Carbondale resident had passion for service

Justin Lange

When Carbondale lost Robert Downey, it lost more than a knowledgable veteran of the last world war.

It lost a champion for southern Illinois who dedicated his life to service from the time he enlisted in the navy to the day he died, several friends, family and other across the community said.

“Bob was one of our most valuable and valued members,” said Post Commander David Conrad, who served with Downey for years at the Veterans of Foreign Wars post in Carbondale. “It will literally take three people to replace him.”

Downey, a lifelong southern Illinois resident, died June 3 due to complications from surgery to remove a rare cancer. He was 83.

Downey’s death has spurred numerous memorials and speeches throughout southern Illinois, from the Carbondale City Council meeting to a Flag Day ceremony given Monday.

In a speech at the Flag Day ceremony, U.S. District Judge J. Philip Gilbert of Benton remembered Downey as “one of the most patriotic people I have ever known.”

“His love for his country and old glory were surpassed only by his love of God and family,” Gilbert said in the speech. “If someone asked Bob to raise his hands, he would be holding the Bible in one and the American flag in the other.”

Downey began his service career shortly after the attack on Pearl Harbor, when he enlisted in the navy. He served aboard a landing craft support ship that was sunk during the battle of Okinawa in February 1945.

Like many veterans, Downey did not like to talk about his experiences during the war but was proud to serve his country, his wife Helen Downey said.

The two met at the First United Methodist Church in Carbondale shortly after his three-year military stint.

See DOWNEY, Page 2

Murphysboro looks to expand

Jenn Lofton

A pending boundary agreement between Carbondale and Murphysboro could move the line drawn between the two cities.

The Murphysboro City Council has decided to turn down a proposal from the Carbondale City Council to renew the agreement that Country Club Road is the boundary line between the cities, Murphysboro Mayor Ron Williams said. He said the council is working on an alternate proposal that would give Murphysboro room for expansion.

“We feel that we have our needs and the city of Murphysboro needs this opportunity to grow,” Williams said.

See ANNEX, Page 2
St. John’s Day Celebration - Sunday, June 22 at 3:00pm

Downey continued from page 1

DAIL

owey would per-

What do you think of the new emergency text messaging system?

A. I think it’s very helpful and I’ll gladly sign up.

B. I don’t think it’s necessary and I’ll stick to my own methods.

C. I think it’s necessary but I’ll wait until I receive more information.

D. I think it’s just another example of government overreach.

This shouldn’t be a

No Underdrinking
No Pets
No Glass Bottles
No Solicitation

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Sojourn
Classic Rock
Turtle Rock

30th anniversary
Concert
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New director would aid in enrollment crisis

Second candidate interviewed for admissions director

Jeff Engelhardt
DAILY EGYPTIAN

SIUC took another step toward finding an administrator to help conquer its biggest challenge Wednesday.

Instability in the administrative positions at the university’s admissions and enrollment departments has plagued the university for the better part of three years.

To help combat the problem, a search committee brought in Courtney Kohn, the second of three candidates for director of undergraduate admissions, for an on-campus interview. Interim Director of Undergraduate Admissions James Carl said the new admissions director, whose primary focus would be recruitment, would face scrutiny because of the university’s continuously declining enrollment numbers.

The university has lost nearly 5,000 students since its peak year in 1997. Fall 2007 enrollment was 20,983. Administrators have said the university, from student fees to facility maintenance, would be harder to compete with other universities because students are applying to 10 or more colleges and one impression could make or break the student’s decision.

Carl said the efforts of the admissions director could not produce a magic fix without help from other administrators.

“Everybody gets in to that mindset thinking ‘Here comes the white knight to bring great change to the world,’” Carl said. “It’s just an office that needs to be run. Yes, it is an important responsibility, but there is nothing supernatural about it.”

Carl said retention is just as important as recruitment.

SIU lost 671 of 2,222 first-time, full-time freshmen from fall 2006 to fall 2007.

Kohn, who graduated from SIUC in 1996, presented ideas she developed and executed as dean of admissions and director of undergraduate admissions for Robert Morris College during the last eight years.

Unlike the first candidate, Patty Reynolds, Kohn directed her mock presentation towards transfer students instead of prospective freshmen. Kohn worked on SIU’s Two Plus Two plan as a graduate assistant.

The Two Plus Two plan allows students working on an associate’s degree at John A. Logan College to easily transfer to SIU to work towards a bachelor’s degree.

