Crime control:
Governor candidate proposes stiffer measures to fight gangs.

 weddings

DAILY EGYPTIAN
Southern Illinois University at Carbondale
Friday, December 5, 1997

FIVE YEARS AFTER PYRAMIDS FIRE

Fire burns in friend's memory
On a frigid December night five years ago, Wan Kamal Wan Napi was awakened by a phone call that sent him rushing to the scene of a devastating fire that killed five students, one of whom was his best friend.

Wan Napi witnessed the scene shortly after receiving a call from a third-floor window onto the burning building. He told the reporters that his friend, Maziin Abdul Wahid, was his best friend. "He was crying." When they first crone here, she said, "At this time we're devoting everything's falling into place," he said. "Then you hit a dip. We've taken such a ride several times...

The smoke spread rapidly through the building, and everybody was running away," said Wan Napi, International Student Council president. "Everybody was crying. I saw two or three people jump from the second floor.

In what has been described as the worst fire catastrophe ever in Carbondale, five students were killed, six were hospitalized — some with serious injuries — and two were treated and released.

Many of the injuries were caused by smoke inhalation and residents jumping to the ground to escape the flames and smoke of the building, which originally housed international students.

The smoke spread rapidly throughout the building, during many of the residents. Four of the dead students were found in positions indicating they were trying to reach the windows before they were overcome by the smoke.

The Fire Department arrived on the scene shortly after receiving a call from an automatic alarm at 1:27 a.m. More than 30 of the 44 residents were left homeless by the blaze, which was contained to the second and third floors and took a little more than an hour to defeat.

"The blaze was ruled arson by investigators, who said the building was up to city code. In the five years since the fire, no arrests have been made, and police will not comment on a possible motive."

Wan Napi's friend, Maziin Abdul Wahid, was pronounced brain dead the morning of the fire and died the next day. Wan Napi saw her carried out of the burning building by a firefighter. "She was unconscious, and she had no burns, so I didn't think it was that serious," he recalled. "I thought she was only unconscious because of the smoke.

Wan Napi was one of about 60 Malaysian students who went to Belleville Memorial Hospital to wait word on the condition of Wahid. Wahid, a member of International Student Council, was treasurer of the Malaysian Student Association.

"When she first came here, she was very shy and quiet," Wan Napi said. "I decided to ask her to join USC, that she could make friends. She ended up being very outgoing.

Wahid's friends from USC and several other concerned strangers from St. Louis University and the University

The Victims
of the Dec. 6, 1992, fire at The Pyramids apartment complex

KIMIKO AJIOKA, 25, a senior in marketing from Osaka, Japan

RONALD MOY, 25, a senior in economics from Chicago

LAI HUNG TAM, 23, a senior in marketing from Kowloon, Hong Kong

MAIZLIN ABDUL WAHID, 28, a freshman in vocational education studies from Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia's

CHENG TENG WONG, 23, a senior in electrical engineering from Johor, Malaysia

Gus Bade

Gus says: Time doesn't ease the pain.

The partys involved in a law suit against The Pyramid apartment managers and owners work to negotiate a settlement. Five of the injured students have settled out of court and the case will go to trial.

"At this time we're devoting all our energy to settling and resolving the case without having a trial," he said.

"Everybody is prepared to settle and the case may be solved." Gancho says.

Alleman says that if the parties cannot agree on a settlement, the case will go to trial.

The suit was filed Dec. 21, 1992.

"This is my No. 1 priority," he said. "We're trying to focus on that information that will take it to a level that it's study for prosecution. This is a very complex case. It's like putting pieces of a puzzle together.

The fire killed five students, one of whom died in the Dec. 6, 1992, fire.

Fire burns in friend's memory

Police have suspect in 1992 arson
Carbondale Police announced Thursday they have a suspect in The Pyramids apartment arson case, which was ruled arson in a five-year investigation.

"There have been times that it's going up and everyday's falling into place," he said. "Then you hit a dip. We've taken such a ride several times...

"We still remain optimistic that this case can be solved." Carbondale Police chief Bob Ledbetter, lead investigator of the case, said the parties are working with Jackson County State's Attorney Mike Wegele to determine whether there is sufficient evidence to prove guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

"This is my No. 1 priority," he said. "We're trying to focus on that information that will take it to a level that it's study for prosecution. This is a very complex case. It's like putting pieces of a puzzle together.

Police will not comment on many of those pieces, including where and how the fire started or a motive.

"My personal belief is that this fire was never

SEE SUSPECT, PAGE 6
**Calendar**

**UND Graduate Desk**
Undergraduate student, December 5, 2 to 7 p.m., Luther Student Center, Contact Edie at 529-3397.

**Library Affairs**
Intermediates Web Page Construction (WWW) Seminar, December 5, 10 a.m. to noon, Morris Library Room 103D. Contact the Undegraduate Desk at 453-2818.

**Organizations**
Pro-Familial Students (PROS), December 5, 7 p.m., Student Center Old Main Rooms, Free for members, $6 for non-members. Contact Bridget at 453-2820.

**Library Affairs**
"Shelfworth Conferences" December 5, 1 to 2 p.m., Luther Library, Contact Martha at 529-3910.

**UPCOMING**

**Habitat for Humanity Work Project**
December 5, 9 a.m., meet at Student Center, Contact John at 536-3311.

**Strategic Games Society**
Standard Board Game Night, December 5, 7-7 p.m., Luther Library. Contact Edie at 529-3397.

**Golden Key National Honor Society**
Induction Ceremony, December 6, 6:30 p.m., Student Center Rotunda 6. Contact Negeen at 531-1120 or 536-2818.

