

Southern Illinois University Carbondale

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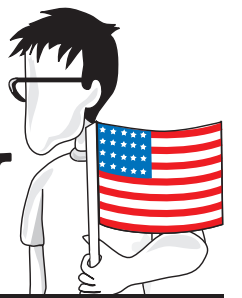
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Daily Egyptian Staff

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Kelly Gerlach named All-American scholar.

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SPORTS



WEATHER



Today

Isolated Thunderstorms
High: 92, Low: 71



Wednesday

Scattered Thunderstorms
High: 83, Low: 69



JENNIFER JOHNSON ~ DAILY EGYPTIAN

Rick French of Marion tries out a rifle Monday at Pro Pawn Shop in Marion. A recent Supreme Court ruling upheld that everyone has the right, under the Second Amendment, to own a handgun for self-defense. For the full story on local reactions to the decisions, SEE PAGE 5.

University faculty, staff to receive conflict training

SIUC Police: Woody Hall disturbance highlights need

Jeff Engelhardt
DAILY EGYPTIAN

For Todd Sigler, a recent disturbance at Woody Hall highlighted holes in university communication he hopes to clarify with new training for SIUC staff.

Scott Toomsen, a freshman from Carbondale, was expelled June 24 after a causing a disturbance at Woody Hall June 17. Two days after the disturbance, police charged Toomsen for failing to reduce speed to avoid an accident and driving under the influence when he hit the car of Kathleen Plesko, director of Disability Support Services, at a stoplight. Toomsen denies he purposely hit Plesko.

To help educate university staff on how to deal with conflict, Sigler, director of SIUC Police, said he would help teach a new training session starting July 23.

While the incident at Woody Hall did not lead to the creation of the program, Sigler said the disturbance showed what could be improved.

"We like to think the information was always out there, but maybe it was a method of delivery that wasn't working," Sigler said. "There is a large number of employees on this campus, so it's safe to assume they're not all fully educated on this."

Sigler said the training would focus on teaching staff whom to contact in different conflicts. He said he is confident the pieces are in place for successful conflict resolution, but university employees need to know who to call and when to do it.

Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Larry Dietz said he agrees with Sigler and hopes both staff and students are not tentative in voicing concerns.

"What I hope folks can take away from this is that if you feel threatened or someone's behavior is out of the norm, the important thing is to call the police," Dietz said. "They don't have to arrest someone. Part of the police's role is to make sure the environment is as safe as it can be."

Jean Cunningham, assistant director of the Counseling Center, said

most of the center's clients come from referrals from university employees. She said the training should improve communication between the center and university staff.

"We welcome faculty staff to give us calls about students they are concerned about or causing problems," Cunningham said. "We can let them know about what they should do and can keep track about the calls we get about individuals."

Toomsen said his experience taught him that students have difficulty reaching administrators, just as administrators may have trouble communicating with each other.

Toomsen filed a grievance with the university in fall 2006 stating one of his professors discriminated against him for being a veteran and having a disability. Toomsen said he suffered severe head trauma and was diagnosed with bipolar disorder after a motor vehicle accident.

He said he received updates from Dietz and Interim Provost Don Rice but each letter contained similar

updates.

"I have nothing bad to say about SIU, but I was mad when nothing was getting done," Toomsen said. "I just kept getting the same answers over and over again."

Dietz said he is responsible for showing the student who to go to for help when investigating complaints filed in a grievance.

Toomsen said the dispute came from his frustrations with the investigation into the professor and scheduling for future classes.

Though Toomsen is expelled, he said he hopes to return to school eventually.

"I want to go back to school, but where can I go?" Toomsen said. "I'm banned from SIU and I can't get to John A. Logan."

Plesko, who was present at Woody Hall June 17, said training staff for conflict situations could only help the university.

"Any measure that increases awareness on how to deal with crisis is valid," Plesko said. "Sigler came over and talked to my staff subsequent to (June 17) and we did do emergency planning based on the information he gave us."

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Local consumers switch to smaller vehicles

Dealers say overall sales unaffected

Justin Lange
DAILY EGYPTIAN

As fuel prices continue to rise, consumers across the country are trading in their gas-guzzlers for more fuel-efficient vehicles.

Carbondale is no exception, local dealers say.

Sale of trucks and sport utility vehicles has fallen steadily while fuel-efficient vehicles have been on the rise, according to New York Times reports. Vehicles with four-cylinder engines surpassed six-cylinders for the first time in April.

Tim Hirsch, new car sales manager at Vogler Ford in Carbondale, said sale trends are different from last year but continue to remain steady.

"They're still buying cars," said Hirsch. "They're just buying different cars."

After 17 years as the top-selling vehicle in the U.S., Ford's F-150 has fallen to fifth place, according to Motortopia.com. Smaller, more gas-friendly vehicles, such as the Honda

Accord and Toyota Corolla have eclipsed sales of the larger vehicles.

"It's easily the most dramatic segment shift I have witnessed in the market in my 31 years here," said George Pipas, chief sales analyst for the Ford Motor Company.

Hirsch said the misconception is that most people believe purchasing a hybrid vehicle will ease some of the economic burden of driving.

"In our area, with the type of driving most people do, the hybrid does not help you," Hirsch said.

Hybrids help those living in urban areas where commuters practice more stop-and-go driving. In a rural area such as southern Illinois, hybrids will not make up for the roughly \$5,000 cost increase, Hirsch said.

Vic Koenig Jr. said General Motor's sales have dropped during the past few years. However, Koenig said his Chevrolet dealership in Carbondale has seen a 37 percent increase, but has had different sale patterns.

"People are trading in SUVs and trucks for cars," Koenig said.

He said smaller cars such as the Cobalt and the Impala are their best selling models.

Like Hirsch, Koenig said buying vehicles with alternative energy sources would not help the pockets of the average southern Illinois commuters. Using E85 ethanol costs about the same as running a vehicle with gasoline, he said.

While the price of ethanol can be 50 cents per gallon cheaper than gasoline, ethanol gets about 15 percent less fuel efficiency, Hirsch said.

Gerald and Cindy Snyder of West Frankfort said that fuel efficiency is one of the biggest factors they will consider when they purchase their



THOMAS BARKER ~ DAILY EGYPTIAN

ABOVE: New Chevrolet Aveos line the inner lot at Vic Koenig Chevrolet Monday on East Main Street. The Aveo is one of Chevrolet's most fuel efficient vehicles, sporting a compact size and a 4-cylinder engine. More and more fuel-efficient vehicles have been sold recently compared to larger, less fuel-efficient trucks.

BELOW: Some Chevy models, such as this '08 Impala, are E85 compatible, providing an alternative based on ethanol from farmed goods such as corn and soy.

new car. The couple looked at compact models Monday at Ward Chrysler in Carbondale.

