Democrats nab key GOP seats
Blagojevich re-elected; Illinois Democrats sweep top posts

Staff and wire reports

Gov. Rod Blagojevich persuaded Illinois voters to put aside any doubts about his honesty Tuesday and give him the chance to tackle an ambitious second-term agenda.

Blagojevich’s optimistic message — coupled with millions of dollar worth of negative ads — overwhelmed Republican Judy Baar Topinka’s efforts to focus on federal investigations of the Blagojevich administration and the state’s financial problems.

At the Jackson County Democratic headquarters in Carbondale, supporters were jubilant over the incumbent’s win as well as sweeping the state’s top offices. The news came early in the night and was greeted with victory cries and a palpable exuberance.

Now the Democratic governor will face the challenge of trying to make good on promises to ban assault weapons, provide universal health care, raise the minimum wage and come up with more school money by privatizing the state lottery.

“Strap on your seat belts, put on your helmet, get ready to roll,” Blagojevich told a cheering crowd in Chicago. “We’ve got a lot more work to do.”

Blagojevich’s win was Illinois Democrats’ first back-to-back gubernatorial win since Otto Kerner in 1964. Massachusetts and Ohio haven’t elected a Democrat since 1986. New York last elected a Democrat in 1994.

See GOVERNOR, Page 10

Whitney helps establish Greens

Bob Lorasías, a Democrat, reacts after finding out he won the District 5 County Board seat Tuesday night at the Democratic headquarters in Carbondale.

Brandon Augsburg
DAILY EGYPTIAN

The Green Party did not win any seats in Tuesday’s election, but it might have accomplished something even more important — Illinois is no longer a two-party state.

Green Party gubernatorial candidate Rich Whitney, a Carbondale resident, came in third place in the race for governor, but received 11 percent of the vote, which was enough to keep the Greens on the ballot for future elections.

“I heard the farm report today, and I heard that Green futures are looking good,” Whitney said.

The Green Party became the first certified third party in Illinois state history in September. They were required to gather 25,000 signatures — they gathered 39,000 total — and had to submit a petition to the State Board of Elections. The election board certified the party despite legal challenges, including objections from the Democrats filed with the board in July.

Charlie Howe, who ran for 115th State District representative, said the Greens proved

See GREEN, Page 10

Democratic take control of House

WASHINGTON — Democrats captured more than enough Republican-held districts Tuesday to seize control of the House after a dozen years in the minority as voters demonstrated disenchanted with a war, a president and a scandal-scarred Congress.

As of press time Republicans struggled to prevent a Democratic takeover of the Senate after losing GOP-held seats in Ohio, Rhode Island and Pennsylvania.

“I think we will hold control of the Senate,” Republican National Chairman Ken Mehlman said on CNN.

Winning 23 GOP seats in the House, if Democrats hold nearly all of their own, they would

See HOUSE, Page 10

BOT, union to vote on medical school contract

Brandon Weisenberger
DAILY EGYPTIAN

A tentative agreement has been reached after nearly 20 months of contract talks between the SIU Board of Trustees and an employee union at the School of Medicine in Springfield.

Union members will vote to ratify the contract today, and trustees will vote Thursday at their meeting at SIU-Edwardsville.

Both sides have sealed details on the tentative agreement until the contract is approved. The 2-year-old employee union, Local 370, is a branch of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees. It represents about 570 nurses, secretaries and other civil service workers.

“These are very difficult fiscal times we are in, but we are pleased with the outcome,” AFSCME deputy director Roberta Lynch said.

Lynch said negotiators reached the tentative agreement shortly after midnight on Friday.

SIU’s Executive Assistant for Government Relations David Gross would not talk specifics about the almost 2-year-long bargaining process. He said trustees would discuss the agreement and make a decision Thursday.

AFSCME spokesman Anders Lindall said salary was the primary issue in contract talks.

Kathie Muller, who is married and has a 16-month-old son and a 5-year-old daughter, said she makes less than $12,000 annually and she, along with many other employees, struggles with increased cost of living.

She said employees were asking for a minimum 4 percent pay raise.

See CONTRACT, Page 11
Up Next: What are your plans for Thanksgiving Break?

a. Go back to where you came from
b. Stay in the Dale
c. Vacation for away
d. Sleep

Michael Harris, Agent
E-mail: michael.harris@countryfinancial.com or call 618-457-3374 for a free quote.
Girl dies after collapsing at school

ALTON — A 13-year-old girl who collapsed at her school and later died had a previously undiagnosed heart defect — and toxicology tests — were expected before a precise cause of death would be released, Nunn said.

Nunn was unavailable for comment Tuesday, a worker in the coroner's office said.

A message was left Tuesday with David Elson, the Alton school district's superintendent.

Kevin Harp, a seventh-grade friend of Raevin, said the girl "was always healthy," and was lately part of the middle school's basketball team.