**African Student Council Meeting**
December 6, 6:30-7:30 p.m., Luther Library. Contact Edie at 529-3397.

**Block Toogetherness Organization (BTO)**
Meet at Library Square, December 6, 6 to 10 p.m., Grinnell Hall lounge. Contact Zowadi at 528-2054.

**University Christian Ministry**
House reception to watch the lights of the Fantastic Parade and welcome the holiday season. December 6, 5 p.m. to 7 p.m., Luther Library. Contact Edie at 529-3397.

**SPC Travel Committee Meeting**
Monday, 6 p.m., Student Center Activity Room B. Contact Dave at 536-3999.

**SPC TVS General Interest Meeting**
Wednesday, 6 p.m., Student Center Video Lounge. Contact Jeremy at 549-5660.

**SPC Comedy Committee Meeting**
Monday, 6 p.m., Student Center Impromptu Room. Contact Dave at 536-3997.

**Goals of the Student Rights Organization**
Meet at Library Square, December 6, 6 to 10 p.m., Grinnell Hall lounge. Contact Zowadi at 528-2054.

**Concert of Organ**
Monday, 8 p.m., Student Center Rotunda 6. Contact Jeremy at 529-3397.

**Reading Room**
Monday, 8 p.m., Student Center. Contact Jeremy at 529-3397.

**SPC Publicity Committee Meeting**
Monday, 6 p.m., Student Center Activity Room B. Contact Dave at 536-3999.

**Student Activities Council**
Meet at Library Square, December 6, 6 to 10 p.m., Grinnell Hall lounge. Contact Zowadi at 528-2054.

**Annual Student Senate Meeting**
Monday, 5:30 p.m.; Student Senate, Rotunda 6, Student Center, Contact Zowadi at 528-2054.

**SPC Travel Committee Meeting**
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CANDIDATE CRITICIZES SYSTEM

**EFFORTS:** Schmidt plans to get tough on gang leaders in prisons.

**JASON FREUND**
**DAILY EGYPTIAN REPORTER**

Adding 200 additional probation and parole officers throughout the state would help curb the power of gang leaders recently released from prison, one candidate for the Democratic nomination in the 1998 gubernatorial race says.

John Schmidt, former associate U.S. Attorney General, talked about seven supporters and local media at 9:30 a.m. Thursday in the Carbondale Civic Center, 200 S. Illinois Ave., that local efforts against gangs are not enough to win the war.

"The best local efforts to fight gangs will fail if our state government doesn't do its job in the area of criminal justice," he said.

Schmidt, who implemented the Motor-Voter Law to boost voter registration, cited the ability of gang leaders to continue operation from within prisons and the lack of restrictions on recently released leaders, as the major problems.

"Gangs are moving, people are nervous they are afraid and that's wrong. People shouldn't be afraid."

**BRENDA WEST**
**GRADUATE STUDENT IN POLITICAL SCIENCE**

"What we need to do is to isolate gang leaders within our prisons, deny them access to the general prison population and deny them access to the outside world, including visitors and telephonic contact, except for the constitutional minimum of access to an attorney," he said.

Schmidt said the additional officers would help restrict the activities of gang leaders through curfews, geographic restrictions and restrictions with whom the leaders associate.

He estimated the 200 new officers would cost $10 million per year.

"I believe in a $35 billion dollar-a-year budget, we can afford $10 million dollars a year for something that will have an impact on violence," Schmidt said.

He said 200 officers would be sufficient to have an influence throughout the state because the new officers will focus on gang activities.

"It would be nice to have 1,000, but 200 is enough," he said.

Brenda Weis, a graduate student in political science who attended the speech, said she thinks gangs are an important issue to discuss.

"Gangs are moving, people are nervous, they are afraid and that's wrong. People shouldn't be afraid," she said.

**CARBONDALE**

**SIUC student arrested in connection with robberies**

An SIUC student was arrested Monday in connection with an early morning Nov. 13 armed robbery in the 600 block of West Freeman.

Frederick T. Drew, 19, of Fairview Heights, was taken into custody Monday about 5 a.m. by Carbondale Police after an investigation revealed that he was one of four individuals involved in the robbery.

Police responded to reports that four men were robbing a 1980s Cadillac stopped pedestrians in the 600 block of West Freeman and demanded their money.

Police continue to investigate the incident. Drew remains in custody at Jackson County Jail on a $25,000 bond.

**DE SOTO**

**Edgar signs aid bill increasing funding for poor schools**

With a nod to De Soto Elementary School as his backdrop, Gov. Jim Edgar signed what he terms an historic school-aid bill Thursday, providing Southern Illinois schools like De Soto with a modest increase in funding.

The package establishes a foundation funding level for the state's poorest school districts at $4,225 per student in 1998, increasing in $100 increments over the next three years. It also implements several controversial education reforms, including the extension of the probatory period for tenure, making it harder for educators to renew their teaching certificates and the reforming of administrators contracts so that they are performance-based.

The needed revenue will come from an increase in cigarette, casino and telecommunications taxes, and the institution of a deadbeat tax penalty.

**CARBONDALE**

**SIU Credit Union's new branch opens Monday**

SIU Credit Union will open a new branch Monday at 395 N. Giant City Road. The new full-service facility will have its own drive-up window, drive-up automated teller machine, Saturday lobby hours and a safety deposit box rental.

