K’s closing doors at year’s end

Ryan Rendleman
Daily Egyptian

The era of catalog showroom stores is ending. A nearly 50-year run has left K’s Merchandising Mart in a financial slump, forcing it out of business. Liquidation sales start today in all stores, including the Carbondale store in University Mall and will continue until all goods are sold, said Joe McLeish, vice president of K’s Merchandising Mart.

All 17 franchises, located in Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Wisconsin and Missouri will close down, leaving nearly 1,500 people without jobs, 74 of them from the Carbondale store.

McLeish said the company is closing down because profits are no longer sufficient to continue business. He said the lack of funds is partly attributed to “big box” stores, such as electronic and toy specialty shops and places such as Wal-Mart.

These retailers have grown in number in recent years, which has left K’s with a smaller segment of the overall market. McLeish said profits have dwindled to the point where the company could no longer stay open.

“It’s not that it couldn’t compete,” he said. “It’s that the pie is getting smaller.”

McLeish said actions were taken to try to save the business. In May, Gordon Brothers Group purchased the K’s store in Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Wisconsin and Missouri will close.

In May, Gordon Brothers Group, a global specialty retailer and liquidator, paid off the company’s loan. But, after Gordon Brothers Group pumped millions of dollars into the company, it had to call it quits.

“We invested tens of millions of dollars hoping for a sales rebound that simply has not materialized,” said Bill Weinstein, the company’s president. “Based on the September sales reports, we’ve had to acknowledge that K’s cannot overcome the competitive threats it faces in every market it serves.”

Jason Valentine, right, a junior studying English education who works at the campus boat dock, helps Leslie Johnson and Ben Wilkes, both graduate students in higher education, pull their boat to shore after canoeing Wednesday afternoon on Campus Lake. Oct. 27 is the last day to rent canoes and paddle boats from the boat dock.
Illinois gambling revenues continue to climb

SPRINGFIELD (AP) — State government is collecting more cash from gambling pursuits than ever, a new report shows as talk of expansion plays a key role in the fall elections and beyond.

Illinois collected $1.37 billion in taxes from gambling in the budget year that ended July 1, according to the comptroller's office. The number is up from $1.1 billion a year ago.

The increase comes from a combination of two factors: record-breaking lottery sales and a rise in video gambling sales that have slowly eaten into slot machines.

The two candidates for governor are pushing ideas to squeeze even more money out of gambling, and some lawmakers say that may be the best option for a state that needs billions more dollars in new revenue next year.

"There's no two ways about it, the only place to find numbers that start with a '1' is gambling," said state Rep. Lou Lang, D-Skokie.

The candidates have heavily criticized each other's ideas as "dumb" and a "gimmick," while some lawmakers say the move could be the best option for a state that needs billions more dollars in new revenue next year.

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Memorial shirts meant to raise awareness

Alexis Boudreau
Daily Egyptian

As students rushed to get out of the heat and into their classrooms, Sarah Plasek walked over to talk about the yellow clotheslineProject, a nationwide effort to raise awareness about female victims of violence. The project促销s awareness through The Clothesline Project, a campaign that began in Massachusetts in 1990.

The Clothesline Project, a nationwide endeavor to raise awareness about female victims of violence, began in Massachusetts in 1990. The Women's Center in Carbondale took up the project a few years later to help area victims express their pain.

Sara Lee stock rises on speculation about a possible buyout

Dave Carpenter
The Associated Press

CHICAGO — Speculation that Sara Lee Corp. might go private amid continued skepticism on Wall Street about its restructuring helped its stock to its highest level in a dozen years.

Sara Lee, whose brands include Harrah's Entertainment Inc. by its go-ahead to giving private equity firms a foothold in the marketplace. The company is considering a transformation that would carve it into a high-growth, high-margin business, according to sources familiar with the matter. Sources say the plan may include a sale of the company's retail division.

Sara Lee has been there, has walked away differently, she said. "The thing is that at the moment Sara Lee's still clearing house, still got a lot of work ahead of them." "Why do it now? They've done a few nice things in the past couple of years... I've always thought Brenda had another year or two to clean it up and try and put the company on the same level as its peers," he said. Timothy Ramsey, an analyst for Davidson & Co. in Lake Oswego, Ore., sees the rumors of an LBO as baseless because Sara Lee's stock price is high for a packaged foods company. He said a strategic pur-

private equity firms have inquired about its willingness to accept a leveraged buyout.

Sara Lee spokesperson Julie Kratz told the company would not comment on rumors or speculation in the marketplace. "We believe that the senior management team have said they are 100 percent focused on our plan to transform Sara Lee into a high-performance company. If we reach that point, we would discuss our future with our board of directors. We do not have an immediate crisis," she said. "But the thing is that at the moment Sara Lee's still clearing house, still got a lot of work ahead of them." "Why do it now? They've done a few nice things in the past couple of years... I've always thought Brenda had another year or two to clean it up and try and put the company on the same level as its peers," he said. Timothy Ramsey, an analyst for Davidson & Co. in Lake Oswego, Ore., sees the rumors of an LBO as baseless because Sara Lee's stock price is high for a packaged foods company. He said a strategic pur-

campaign. The company's stock has shed 40 percent of its businesses since a February 2005 restructuring but hasn't yielded evidence of a turnaround and has numerous obstacles still to overcome.

