Park.





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- 514 S. Ash #1,2
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- 514 S. Beveridge #1-5,7
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- 510 N. Carico
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- 501 W. College #4,6

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- 508 S. Ash #1
- 514 S. Ash #1,3
- 409 S. Beveridge
- 502 S. Beveridge #1
- 503 S. Beveridge
- 506 S. Beveridge

- 503 W. College #4,6
- 507 W. College #6
- 509 W. College #6
- 710 W. College #6
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- 303 W. Elm
- 716 S. Forest
- 500 W. Freeman #1,3,6
- 109 Glenview
- 520 S. Grahm
- 505 S. Hays
- 507 S. Hays #2
- 408 1/2 E. Hester
- 408 E. Hester
- 410 E. Hester
- 703 W. High #E
- 208 W. Hospital #1
- 705 N. James
- 507 1/2 W. Main #B
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- 411 E. Mill
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- 515 S. Beveridge #5
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- 405 W. Cherry Court
- 406 W. Cherry Court
- 407 W. Cherry Court
- 408 W. Cherry Court
- 608 W. Cherry (available June)
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- 407 W. College #1,2,5
- 409 W. College #1,3
- 507 W. College #2
- 509 W. College #1
- 809 W. College
- 807 W. College
- 305 E. Crestview
- 104 S. Forest
- 120 S. Forest
- 603 S. Forest
- 716 S. Forest
- 605 W. Freeman #1
- 109 Glenview
- 503 S. Hays
- 505 S. Hays
- 509 S. Hays
- 408 E. Hester
- 208 W. Hospital #2
- 212 W. Hospital
- 610 S. Logan
- 614 S. Logan
- 515 S. Logan*
- 411 E. Mill
- 417 W. Monroe
- 400 W. Oak #1,2
- 402 W. Oak #E, W
- 501 W. Oak
- 505 N. Oakland
- 511 N. Oakland
- 514 N. Oakland
- 602 N. Oakland
- 1305 E. Park Lane
- 506 S. Poplar #2-4,6,7
- 913 W. Sycamore
- 404 W. Walnut
- 820 W. Walnut #1, 2
- 406 W. Willow

Four Bedroom

- 409 S. Beveridge
- 502 S. Beveridge #1
- 503 S. Beveridge
- 506 S. Beveridge

- 405 W. Cherry
- 807 W. College
- 809 W. College
- 305 Crestview
- 104 S. Forest
- 120 S. Forest
- 603 S. Forest
- 208 W. Hospital #2
- 610 S. Logan
- 400 W. Oak #2
- 408 W. Oak
- 412 W. Oak
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5bdrm-303 3 Hester

4 bdrm-503, 505, 511 S Ash, 321,324,406,802 W Walnut 501 S. Hays

3 bdrm-310, 313, 610 W Cherry 405 S Ash, 106, 408 S Forest, 306 W College, 321 W Walnut

2 bdrm-305 W College, 406, 324, 319 W Walnut

549-4808 (10am-5pm) No Pets Rental List at 324 W Walnut

3 BDRM AVAIL now, 2 & 3 bdrm avail Aug. 1, w/d, fridge incl, dog ok w/pet dep, nice yard, 618-967-7413.

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RENTING May/Aug 2008-2009

6 bdrm-313, 610 W Cherry

5 bdrm-303, E Hester

4 bdrm-503, 505, 511 S Ash, 321,324,406,802 W Walnut 501 S. Hays

3 bdrm-310, 313, 610 W Cherry 405 S Ash, 106, 408 S Forest, 306 W College, 321 W Walnut

2 bdrm-305 W College, 406, 324, 319 W Walnut

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DuVALE RILEY ~ DAILY EGYPTIAN

Mariano Restrepo returns a backhand during practice Feb. 25 at Sports Blast. SIU looks to pick up its first conference win at home today against Indiana State.

TENNIS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

Waked enters the match against the Sycamores victorious in four of his last six singles and six of his last eight doubles matches.

Waked draws Indiana State senior Anton Tsymbalov in today's top singles match. Tsymbalov has won his last three matches and comes in with an 11-5 record.

Another streaking Sycamore is sophomore Mpiloenhle Migogo, who defeated Butler's Eric Breitenbach to pick up his third consecutive victory March 28. His record stands at 7-9 on the season.

The Sycamores are also looking to get back to their winning ways. Indiana State enters the match at 6-10 overall, including a 4-0 record at home. Even though the match is

on the road, coach Jonas Piibor said his team would be prepared for the upcoming conference season.