**O'DOUGLAS**

**Original Deep Pan Pizza**

The Big One

- Large Deep Pan or Thin Crust Pizza with topping 1-2 toppings of your choice
- $10.25

The Small Wonder

- Small Deep Pan or Thin Crust Pizza with topping 1-2 toppings of your choice
- $5.79

Call 549-5326 for reservations and delivery.
Bill Mamer submits "it is no more of government's business what ethnic group you belong to than which religion you subscribe" in his letter ("Americans should stop thinking by race alone," Nov. 5). The problem with this analysis is that historically the U.S. government has done this precisely all too well. It has used race and ethnicity repeatedly to forcibly subjugate minority groups into second-class citizens.

The last racial restrictions were not repealed by Congress until 1953. Thus, for 162 years "whites" were considered citizens while other groups such as Native Americans, African-Americans, Asians and Hispanics were not. With the end of citizenship, whites could and gained political participation and representation. The outcome of this privilege was economic and social prosperity for one segment of society and not for the other.

In fact, while whites reaped the benefits of institutional affirmative action, other minority groups were enslaved and some barely had the right to participate in their way of life. Other minorities suffered from race exclusion as well.

The history I am sure Mamer is well aware of is that Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 was the first national law passed by Congress that banned one group's entry into this country based on race. It also prohibited wives of Chinese laborers from entering the United States. The passing of this historic piece of legislation came about as a direct result of political pressure from whites who, at the time, feared job competition from Chinese immigrants. working on the Transcontinental Railroad and in gold mines in California. For a period of American history, the words "Chinese" and "exclusion" were synonymous. The Chinese workers themselves remained ineligible for citizenship until 1943.

Following legislation such as the 1945 California Alien Land Act prohibited "Asiatics" from owning lands in and properties. The author of "Americans should stop thinking by race alone" also states that as a future history teacher, he "will be the first to admit that until recently, minorities were held back by institutional racism." This is an over statement and is passively inaccurate. Minorities were not just "held back" by institutional racism, but the racism they experienced was often very active and very violent. A core concept deficit would include enslaved, destroyed and excluded.

Admitting wrong in the past is leading in the right direction, but to claim that recent minority affirmative action "offends the generic white male" is seeing history in a static rather than continuous manner. An analogy would go something like this: A group of people is sitting at a table playing poker. After eight hours of playing, the player has gotten ahead by winning most of the chips from the others. It is soon discovered that the reason the player got ahead was because he cheated by having an extra card. When caught, the player行走 guilt and has to give back all the money everyone must play by the rules or else it "reverse discrimination." The extra card that allowed the one player to win is much of everybody else was the voiding card enjoying the "generic white male." I have taught biology in an inner-city high school, and I agree with Mamer in that we both see the value of diversity. However, to think that this diversity can be achieved by individuals on a level playing field is naive, for to ignore that the field has never been leveled. History is not just this morning, yesterday or the month before. History is continuous from the beginning of time.

Because one has to know one's history in order to have focus and direction for the future, I submit that history is not just about events in the past, but that history also is the future. To give up on recent affirmative action programs is one analogy that fails to understand that affirmative action has always existed in the past — and will continue to be a part of the future, perhaps under different labels.

Our Word
Remembering
Arson deaths of five students remind us of sober truths

A SOMBER ANNIVERSARY GREET THE SIUC campus this weekend, as Carbondale faces the fifth anniversary of The Pyramids tragedy.

And this weekend highlights how much we all have to learn from that tragedy. SIUC students Kimiko Aikau, Ronald Mey, Lai Hung Tarn, Mazzin Abdul Wahid and Chong Teck Wong died in a fire on the Dec. 6, 1992, arson fire at The Pyramids, 504 S. Rawlings St. That fire also left eight other students injured — many from jumping out of windows because of a lack of fire escapes in the building. In addition, the fire left more than 30 student—without homes.

Carbondale Police announced Thursday they have a suspect in the arson, which shows they have not forgotten about the case. But what about the rest of us? How are we served by remembering this awful event?

This tragedy forever changed the lives of a number of SIUC students. Only days before, these students were making plans for their final exams and visits to relatives over winter break.

Such plans are familiar to many of us, as we may already have done likewise. Unfortunately for those students — who so discreetly are like us — tragedy had made other plans for them.

Today, The Pyramids — now known as Ambassador Apartments — are under new ownership. Located near campus, the fire made the building uninhabitable and has incurred costs for the new owner. Other students and community members pass by the quiet complex everyday. But remembering the holiday-season tragedy — occurring there just a short five years ago — may be difficult for those people to do. It may be just as difficult for us all.

That difficulty may be attributed to a number of reasons. The Pyramids apartments primarily housed international students, and many survivors of the fire may have grappled or returned to their homelands. Those residents and neighbors remaining in Carbondale area may be too busy to relive such a terrifying experience. Without the headlines and news reports in the media accompanying the original event, many of us just may not recall the tragedy.

AND IT IS HERE THAT WE FIND THE TRUE meaning of somber anniversaries. These recurring events should serve to spur us into action in two sorely needed ways. We are urged to remember the original tragedy, and we are inspired by that event to take steps to ensure that it does not happen again.

The International Student Council and other groups have taken steps to aid the first purpose, as a meeting about commemorating the tragedy was planned for tonight. Wan Kamal Wan Napi, ISC president, plans to ask Undergraduate Student Government and administrators to support an annual memorial service.