“I have always had a soft spot for transfer students,” Kohn said. “It’s where I started and had success. We had a 20 percent growth (at Robert Morris) in transfers in two years.”

Kohn’s ideas for change included an instant chat available for prospective and current students and using social network Web sites as a retention tool.

Because Robert Morris is a private university with a small alumni base, Kohn said enrollment was the sole moneymaker. She said changes could be made quickly at Robert Morris because it is a private institution.

The changes she implemented exceeded the goal set for graduate student enrollment by 200 percent when she first took the position in December of 2007.

Kohn said it is important to expand the ways universities recruit students electronically.

“Students in this generation want information now,’” Kohn said. “Students are the shoppers now so it is important to change with the times.”

Victoria Valle, assistant vice chancellor for enrollment management, acknowledged changes occur more slowly in a public university but said a new director would play an important role in reversing the enrollment decline.

 Valle heads a new strategic enrollment management committee that will include the new director as one of the members.

“This committee is going to have people from all parts of the university,” Valle said. “That’s how we are going to work towards fixing this problem, with people coming together giving feedback.”

Kacee Larson, the third and final candidate for director of undergraduate admissions, is scheduled to visit the campus June 24.

Jeff Engelhardt be reached at 552-3101 ext. 259 or jengel@siu.edu.
Bush to Congress: Embrace energy exploration now

H. Josef Hebert
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — With gasoline topping $4 a gallon, President Bush urged Congress on Wednesday to lift its long-standing ban on offshore oil and gas drilling, saying the United States needs to increase its energy production. Democratically quickened the reply.

"There is no excuse for delay," the president said in a statement to the House, where he engaged in the presidential election just months away. Bush made a pointed attack on Democrats, accusing them of obstructing his energy proposals and blaming them for high gasoline costs. His proposal echoed a call by Republican presidential candidate John McCain to open the Continental Shelf for exploration.

"Families across the country are looking to Washington to lead a response," Bush said.

Congressional Democrats were quick to reject Bush's proposal, saying the drilling off the coast of Louisiana, saying that would be a "break through the moratorium that has been put in place." They accused the president of "pretending" that he was a "friend of the oil industry." The drilling moratorium was put in place in the aftermath of the Deepwater Horizon spill.

"This is not something that's going to give consumers short-term relief and it is not long-term solution to our problems with fossil fuels generally and oil in particular," Bush said. Obama's Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid lumped Bush with McCain, accusing them of staging a "cynical campaign ploy" that won't help lower energy prices.

"Despite what President Bush, John McCain and their friends in the oil industry claim, we cannot drill our way out of this problem," Reid said. "The reality is that America has just three percent of the world's oil reserves, but Americans cannot drill a quarter of its oil."

White House spokesmen rejected the criticism, saying "Anyone out there saying that something can be done immediately is not being honest with the American people.

"There is no tool in the toolbox out there that will lower gas prices overnight, or in weeks, or probably not even in months," Bush said. "Drilling offshore could yield up to 18 billion barrels of oil over time, although it would take years for production to start. Bush also said offshore drilling would take pressure off prices over time.

Washington

President Bush's energy proposals are expected to face significant challenges in Congress. The Democratic-controlled House is unlikely to pass legislation that would expand offshore drilling in federal waters. Instead, the House is likely to focus on alternative energy sources such as wind and solar power.

Democrats, who control both the House and the Senate, have been critical of the president's energy proposals. They argue that offshore drilling would not be a solution to the country's energy problems and that it would be a giveaway to the oil industry. Democrats have proposed their own energy proposals, which include increasing domestic oil production, investing in renewable energy sources, and improving energy efficiency.

Democrats have also criticized the president's energy proposals for their potential environmental impact. Offshore drilling could lead to oil spills and other environmental disasters, which could have serious consequences for the coastal states that rely on the ocean for their livelihoods.

Democrats have also argued that offshore drilling would not be a solution to the country's energy problems. They argue that it would not provide enough energy to meet the country's needs, and that it would only further dependence on foreign oil.

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Meet the Editorial Board

I am a 22-year-old senior from Batavia with a journalism major and a sociology minor. I have worked at the Daily Egyptian since the spring of 2006. I am currently the sports editor and night circulation manager, but have also been the city editor, a city reporter and a copy editor during my time at the paper. I am set to graduate in August.