"We have played five ranked teams so far this season and did a good job against tough competition," Piibor said in an interview on the Indiana State athletics Web site. "I believe that our pre-conference schedule has prepared us well for the Valley season."

While the men begin their conference season at home, the women take their 1-0 conference record on the road Saturday and Sunday.

The Saluki women look to improve their 7-7 overall record against a pair of Missouri Valley Conference rivals. SIU travels to Omaha, Neb., to face Creighton Saturday and finishes its road trip in Wichita, Kan., against Wichita State.

The Bluejays sport a 5-6 overall record, but are 2-1 at home. The Shockers enter the match as the No. 61 ranked team in the country with a 7-6 record, but have lost two of their last three matches.

SIU defeated Evansville 6-1 in its first conference win of the season March 22. The Salukis captured the doubles point by sweeping the Purple Aces, and took the momentum into singles matches where they came away with five of six.

Coach Audra Nothwehr said the win moved the team in the right direction.

"If we were going to win only one match this weekend, I'm glad it was the conference match," Nothwehr said.

Luis C. Medina can be reached at 536-3311 ext. 238 or lcm1986@siu.edu.

SPORT BRIEF

Offense responds against Arkansas State

After struggling to get hits with runners in scoring position against Illinois Tuesday, the SIU baseball team responded in a big way.

The Salukis (14-11) crushed Arkansas State 10-3 Wednesday in Jonesboro, Ark. The team earned the blowout by knocking in seven runs on eight hits in the fourth inning to set the tone early.

Sophomore right fielder Aaron Roberts had his best game of the season with a 3-for-5 night that included four RBIs.

Senior third baseman Tyler Lairson went 2-for-5 with a pair of runs scored and an RBI.

The Indians (14-15) never had a chance to get in the game because junior starting

pitcher Andrew Dunn retired 11 of the first 13 batters he faced.

Dunn, who is now 2-3 on the season, scattered two runs over five innings while striking out three.

The bullpen also responded with a strong performance as three relievers combined to toss the final four innings allowing only one unearned run.

Freshman pitcher Nick Rice was one of Saluki coach Dan Callahan's options to start Wednesday but he came in for Dunn in the sixth. He tossed a pair of scoreless innings.

SIU will be back in action 2 p.m. Friday at Abe Martin Field against Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

See siuDE.com for coverage of the SIU men's golf team's 11th place finish at the Branson Creek Invitational.

SOFTBALL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

McNamara picked up her seventh win of the season. She said both Waters and Glosson set the stage and had strong performances to back up their offense.

"I think it helped having our bats with us today, because you have a lot of confidence from that when you pitch," McNamara said.

Another big bottom of the fourth helped SIU regain the lead as it scored three runs to put the game out of reach for a 5-2 win.

The Salukis exploded with 11 hits in the game and Glosson

and McNamara combined for 12 strikeouts.

Haas said there is no question that the hot offense would continue as the Salukis resume their Missouri Valley Conference season.

"For the most part we've come to play in conference and our mid-week games and I think we'll have no problem this weekend."

SIU will be back in action at Charlotte West Stadium Saturday as it resumes MVC play against Indiana State in a double-header beginning at noon.

Megan Kramper can be reached at 536-3311 ext. 256 or megkramper@siu.edu.

FOOTBALL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

The final starting prospect is Brenneisen, who wore a red shirt last season. During his high school career, the Springfield native had a 68 percent completion percentage and ranked eighth all-time in Illinois with 6,409 passing yards while throwing for 75 touchdowns.

Lennon said the statistic that stood out the most for him was Brenneisen's 28-0 record and back-to-back

state championships.

"At the quarterback position you can't get caught up in looking at the paper stats," Lennon said. "I think there is something to be said about going undefeated."

Lennon said he is in no rush to name a starting quarterback, but fans will be able to see them in action during the spring game April 19.

Jeff Engelhardt can be reached at 536-3311 ext. 269 or jengel@siu.edu.

Gus Bode wants you! See page 10 to find out how!

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Arizona Cardinals head coach Ken Wisenhunt was "disappointed" in quarterback Matt Leinart after party photos from his house surfaced on the Internet. How do you feel about the Cards' QB situation?

JEFF ENGELHARDT
jengel@siu.edu

"I just want to say it's time for Nick Lachey to move on. Leinart should not have been playing drinking games with college girls, but Lachey is in his 30s. I mean the guy slept on Leinart's dorm room floor when USC was in the national championship. Have your four years of irresponsible fun in college and then its time to grow up a little."