These events serve well in accompanying the memorial statue and tree that were placed near Campus Lake almost three years ago.

The second purpose rests in all of our hands, as we all should check the safety of our living conditions to avoid a similar tragedy. Take time to check fire alarms to make sure they are working in condition. Use weekend funds to purchase a fire extinguisher for your homes. Work with landlords to design efficient fire escape routes from apartment buildings and reenact yourselves with the location of fire escapes. If a high-unit, multi-story building does not have one, that poses a possible threat.

If you are a student, or anyone else who was not in Carbondale Dec. 6, 1992, — or even if you were here, and do remember the city's worst fire catastrophe — then make sure that you do remember the SIUC students who lost their lives. Honor their memory by protecting yourselves and others from suffering in a similar way.

This is the very least that we all can do for those students and their families.

“Our Word” represents the consensus of the Daily Egyptian Editorial Board.
Attorneys, who have since viewed the evidence, as not allowed access to the evidence. Allerman would not say how much the remaining plaintiffs are seeking, but it is a significant amount.

"There has not been an offer made," he said. "I expect that when an offer is made, there will be offers made to all the plaintiffs at one time."

The amended complaint, filed on July 14, states, "Before and at the time the fire started, the defendants failed to exercise ordinary care for the safety of the plaintiffs."

"We think that they violated their own rules and regulations concerning keeping the hallways clear of debris and other items," Allerman said. "It's in their lease that they're in control of the common part of the building."

"It's our contention that this fire started in a pile of clothes or laundry that was left outside of the door of one of the rooms. I cannot tell you what evidence we would present to prove that point; all I can tell you is that if we put it into our complaint, we can prove it." The complaint also alleges the defendants "failed to exercise a high degree of care for plaintiff's safety" by failing to provide a sprinkler system in the building's hallways and common areas, failing to provide outside fire escapes on the third floor of the building and failing to provide a security guard on the first floor of the building to guard the common areas and monitor the hallways.

The defendants have filed documents challenging some of the factual allegations in the complaint. The plaintiffs want the defendants to be more specific in some of the allegations.

"The defendants are asking the court to make us prove how the fire started and who started it," Allerman said. "We have not alleged that we know who or how the fire started, and I don't think that's something we have to prove. All we have to prove is there was a fire."

Allerman said a common point in the attorneys' discussions has been that no arrests have been made in this case. "Our clients, who are foreigners, are sometimes disillusioned that they (police) haven't been able to apprehend anybody," he said.

Allerman said attorneys have spent a great deal of time on the lawsuit, and everyone is eager to see it concluded.

"It's a tragedy that has transcended this community for five years," he said. "In that respect, it's a tragedy that we move forward and get this case settled or to close it. We are injured people who would like to get this over with. The people who lived in this fire will always be haunted by it."
There are more than 2,000 pages of reports, 300 photos and 80 items of physical evidence. It has been about three months since the public has generated any new information, Strom said.

Two Carbondale Police officers and representatives from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms and the U.S. Attorney's Office went to Japan in May 1996. Strom would not say why the officers went to Japan, but it was said it was a "wasteful trip."

Authorities had coordinated their efforts with the ATF, U.S. Justice Department, U.S. Treasury Department, Customs Bureau, U.S. Department of State and Interpol.

An agent from the profiling unit of the FBI Behavioral Science Unit at Quantico, Va., came to Carbondale and now uses other than what to police the appropriate way to handle such a case. Strom would not comment on what the profiler determined about the suspect.

The ATF has been involved in the case because of its expertise in arson. The ATF immediately assigned its National Response Team, comprised of agents from across the country, to come to Carbondale and work with local investigators after the fire. Lebedoff said that although the fire occurred five years ago, he is still a very active case and in constant communication with the ATF investigators in Cape Girardeau, Mo.

"It occurred the night of the Lights Festival Parade, and my family and I left the parade feeling good for the holiday time," Beggs said. "The next morning we heard what had happened, and I have never felt my feeling about the holiday."

Beggs said the memorial service at Shryock Auditorium later that weekend was one of the most dignified services he has ever attended.

"Some of my friends told me the appropriate way to show dignity was to leave as orderly and as quietly as possible," he said. "I'll always remember the feeling of what I assumed to be a relative and what an important way to show dignity was, in terms of what I could do to help the person." In 1994, a monument was erected at the boat docks near Campus Lake. The memorial states: 'The world will never forget the Carbondale Lights Festival Fire. It supplied our grief into passion for making this world a better place for ourselves and for all people.'

Wahid's parents would like to see such a case. Strom would not reveal as much as he could but to also seek additional information anyone may have," he said. Salmood said the department has remained in contact with some of the victims' families. "This case remains our highest priority. We never closed the case. In our opinion, if it's possible to bring it to justice, this department can do it."
Having celebrities like Madonna and the Beatles on stage at the same time as the “Nutcracker” ensemble and various animals is not unusual for one theater company that has come a long way from Broadway.

Displaying a flourishing show of colorful, oversized puppets, the Famous People Players will present “A Magical Christmas” at 8 p.m. Friday in Shryock Auditorium.

The Canadian theater company has been a worldwide success traveling from New York to Japan, entertaining crowds with stuffed characters under fluorescent colors and black light. The group travels around the country four times a year amusing crowds with the presence of well-known faces and characters.

Diane Dupuy, founder and director, said the group’s black light show of famous puppets is to entice all audiences, children as well as adults. “It’s good for all ages — from two weeks to 102 years-old,” Dupuy said. “We try to find something everyone likes. I think it brings out the child in all of us.”