"Eventually, I could see it happening," said Gregory Warren, who follows the company for Morningstar Inc. "But the thing is that at the moment Sara Lee's still clearing house, still got a lot of work ahead of them." "Why do it now? They've done a few nice things in the past couple of years... I've always thought Brenda had another year or two to clean it up and try and put the company on the same level as its peers," he said. Timothy Ramsey, an analyst for Davidson & Co. in Lake Oswego, Ore., sees the rumors of an LBO as baseless because Sara Lee's stock price is high for a packaged foods company. He said a strategic pur-

Federal regulators place restrictions on fundraising for vote recount

Jim Kuhnhenn
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Changing nearly 30 years of election regulations, House and Senate candidates and their organizations would have to abide by federal fundraising limits to pay for vote recount efforts, federal regulators ruled Wednesday. The 4-2 decision by the Federal Election Commission will take effect Oct. 20 and is sponsored by the Women's Center about its restructuring efforts. There are so many people that have gone through this, it's a vivid reminder of the need for people to come in to art, read poetry and play music," said poet and writer at Longbranch Coffeeshop on Oct. 18.

The 23rd annual “Take Back the Night” candlelight march will take place Oct. 20 and is sponsored by the Women's Center to create awareness in the community about female victims of violence. The march will begin at 7 p.m. at the Library Center.

Sara Lee, a prevention educator at the Women's Center, said the idea for The Clothesline Project stemmed from a practice many years ago when women used to hang certain colors of sheets on their clothinglines to send messages.

Each shirt is a different color, symbolizing a different victim. White is for victims who died from domestic abuse; yellow and beige are for domestic violence survivors; red, pink and orange represent survivors of sexual assault; blue and purple are for incest; and purple and lavender stand for people attacked because of their racial orientation.

Each shirt has a message written by a victim or a victims family member. The messages range from “I am not afraid to face tomorrow, for I have seen yesterday, and I love today,” to the shortest, “Women deserve to be loved not abused,” and the powerful, “I am a survivor.”

“Shyane Bless, a junior from Chicago in pre-law, also stopped to read the shirts. "I personally think this is empowering. A lot of individuals can finally be heard and not blame themselves," Bless said.

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Call options — options to buy stock at a predetermined price by a particular date — reflecting some investors’ bets that the stock could go up dramatically.

That interest spilled over into the stock market on Wednesday, nudging its stock to its highest level in a dozen years. Sara Lee shares rose 27 cents, or 2 percent, to close at $16.33 on the New York Stock Exchange. They have been in decline since Brenda Barnes took over as CEO in February 2005 to oversee a restructuring.

The Financial Times, citing unidentified people familiar with the matter, reported Wednesday that the Chicago-based company is considering getting into the marketplace. The company is considering a transformation that would carve it into a high-growth, high-margin business, according to sources familiar with the matter. Sources say the plan may include a sale of the company's retail division.

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U.N. sanctions against Iran looming

Ali Akbar Darei
The Associated Press

HASHGERD, Iran — President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad warned Wednesday that sanctions will not stop Iran from enriching uranium after a European negotiating conceded “endless hours” of talks had made little progress and suggested the dispute could wind up at the U.N. soon.

The talks had been seen as a last-ditch attempt to avoid a full-blown confrontation between Iran and the U.N. Security Council after Tehran ignored an Aug. 31 deadline to suspend enrichment — a key step toward making nuclear weapons — or face punishment.

The former Iranian president — and the view of senior U.N. diplomats who told The Associated Press on Tuesday that nearly two years of intermittent negotiations had failed — suggested an emerging consensus that the time has finally come to consider Security Council sanctions.

Iran maintains its nuclear program is for peaceful purposes and does not violate international law. Its refusal to give up enrichment compounds the failure of more than three years of U.N. inspections to banish suspicions that Tehran might have a secret weapons program. The conflict packed up steam after last year’s election of the hard-line Ahmadinejad, whose tough stance on the nuclear issue is wildly popular in Iran — even among moderates.

Javie Solana, the European official who has been negotiating with the Iranians, told the European Parliament on Wednesday that the Iranians had made “no commitment to suspend.” The dialogue with the Iranians “cannot last forever,” and it was up to Tehran “to decide whether in time has come to end,” he said.

Solana said his talks had found “common ground” on some issues, “but we have not agreed in what is the key point, which is the question of suspension of activities before the start of the negotiations.” He suggested that if the talks ended, the standoff should be moved to the Security Council.

In a speech shortly afterward, Ahmadinejad warned that sanctions would not dissuade his country from pursuing nuclear technology, including the enrichment of uranium.

“You are mistaken if you assume that the Iranian nation will stop for even a moment from the path toward nuclear energy, due to your nagging,” he told the West, speaking to a crowd of supporters outside Iran’s capital.

“For 27 years they haven’t allowed us to use technologies that they possess,” Ahmadinejad added. “This nation is powerful and won’t give in to one iota of coercion.”

In an apparent response to Solana, the Iranian president said his nation favored continued negotiations.

“We are for talks,” he said. “We talk with each other and remove ambiguities. We have logic. We want talks to continue,” he said.