"We don't know if we're going to buy new or used —" Gerald Snyder began.

"But we would love to get one with 30 miles or more," his wife finished.

Hirsch said consumers could control the amount of gas they use without switching car models.

"Driving habits make a bigger difference on fuel economy than anything," said Hirsch.

He suggests commuters practice following the speed limit and not stopping at lights abruptly.



After 17 years, the Ford F-150 loses America's "best-selling" title in May 2008

model	# sold nationally
1. Honda Civic	53,299
2. Toyota Corolla	52,826
3. Toyota Camry	51,291
4. Honda Accord	43,728



Source: Motortopia.com
Pablo Tobon ~ DAILY EGYPTIAN

www.carbondalere rentals.com

www.carbondalere rentals.com

The Best Rentals in Town Available Fall 2008

One Bedroom

- 507 S. Ash #11
- 509 S. Ash #1-15
- 703 S. Illinois #101
- 703 S. Illinois #102
- 507 1/2 W. Main B
- 202 N. Poplar #2
- 301 N. Springer #1,2
- 334 W. Walnut # 2
- 400 W. Oak #3
- 400 S. Washington A
- 402 S. Washington

Two Bedroom

- 508 A. Ash #1, 4
- 512 S. Beveridge #3, 4, 6
- 514 S. Beveridge #3, 4, 5, 7

- *815 N. James
- 311 W. Cherry #2
- 405 W. Cherry Court
- 406 W. Cherry Court
- 407 W. Cherry Court
- 408 W. Cherry Court
- 409 W. Cherry Court
- *1201 W. College
- 303 W. Elm
- 520 S. Gramh
- 703 W. High #E
- 820 W. Walnut #2
- 908 McDaniel
- 507 1/2 W. Main #B
- 411 E. Mill
- 400 W. Oak #1,3
- 402 W. Oak #W
- 505 N. Oakland
- 602 N. Oakland
- 301 N. Springer #1,2
- 402 1/2 W. Walnut
- *400 S. Washington A
- *402 S. Washington
- 600 S. Washington #2-9

Three Bedroom

- 409 Cherry Court
- 409 S. Beveridge
- 503 S. Beveridge
- 405 W. Cherry Court
- 406 W. Cherry Court
- 407 W. Cherry Court
- 408 W. Cherry Court
- 208 W. Hospital #2 (behind DQ)
- 614 S. Logan
- 400 W. Oak #1,2
- 402 W. Oak #W
- 505 N. Oakland
- 602 N. Oakland
- 820 W. Walnut #1
- 820 W. Walnut #2

Four Bedroom

- 409 S. Beveridge
- 503 S. Beveridge
- 208 W. Hospital #2 (behind DQ)
- 820 W. Walnut #1
- 501 S. University

Brand New Townhomes
2 Bedrooms available at
600 S. Washington

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Beveridge close to campus
D/W & W/D included

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Drinking games prove deadly to college students

Amy Forliti
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WINONA, Minn. — On the morning after the house party on Johnson Street, Jenna Foellmi and several other twentysomethings lay sprawled on the beds and couches. When a friend reached over to wake her, Foellmi was cold to the touch.

The friend's screams woke up the others still asleep in the house.

Foellmi, a 20-year-old biochemistry major at Winona State University, died of alcohol poisoning on Dec. 14, one day after she had finished her last exam of the semester. According to police reports, she had three beers during the day, then played beer pong — a drinking game — in the evening, and downed some vodka, too.

Foellmi's death was tragic, but typical in many ways.

An Associated Press analysis of federal records found that 157 college-age people, 18 to 23, drank themselves to death from 1999 through 2005, the most recent year for which figures are available. The number of alcohol-poisoning deaths per year nearly doubled over that span, from 18 in 1999 to a peak of 35 in 2005, though the total went up and down from year to year and dipped as low as 14 in 2001.

"There have always been problems with young people and alcohol, but it just seems like they are a little more intense now than they used to be," said Connie Gores, vice president for student life at Winona State. "The goal of a lot of them is just to get smashed."

Over the seven-year span, 83 of the college-age victims were, like Foellmi, under the drinking age of 21.

A separate AP analysis of hundreds of news articles about alcohol-poisoning deaths in the past decade found that victims drank themselves well past the point of oblivion — with an average blood-alcohol level of 0.40 percent, or five times the legal limit for

driving. In nearly every case, friends knew the victim was drunk and put him or her to bed to "sleep it off."

"Her friends were with her. It's not like they just left her alone," said Jenna's mother, Kate Foellmi. "She went to bed and she was snoring. She just didn't wake up."

Schools and communities have responded in a variety of ways, including programs to teach incoming freshmen the dangers of extreme drinking; designating professors to help students avoid overdoing it; and passing laws to discourage binge drinking.

Charges were filed in about 40 percent of the cases in which outcomes of criminal investigations were known — most often against fraternity members or others who obtained alcohol for someone underage. There were a few hazing charges. In most cases, plea bargains were reached and the penalties included fines, probation or community service. Jail time was rare.

The federal data showed deaths spiking on weekends — when young people are more likely to go out with the goal of getting drunk — and in December, when college students wrap up finals. Most of the dead were young men.

College students on average drink only a little more than adults in a typical week or month, said Scott Walters, an assistant professor of behavioral sciences at the University of Texas School of Public Health. But college students "tend to save the drinks up and drink them all at once."

The federal figures do not indicate whether a victim was a student or not. But the 2006 National Survey on Drug Use and Health showed that

adults ages 18 to 22 in college full-time are more likely to binge-drink than those not in school.

AP's analysis of news articles found freshmen at greatest risk, with 11 of 18 freshman deaths occurring during the first semester.

Walters said one reason is that freshmen are on their own for the first time and trying new things. Also, there is a mentality that "if you're under 21 and someone's got alcohol, you've got to drink it, because you never know when somebody's going to have it again."

One practice — drinking 21 shots on a 21st birthday — has proven especially lethal. Of the college-age deaths that made news, 11 people, including eight college students, died while celebrating their 21st birthdays.

"The 21st birthday we knew was coming. We didn't know about the 21-shot thing," said Cindy McCue, who lost her son Bradley, a junior at Michigan State University, in 1998 after he

downed 24 drinks in less than two hours.

The McCue family started a non-profit organization nearly 10 years ago called Be Responsible About Drinking, or B.R.A.D., to teach young people about the dangers. The foundation created birthday cards reminding those turning 21 to celebrate responsibly.

Some universities are trying to send the same message with Web sites and programs that feature slogans such as "Remember Last Night."