MATT HARTWIG
mhartwig@siu.edu

"This is the same guy who stayed at Southern California to party for an extra year instead of being the No. 1 pick in the draft. Should we be surprised? If I were a Heisman Trophy winner getting beat out by an ancient Kurt Warner, I'd be looking to escape reality as well."

LUIS MEDINA
lcm1986@siu.edu

"It's a shame that Leinart is known more for his partying than what he's done with the pigskin, because he has a lot of talent. Speaking of talent, I think that Leinart and wingman Nick Lachey could probably do better than party with college girls. Step your game up Matt, both on and off the field."

QUOTE OF THE DAY
Andy Katz

Southern Illinois' Chris Lowery will listen to Marquette or Oklahoma State if either school calls, according to a source close to Lowery. Lowery is very comfortable in Carbondale. The Oklahoma State list will likely go down to No. 3 with Bill Self (Kansas) and Billy Gillispie (Kentucky) likely staying put.

-ESPN's Andy Katz on potential candidates for the coaching vacancy at Oklahoma State and Marquette

Do you have questions for the Saluki Insider that you want answered?
E-mail: editor@siude.com

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5. 10" Stix & 5 Wings
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Friday
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Saturday
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candles



FOOTBALL

A quest for a quarterback

Jeff Engelhardt
 DAILY EGYPTIAN

While the Salukis have replaced their leader on the sidelines, the search for a new field general has just begun.

With the second week of spring football in progress, coach Dale Lennon's search for a quarterback has started to accelerate. Lennon's choices include incoming sophomores Joe Allaria and Chris Dieker along with red shirt freshman Bobby Brenneisen.

Whoever steps under center will have high expectations as the heir to last season's quarterback Nick Hill. Hill threw for 3,175 yards and ran for 357 while tossing 28 touchdowns. His impressive statistics and leadership have led to interest from the Chicago Bears in this year's NFL Draft.

But one week into spring ball, there are already promising signs from the trio of hopeful hurlers, Lennon said.

"They're hard workers," he said. "They have been putting in the time and effort in the film room and I have been impressed with their ability."

Allaria has the most experience out of the group as he appeared in 10 games last season. He finished with 106 passing yards on 11-for-21 passing with one interception.

The running game of Allaria was

on display last season as well when he finished with 188 yards on 30 attempts. His average of 6.3 yards per carry was third best on the team.

Allaria said practices have had some similarities to last season, but new drills have also enhanced his game.

"We have a new drill where we throw into these nets," Allaria said. "It really helps with accuracy and getting a consistency."

Dieker is literally the biggest competition as he towers over the other two quarterbacks at 6-foot-5. Dieker appeared in only two games last season and completed one pass on two attempts.

The Topeka, Kan., native has brought an impressive resume to SIU with all-state honors and a 25-1 record during his high school career.

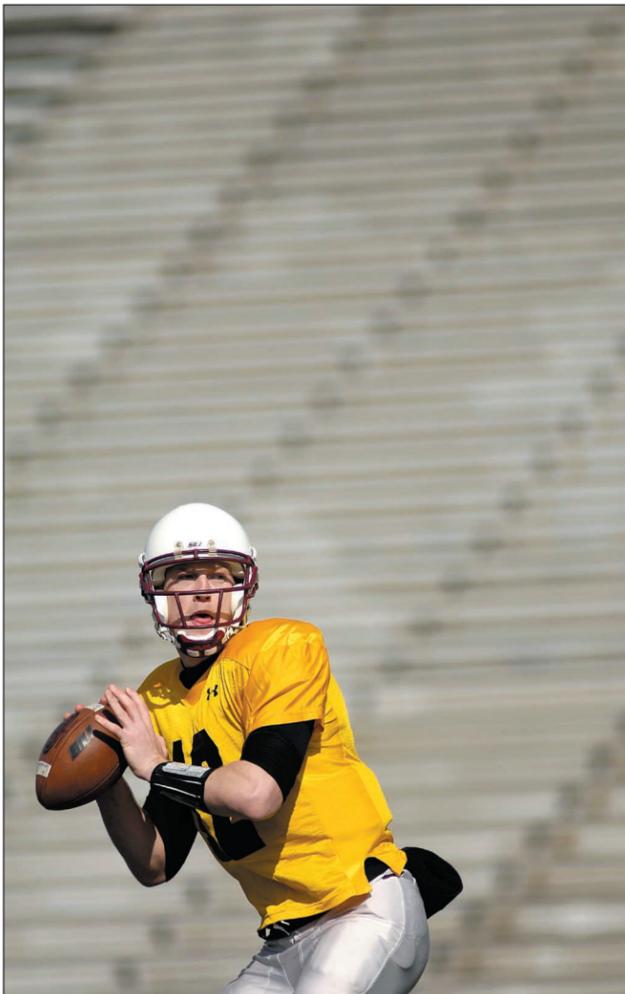
Changes to the offense have Dieker excited about next season whether he starts or holds the clipboard. The play-action-focused passing attack of former coach Jerry Kill has been replaced with more focus on the drop-back pass with quick releases.