Dan Sewell
The Associated Press

CINCINNATI — The Bush administration can continue its warrantless surveillance while it appeals a judge’s ruling that the program is unconstitutional, a federal appeals court ruled Wednesday.

The president has said the program is needed in the war on terrorism. Opponents argue it oversteps constitutional bounds on free speech, pri-

vacy and executive powers.

The unanimous ruling from a three-judge panel of the 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals gave little explanation for the decision. In the three-paragraph ruling, judges said they balanced the likelihood an appeal would succeed, the potential damage to both sides and the public interest.

The Bush administration applied the decision.

“We are pleased to see that it will be allowed to continue while the Court of Appeals examines the trial court’s deci-

sion, with which we strongly disagree,” Deputy White House press secretary Dana Perino said in a statement.

The program monitors international phone calls and e-mails to or from the United States involving people the gov-

ernment suspects have terrorist links. A secret court has been set up to grant warrants for such surveillance, but the Bush administration has always waited for a court to take action.

U.S. District Judge AnnaDiggs

Taylor in Detroit ruled Aug. 17 that the program was unconstitutional because it violates the rights to free speech and privacy and the separation of powers in the Constitution.

The Justice Department had urged the appeals court to allow it to keep the program in place while it prepared its in-

its appeal, claiming that the nation faced “potential irreparable harm.” The appeals court rejected the argument.

“The country will be more vulner-

able to a terrorist attack,” the govern-

ment motion said.

The ACLU filed a lawsuit in January seeking to have the program halted on behalf of journalists, scholars and lawyers who say it has no legal basis to do their jobs because they believe many of their overseas contacts are likely tar-
grants. The government had been urged to take expensive and time-consuming overseas trips because their contacts were behind bars, on the phone or because they didn’t want to violate their contacts’ confidentiality.

Spray paint artist Paco Rosic works on the finishing touches of his 81 feet by 31 feet abstract replica of Michelangelo’s famous Sistine mural at his family owned building and future restaurant in Waterloo, Iowa, Sept. 20. Paco, a former Bosnian refugee, has been working on his mural for more than three months using thousands of 12 oz. spray paint cans to create the famous mural without the use of stencils or taping.

Aide: Foley seduced pages three years ago

Devlin Barrett
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A senior congressional aide said Wednesday that House Speaker Dennis Hastert’s office acted inappropriately toward female pages on pages three years ago, long before officials have acknowledged becoming aware of the issue.

Fordham said his comments to The Associated Press in an interview as a Kentucky Republican canceled a campaign fundraising event with Hastert. Fordham said he wants to know the facts behind a scandal that has roiled Republicans since last week.

“I’m taking the speaker’s words at face value,” Lewis said in an interview. “I have no reason to doubt him. But until this is cleared up, I want to know the facts.

“If anyone in our leadership has done anything wrong, then I will be the first in line to condemn it.”

Taken together, the comments by Fordham and the actions by Lewis added to the political uncertainty surrounding Hastert and fellow Republican members of the House as mid-

term elections in which their control of the House will be tested. “You can’t have a party that is not imme-

diately respond to either development.

At the time of his resignation, Fordham was serving as chief of staff for Reynolds, a member of the GOP leadership who has struggled to avoid political damage in the scandal’s fallout.

Lewis, the Kentucky congress-

man, had arranged for Hastert to appear at a $50-per-person fund-

raser next Tuesday. Hastert is one of the GOP’s most sought-after speaker for campaign events, and the decision to scrap the appear-

ance reflected concern over sharing a stage with a man who suddenly struggle-

g with a scandal.

State and federal investigators swung into action.

The House ethics committee “any and all meetings and phone calls” regarding Foley’s behavior that he had with senior staff in the House leadership.

Fordham said one staffer who spoke with Reynolds engaged with a senior House Republican leader, but he declined to identify the person.

“For trying to shift the blame from the House to the office he is employed by these House lead-

ers should thank them for what they have done,” Lewis told the AP. “As chief of staff, I had to make a decision in response to the information they knew about Mr. Foley prior to 2002.”

At the time of his resignation, Fordham was serving as chief of staff for Rep. Thomas Reynolds, R-N.Y., and said: “I never sought to prevent any inquiries or investiga-

tion.”

The Justice Department had urged the appeals court to allow the program in place while it examined its case.

The unanimous ruling from a three-

judge panel of the 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals gave little explanation for the decision. In the three-paragraph ruling, judges said they balanced the likelihood an appeal would succeed, the potential damage to both sides and the public interest.

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vacy and executive powers.
Wayne Utterback

SIUC, according to Jim

Of all the skills Jim Belushi took away from SIUC, essay writing was not one of them.

Belushi, who graduated with a degree in speech and theater arts in 1977, recalled one day when he was near-ly in tears in Thompson Woods after a professor harshly graded his paper.

“It was all red-lined for the first page and then no marks for the rest of the paper,” Belushi said. “He said, ‘This is impossible. How did you graduate high school?’”

The Wheaton native, who transferred from the College of DuPage in 1975 with a friend, went on to perform for “Saturday Night Live,” memorable movies, such as “The Principal” and “CURLY Sue,” and the long-running ABC sitcom “According to Jim.”