During one show, Mary Thornton, head of visual art effects, recalls witnessing a moving, emotional moment of the company’s old-time fans. “She was a 102-year-old, and she walked in all by herself,” Thornton said. “She said she had heard so much about it from her nursing home buddies. I don’t know what it is about the show, but it really moves people.”

Melissa Jakubowski, publicity assistant for Shryock Auditorium, said that after reviewing videos of the Famous People Players, she is sure they will move Shryock’s crowd Friday night. “I just think it’s amazing how they create this magical show,” she said. “There’s giant flowers and rug tubes on stage, and giant angels sing ‘Silent Night.’ You kind of have to see it to believe it.”

Thornton said that after 23 years of creating hundreds of stuffed characters, it tends to become a bit overwhelming.

At the age of 80, Thornton spends about six hours of creating a 10-foot tall, for each show. “It’s bigger and harder to compete with oneself,” she said. “We have to do better than before. We travel with 118 items, and it’s all transported into two hours on stage. That’s why we have to much to show.”

The group has been featured on shows such as “Good Morning America,” “The Phil Donahue Show” and “Live with Regis and Kathie Lee.” The Famous People Players scheme for shows year-round to guarantee improvement each time.

Dupuy said constructing such a elaborate show requires constant attention from everyone involved. “It takes time, and there’s hours and hours of repetition,” she said.

“Then it’s selecting the music and coming up with characters to match the music. It’s like drawing a cartoon. Each second has to be created anima.”

Thornton said withDupuy’s, who is also her daughter, creative ideas, producing the elements for the amusing show is made simple. “Diane (Dupuy) chooses the characters,” she said. “I make the life-size puppets very colorful to be more visual and imaginative. I guess someone has to be kind of crazy or something to come up with this.”

Producing shows for all crowds calls for ingenuity into the entertainment world. Famous People Players has produced shows that present hits and songs of the well-known faces of Elvis Presley, Michael Jackson and Barbara Streisand. “You have to get people who are recognizable,” Dupuy said.

Dupuy said it is not important that the performers are challenged because they are normal people and perform the job well enough to be a success.

Although it takes about six people to control the strings of each prop, Thornton said the performers’ capabilities are not a concern because they are like everyone else. “We forget about the disabilities because everyone is equal here,” Thornton said. “We give them a chance and everyone is treated the same.”

Fulfilling her passion to create animation, Dupuy said the plans to continue for as long as she is able. “It gets mind-boggling sometimes with one show after the other, but I kind of still think I’m 30- or 40-years old,” she said. “I’ll keep on until I find something better. But I really can’t see anything better or as rewarding as this.”

Excited about performing at Shryock, Dupuy said she encourages all people to attend the show for positive, inspirational fun. “When we’re in the world with such negative influence, it is important that parents bring their kids,” Dupuy said. “And it’s a show that is not to be missed.”

She said she had heard so much about it from her nursing home buddies. I don’t know what it is about the show, but it really moves people.

HEAD OF VISUAL ART EFFECTS FOR FAMOUS PEOPLE PLAYERS

By TAMEKA L. HICKS

The Famous People Players will perform "A Magical Christmas" at 8 p.m. Friday at Shryock Auditorium. Tickets for the show are $12.50 and $10. Tickets can be purchased at the Shryock box office, or charge by phone at 453-2787.
Bustin' the BLUES in St. Louis

B blue enthusiasts planning for a heavy dose of their favorite mood music will find solace among others like fans at the Third Annual Fall Blues Bust at 9 tonight at Mississippi Nights in St. Louis.

At first, a triple headlining bill, area blues acts Blues Handle, Uncle Albert and show opener River City Blues will converge on the club stage to display the music that gave birth to rock 'n' roll.

Uncle Albert guitarist Tim Alben said the Fall Blues Bust will not only offer blues fans three different styles of the blues, but will bring the three bands together, allowing fans to see the three bands in one location.

"It will consolidate three different blues audiences, and it will build some community and camaraderie," he said. "It's a better way for people to understand that there is a lot of good music out there, and it's better for people to be exposed to what is going on with the area blues."

Alben also said the show's all-ages entry is an excellent way for young people to hear a style of music to which they normally are not exposed.

"We've been pumping (the all-ages aspect) because there are not many chances for young people around St. Louis to see the blues," said. "It gets too locked up in the bars and that limits your audience.

The Fall Blues Bust is the brainchild of River City blues guitarist Joe Miles, and part of what drives him to bring people together, Coloured desire for a decent blues concert for people of all ages.

"I was driving down the street one day and I thought it would be cool to see a blues show in one of St. Louis' bigger spots," he said. "It was just the right idea."

A couple phone calls later to Mississippi Nights, 914 N. First SL, and show opener River City Blues will converge on the club stage to display the music that gave birth to rock 'n' roll.

"We picked this venue because we want different music fans to get together in one location," Alben said. "It will consolidate three different ages, because we can hit every age in just one show.

And what will strike the audience on the night will be three distinct styles of the blues from three unique St. Louis area bands in one show.

River City Blues opens the night with its classic blues sound, while the Fall Blues Band, which also is making its first appearance at Mississippi Nights, is to accommodate all styles, from blues to contemporary blues to country.

"It's a better way for people to understand what is going on with the area blues," he said. "You can tell when someone is telling the truth. People can tell when you're fake. Emotion. People can tell when you're faking emotion."

Alben also said the show will offer plenty of blues fans from all over the area.