"We have been working on footwork and technique and I think it's helped me fit well with the drop back," Dieker said. "But I'm excited for the no huddle stuff we're doing."

See FOOTBALL, Page 14

**At the
 Quarterback
 position you
 can't get caught
 up in looking at
 the paper stats.
 I think there
 is something
 to be said
 about going
 undefeated.**

—Dale Lennon
 head coach



JASON JOHNSON ~ DAILY EGYPTIAN

Incoming sophomore Chris Dieker practices in McAndrew Stadium Tuesday afternoon. Dieker is vying for the starting quarterback position after the departure of Nick Hill.

TENNIS

Salukis swing into conference

Luis C. Medina
 DAILY EGYPTIAN

After hovering around .500 during the out-of-conference season, the SIU men's and women's tennis teams are looking to conference play to improve their records.

The men's team enters its home matchup against Missouri Valley Conference foe Indiana State looking to rebound after road losses against Northern Illinois and Illinois-Chicago. Before the losses, SIU picked up wins against Saint Louis and SIU-Edwardsville.

Coach Dann Nelson said the Salukis would have to focus and bring their best effort in each match to get back in the win column.

"There's a lot of tennis to be played and we have our whole conference season ahead of us," Nelson said. "We have to come out with a new attitude because in conference you have to bring your A-game every time."

Despite splitting a pair of weekend matches, sophomore Lucas Waked has been playing some of his best tennis coming into conference play, Nelson said.

See TENNIS, Page 14

SOFTBALL

Haas' bat continues to fuel Salukis

Megan Kramper
 DAILY EGYPTIAN

Lauren Haas couldn't control herself Wednesday.

The senior first baseman hit a three-run home run in game one as she helped the Salukis (19-15) pick up two non-conference victories against Saint Louis at Charlotte West Stadium.

Despite reaching base on an error, Haas had her eight-game hit streak snapped in game two. She said she was happy to simply put the ball into play.

"It feels really good," Haas said. "And the fact that I'm doing it consistently is even better."

Coach Kerri Blaylock said she isn't worried about Haas getting caught up in streaks and is confident she will approach each game one at a time to provide an offensive spark.

Haas wasn't the only Saluki to produce big hits as junior third baseman Katie Wagner went 6-for-7 with her first career three-hit game in game two. Junior outfielder Katie Schmidt also contributed with a 3-for-5 performance with two doubles.

While Haas has been a big contributor at the plate, Blaylock said having several players hitting the ball puts a boost in the lineup.

"It feels great that you can get in a rhythm offensively," Blaylock said.



EDYTA BLASZCZYK ~ DAILY EGYPTIAN

Despite being knocked over by a Saint Louis University batter, senior first baseman Lauren Haas continued the game to extend an eight-game hitting streak Wednesday afternoon. Her streak was snapped in the second game of the double header, but the Salukis won both games.

With no score in the bottom of the fourth in game one, Haas smashed a three-run home run to deep left field to put the Salukis up 3-0.

The Billikens (12-20-1) couldn't contain the Salukis' hot offense as

they added two more runs in the bottom of the fifth and sealed their victory 5-0 in game one.

Freshman Nikki Waters earned her 10th victory on the season as she struck out eight and allowed just three hits in seven innings.

Mishaps ruled game two as there was a combined seven errors in the contest, but it wouldn't be enough to slow the Salukis' bats as they gained their second victory of the day with a 5-2 win.

SIU took an early 2-0 lead but

Saint Louis rallied back to score two runs in the top of the fourth as starting freshman pitcher Danielle Glosson was replaced by junior Katie McNamara in the inning.

See SOFTBALL, Page 14