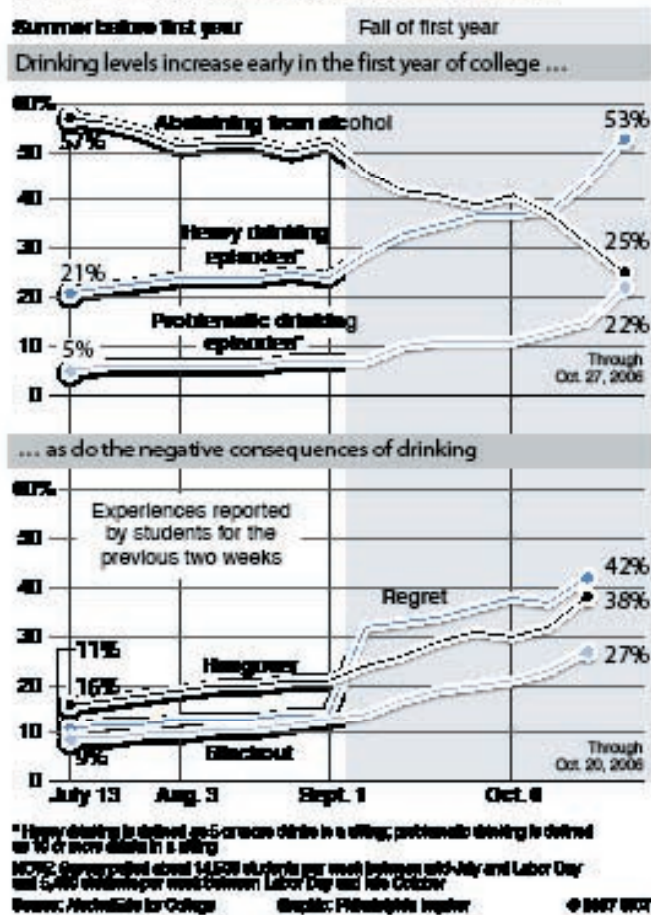
San Diego State has a Web site

There have always been problems with young people and alcohol, but it just seems like they are a little more intense now than they used to be.

— Connie Gores
vice president for student life at Winona State

Drinking at college

From a 2006 survey on the drinking habits of college freshmen.



that lets students punch in information about their drinking habits and learn about the risks. Winona State is starting an online course to teach incoming freshmen the dangers of excessive drinking.

Forty professors at Fresno State in California have taken a pledge to learn about the effects of alcohol misuse and advise students. The professors' names are on posters around campus. Other universities have banned or restricted alcohol advertising and sponsorships in athletics.

Minnesota passed a law that blocks people turning 21 from being

served alcohol until 8 a.m. on the day of their birthday — a measure aimed at stopping customers who turn legal at midnight from drinking as much as they can before closing time. Other states have similar laws.

In the case of Bradley McCue, who went out at midnight when he turned 21, the bartender kept serving him, even though he was obviously intoxicated, his mother said. The bar owner was charged with supplying alcohol to an intoxicated person and other counts. The owner agreed to pay \$50,000 in fines and costs, close for 30 days, and retrain

Olympic city needs work

Stephen Wade
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BEIJING — With one month to go before the Olympics open on Aug. 8, China's work is hardly complete.

The government needs to meet its pledge to deliver clean air in one of the world's most polluted cities, and must finish two new subway lines and a railway line. The 31 venues in Beijing are ready, and most have been for months.

But the most difficult promise to keep for the authoritarian government may be allowing reporters — as many as 30,000 are expected — to work freely as they have in other Olympics. This was a pledge China made seven years ago in winning the bid.

Television networks like NBC — it has paid billions for Olympic broadcast rights — and the International Olympic Committee have been at odds for months with Chinese security officials, fighting to clarify the rights of satellite trucks to move freely around the city of 17 million.

Access to spots like Tiananmen Square — who will be allowed in,

when and under what conditions — is also a battleground with Chinese officials fearing the iconic sites could be used as a TV backdrop by pro-Tibet protesters or the spiritual movement Falun Gong.

This issue should come to a head again this week when broadcasters, the IOC and games organizers meet Wednesday in Beijing. This is a follow-up to a contentious meeting in late May when IOC and broadcast officials criticized Beijing organizers for bureaucratic delays that could compromise TV coverage.

"I think this free reporting will be a problem for everyone," said Johannes Hano, East Asia bureau chief of Germany's ZDF television. "They will stop you even if you have permission. It will be the biggest problem. There is no freedom of press as they promised."

One of two rights-holding broadcasters for the games in Germany, Hano said ZDF was sending a "sharp protest letter" to IOC president Jacques Rogge, Beijing organizers, the Chinese Foreign Ministry and the European Broadcasting Union.

Standoff continues on global warming

Tom Raum
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TOYAKO, Japan — President Bush encountered resistance on his climate-change policy as he and other world leaders sought to strike a balance between framing a deal on global warming while coping with inflation and slumping economic growth.

Building a consensus was not proving easy for him as the Group of Eight economic powers planned to turn its attention Tuesday to global warming, soaring food and fuel costs and world conflicts.

Beyond the climate-change standoff, Bush's proposal to base a missile defense system in Eastern Europe was rebuffed on Monday by Russia's new president, Dmitry Medvedev. And Bush failed to achieve a consensus among African leaders on sanctions against the government of Zimbabwe's Robert Mugabe to protest his widely condemned re-election last month after his opposition-party rival dropped out, fearful for his life.

"You know I care deeply about the people of Zimbabwe," Bush told reporters after a Monday meeting with African leaders who were invited to meet with summit partners. "I'm extremely disappointed in the elections, which I labeled a sham election."

Separately, German Chancellor Angela Merkel said Mugabe's election was not legitimate. "As for us in Germany, we do not rule out further sanctions," she said, adding that many other G-8 nations feel the same way.

But African nations are deeply divided, with many reluctant to put public pressure on Mugabe despite U.N. and Western calls for tough action.

"There were differences. Not all leaders are there yet in terms of sanctions," said Dan Price, a White House national security aide.

The big issue on Tuesday's agenda was climate change; it was certain to be a major topic when Bush meets one-on-one with Merkel, one of the G-8's strongest advocates for tough reductions in

the emissions that contribute to global warming.

She succeeded in winning his backing last year, when the summit was held in Germany, to a statement pledging that the group would seriously consider a goal of halving greenhouse-gas emissions by 2050 — while failing to persuade him to commit to more specific targets.

Now, as then, Bush is insisting that major emerging economies like China and India be included in any plan to cut emissions. But they have so far resisted. Adding to Bush's isolation on the issue, European Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso said G-8 nations must reach agreement among themselves and avoid taking the approach that "I will do nothing unless you do it first," which he called a "vicious circle."

Still, Bush has come a long way since his first G-8 summit when he held that evidence was not conclusive that man's activity contributed to the warming of the Earth's climate.

COLORADO

Obama, McCain duel on how to fix economy

DENVER (AP) — Barack Obama and John McCain agree on this much: The economy is staggering under the Bush administration, and Americans are hurting. But who's to blame and how best to fix it?