“Performing was Belushi’s passion at SIUC. He belonged to an improvisational comedy troupe and worked and performed on the CaliPre Stage, which was renamed the Marion Kleinau Theatre in 1996 after the longtime speech communication professor. Belushi said most of his time on campus was spent in the Communications Building.

Belushi said Kleinau was one of his favorite professors. He still uses her methods of analyzing material while working on his television show, “According to Jim,” which starts its sixth season in November, he said.

“It was the most unique way of breaking down characters, scenes and context,” Belushi said. “She was an incredible professor.”

Kleinau had such an impact that he changed his major from theatre to speech.

Kleinau, who taught for 32 years before retiring in 1991, said she remembers Belushi best when he was on stage.

Kleinau recalled being nervous when Belushi was going to perform a Shakespeare reading at a banquet put on by the speech communication department, but he quickly settled her nerves.

“He just did a wonderful job,” Kleinau said. “Jim was just a really good hearted and willing person. He added a lot to our theater and programs.”

“Jim did a wonderful job,” Kleinau said. “Jim was just a really good hearted and willing person. He added a lot to our theater and programs.”

While he keeps himself busy, Belushi doesn’t put one aspect of his career above the other.

“I love it all,” he said. “I love performing, and I love breaking things down. I love the process, and I learned a lot of that process at SIU.”

Wayne Utterback can be reached at WUtterback@dailyEgyptian.com.

Iraqi police brigade pulled out of service

The government of Iraq was very clear as we go through this process that if that (unit) comes out at 30 percent of what it went in with, that’s OK with the government of Iraq,” said a Baghdad news conference.

“Thank you for the clarity and the understand of what is going on,” Utterback said.

David Rising

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Iraqi authorities pulled a brigade of about 700 policemen out of service Wednesday to its biggest move ever to uproot troops linked to death squads, aiming to signal the government’s seriousness in cleaning Baghdad of sectarian violence.

The government move came amid steadily mounting violence, particularly in the capital. A U.S. military spokesman said the past week had seen the highest number of car and roadside bombs in Baghdad this year.

Four U.S. soldiers patrolling in Baghdad were killed by gunmen Wednesday, the U.S. military said, announcing the deaths of two other soldiers a day earlier in Baghdad and the northern city of Kirkuk. The deaths brought to 21 the number of Americans killed in combat since Saturday.

The suspension of the police brigade was the first time the Iraqi government has taken such dramatic action to discipline security forces over possible links to militias, though some individual soldiers have been investigated in the past.

Baghdad’s Sunni widely fear the Shia-led police, saying they are infiltrated by militias and accusing them of cooperating with death squads who snatch Sunnis and kill them.

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Pork and Kiser on a roll

The Daily Egyptian appreciates a good prank. When the prank involves pork, we like it that much more.

If the prank can raise awareness of campus issues, so much the better. While the sight of a porker placed postmortem on Chancellor Walter Wendler’s vehicle amused us — and we’re sure we’re not alone — the larger issue of tuition spending is what this was really about, isn’t it?

It is one thing to get a laugh at the expense of those in power, but that only goes so far.

And that student, Garth Kiser, has taken the opportunity and run with it. With fliers posted on campus and T-shirts available for sale, Kiser, whom the administration has targeted as the perpetrator, has achieved some level of notoriety. Kiser must appear before the SIUC Student Judicial Affairs board as a consequence for his alleged actions and may even suffer criminal charges.

Kiser even mentions his newfound fame on his Web site, GarthKiser.com, which states $4.50 of the $15 price tag of a shirt will be donated to the university. It seems ironic to us that Kiser would choose to charge university students, who already fill SIUC’s coffers with their tuition dollars.

But maybe Kiser has a point, at least when he mentions the university’s lack of humor about the prank. Whether Kiser is or is not the pork perpetrator seems almost immaterial. The university came down on Kiser with the full force of a state institution with its own police force.

One spending habit we can question regarding Wendler and SIU relates to the importance of finding the perpetrator of the prank.

Was there damage to state property? Or, was there merely damage to Wendler’s and the university’s sense of pride? With real crimes occurring on campus, it seems foolish and border-line petty to pursue Kiser about the pig’s head.

OUR WORD

L’Affaire Foley: A profound betrayal of national trust

St. Louis Post-Dispatch

Washington is an insular town; if it’s not politics or Redskins football, chances are your favorite member of Congress hasn’t much to do with the rest of the world. Still, you’d think some of them might have paid attention during the great clerical sex abuse scandal of 2000-2003.

Time and again, from Boston to Los Angeles, Dallas to St. Louis, Spokane to Palm Beach, the story was the same: Catholic priests, working in a position of trust with young people, betrayed that trust by sexually abusing young boys. Church authorities would get wind of allegations, call the priest in for counseling, tell him to knock it off and send him back to pastoral work.

Then, thanks to a tough judge in Massachusetts and the Boston Globe, the roof fell in.

So how different is that from the scandal now enveloping Republican leaders of Congress in the wake of last week’s resignation of Rep. Mark Foley, R-Fla.? There was Foley, a six-term veteran and Deputy House Whip, a man known for his keen interest in the teenage pages who run messages back and forth on the House floor. And, last September, there was a former page who passed on to a staffer for Rep. Rodney Alexander, R-La., an e-mail message from Foley, calling it “sick” and saying the message “broke me out.”