Brandon Augsburg
Sports Editor

Sean McGahan
City Editor

Alexis Boudreau
Voice Editor

Allison Pettry
Campus Editor

Diana Soliwon
Editor in Chief

Paul Flowers
Newsroom Representative

POLES APART OF THE WHOLE

The gays are getting married

DIANA SOLIWON
dsoliwon@gmail.com

The gays have been having an A to B conversation for centuries, and California is finally ‘C’ing its way into it.

If you haven’t heard already, new gender-neutral marriage licenses using “Party A” and “Party B” instead of “bride” and “groom” are flying out of city halls like wedding confetti since last Monday.

In the last two days, the largest populous state has issued twice as many marriage licenses — about 2,700 — than it ever has in a typical June week, according to a survey by the Los Angeles Times.

What’s more? Unlike Massachusetts, the only other state to legalize gay marriage, California, is opening its gaydom up to anyone in the country — there is no residency requirement for its marriage licenses.

In the words of myself about five times a day, it’s about flipitin. As the California Supreme Court ruling explained, the ban on same-sex marriage violates the “fundamental constitutional right to form a family relationship.”

More and more, men who love men and women who love women are finally starting to have a right that has been reserved for pairings of the opposite sex — half of which have left their own mark in history by giving the U.S. a divorce rate of nearly 50 percent.

You have to admit, despite the discrimination we’ve faced, we’ve managed to maintain a pretty cheery attitude.

Here’s the point: If any two people want to give it a shot, why shouldn’t they? Of course gays should have the same opportunity to get it wrong (or right) as the rest of the world.

After all, it’s safe to say we’ve paid our dues. Homosexuality has been around since the beginning of time, and many have been tortured, shunned and killed for that reason for just as long.

My word of advice to the objectors is this: If you just set aside the differences you have about sharing your stuff institution, you would probably realize that gays are capable of bringing much joy to your lives.

You have to admit, despite the discrimination we’ve faced, we’ve managed to maintain a pretty cheery attitude.

Life is too short for fruitless debate — why not consider the pros of having a little more gay in your life?

First of all, there’s the matter-of-fact truth a gay man will tell you about a pair of cheek-strangling slacks you just can’t part with.

The lesbian couple next door is twice as likely to have a wide range of extra batteries should you run out.

Economically speaking, we’re always sure to find a frisky new gay travelers to the West Coast. If you’re in the airline business, consider it a stimulus package for you to you.

Most importantly, Ellen DeGeneres is planning her own wedding. Her comedic material should be inspired by a rejuvenated lover’s high for at least another 10 years. That’s that much longer daytime television will be watching worth!

Come on — don’t you want to say, “Yay for the gays! Just once!”

Soliwon is a senior studying journalism.

MISSION STATEMENT

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

QUOTE OF THE DAY

“I know he died, but I don’t want change.”

A villager at Vissertui in Romania, where residents erected a dead cows as a protest against nuclear herds, to prevent their living meat from winning
Today’s Birthday (06-19-08)
Be ideally responsible this year, you'll make great advances. Others will be impressed with what you accomplish, even if you hide your worth. You don't have to show it, they'll know.

Aries (March 21-April 19) — Today is a 7 — Produce what's required quickly, and you'll make a fantastic impression. This doesn't bring you any more money yet, but if you keep it up, it will.

Taurus (April 20-May 20) — Today is a 7 — As you try new things, you find others allow you didn't expect. There are many folks who share your values, whom you haven't met yet. Get outside of your box and discover a lot of new friends.

Gemini (May 21-June 21) — Today is a 6 — Put away more than you think you'll need. If you must have a house, choose something that's affordable.

Cancer (June 22-July 22) — Today is a 7 — You have several offers of help. Choose the one with the most experience and the best sense of humor. Might as well have fun while you're producing results.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) — Today is a 7 — The workload has increased exponentially. Luckily, you're imaginative under pressure. A friend has a good idea, too. Together, you'll find a way to solve the problem.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — Today is a 7 — Schedule more time for rest. You and a person you love won't have to talk things over much. You already know what to do.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) — Today is a 7 — Don't let other people demand you tear from limb to limb emotionally. You're more apt to get the winning idea if you keep your wits about you.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) — Today is a 7 — It's getting easier to untangle financial messes. Look again at paper work you've had trouble understanding. You'll even understand the fine print.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) — Today is a 7 — It's a good day to go shopping for household items. Real estate will fall into the planned pockets. Look for fine-uppers, and save a bundle. Get stuff that's structurally sound.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — Today is a 7 — A lot of the logjams are breaking up, we're walking on our own. Truth is, your continual picking at them has done more good than harm.