"We've been pumping (the all-ages aspect) because there are not many chances for young people interested in the blues to see the blues," he said.

"It's a good time for an all-ages blues show. We pick it because we can accommodate all ages."

The blues is all based on attitude."
Turnover on downs: "Alien" fails
JASON ADRIAN
This newspaper's critic.

"Alien" was a brilliant ride in the relatively new science fiction/horror genre. Then came the masterpiece sequel of man-against-monster "Aliens," which made Ridley as formidable an action hero as Rambo.

When the series took a dramatic turn with the dismal "Alien 3," and to save the series, "Alien Resurrection" not only had to turn the fourth installment into the two-point game. Despite nifty special effects, which include a spectacular underwater chase scene, the fourth installment fumbles a goal line with dire dialogue and an incomprehensible plot.

As fans of the series know, the survivingouch of the characters (Sigourney Weaver), died in the third film, and, well, ceased to become a surviving character. Or so we were told. But, then again, the old evil is bad.

Closed back to life on a military ship deep in space by an immortal team of scientists to relieve the alien seeding with hyper human abilities. And because she gave "birth" to the alien queen being kept captive by the military crew of the ship, it was likened by her arch-nemesis, Ripley.

When the young space pirate Call (Winona Ryder) and her mercenary team of smugglers show up to sell their goods to the newly named General Peres (Don Cheadle), a mercenary tournament allows the aliens to prove they cannot be nailed or manipulated.

While the military crew evacuates and the aliens run rampant over the gargantuan space ship, the small crew of pirates is led back to the mother ship and into a powerful human standoff, we see these people walk toward their escape ship and run into an occasional alien while wrangling extremely bad bits of verbiage.

Movies have come too far to depend on ingenious special effects to carry a flick. Audiences still need a decent script for a truly superior film. This half of the series is the cinematic equal of the '85 Bears.

CD Capsules

Led Zeppelin
LID ZEPPELIN: BBC SESSIONS
Atlantic — 1997

Forget when the songs were recorded. Forget all of the dates and times when the songs were created— it doesn't make any difference. Every track on the new "Led Zeppelin: BBC Sessions" double album is a legendary hit. It's the mighty rock 'n' roll machine.

I cannot begin to explain how excited I was to hear the recording of "Stairway to Heaven" from when Zep played it for the first time ever to a live audience. I was dazed and confused with amazement when Jimmy Page waited a seemingly endless, masterful guitar solo on "Heartbreaker." The album also contains two recordings of "Whole Lotta Love," each one unique in its own way. One version, from a jam with Van Morrison, is listenably overload. The other one, from the band's very first concert, leaves me in wonder.

And it is far too easy to boogie to the tunes on this album because every classic tune is raw and rock full of intense rock-ability.

There are two new songs on the album, but you might want to check out "The Girl I Loved Too Lonely." It is a spin-off of "Mooby Dick." The riff is similar, but Plant belts out passion-filled vocals backed by a powerful band. John Paul Jones' driving bass lines. Page is brilliant as always.

No doubt about it, this album is a must-have for any Led Zeppelin fan, or anyone who likes good rock music.

—Brian Eber

GARTH BROOKS
SEVENS
Capital — 1997

If Elvis Presley is alive, then so is Tupac Shakur. He may not be at the helm, but Tupac's spirit definitely lives on. Being dead for more than a year does not stop the "soldier" from appearing in music videos and retuning the game.

As the double compact disc, "R U Still Down?", was released on Nov. 25, die-hard fans rushed to music stores for the thought of Shakur's performing. But, then again, not always.

Shakur raps in a young voice continuously talking about the "Thug Life." Even dedicating an entire song called, "Declaration of a Thug," does not contribute to the quality of the album.

The whole concept of "Thug Life" gets goosebumps similar to other racist topics he has rapped about in the past.

But there are hopeful songs such as, "I Wonder if Heaven Got a Guitar." The rapper reminds about being black as well as the situations he was faced with in his neighborhood — the ghetto.

Other positive songs are "Nothing But Love" and "Do For Love," a fast-tempo song in which Shakur expresses feelings for his love interest.

Garth Brooks "R U Still Down?" is a compilation of Shakur's pastime (spending in his spare time he just ran off at the mouth). But it is without the资质 to reach the standards of the lyrics from one of the most contro­versial rap artists of all time.

—Timucka L. Hicks

2 Pac
R U STILL DOWN
Interscope — 1997

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—Timucka L. Hicks

Shemoves
BREAKING ALL THE RULES
Geffen — 1997

Look! Up in the sky! It's the man. It's the Spice Girls! No! It's Shemoves! Has yet another money-hungry produc­tion team "musician" placed together fanatically for an album in an attempt to sell records to the country's youth? Or, have the three members of this New York-based vocal trio come together out of a sheer wave of cre­ative interest?

One listen to Shemoves' debut album "Breaking All The Rules" proves that the answer is no. No, no, and no. Discovering by the German-born produc­tion duo known as the Bremen Brothers, Danielle, Diana and Carla have managed to dish out 12 songs of pure pop cheese, sans any wit or humor evident with the spunk of the Spice Girls.

The title cut is catchy, and it will invade Top-40 radio stations' rotation at disk jockeys' eager desire to erase the endless request from the Shemoves. "Break All The Rules" to the tune of the Spice Girls.

This musical marketing ploy is fine (and new), but why do these girl singing groups have to offer such rubbish like "Just For Tonight" and "Perfect Love" to reach fans?