So the staffer informs an aide to House Speaker Dennis Hastert, R-Ill., whose office refers the matter to Rep. John Shimkus, R-Ill., who is chairman of the board that oversees the page program. Shimkus and the House Clerk confronted Foley. “We told him to stay away from pages,” Shimkus said. “Those were pretty much our exact words. There was no indication that our intervention was not, in fact, successful.”

Not until Brian Ross of ABC News began investigating, there wasn’t. It turned out there were other pages and other e-mails, some of them disgustingly explicit. Now there are reports that Foley’s overt interest in young male pages was an open secret.

And yet, thanks to the scandal now engulfing the then-bishop of Belleville, Walton D. Gregory, who aggressively purged his diocese of 13 problem priests and became a national leader on the issue.

Instead, like too many bishops, Shimkus and his mentor, Hastert, tried to sweep the problem under the rug — with the same predictable results. What part of “It’s the cover-up that gets you” don’t they understand?

Republican congressional candidates now are scrambling to divert themselves of money contributed by Foley’s campaign.

The party’s social conservatives, who’ve never been sold on Hastert’s leadership, are agast. The Washington Times, the capital’s conservative newspaper, Tuesday called for Hastert to step down from his speaker’s post.

The story continues to develop, with more pages coming forward with more e-mail. Using the Internet to solicit sex from a minor is a federal crime, thanks to a law that Foley himself helped to sponsor. House leaders have called the FBI in to investigate.

If it turns out that Foley acted on any of his under-age pageboy fantasies, he should go to prison. Any House member who turned a blind eye to his perversion should resign. This is a profound betrayal of national trust.
When I am out taking photographs, I never know what I will find. Searching for feature photographs is a random business, and I like it that way. Places that I overlook one day can become the setting for a neat photograph the next. I had walked past this sculpture several times on my way to school, but I never thought I would take a picture of it.

As I walked past the sculpture Tuesday afternoon I was surprised to see a little girl, Lilly LaRue, playing with her mom, Dawn, on the sculpture. They had put the sculpture to use in a way that I had never thought of. They were playing peek-a-boo on it and having a great time. The little girl would stand on one side and peek through the narrow opening in the sculpture while her mom hid on the other side and randomly grabbed at her.

This photograph reminds me of when I was young and I thought the world around me was big and beautiful now as it was when I was small. I am glad to see that kids are still finding such joy in random and overlooked things. It reassures me the world is just as big and beautiful now as it was when I was small.

Fun at the sculpture
Photo Column by Jake Lockard

LETTER TO THE EDITOR
Tell those ‘Parking Kids’ to back off

Dear Editor:

The parking officials here at SIU disturb me. It seems as though they like to hide in the bushes, and the moment your vehicle is out of sight, they spring upon it like children on Christmas morning.

I received a parking ticket today (Tuesday) in parking lot 13A for $35. For violating the rules of the parking lot. I was attending the career fair! I was doing my part as promulgated by the Board of Trustees.” I

I had parked near the sculpture Tuesday after midday. My vehicle was completely out of the way of traffic, nor was it a hazard. The ticket states “at the time and place above for a neat photograph the next. I had walked past this sculpture several times on my way to school, but I never thought I would take a picture of it.

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This photograph reminds me of when I was young and I thought the world around me was just a toy. I wish I could still see the world like I did back then. It seems like everything was bigger, funnier and ultimately better when I was young. I am glad to see that kids are still finding such joy in random and overlooked things. It reassures me the world is just as big and beautiful now as it was when I was small.

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Spice of life

Poblano Grill and Corner Diner combine Mexican, American culinary traditions

Alicia Wade
DAILY EGYPTIAN

The pops and sizzles from the grill and delectable smells from the food greet customers of the Corner Diner and Poblano Grill as soon as they open the door.

As part of the Corner Diner, the Poblano Grill, located on the corner of West College Street and South Illinois Avenue, has been open since 2001, serving food indigenous to central Mexico. The grill is open from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. weekdays for lunch and 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Fridays for dinner.

The idea to combine the American food served at the Corner Diner along with Mexican food served at Poblano Grill was conceived in 1999. Joe Suarez of Mexico City has been the general manager since 2001, and said perfecting the recipes, finding suppliers and making each dish consistently took a long time to master.

“We have a commitment to the food of central Mexico,” Suarez said. “This is the real thing. We serve food we’re really proud of, and we have fun doing it.”

The Poblano Grill serves handmade tortillas. With spicy and mild foods to please the palate, such as enchiladas and soups, Suarez said everyone can enjoy the grill. The restaurant also serves fresh guacamole and salsa. Suarez said on Friday nights, the stuffed peppers are in demand.

“We serve a giant, stuffed, roasted poblano pepper without the skin that is breaded,” Suarez said. “People come just for that. We usually sell out.”

For waitress Paola Godinez of Guanajuato, Mexico, working at the Corner Diner and Poblano Grill is more than a job. “I like it here,” Godinez said. “I work with my family. My mom cooks, my sisters are waitresses, and we all get along.”

Godinez has worked at the Corner Diner and Poblano Grill for four years. The food, she said, has the best flavor around.

“Of course the food tastes great—my mom makes it,” Godinez said.