Congratulations.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) — Today is a 7 — Thesaurus is a 6 — It’s a good day to go shopping for household items. Real estate will fall into the planned pockets. Look for fine-uppers, and save a bundle. Get stuff that's structurally sound.

Pisces (Feb. 19-Mar. 20) — Today is a 7 — Thesaurus is a 6 — It’s a good day to go shopping for household items. Real estate will fall into the planned pockets. Look for fine-uppers, and save a bundle. Get stuff that's structurally sound.

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A friend has a good idea, too. Together, you'll find a way to solve the problem.

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College of Education gets new leadership

Justin Kabbes  
**Daily Egyptian**

The College of Education and Human Services has bid farewell to one associate dean and welcomed another.

Associate Dean Brad Colwell began his new job Monday. Former Associate Dean Norma Ewing worked at the university for 30 years and held the position of associate dean for the past decade. Colwell faces the challenge of filling Ewing’s shoes and leading a college whose enrollment has recently declined.

“My task is not only getting the students here, but while they’re here, making sure their stay is a good one,” Colwell said.

Number of students in College of Education and Human Services has dropped from roughly 3,200 to about 3,000 from fall 2005 to 2007.

The new associate dean said he wants to go the extra mile to attract more students. Colwell plans to visit Illinois high schools to market the college, but said his focus extends beyond recruitment. The college needs to bring in more faculty members and prepare for reaccreditation, Colwell said.

Though he does not expect to experience problems with the accreditation committee, Colwell said it usually takes a long time to prepare for their visit.

“A mean, literally, it will take hundreds and hundreds of man-hours,” Colwell said. “We have to prepare a lot of data regarding student achievements, information about faculty. I mean anything you can think of that will show how proficient our college is.”

Colwell was born in Bluford, which is 10 miles east of Mount Vernon. Colwell said he is prepared to take on the duties of associate dean because he has worked his way up from an entry-level professor position during the past 12 years. Before he came to SIUC, Colwell practiced educational law.

He said this experience gives him a more analytical perspective.

Erin Wilson said she hopes the new leadership will improve the college’s enrollment.

“Being from around here, you know, enrollment is important to my community as a whole,” said the senior from Murphysboro studying elementary education.

“The new Dean of the College of Education and Human Services Brad Colwell works at a desk in the dean’s office of the Wham Education Building Wednesday, less than 72 hours after taking up the new position.”

Luke McCormick  
**Daily Egyptian**

*Weeds*

New episodes air at 9 p.m., Mondays on Showtime

When a sitcom begins to lose viewership or garners a bit of negative press, the program’s writers always seem to do one of two things: have one of the show’s children sneek a monkey (it’s always a monkey) in the house, or throw a guest star into the mix for a couple of episodes.

While Showtime’s third best series, “Weeds,” hasn’t lost a great deal of viewers or slipped much in popularity, the show’s third season did mark a dip in quality.

After three seasons of being stuck in suburban, Nancy Botwin (Mary-Louise Parker) and her single-mom, pot-dealing ways had exhausted its send-up of the white middle-class that had grabbed audiences at the beginning.

Monday’s season four debut was without a monkey. However, “Weeds” did introduce a big name guest star. Comic legend Albert Brooks got all worked up on the small screen for the first time in years as Lenny Botwin, Nancy’s father-in-law.

He makes his first appearance at his mother’s house in Ren Mar, where the Botwins fled after wildfires torched their home and neighborhood. Nancy Botwin used the fire as a way for her and her sons (Alexander Gould, Hunter Parrish) and brother-in-law (Justin Kirk) to sever ties in Agrestic, where police have cracked down on the marijuana trade. However, Lenny Botwin is less than welcoming as he has yet to forgive her for not being Jewish and marrying his son.

Brooks’ Lenny might be getting up there in age, but he’s still full of vitriol and biting sarcasm towards his shiksa daughter-in-law. His screen time is short, but he makes for the most snarky dialogue in the episode — and his exchanges with Parker showed true chemistry.

While the Botwins deal with dear old granddad, Nancy’s move down the coast was not purely to evade police snooping around Agrestic. She’s moving onto bigger things, like bringing the weed into America — not just selling it to middle-aged white guys.