Well, they part ways on that, as they made clear in dueling economic speeches Monday on the issue that has taken center stage in their presidential contest.

AFGHANISTAN

Suicide bomber hits Indian Embassy

KABUL (AP) — A suicide car bomb outside the Indian Embassy killed 41 people and wounded nearly 150 others Monday, ripping through the building's gates and scattering bodies and pools of blood across some of Kabul's most protected streets.

As in other recent high-profile attacks, Afghanistan quickly blamed Pakistan, India's archrival, for the blast.

IRAQ

Prime minister wants withdrawal of American troops

BAGHDAD (AP) — Iraq's prime minister said Monday his country wants some type of timetable for a withdrawal of American troops included in the deal the two countries are negotiating.

It was the first time that Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki has explicitly and publicly called for a withdrawal timetable — an idea opposed by President Bush.

FLORIDA

A-Rod's wife files for divorce

MIAMI (AP) — Alex Rodriguez's wife filed for divorce Monday, calling her husband an adulterer who "emotionally abandoned his wife and children."

"The marriage of the parties is irretrievably broken because of the husband's extramarital affairs and other marital misconduct," according to Cynthia Rodriguez's petition for dissolution of marriage, filed in the family division of Miami-Dade County Circuit Court.

MASSACHUSETTS

Red Sox send starter to Triple-A

BOSTON (AP) — The Red Sox optioned starting pitcher Justin Masterson to Triple-A Pawtucket on Monday, with plans to convert him into a relief pitcher.

Manager Terry Francona said the team is preparing to recall right-hander Clay Buchholz, who will take Masterson's spot as the fifth starter. Buchholz was sent to the minors to work on his fastball command after spending the last two weeks of May on the disabled list.

Locals react to Second Amendment ruling

Jenn Lofton
DAILY EGYPTIAN

In the wake of Thursday's U.S. Supreme Court decision to strike down a Washington, D.C., ban on handguns, some state officials and gun shop owners have said the outcome was a necessary one.

Kate Williamson thinks it is another step toward increased gun-related violence.

Williamson, community affairs director of Illinois Council Against Handgun Violence, said some cities in Illinois have chosen to stand firm on their plans to keep handguns out of their neighborhoods.

"It could be harmful if anyone who wants a gun gets one because guns can be purchased lawfully, but sold illegally to criminals," Williamson said.

Paul Stacy, owner of Pro Pawn and Gun in Marion, said cities in Illinois

that have the highest crime rates are the ones that have gun control laws. These statistics show that criminals cannot be stopped, he said.

The court's decision will benefit the community more than harm it, he said.

"I think it's a freedom and everyone should be able to own a gun," Stacy said.

Stacy said no matter how much lawmakers try to prevent handgun violence; it is never going to disappear.

The Second Amendment, which was ratified in 1791, states, "A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear arms, shall not be infringed." Five justices agreed in the District of Columbia v. Heller ruling that the right to own handguns is included in the amendment.

The Illinois council has never



JENNIFER JOHNSON ~ DAILY EGYPTIAN

The display case at Pro Pawn and Gun houses a variety of handguns. The recent ruling by the Supreme Court has led to nation wide debate about gun violence.

wanted to completely ban the use of handguns, Williamson said. She said the council's goal is to have sensible laws that would keep guns safe for consumers and keep people educated.

U.S. Rep. Jerry Costello, D-Ill., has been an avid supporter of Second Amendment rights since he joined Congress 10 years ago, said Costello's chief of staff David Gillies.

Gillies said Costello believes if a law is in the body of the constitution each individual has his or her own rights to uphold that law.

"I think it's a freedom and everyone should be able to own a gun."

— Paul Stacy
owner of Pro Pawn and Gun

Bob Ramsey, a member of the Williamson County Gun Club, said he and his fellow members were pleased when they heard about the Supreme Court's decision.

"Now the good guy can protect himself if necessary without a problem,"

Ramsey said.

The club began in the early 1970s and has grown to more than 300 members. After experiencing decades of changing gun laws and going through the tedious procedures of

being able to own a firearm, he can finally breathe a sigh of relief after the ruling.

According to the ICAHV, there were 1,019 handgun deaths in 2005, which was up three percent from the previous year.

Ramsey said he does not believe that the court's decision will increase the firearm crime rate.

If criminals want to obtain a gun, they will do it by any means necessary because they are just not the kind of people that would follow laws in the first place, Ramsey said.

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Gun related deaths

Illinois statistics

1999 to 2005: There were 8,010 firearm deaths.
In 2005, 1,019 people died from firearm injuries.

1999 to 2005: 1,039 children and youth died from gun violence.
2005: 130 children died, which was a 13 percent increase from 2004.

National statistics

2005: 30,694 Americans were killed by firearms.
Since 1999, the number of firearm deaths has increased by more than 6 percent

Source: Illinois Council Against Handgun Violence

Pablo Tobon ~ DAILY EGYPTIAN

MCMA dean chosen

Chancellor, provost to share dean searches

Allison Petty
DAILY EGYPTIAN

Gary Kolb has inhabited his office for more than a year.

He said he hopes he can unpack soon.

Kolb was offered and accepted the dean's slot for the College of Mass Communication and Media Arts, interim Provost Don Rice confirmed last week.

Now Kolb is waiting for his contract to be finalized so he can unpack the boxes that have been full since May 2007, when he temporarily took over for former Dean Manjunath Pendakur.

With 30 years of experience at SIUC, Kolb said he felt prepared for the task — and said he knows what his first challenge will be.

"We need to turn our enrollment around," Kolb said.

Kolb said he remembered when administrators wanted to decrease the college's enrollment, which — at roughly 1,400 students — overwhelmed available resources in 2001.

The numbers fell a little too dramatically, he said. Enrollment in the college totaled 1,019 in fall 2007, down roughly 60 students from the year before, according to university records.

The college must recruit and retain more students in order to survive, Kolb said. He mentioned

photography and photojournalism as programs that could benefit from expansion.

The search for an MCMA dean has contained a few complications.

One of the finalists, Maria Marron, withdrew her candidacy in June after a second visit to the campus.

Her withdrawal came as the responsibility for dean's searches was shuffled between administrators.

Rice originally exercised authority over the searches.

Gary Kolb



- Age: 55
- Worked at the university for 30 years.
- Received bachelor's degree in history and literature of religions from Northwestern University in 1974.
- Earned master of fine arts in photography from Ohio University in 1977.

Interim Chancellor Sam Goldman briefly assumed control over the quests to fill top administrative positions starting in late spring, shortly after he took office.

Now Goldman said he plans to share the work with Rice.

"I thought that we could have done better, so that's when I intervened," Goldman said. "He and I have already talked about how to do it in the future, so now we're at it together."

Goldman added that he plans to meet with Rice regularly and said he still wants to meet and interview all the candidates himself.