The answers to these questions certainly are not found in the dance numbers "World's On Our Side" or "Make Me Believe In Magic" though the effort to suc­ceed seems to be there. But then, again, not many groups, whether talented or not, make records simply for the sake of it. "Breaking All The Rules" is an ironic title for Shemoves because the only rule the trio seems to be following is that written one about not becoming a parody of oneself while trying to be a legitimate act.

—Jason Adrian
First Holiday Gala benefits School of Music

MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE: The Southern Illinois Choral Union, lead by John Machnik, warms up at the beginning of the choir practice Monday night at Altgeld Hall.

Robert Weiss, director of the School of Music, said this is the first year such a fund raiser has been attempted, and he hopes it will begin a positive annual event.

"It's kind of the pilot version of it," he said. "We hope it continues." Weiss hopes the event will raise money to offer," he said. "So this is a wonderful opportunity for the school and to provide good entertainment for the community.

"We have more students every year that need support, and less money to offer," he said. "So this is a good chance to provide money for the students and to provide good entertainment for the community." Weiss said this concert will offer the students a unique experience to perform with professionals.

"It's not 50% or 60% of the School of Music in one," Weiss said. "And we hope that draws a diverse crowd.

"If I'm successful, I would hope we will see that (amount of revenue) for the event, but because it is the first year for the event, he does not know what to expect. Weiss said the concert will offer the average school a wonderful opportunity for people to get in the Christmas spirit.

"The holiday season, and the music that goes with it is such a part of each other," he said. "So if people are looking for an opportunity to get in the mood of the season, Weiss said this concert will provide the opportunity to do so.

"There will be sing-alongs of all the songs that people know like the musicians and children. Weiss said this concert will provide the opportunity to get in the Christmas spirit.

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Wind Ensemble performance to harvest student talents

The SIUC Wind Ensemble will showcase a few of its members at 8 p.m. Monday during a concert at Shryock Auditorium.

Michael Hanes, director of bands at SIUC School of Music and conductor of the ensemble, said two featured soloists will be graduate students Tammy Kirk and Chris Day. Day will perform the fast-paced number "The Golden Age of the Xylophone," which is filled with tunes from the first three decades of the 20th Century. Vivaldi's Concerto in C Major for "Piccolo" will be executed by Kirk.

Conducting and directing the podium at the concert are T.J. Lewis, Jasmine Fennewald, Amy Helbig, Danny DeGebhard, Larry Robinson and Jennifer Thnilkill. The students will lead the ensemble through various compositions ranging from Christmas to jazz to movie classics.

Cliff Jordan will conduct the debut of his original composition, "Volelkerlieder: Variations on Two German Folk Songs." A variation is the cost for the public and $2 for seniors. All proceeds go toward student scholarships.

Alternative country combo to fire up the Dragon

Rolling Stone magazine’s "101 Country Acts" for 1996, BR5-49, rolls into the Copper Dragon tonight riding the wave of critical success of the band’s self-titled album Degenhardt. Kirk will warm up the crowd with its fast and fiery brand of Chicago’s newest residents, Sue.

Today Sue is a real problem to herbivores because, after all, she is not regarded as much of a threat to herbivores as is regarded as a threat to herbivores. She is not a herbivore because, after all, she is not recognized as a herbivore.

The museum has the facilities to prepare Sue and study it, and we have a renowned staff of scientists and paleontologists who can study it and do justice," she said.

"Through what they learn, they can pass it along to students and other scientists."

O’Shea said the skeleton is by far the largest and most complete T. Rex skeleton ever excavated.

About 65 million years ago, herbivores had a real problem. Herbivores in prehistoric times had a fierce and vicious foe with giant, slashing 12-inch teeth, and jaws powerful enough to rip through any size bone.

The savage beast is no other than one of Chicago’s newest residents, Sue.

Today Sue is not regarded as much of a treat to herbivores because, after all, she is not regarded as a treat to herbivores because, after all, she is not regarded as much of a treat to herbivores. She is not regarded as a treat to herbivores because, after all, she is not regarded as a treat to herbivores.

The public has a chance to see a few of Sue’s bones in the "Sue Unboxed" exhibit through Jan. 17 at The Field Museum, Lake Shore Drive at Roosevelt Road, Chicago.

"Sue Unboxed" is a special new exhibit at the museum that offers the public its first opportunity to view a portion of Sue’s skeleton, shoulder blade, skull and ankle bone before the famous skeleton is mounted for display in the year 2000.

The Field Museum purchased the skeleton for $2.9 million on Oct. 4 at Sotheby’s auction house in New York.

The museum’s Media Relations Manager Nancy O’Shea said it was important that Sue and her 100 bones did not go to a private collector because "The Field Museum offers the proper care in constructing the sake."

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"It’s about 85 to 90 percent complete," she said.

"It’s much more complete than any other T. Rex ever found."

So complete is Sue, that the cut of her forearms was found intact. Only one other undamaged T. Rex arm has ever been discovered.

Though the forelimb is shown in its entirety, many of the bones in the display are still covered by a plaster jacket to keep the bones intact and protected.

A pair of leg bones are shown partially exposed because they reek of new bone growth, which proves the bone was broken and healed during Sue’s lifetime.

Sue gained her name when she was discovered near the Black Hills of South Dakota in 1990 by Susan Hendrickson. "(Hendrickson) was with a group of people hunting for fossils and they had trouble with their car," O’Shea said. "So, while they were taking care of that, the Hendricksons wandered over and started exploring, and she found the dinosaur."