The new wrinkle in setting coupled with Brooks’ arrival has breathed some life into a show that was on the verge of flat lining.

Luke McCormick can be reached at 536-3311 ext. 275 or lmccorm2@siu.edu.

‘Weeds’ in the wind

Luke McCormick  
**Daily Egyptian**

*Weeds*

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Tiger Woods said Wednesday on his Web site that he will have season-ending knee surgery to repair a ruptured ACL sometime in the near future. He also said he has a double stress fracture of his left tibia. These announcements come just days after Woods won the U.S. Open — playing 91 holes in five days. Woods clearly has more guts than a southern-style fish fry, but what is the greatest performance ever by an athlete?

The toughest athletic performance I’ve ever seen was the second vault by Kerri Strug at the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta. She destroyed her ankle on her first attempt, sucked it up and stuck her second landing like a pro with the whole world watching to secure the gold medal for the U.S. Tiger is tough, but Kerri is a beast.

It was only a small-time World Touring Cup Championship race back in 2006. But for former two-time Champ Car Champion Alex Zanardi it was much more than that. The race was held in Oschersleben, Germany and was Zanardi’s first win since being out of racing for almost half a decade after a horrific crash that almost killed him. It was an impressive feat in itself. But what made this win so much more special for Zanardi was that he did it with prosthetic legs.

Toughness

Car Champion Alex Zanardi is no stranger to toughness. His Airness squashed the loyalty attempts of Salt Lake City cooks when he lit up the Jazz for 38 points in a crucial Game 5 victory in 1997. If the current Bulls could play like a sickly Jordan, maybe Chicago fans wouldn’t feel so bad about watching them.

Tough in Spain

Christian Ronaldo is no stranger to toughness, either. So I’m not exactly sure why he thinks he will fulfill the midfield void.

Dawgies

Cristiano Ronaldo is no stranger to toughness, either. So I’m not exactly sure why he thinks he will fulfill the midfield void.

Toughness continues from page 12

If Guardiola is already unsatisfied with Messi’s defense, I’m sure the coach won’t let him play the wing, which means a huge drop in talent on the outside.

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He had already overcome racing, doubting high school coaches, the death of his father, a Rezn in baseball and serious gambling debts. But Michael Jordan was not quite the legend we know today until he overcame food poisoning. His Memoirs, squashed the loyal attempts of Salt Lake City cooks when he lit up the Jazz for 38 points in a crucial Game 5 victory in 1997. If the current Bulls could play like a sickly Jordan, maybe Chicago fans wouldn’t feel so bad about watching them.

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He had already overcome racing, doubting high school coaches, the death of his father, a Rezn in baseball and serious gambling debts. But Michael Jordan was not quite the legend we know today until he overcame food poisoning. His Memoirs, squashed the loyal attempts of Salt Lake City cooks when he lit up the Jazz for 38 points in a crucial Game 5 victory in 1997. If the current Bulls could play like a sickly Jordan, maybe Chicago fans wouldn’t feel so bad about watching them.

Tiger Woods said Wednesday on his Web site that he will have season-ending knee surgery to repair a ruptured ACL sometime in the near future. He also said he has a double stress fracture of his left tibia. These announcements come just days after Woods won the U.S. Open — playing 91 holes in five days. Woods clearly has more guts than a southern-style fish fry, but what is the greatest performance ever by an athlete?

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It was only a small-time World Touring Cup Championship race back in 2006. But for former two-time Champ Car Champion Alex Zanardi it was much more than that. The race was held in Oschersleben, Germany and was Zanardi’s first win since being out of racing for almost half a decade after a horrific crash that almost killed him. It was an impressive feat in itself. But what made this win so much more special for Zanardi was that he did it with prosthetic legs.

Toughness

Car Champion Alex Zanardi is no stranger to toughness. His Airness squashed the loyalty attempts of Salt Lake City cooks when he lit up the Jazz for 38 points in a crucial Game 5 victory in 1997. If the current Bulls could play like a sickly Jordan, maybe Chicago fans wouldn’t feel so bad about watching them.

Tough in Spain

Christian Ronaldo is no stranger to toughness, either. So I’m not exactly sure why he thinks he will fulfill the midfield void.

Dawgies

Cristiano Ronaldo is no stranger to toughness, either. So I’m not exactly sure why he thinks he will fulfill the midfield void.