But, Goldman said, the provost's office is where the responsibility ideally belongs.

Rice did not respond to a phone message Monday afternoon.

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THOMAS BARKER ~ DAILY EGYPTIAN

Spectators view a colorful display from front-row seats Friday night during the city's Fourth of July fireworks show near Abe Martin Field. Many viewers expressed disappointment towards the show's finale but were overall pleased with the display.

THE DUKE REPORT

Happy belated birthday, America

ANDREW O'CONNOR

andrewoc@siu.edu



America's birthday: barbecue, baseball and blowing stuff up. All in all I would say it is a winning combination.

I spent the Fourth of July at home in Chicago, and magically the weather was perfect — no rain, oppressive heat or swarms of seasonal locusts.

This year it also fell on a Friday, so I literally had four straight days of deliciously barbecued animals. Herbivores must abhor the mass pork and beef genocide, but as Homer Simpson so eloquently explained, "You don't make friends with salad." The four days of free beer and afternoon drinking, however, did extract their revenge.

Still there is something spectacular and, well, American, about the Fourth of July. Other countries have fireworks and celebrations, but none do it with quite the style of the U.S.

It is a day that we as Americans can really appreciate what it means to be American and be grateful for all the things we often take for granted.

I honestly do not care if you think America is the greatest country or the worst, it is still your country

and July Fourth is our day to acknowledge our sincere appreciation by blowing stuff up. If you do not like stuff blowing up, you can get out!

Fireworks are not just a part of our Independence Day, they are the whole show.

Even the smallest towns have their own patriotic display of red, white and blue explosions. As a kid, the fact that they were illegal in this state made them all the more fun. Let me take this time to apologize to whoever's Port-o-Potty that was.

Even though July Fourth is exploited by everyone from auto-dealerships and politicians to the electronic self-waving flag industry (seriously), you cannot spoil a day of good food, good people and explosions.

I had a conversation with a friend of mine's boyfriend who was visiting from Canada.

He told me that they have a celebration called Canada Day, which is pretty much the same thing but Canadian (and thus, with far less bravado, eh).

It might have been the whiskey or maybe the fact that he was a stranger in a new land at probably the worst time, but he launched into an attack on America.

The usual "we're arrogant, we're ignorant, we're destroying the world," which coincidentally is the title of my next column. Normally I would calmly explain yes, but

we are learning, and we still on our worst day are better than nations like China.

Something about this hockey-loving, syrup-sucking maple leaf's argument struck a nerve.

I think my friend and part-time model Thomas Mooneyham said it best: "Dude, what's Canada do?"

Really now, what does Canada have besides universal healthcare?

Nothing, and they are directly responsible for Celine Dion, Nickelback

and "The Love Guru."

We aren't perfect but we're learning.

And we certainly aren't Canada.

Unless we are traveling abroad. Then we are from Alberta.

That's how America does it.

Here is to you, happy birthday and hopefully you will have many more.

O'Connor is a junior studying political science.

TWO MINUTES OF TRUTH

Save the Tuscan Lodge in Carbondale

PAUL FLOWERS

hope4usa@yahoo.com



"Something magical happens when you bring together a group of people from different disciplines with a common purpose," Mark Stefik tells us.

It is with this in mind I ask the question, "What are your disciplines and how can you help?"

One of the most treasured buildings this city has ever had is in downtown Carbondale.

Now, in the case of the Varsity Center, they have large contracts and designers to help them with the reconstruction.

However, Tuscan Lodge, the jewel located on the northeast corner of the intersection of Washington and Jackson Street in historic downtown Carbondale, does not.

Most commonly remembered as the famous "Jeremiahs" in its hay day, Tuscan Lodge is now the once-shining Masonic Lodge, a staple in Carbondale's history.

This lodge was built in 1894, only 42 years after Daniel Harmon Brush, John

Asgill Conner and Dr. William Richart bought the land which was soon known as the village of Carbondale.

Shame would come to these gentlemen if they knew that a building with such rich history was listed in the 2005 Landmarks Illinois' "Ten Most Endangered" program and still exists in that state.

The issue, however, is those who can help either do not know of the problem at hand or have become increasingly less concerned with the building's welfare.

The problem the Carbondale community faces is a "repair or destroy" order issued by the city of Carbondale.

This order was placed on the lodge about a month ago and was given a steadily approaching deadline.

The question is, how can you be a part of the solution?

As a member of the ever-flourishing Carbondale community for the last several years, I have seen business come and go, buildings erected from scratch and others torn down or refurbished in what seemed like the blink of an eye.

The value of the Tuscan Lodge is much more than monetary.

The refurbishing of this building would not only enhance the beauty of downtown Carbondale, but would also provide the community with the benefits of engaging our youth in programs that could be hosted in the rehabilitated facility.

Where are the concerned citizens and business owners of this community who have not only the desire to help, but also the want and the resources to give back to a town that to them has given so much?

"The void in our society has been produced by the absence of values. We have no widespread belief in the value of participation. The rational system has made us fear standing out in any serious way," said John Ralston Saul.

Those who have the ability to do more must now come to their calling.

The value of the Tuscan Lodge is much more than monetary.

If this central landmark of Carbondale is lost, the city itself will not only lose one of its greatest assets, but the families and the youth of the community will suffer.

According to Katherine Anne Porter, "One of the marks of having a gift is to have the courage to use it."

We are a city of many gifted individuals — a city of hope, love, prosperity and most importantly, a city of present and

future givers.

In this moment of despair, I urge everyone to stand up and take a stand against the loss of one of Carbondale's most significant structures.

"Creativity is born of chaos, even if it is somewhat difficult to glimpse the possibilities in the midst of the confusion." Charles Handy once said.

I understand that as you read this, you may ask yourself, "How can I help? What can I do? And why would I want to do it?"

The answer is simply because you were given the gifts, talents and resources to do so, and to die without having made some substantial contribution to your community is to die without having truly lived.

It is said that professionals built the Titanic and an amateur built the Ark, so to all the readers out there, professionals and amateurs, grab your tools and lets get this Ark set afloat.

For more information and to help, please contact project coordinator Larue Love at (618) 203-6863 or W.M. Vincent Davis at (618) 203-2773.

Flowers is a senior studying biological sciences.

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.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"He was the love of my life."

Susan Harmon.
wife of Larry Harmon, who played Bozo the Clown, after he died of heart failure at age 83

Girls and Sports

by Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein

Please support me with a \$20 donation for my 5k run to fight child obesity.

I'm climbing a mountain to battle poverty! I hope you support me with a \$35 donation.

Hi! It's time for my annual walk to support kangaroo conservation. Please send your \$50 donation to the address below.

AND THEY SAY E-MAIL IS A FREE TECHNOLOGY

The Duplex

by Glenn McCoy

I THINK YOUR HAIRLINE IS RECEDING.