O’Shea said the chance find led to seven years of debate over where the skeleton should be housed.

"Though Sue will not be fully constructed for a couple years," O’Shea said the public will be able to see the most skilled scientists make in constructing the mammoth beast.

"It’s about 85 to 90 percent complete," she said.

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Dawgs lose starting center
FRUSTRATION: Watts puts fist through glass after loss to St. Mary's.

ROB KELLY
DEVELOPMENT EDITOR

The SIUC men's basketball team's string of bad luck continued to show against the team's depth Tuesday night.

After a 73-66 loss to St. Mary's, Coach Herrin leaves SIUC's losing streak to two games, the Salukis lost to conference champion James Watts for two games in the Power Bar Men's Invitational in Honolulu this past weekend.

Watts, a 6-foot-8 junior from Memphis, Tenn., suffered a cut to his right hand and a broken glass object in the locker room following the game. The act was committed in frustration, and the injured required stitches.

Watts is out for an undetermined length of time, although he is expected to be ready for SIUC's home battle against Southern Illinois State University Thursday.

Saluki basketball coach Rich Herrin said Watts' injury forces his Salukis to adapt with experimental lineups.

"Losing Watts will definitely weaken us," Herrin stated in a press release. "We'll probably go with a smaller lineup and one that may be able to apply a little more pressure defensively on our opponents."

Watts is coming off his best game of the season with an eight-point performance against St. Mary's. But the incident comes at a poor time for an SIUC squad that is preparing to battle Long Beach State University at 1 p.m. Sunday.

Watts' loss drops numbers on an already shortened Saluki front court. Watts joins sophomore forward-center Derrick Tilmon on the bench, as Tilmon is out for three to six weeks with a stress fracture in his left foot.

Herrin will look to 6-foot-6 junior forward James Jackson and 6-foot-9 freshman forward Thanasis Topouzis to split time at center in Watts' absence, Sunday's starting lineup marks Herrin's fifth different starting lineup in the team's five games.

"Really, it's too soon to say what lineup we'll open with against Long Beach as there are several possibilities," Herrin said.

"James Jackson will probably be our first choice to replace Watts, but even if he does, I'm sure Thanasis (Topouzis) will see a lot of playing time as well."

BASKETBALL
continued from page 16
early foul trouble. Scott said Bartley needs to find her niche because she has the potential to be one of the best post players in the Missouri Valley Conference.

"Mel still has not found her stride," Scott said. "I think she is playing a little frustrated right now. When she and Theis are both on track, that combination inside is very difficult for anyone to stop."

Scott said part of the frustration for Bartley and the rest of the team may have come from being tired. But the sloppy play in the first half was "inexcusable because the team should have controlled both halves of the game."

"I don't really think we can blame fatigue," Scott said. "We made mental mistakes. We just have to be cleaner with the basketball in our hands."

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BASKETBALL
continued from page 16

"As SCUII at it sounds, I hate to part with the speculation. We may have come from being tired. But the sloppy play in the first half was "inexcusable because the team should have controlled both halves of the game."

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Track
continued from page 16

to get a good look at them."

Middle-distance runner J.J. Simpson said the Saluki men want to see what their strengths and weaknesses are so they have time to improve on them over break.

"As a team, we want to see where we're at and look for what we need to improve on," Simpson said. The Salukis will be contested by Illinois State University, Indiana University, Illinois State University at 1 p.m.

The women's team is returning conference-champion Mindy Brock in the 800-meter run and multi-event runner Lorraine Parkinson, who competed in the long jump, short put, hurdles and high jump last season.

"Lorraine was basically the No. 1 multi-event runner in the conference last year," DeNoon said.

DeNoon also has high expectations for distance runner Kelly French.

"Kelly is in outstanding condition right now," DeNoon said. "Kelly will be running the 3,000-meter, mile and 800-meter. She has an outstanding performance."

French said the team is ready for the season opening.

"We've had good practices, and we just want to start the year out with a bang," French said.

DeNoon said he cannot speculate what to expect from his team this season.

"As scary as it sounds, I hate to sit here and make expectations," DeNoon said. "I think this team is really unknown. We totally have our work cut out for us."

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Salukis open season just in time for Christmas

The SIUC men's indoor track and field team opens its 1997 season Saturday without two of its top athletes, while the Saluki women are looking for a pre-Christmas bonding experience to see where the team stands in the Missouri Valley Conference.

Both teams, who are competing at the four-team Illinois State University Open in Normal Saturday, are seeking the answers as to where they might stand in the conference this season.

Men's coach Bill Cornell said the Saluki men will have to leave Orlando McKee and Jeradlo Henry at home for its season opener. McKee and Henry, who are wide receivers for football coach Jan Quarless, have been slowed down after recovering from the football season.

"Orlando McKee and Jeradlo Henry didn't get all the training in due to the football season," Cornell said. "Orlando has been nursing a slight foot problem, so I'm going to give them Christmas break to get to 100 percent.

Women's coach Dave DeVoe said he is happy to meet to keep the team fresh before Christmas break.

"We have this meet primarily because we've trained these track athletes now since September, and we'll be sending them home before too long," DeVoLe said. "If we don't have something to measure where they are, they could lose interest over break.

Cornell said the meet should give him a good idea of how the SIUC men's team will match up in conference action this year.

This meet is for all those track and field people who have been training all semester," Cornell said. "Likewise, I've been fired up in cross country, so I'm wanting..."