A first time customer of the Corner Diner and Poblano Grill, Steven Rahmen, a senior from Chicago studying philosophy, said he came to the diner after hearing about the breakfast offerings and then learned about the grill.

“I honestly didn’t remember it was here until I saw all of the good pictures on the wall,” Rahmen said.

Suarez said Poblano Grill has good food to offer, it just needs to be put out there to the public. Trying to bring native Mexican food to Carbondale is Poblano Grill’s mission.

“This is a wonderful culture that should be celebrated,” Suarez said. “There’s a good work ethic that could help us all.”

Alicia Wade can be reached at 536-3311 ext. 274 or alicia_wade@dailyegyptian.com

Mariana Godinez, a waitress at the Corner Diner, pours a cup of salsa for a customer Tuesday afternoon.

The Corner Diner is open from 6:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. daily and 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Fridays.

This is the real thing. We serve food we’re really proud of, and we have fun doing it.

— Joe Suarez
general manager
Palestinian unity talks collapse

Mohammed Daraghmeh
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

RAMALLAH, West Bank — Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas said Wednesday his efforts to reach a power-sharing agreement with the militant group Hamas have collapsed, raising concerns a deadlock will lead to more factional fighting after deadly weekend clashes.

But the Palestinian leader received a boost from Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, who promised the United States would do more to alleviate the plight of Palestinians.

"I told the president (Abbas) that we are very concerned, of course, about the humanitarian conditions in the Palestinian territories," she said. "I said to him that we would redouble our efforts to improve the conditions for the Palestinian people."

However, she gave few specifics on what steps the United States was prepared to take.

Rice is in the region to try to bolster the moderate Abbas and revitalize peace efforts. She was to meet with Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert later Wednesday.

Conditions in the West Bank and Gaza have rapidly deteriorated since Hamas defeated Abbas’ Fatah Party in January elections and Western countries cut off funds to the Palestinian government.

Despite the sanctions, Hamas has refused to accept international demands that it renounce violence, recognize Israel and accept previous Israeli-Palestinian peace agreements.

Abbas, who was elected separately in a presidential vote last year, has been trying to broaden and moderate the government to make it acceptable to the international community. But after Hamas and Abbas announced a tentative coalition deal last month, Abbas said Wednesday that the talks have broken down.

"There is no dialogue now," Abbas said at a news conference with the Bahraini foreign minister. He said the coalition deal is "over now, and we have to start from square one."

The negotiations have foundered over Hamas’ refusal to recognize Israel, even implicitly. The tensions spilled over into Hamas-Fatah violence this week, with 10 people killed and more than 100 wounded. The fighting heightened fears of civil war.

Abbas holds wide-ranging powers that the administration wants to diminish. But he has sought to avoid confrontation, and he signaled talks with Hamas could be renewed later.

In Gaza, Prime Minister Ismail Haniyeh of Hamas accused Rice of trying to "marginalize" the Middle East to suit American and Israeli interests.

Haniyeh said Hamas considers dialogue "the only way" to solve its disagreements with Abbas and would do everything possible to avoid further violence. "I don’t think turning back on this dialogue can serve the higher interests of the Palestinian people," he said.
K’s Merchandising Mart opened in Decatur in 1957 as a catalog showroom store. It has various departments, such as sporting goods, housewares, furniture and jewelry. It was also one of the last of its kind. McLeish said in the 1970s and 1980s, the stores put out catalogs and fliers to promote the store’s goods.

“You’re losing a little bit of history when this industry goes away,” McLeish said. “Now, there may be some very small operators around the country, but K’s was the last of any significance.”

McLeish said the company is happy with the way the business has been run and is also thankful for all of the store’s shoppers throughout the years.

“We’d like to thank the community for all the support over the years and most of all thank all of our employees who have done just an outstanding job with the Carbondale store and all of the stores in the Illinois, Iowa and Indiana markets,” McLeish said.

With the loss of one business, Carbondale is getting ready for two new businesses that will be located at the intersection of Illinois Route 13 and Reed Station Road. Jeff Doherty, Carbondale city manager, said Comfort Suites hotel and Captain D’s Seafood restaurant will be opening at the intersection but said there is no time frame for the openings yet.

He said it is a growing business area and a great spot to open up a new business because about 25,000 cars drive past the area daily.

Captain D’s Seafood is a chain of restaurants specializing in fast-food seafood. Nancy Abbott, administrative coordinator for the restaurant, said the Carbondale franchise will be opened sometime in mid-January, but the exact date is uncertain.

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**SWIMMER CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16**

The days that challenges arise are the days Hedo kicks it up a notch. “He holds those expectations every day,” Walker said. “Not when he talks but when he’s in the water. I’m happy and when he feels good. Every day.”

“Their work ethic is working that day,” Hedo said. “It’s working hard every day, it’s not easy.”

Most of the days could be categorized under anything but easy. After morning practice, the sophomore sprinter has little time to eat before classes as his schedule would push their tolerance to the limit. “Some days I’ll get real tired when they start at 5:32 a.m. It’s three hours till midnight, but I can’t really pay attention,” Hedo said.