Toughness continues from page 12

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Obergoenner named academic All-American

Golfer earns third team honor

Ian Preston
DAILY EGYPTIAN

SIU golf followers know junior Todd Obergoenner can get it done on the course. What many don't know is that the senior is just as good at hitting the books as he is golf balls.

Obergoenner was recently named to the ESPN Academic All-America At-Large Third Team. His grade point average of 4.0 for the year tied him with three other All-Americans for the highest GPA on the team with the three who received the honor.

"It really is a great honor for him," men's golf coach Lenzy Newman said. "He's one of those guys on the team when we're traveling, always working on something for class."

Obergoenner isn't the only SIU golfer on a bookworm. The entire team has earned a cumulative GPA of 3.5. It is a fact Newman does not take lightly when it comes to putting academics first and foremost on his squad.

"The athletic department in general has really stressed academics a lot because we're a small school," Newman said. "We've really become a good university for students and athletes to get a good education."

Obergoenner is currently studying exercise science and is graduating early this year — another first for a SIU athlete.

"I just tried to put as much effort and hard work into my academics as much as I do my athletics, and somehow I've managed to balance the two. To be named an academic All-American is an absolute honor," Obergoenner said. "To see all that hard work pay off is really incredible."

The SIU golf team finished second at the MVC Championship earlier this year — tying the best finish in school history. The Salukis will be a legitimate contender for the title next year when Obergoenner returns.

ESPN THE MAGAZINE ACADEMIC ALL-AMERICA
AT-LARGE THIRD TEAM

| Todd Obergoenner | SIU | 4.00 |
| Vladimir Paunic | Southeastern Louisiana University | 4.00 |
| Patrick Henry | Indiana Univ.-Purdue Univ. Fort Wayne | 4.00 |
| Evgeny Samoylov | Bradley University | 4.00 |
| Don Eloissi | Eastern Michigan University | 3.98 |
| Tyler Roaring | Duquesne University | 3.98 |
| Andrew Long | Western Carolina University | 3.97 |
| Andrew Hickey | Nevada | 3.97 |
| Joseph Kapurch | Georgia | 3.97 |
| Matthias Wellermann | University of Mississippi | 3.93 |
| Bojan Sazanami | Texas Tech University | 3.92 |
| Brandon Berry | North Carolina | 3.88 |
| Mark Anderson | Colgate University | 3.81 |
| Anisa Brugues | Tulsa | 3.69 |
| Max Quinlan | Duke University | 3.62 |
| Nick Delic | West Virginia University | 3.62 |
| Jonathan Winder | Pepperdine University | 3.36 |

Source: siusalukis.com

Pablo Tobon – DAILY EGYPTIAN

Barca Blunder

Brandon Augsburg
DAILY EGYPTIAN

Barcelona introduced Pep Guardiola as their first-team coach Tuesday, and almost immediately, he started shaking things up for the Spanish soccer powerhouse.

At his introductory press conference, the 37-year-old former Barcelona captain said, "All of the players in the first-team squad last season are of a very high level. But with the technical secretary we are forming a squad and Diego, Ronaldinho and Eto'o are not in our minds."

What, what, what? Those three mega, super, ultra stars don't fit into your system?

All three are headliners and still right smack dab in the middle of their prime. Ronaldinho's production has dropped over the past two seasons, but his ball stripping and shooting make him indispensable for any team on the planet. Deco is in direct competition with leading star Lionel Messi, but please Guardiola, you're the coach. Find a spot for both of them. Moving Eto'o might be the only more that makes sense because he doesn't work well when he is not the focal point of the attack.

OK, Guardiola, you've rocked the boat a little. Now impress me with your plan to move forward without them.

He plans to keep Thierry Henry, who had a lackluster first season for Barcelona, as the main attacker. Then Guardiola bustled out Messi, probably the only superstar he'll have left this season, saying, "He [Messi] must feel part of the group and feel that when other teams score against us, it is partly his fault."

I watched Messi play for his national squad — Argentina — against the U.S. a few weeks ago, and all I saw was a man on a mission. He didn't score any goals, as the game ended in a 0-0 tie, but man, did that kid play defense. And now Guardiola has the audacity to rip Messi for focusing on scoring goals. The rookie coach ought to take a step back and think a little more before he keeps tripping his players in the media.

By letting Giovanni Dos Santos leave for the Premier League and by seemingly ronaldinho around, Guardiola is leaving the left side of his midfield wide open. He has already said he won't pursue...