I LIKE TO LOOK AT IT AS MY FOREHEAD IS PROCEEDING.

HUNGRY?
checkout the online menu at...
DAILY EGYPTIAN
siUDE.com

By Linda C. Black

Today's Birthday 07-08-08 Home and family are always important to you, but this year they'll take up even more of your time than usual. There will never be a dull moment — don't worry about that. Luckily, most of this will be fun.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — Today is a 7 — Shopping for household items should go very well. It's also a pretty good time to ask the boss for a raise. Say it's for your family and cinch the deal.

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

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) — Today is a 6 — Just when you're about to throw your arms up in frustration, you figure out how to achieve your goal. The fog clears, and you're on your way.

Aries (March 21-April 19) — Today is a 6 — The action is fast and furious. Just when you think you've got the whole game figured out, something happens unexpectedly. You're quick and you're smart. You'll do fine.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) — Today is an 8 — Time to call in a favor somebody owes you. Don't dig deeper into your savings for an item you need. There's another way to get what you want, and you know what it is.

Taurus (April 20-May 20) — Today is an 8 — It's difficult when you have to ask a loved one to do without. Learning to defer gratification is important, though. Teach it gently and it will serve your student well.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) — Today is a 6 — Do you really have to put up with a difficult person? Maybe so. Don't quit in disgust unless you really must. Use your sense of humor instead. It can get you through a tough spot.

Gemini (May 21-June 21) — Today is a 6 — At first, you catch flak for buying something you don't really need. If you're wise, you can talk your mate into enjoying it with you. Make time for a little fun.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — Today is a 7 — An important business decision will soon have to be made. You may not have to make it, but the person who does needs your help. Stay involved.

Cancer (June 22-July 22) — Today is a 7 — Carefully made plans get all goofed up, and it isn't your fault. Don't get all wiggly; roll with the blows. You'll see what doesn't work, first hand. Remember what you learn.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) — Today is a 7 — It's one thing after another, all day long. The good news is that you're building up security for the future. Wait to start new projects. Finish old ones.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) — Today is a 6 — Friends eagerly make suggestions, but none of them quite fit. You'll need to do your own research, once you figure out where to look.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) — Today is a 6 — It never hurts to be polite, especially now. If you're not sure what to say in this situation, don't say much at all. That ought to work just fine.

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THE Daily Crossword Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

ACROSS

- 1 Nabokov novel
- 4 Old World palm
- 9 Knight's suit
- 14 Aspin from Wisconsin
- 15 Facial growth
- 16 Nemo's creator
- 17 Carried with great effort
- 19 Goldman and Lazarus
- 20 Like Pisa's tower
- 21 Witnessed
- 23 ___ Baba
- 24 LAX postings
- 25 Rounded up
- 27 Level off
- 30 Pooh pal
- 31 Lad
- 32 Pacific island group
- 35 Flowers holders
- 36 Compact
- 39 ___ of information
- 42 French fathers
- 43 MD and ME
- 46 Existing: Lat.
- 49 Chants
- 51 Suppressed
- 54 Ticket info
- 55 Shanty
- 56 News piece
- 57 Fr. lasses

DOWN

- 1 Capp and Capone
- 2 Actress Yvonne
- 3 Butt collector
- 4 Explorer Tasman
- 5 Weather or traffic pc.
- 6 "The Raven" monogram
- 7 Opposite of dimin.
- 8 Poisonous snake
- 9 Street crosser
- 10 Dream letters
- 11 Toon myopic
- 12 Vigilant
- 13 Dwells
- 18 Inventory
- 22 Want-ad abbr.
- 24 LAPD alert
- 25 Offer a recap
- 26 TV drama, "___ Blue"
- 29 Swiss river
- 33 Number of syllables in 17A, 25A, 36A, 51A and 61A.
- 34 Bitter
- 36 Zaire's Mobutu ___ Seko
- 37 Coop mother
- 38 Best guess, for short
- 39 Accidents
- 40 Ask
- 41 Subatomic particle
- 43 Reacts to an allergen
- 44 Promising ads?
- 45 Booming jet
- 47 Trick pitch
- 48 Outer: pref.
- 50 Norway's capital
- 52 German state
- 53 Host of the roast
- 57 2501
- 58 Finish second
- 60 Rock composer Brian
- 62 "Tell Laura I Love ___"
- 63 Sandra or Ruby

By Alan P. Olschwang
Huntington Beach, CA
7/8/08

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

A	D	A	M	S	C	A	S	I	O	T	A	T	
M	E	R	I	T	H	E	I	S	T	H	U	H	
I	T	S	N	E	V	E	R	T	O	O	E	G	O
N	O	O	D	L	E	S	P	O	N	D	E	R	
E	O	N	L	A	T	E	T	O	L	E	A	R	N
C	O	A	S	T	G	E	L	S	A	S	A		
E	L	I	T	E	A	N	D	C	I	V	I	C	
O	D	D	D	U	P	E	A	L	E	R	T		
I	T	S	N	E	V	E	R	T	O	O	E	R	
P	E	T	E	R	I	H	I	P	S	T	E	R	
A	T	E	E	A	R	L	E	I	E	T	H	E	R
S	R	A	S	T	E	A	M	E	L	E	V	E	
S	A	D	T	E	A	S	E	S	O	L	E	D	

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Sudoku By The Mephram Group

		8		7				
						8		6
7				4		5		9
	6			9				
	4	3				6		
				1		3	8	
5	7		2					1
8		2						
		9		3				

Level: 1 2 3 4

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit www.sudoku.org.uk.

Solution to Thursday's puzzle

4	8	2	1	3	5	6	7	9
3	1	9	7	6	8	5	4	2
5	7	6	9	4	2	3	1	8
2	6	4	3	7	1	8	9	5
1	3	5	2	8	9	7	6	4
8	9	7	4	5	6	1	2	3
9	4	8	6	1	3	2	5	7
7	5	1	8	2	4	9	3	6
6	2	3	5	9	7	4	8	1

JUMBLE

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

RILCY

○○○○

TEYIP

○○○○○

ORFALL

○○○○○○

INSEPP

○○○○○○

www.jumble.com

I'm playing a sneaky character

THE ACTOR USED GREASEPAINT BECAUSE HE HAD A ---

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

A: " ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ **"**

(Answers tomorrow)

Thursday's Jumbles: BATON FORGO HUMBLE COWARD
Answer: When the icicle fell on the mailman's head, he was — OUT "COLD"

FIND BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES In the Daily Classifieds



'Mr. Fourth of July' is misleading

Bum superhero
bums audiences

Amber Fijolek
DAILY EGYPTIAN

'Hancock'

Rated: PG-13

Starring: Will Smith, Charlize Theron,
Jason Bateman
Directed by: Peter Berg
Runtime: 92 minutes

Passed out, booze in hand, sprawled across a sidewalk bench and snubbed by contemptuous passers-by: This is the portrait of the summer's newest silver-screen superhero.