For most other in-season athletes, one practice and a full class schedule would push their tolerance to the limit. Swimmers do it all over again. Hedo says it’s worth it. As a freshman, Hedo swam in the Missouri Valley Conference championship in the 200-yard freestyle. He is expected to compete this year in SIU’s first season as part of the MVC. Hedo has already won the 200 freestyle, the 100 freestyle and the 100 breaststroke.

In the second practice, Hedo is hit with the bristles. “I laugh in my head when someone does that,” Hedo said. “I need to sleep a lot,” Hedo says.

**Volleyball pleased with progress**

Salukis find rhythm, sitting at .500 at halfway point

Brian Feldt
Daily Egyptian

The Salukis are content to be playing at .500 at this point in the season. After struggling to win matches over the last few seasons, the SIU volleyball team seems to have found a rhythm heading into the second half of the regular season.

Through the end of September, the Salukis posted an overall record of 8-8 and 3-3 in conference play, good enough for sixth place in the Missouri Valley Conference.

At the same point last season, SIU was 4-9 overall, 1-3 in conference play and at the bottom of MVC standings.

“We are happy with our progress as far as getting a couple conference victories,” head coach Brenda Winkel said. “We are in sixth place right now which isn’t an excellent start, but it’s not a bad start either.”

Sixth place just so happens to be the magic number to make the MVC Tournament. With a month left in the season, where SIU hopes to do the most damage.

The Salukis have scattered wins and losses across their schedule this year in no real pattern.

After the team won its first match of the season against Indiana University-Purdue University at Indianapolis, SIU lost four straight matches — the longest winning or losing streak to this point in the season.

The Salukis then rattled off five wins in their next six matches, sweeping Austin Peay, West Virginia, Southeast Missouri State and Drake University. SIU swept only two opponents last season at this point and only six teams all season.

Since sweeping Drake on Sept. 15, though, the Salukis have alternated wins and losses every match.

They have been a constant average for the MVC, splitting dual meets, hitting a rhythm and clearing a mouthful of pasta dipped in ketchup.

Winkel said the team is progressing the way she had planned and stressed it usually takes a while for such a young team such as SIU to start running on all cylinders.

The Salukis have four freshmen on the team who see regular playing time — two of whom started.

Before freshmen outside hitter Kristy Berwanger’s seasons ended from a partially torn ACL in a match against Belmont on Sept. 9, three freshmen were regulars in the starting lineup for SIU.

Winkel described Berwanger’s injury as a “big blow” to the team, especially considering her versatility and ability to play multiple positions.

Nevertheless, freshmen Katie Laughlin and Chandra Robinson have both started every Saluki match this season — a feat only accomplished by five Salukis players.

Laughlin, an outside hitter, is solid in all aspects of the game and has respectable numbers across the board.

She ranks second in defensive digs (164) and serve receptions (23), third in service aces (30) and solo blocks (8), and fourth in kills (120) and kills per game (2.21) on the team.

Roberson, meanwhile, has made a huge impact on the Salukis’ blocking game.

She leads the team in every blocking category this season and bolsters an SIU blocking defense that ranks as best all-time in Saluki history with an average of 2.84 blocks per game.

“(The freshmen’s) progress has been great so far,” Winkel said. “A lot of the time you just want them to survive. This group isn’t just surviving — they are progressing.”

Roberson’s 1.35 blocks per game, teamed with senior middle blocker Joanna Yutzy’s 1.02 blocks per game, have given the Salukis a blocking defense that ranks third in the MVC and is a key ingredient to Saluki victories.

With the freshmen advancing, ahead of progress, Yutzy’s stellar numbers and sophomore Kathy Elswick and Kristie Berwanger playing well nearly every game, the Salukis are aiming for a second-half surge to propel themselves to the top tier of MVC standings.

“We have done better than we have in the last few seasons,” Elswick said. “I think we have been on a steady increase throughout the season so far, and I think we are only going to get better.”

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Dennis Hedo asks a question during a work meeting Monday evening at the Rec Center. Hedo works six hours every week at the information desk at the Rec Center.

Stroke after stroke, Hedo has painlessly accrued the yardage. At that point, it’s a battle.

“You have to be strong mentally,” he says after.

Outside of the pool

After a meeting for his job at the Rec Center, it’s time for Hedo to indulge.

Some might not call a 6 p.m. dinner at Trueblood Hall indulging, but Hedo will take it.

“I could go to Wal-Mart and get a turkey sand-
SIU cross country hosts annual Saluki Invitational on Saturday

Scott Mieszala
DAILY EGYPTIAN

SIU cross country will host the 32nd Saluki Invitational on Saturday, an event that has produced much success for the Salukis.

A runner for the SIU men’s squad has won the individual title each of the past four years, and last year the Saluki women took first place as a team.

For the past three years, the Saluki men and women have taken first or second place. In 2003 and 2004, the men won and the women placed second both years.

“We’d like to build on the success we’ve had here at the meet the last four or five years,” head coach Matt Sparks said.

Joe Byrne carried the team on the men’s side the past three years. Byrne, now a volunteer assistant coach with the team, won the individual title in 2003, 2004 and 2005.

The University of Southern Indiana won the Saluki Invitational last year, a title Sparks said he hopes the Salukis can regain.

Sparks said the goal for the men’s and women’s teams Saturday is to have all five scorers in the top 10.