Will Smith plays Hancock, a not-so-noble Los Angeles legend with superhuman capabilities that empower him to protect his city from everyday evils. He is lazy,

The plot eventually adds up by the movie's end, but in a cheesy, lower-budget Disney cartoon sort of way.

irresponsible and careless but irresistibly fun to watch.

None of this is news to those who have seen previews for "Hancock," and the film delivers a first half-hour that corresponds to the expected humor and action.

Smith, as Hancock, is charmingly reckless in his half-hearted craft of saving the day. His efforts go unrecognized and even shunned by city mortals because for every ounce of good he attempts, he produces even more destruction.

When one act of heroism goes incredibly wrong, Hancock catches the attention of Ray Embry, a public relations specialist played



PROVIDED PHOTOS

by Jason Bateman, as he offers Hancock his services to try to rework the hero's negative image.

Hancock is reluctant to turn over a new leaf, but takes on the challenge of learning the graceful, chivalrous and gallant acts of a noble hero. To do so, he spends time with Embry and his family, a starry-eyed son and unnaturally skittish wife played by Charlize Theron, bringing his own bully-like form of justice to their suburban neighborhood.

Mid-film, a new surprise is revealed. Viewers are taken aback

by the unexpected change in storyline and a whole new movie emerges. The "new movie" is not necessarily bad, but certainly different, making movie-goers feel duped, like they missed a step somewhere along the film.

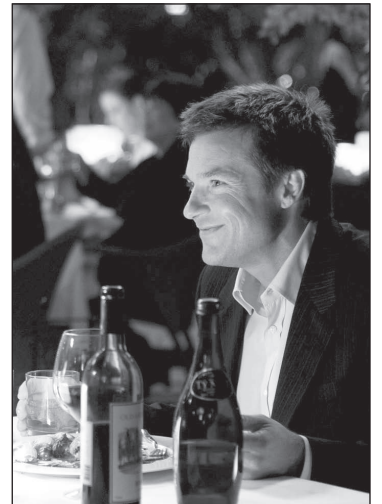
The plot eventually adds up by the movie's end, but in a cheesy, lower-budget Disney cartoon sort of way.

The original concept is commendable for the protagonist's unique character and will not bore with its imaginative twists and light humor.

It is worth a view – probably not more than one. Actually, being fooled by the film might be the most disappointing element, but other than not expecting to see a double feature, the action, excitement and beautiful faces like Theron and Smith make it an OK pick.

Do not expect it to be what you think it will be – or to stand up to past July Fourth Smith blockbusters.

Amber Fijolek can be reached at 536-3311 ext. 275 or kelojif@siu.edu.



PULSE CHATTERBOX

The Osbournes are returning to reality television. This time around the family will be hosting a variety show. It has yet to be seen whether they can recreate the fervor that surrounded their past foray into TV or if this new show will fall as flat as daughter Kelly's music career.

In the meantime, what celebrity family would you rather see have his or her own show?

Luke McCormick

I think a network should hire a crack team of scientists to study Angelina Jolie and Jon Voight on a weekly basis to figure out how he was able to produce her.

Amber Fijolek

My family. Haha, gotcha, we are not celebrities. (But, you knew that. Bad joke.) I would be interested in hearing what Lou Piniella (and sure, his family) would have to say about talent. The man has got some fire underneath that game face, I would love to actually hear what those flapping lips and bright red cheeks are saying.

Pablo Tobon

Hmm ... What can I say? It is good enough with Ozzy. He rocks and he can pretty much have all the reality shows in the world so we can see how senile he is now. Oh, what a wonderful thing, the life of an old star!



JAKE LOCKARD ~ DAILY EGYPTIAN

Johnny Knapp works on a Honda dirt bike Monday at Cycletech on Marion Street. Knapp lives in Carbondale and has worked at the shop for 10 years.

Saluki Insider

The Milwaukee Brewers acquired reigning American League Cy Young winner C.C. Sabathia from the Cleveland Indians Sunday. The trade sent four Brewer prospects to the Tribe and, with Sabathia's contract expiring at the end of this season, is clearly a move designed to help the Brewers win now. Will this move be enough to propel Milwaukee over the Chicago Cubs and into the playoffs for the first time since 1982?



BRANDON AUGSBURG

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@siu.edu

This move definitely gives the Brew Crew a legitimate shot at catching the Cubs. Sabathia is a load on the mound and if ace Ben Sheets — also known as “Mr. Glass” — can stay healthy and in the rotation, the Brewers might make a run. I still think the Cubs are the class of the NL Central, but this move vaults the Brewers over the Cardinals and makes them the front-runners for the wild card spot.

As a Cubs fan, this move scares the hell out of me. With this move and the way Sheets is pitching, the Beer Makers now have the best 1-2 punch in baseball. What worries me most is that it comes at a time when their bats are starting to heat up. As much as I would like to think the Cubs will hold off Milwaukee in the second half, I have to be realistic here and say this race is going to come down to the final weeks of the season. By the way, as long as Tony LaRussa is still in that St. Louis dugout, don't rule out the Cards either.

IAN PRESTON

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@comcast.net



C.C. is getting first place this year no doubt. I am, of course, referring to the Chicago Cubs. The other C.C. is great, though, and will help the Brewers — maybe even get them a wild card spot. But I don't think he will have enough time to fully transition to National League hitters.



JEFF ENGELHARDT

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@siu.edu

GOLF

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

At SIU, she made an immediate impact on the golf team. Gerlach shot 17 rounds in the 70's, including two 74's in the Texas Pan-American Tournament. She also captured the MVC individual title during her freshman year, according to Saluki Media Services.

Gerlach would finish her career as a three-time member of the All-MVC team, helping the Salukis finish no lower than third at the MVC Championships.

“She's obviously a very gifted athlete, but she really had a great deal of passion for her major,” head women's golf coach Diane Daugherty said.

Hampered by wrist injuries throughout her career, Gerlach had to sit out her sophomore season and then redshirt her junior year. That allowed Gerlach to focus more on her schoolwork and study for her graduate degree, she said.

Gerlach's mother, Janet Gerlach, a history teacher at Sparta High School, has played an important role in her daughter's education. Kelly Gerlach said her mother is a chief reason why she is such a big fan of politics and history.

“Everybody has their political opinions, but with Kelly she had a lot of speaker (information) and facts to back up her opinion,” Daugherty said. “She really educated all of us.”

To be named to the NGCA All-American team, athletes must maintain a GPA of 3.5 or higher throughout their entire collegiate careers and must have competed in at least half of that school's competitive rounds. Gerlach was the only Saluki named to the NGCA All-American Team.

Ian Preston can be reached at 618-536-3311 ext. 282 or idpreston@comcast.net.

National	East				W	L	GB
	Philadelphia	Florida	New York	42			
	Washington	34	56	14.5			
Central	West				W	L	GB
	Chicago C	53	36	-			
	Milwaukee	49	39	3.5			
	St. Louis	50	40	3.5			
	Cincinnati	43	47	10.5			
	Houston	41	48	12.0			
	Pittsburgh	40	47	12.0			
West	West				W	L	GB
	Arizona	44	45	-			
	Los Angeles	43	45	0.5			
	San Francisco	39	50	5.0			
	Colorado	37	52	7.0			
	San Diego	35	54	9.0			

Frontier League	East				W	L	GB
	Kalamazoo	28	17	-			
	Traverse City	26	19	2.0			
	Washington	23	21	4.5			
	Florence	22	23	6.0			
	Chillicothe	21	24	7.0			
	Midwest	14	30	13.5			
West	West				W	L	GB
	Southern Ill	24	21	-			
	Gateway	24	21	-			
	Windy City	23	22	1.0			
	Rockford	22	23	2.0			
	River City	22	23	2.0			
	Evansville	20	25	4.0			

American	East				W	L	GB
	Connecticut	13	6	-			
	Detroit	12	6	0.5			
	Indiana	9	8	3.0			
	New York	9	8	3.0			
	Washington	6	11	6.0			
	Chicago	5	11	6.5			
	Atlanta	1	17	11.5			
West	West				W	L	GB
	San Antonio	12	3	-			
	Los Angeles	11	6	0.5			
	Seattle	11	7	1.0			
	Houston	9	9	3.0			
	Minnesota	9	9	3.0			
	Phoenix	8	9	3.5			
	Sacramento	8	10	4.0			

WNBA	East				W	L	GB
	Connecticut	13	6	-			
	Detroit	12	6	0.5			
	Indiana	9	8	3.0			
	New York	9	8	3.0			
	Washington	6	11	6.0			
	Chicago	5	11	6.5			
	Atlanta	1	17	11.5			
West	West				W	L	GB
	San Antonio	12	3	-			
	Los Angeles	11	6	0.5			
	Seattle	11	7	1.0			
	Houston	9	9	3.0			
	Minnesota	9	9	3.0			
	Phoenix	8	9	3.5			
	Sacramento	8	10	4.0			

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WOMEN'S GOLF

Golfer hits par for her course



Kelly Gerlach tees off during practice Sept. 18 at Hickory Ridge golf course. Gerlach was selected for the National Golf Coaches Association All-American Scholar Team last week.

STEPHEN RICKERL
DAILY EGYPTIAN FILE PHOTO

Gerlach named academic NGCA All-American

Ian Preston
DAILY EGYPTIAN

As good as former SIU golfer Kelly Gerlach was on the greens during the past five seasons, she was that much better in the classroom.

Gerlach, a 2008 graduate of SIU, has been named to the National Golf Coaches Association All-American Scholar Team.

The Sparta native not only received her undergraduate degree in three years with a GPA of 3.6, but also spent her final two years earning her graduate degree. She finished with an overall GPA of 3.7. Gerlach was named to the team July 2.

"I took school as my profession," Gerlach said. "I knew I was hired here to be a student athlete and perform in the classroom and on the course. I embraced that roll and tried to be professional about it and do what I came there to do."

Gerlach earned her degree in political science, and she said she is now working in Jefferson City, Mo., helping to pass various pieces of legislation at the Missouri General Assembly.

"It's exciting to me," Gerlach said. "I always saw myself doing something to help out the public."

Success in the classroom and on the course is nothing new for Gerlach. In high school, she compiled a 73-12 record and quali-

fied for the state golf tournament all four years, according to Saluki Media Services. She was also named the team MVP every year, and in her junior and senior seasons, she received the Southern Illinoian Golfer of the Year award.

See GOLF, Page 11

Kelly Gerlach

- ▲ • Two-time Southern Illinoisan Golfer of the Year
- ▲ • 2003/2004 MVC Individual Champion
- ▲ • Three-time All-MVC selection
- ▲ • First-round score of 70; second best opening round score in SIU history
- ▲ • 2007 SIGA Women's Champion



Talk derby to me

Ian Preston
DAILY EGYPTIAN

Today we are going to take a step away from fantasy baseball and football and focus on my guilty pleasure — betting on the Home Run Derby.

Ever since I was about 13, I have never missed a Home Run Derby. It was so bad at one point that my best friend and I use to take our customized whiffle ball bats and a bunch of whiffle balls and have daily derby contests. I recall we would each have to pick either the National or American League leaders at the time and not only bat from whatever side of the plate they batted from but also have to mimic their stance. (Jeff Bagwell's stance used to just kill my knees.)

This year is no exception. I am already getting my boys together from all across the country to put up a couple of bucks and pick their slugger for next week's bash fest. So, for this week I am going to take a look at who I think will be this year's top five finishers.

5.) Dan Uggla, 2B, Florida Marlins

Uggla is a solid slugger with plenty of pop in his bat. He has knocked out 23 so far this year and is well ahead of his season best of 31 dingers in 2007. He is young too, so he should have the stamina to keep hitting them out in the later rounds. He could be this year's dark horse pick.

4.) Lance Berkman, 1B, Houston Astros

Arguably the National League MVP of the first half, his numbers are through Minute Maid Park's roof (which is so small, it does not really mean much). Many will be high on Berkman for this contest because he and Vladimir Guerrero are the veterans of this contest. I am not so high on him simply because of the small size of Minute Maid Park. What is normally a homer there may be a deep out in most other parks.

3.) Chase Utley, 2B, Philadelphia Phillies

Utley is your MLB leader in home runs up to this point with 24, but do not let that fool you. He will hit a few out simply because he is a lefty and will be taking aim at the short porch in right field at Yankee Stadium. He will not make it all the way to the final, though, because he does not have the stamina to hit enough out in the later rounds.

2.) Vladimir Guerrero, OF, Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim

Guerrero is one of my favorite guys to watch next to David Ortiz when it comes to a derby. He is coming in looking to defend his title and could very easily do it. He is one of the strongest hitters in the game and has never met a pitch he has not liked and could not take out. He will be in the final, no doubt in my mind.

1.) Josh Hamilton, OF, Texas Rangers

As high as I am on Vlad, I am that much higher on Hamilton. Nicknamed "The Natural," I would not put it past him to do his best Roy Hobbs impersonation and knock out the lights in Yankee Stadium. He is a lefty so watch out fans in the upper deck in right field.

Hamilton is a perfect ballplayer in every way shape and form. He has that rare ability to pretty much do whatever he wants to a baseball so it only seems natural — like his nickname — that he would have no trouble hitting out more lollipop pitches than anyone else in the contest.

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