Mohamed Mohamed is coming off his career-best time at the Lakefront Invitational. Mohamed, a sophomore, finished second overall in the Sept. 30 meet, but Sparks said one runner he needs to get back to the Salukis’ top five is freshman Tyler Bradford.

“In our first meet he was our number three or four guy,” Sparks said. “We need to get him back on track.”

After senior Sarah Rinker and junior Brittani Christensen bounced back for the women in last week’s meet, Sparks said he is looking for Nefeteri Williams to rebound at the Saluki Invitational.

Sparks said Williams ran sick for the Salukis last Saturday. She finished 102nd overall and seventh among the team.

At the previous meet, Williams had finished 13th overall and second on the team.

With the pre-Nationals looming Oct. 14, Sparks said this meet is a “building block to the end of the year.”

“Basically, the whole vision and the whole objective for our season is to run well at the conference meet at the end of October and the NCAA regional meet in the middle of November,” Sparks said.

Sparks said the team has shown improvement from week to week so far this season. He said the women ran poorly at the first meet but ran well at the Lakefront meet.

The men, however, ran well at the first meet and built upon that success at the Lakefront Invitational, Sparks said.

“I kind of think of the season as a puzzle,” Sparks said. “Each week we’re trying to put the pieces of the puzzle together so all of the finishing touches are put on for the end of the year.”

The 32nd Saluki Invitational will begin behind Abe Martin Field on Saturday. The women’s start time is scheduled for 10 a.m., and the men are slated to begin at 10:45 a.m.

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The DAILY EGYPTIAN, your window to the world
WASHINGTON — An influential member of Congress is questioning whether the NCAA, with its multimillion-dollar television contracts and million-dollar coaches, deserves its tax-exempt status.

“The standpoint of a federal taxpayer, why should the federal government subsidize the athletic activities of educational institutions when that subsidy is being used to help pay for escalating coaches’ salaries, costly chartered travel and state-of-the-art athletic facilities?” asked Rep. Bill Thomas, R-Calif., chairman of the tax-writing Ways and Means Committee.

Thomas asked the NCAA to justify its tax-exempt status in a letter sent Tuesday to Myles Brand, president of the National Collegiate Athletic Association. He asked for a reply by the end of October.

In a similar vein, he asked the NCAA to explain the educational purposes of your member institutions?” he asked.

Thomas also said that more than 35 college coaches reportedly receive salaries of at least $1 million a year. “Paying coaches excessive compensation also makes less revenue available for other sports, causes many athletic departments to operate at a net loss and may call into question the priorities of educational institutions,” he said.

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**Beneath the Water**

**Story by Jordan Wilson • Photos by Melissa Barr**

The sun has yet to show itself — it will be missing for another hour or so.

But somewhere in the darkness, Dennis Hedo is there, feverishly pedaling his green NEXT Avalon mountain bike down Mill Street.

It’s a swift start to the demanding day ahead.

A 6 a.m. swimming practice at the Student Recreational Center is just the beginning.

**Read the clock: 5:32 a.m.**

Dennis Hedo’s alarm clock erupts daily at 5:32 a.m. Hedo, a sophomore on the SIU swim team, isn’t sure why he wakes up at such a peculiar time.

“The clock’s just set on that,” he says.

The early rise is a rut he’s fallen into.

Practice has been nonstop since the beginning of September in preparation for their first meet Sept. 30. The Salukis swept the University of Evansville in that meet by winning all 27 events.

And ever since early September, 5:32 a.m. has been a segue to days of multiple practices, weight lifting, classes and schoolwork along with a job at the Rec Center.

That’s the thing no one else understands, Hedo says after his morning practice, as he sprawls across a brown and tan chair.

“Most people know swimming practice is pretty hard,” Hedo says, as roommate and fellow swimmer Ray Sophie takes in his morning dose of SportsCenter. “But they don’t understand just how much practice we put in.”

On a daily basis, he’s out the door dangerously close to six o’clock — at about 10 minutes till.

But Hedo comes from Sweden, a country that is all about speed, at least in the pool.

Ten minutes is more than enough time to reach the Dr. Edward Shea Natatorium.

“The ride’s downhill,” Hedo said.

**Life in the lanes**

The sound of flesh hitting the water is monotonous.

At 7:10 a.m., Hedo has been splitting water for more than an hour. The sun, however, has been out for 20 minutes.

SIU head swimming coach Rick Walker knows taking to the water at that time takes commitment, something Hedo ooze.

“To an outsider looking in, it looks insane,” Walker said. “But not to a swimmer who wants to be really, really good.”

During morning practices, the Salukis swim the length of the 100-yard pool. Using a kick board, Hedo finished his sixth lap.

Three seconds and a shot of water later, Hedo is back at it.

Walker said Hedo doesn’t have off days.

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**LEFT:** Dennis Hedo talks with teammate Lisa Jaquez on Monday evening while riding his bike to eat dinner in Trueblood Hall. **RIGHT:** Dennis Hedo talks with Kelly Dvorak while swimming with kickboards during practice Monday morning at the Dr. Edward J. Shea Natatorium. The SIUC swim team practices 10 times a week. **TOP:** Dennis Hedo secures his goggles during practice Monday morning at the Dr. Edward J. Shea Natatorium. Hedo swims the 100- and 200-yard freestyle and the 100 breaststroke.