Funeral arrangements are pending with Cathy Williams and Sons Funerary Home in Alton.

Voters say corruption ethics important in gubernatorial race

CHICAGO — Most Illinois voters said the issue of corruption and ethics in state government was extremely or very important to them in their vote for governor Tuesday, according to an Associated Press exit poll.

Yet that concern did not appear to hurt Gov. Rod Blagojevich, whose administration is under federal investigation. He won a second term in the governor's office over opponents Judy Baar Topinka, a Republican, and Green Party candidate Rich Whitney.

Federal prosecutors are investigating the Blagojevich administration's role in alleged hiring fraud and a kickback scheme as the legislators' pension fund.

"I've been a poll watcher, it's a very rewarding protocol," which is not a part of the verification, which is not a part of the registration or failing to register voters for photo identification, which is not a part of the protocol. The protocol for the poll workers begins with a request for a registration card. If the voter does not have one, they ask for the voter's name and look for them in a list of registered voters for the 22nd and 23rd precincts. Finally, if the name is not on the list, the worker asks the voter if they are registered and returns to re-register in Jackson County.

Mickey Johnson, the election judge at Lentz Hall, said there were problems with three people who registered at the Department of Motor Vehicles because the County Clerk's Office never received their paperwork. He said similar issues arose with those who registered on campus.

"We've had to turn away at least 20 people for unmatched registrations," he said.

Those who are not registered to vote in Jackson County are given a ballot that only allows them to vote for the 12th Congressional District where Rep. Jerry Costello, D-Belleville, ran unopposed.

Jerry Goforth, one of the people administering the polls, said some students were turned away for improperly registering or failing to register in Jackson County. He said this upset some students, which led the poll watchers to alert the Illinois Attorney General's office.

"It was all just a big misunderstanding," said Norma Johnson, one of the poll workers.

Funeral arrangements are pending with Cathy Williams and Sons Funerary Home in Alton.

Voters were subject to sampling error higher for subgroups.

Lara Rashidul, speaking after casting her ballot in Collinsville, said she voted for Blagojevich. But the 62-year-old accountant said that "I wasn't too thrilled to vote for him," saying she had questions about his administration's ethics.

"I've been a poll watcher, it's a very worthwhile profession," said Goforth.

"But I think they need to give them some sort of class to teach them what to look for before sending them out." Calls to the local and state offices of the attorney general were not returned.

Dave Lopez can be reached at 536-3313 ext. 272 or dave_lopez@dailyegyptian.com.

Tara Burghart
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Girls who collapsed at school and later died had a previously undiagnosed heart defect — and toxicology tests — were expected before a precise cause of death would be released, Nunn said.

Nunn was unavailable for comment Tuesday, a worker in the coroner's office said.

A message was left Tuesday with David Elson, the Alton school district's superintendent.

Kevin Harp, a seventh-grade friend of Raevin, said the girl "was always healthy," and was lately part of the middle school's basketball team.

Funeral arrangements are pending with Cathy Williams and Sons Funerary Home in Alton.

Voters were subject to sampling error higher for subgroups.

Lara Rashidul, speaking after casting her ballot in Collinsville, said she voted for Blagojevich. But the 62-year-old accountant said that "I wasn't too thrilled to vote for him," saying she had questions about his administration's ethics.

"I've been a poll watcher, it's a very worthwhile profession," said Goforth.

"But I think they need to give them some sort of class to teach them what to look for before sending them out." Calls to the local and state offices of the attorney general were not returned.

Dave Lopez can be reached at 536-3313 ext. 272 or dave_lopez@dailyegyptian.com.

Tara Burghart
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Girls who collapsed at school and later died had a previously undiagnosed heart defect — and toxicology tests — were expected before a precise cause of death would be released, Nunn said.

Nunn was unavailable for comment Tuesday, a worker in the coroner's office said.

A message was left Tuesday with David Elson, the Alton school district's superintendent.

Kevin Harp, a seventh-grade friend of Raevin, said the girl "was always healthy," and was lately part of the middle school's basketball team.

Funeral arrangements are pending with Cathy Williams and Sons Funerary Home in Alton.

Voters were subject to sampling error higher for subgroups.

Lara Rashidul, speaking after casting her ballot in Collinsville, said she voted for Blagojevich. But the 62-year-old accountant said that "I wasn't too thrilled to vote for him," saying she had questions about his administration's ethics.

"I've been a poll watcher, it's a very worthwhile profession," said Goforth.

"But I think they need to give them some sort of class to teach them what to look for before sending them out." Calls to the local and state offices of the attorney general were not returned.

Dave Lopez can be reached at 536-3313 ext. 272 or dave_lopez@dailyegyptian.com.

Tara Burghart
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Girls who collapsed at school and later died had a previously undiagnosed heart defect — and toxicology tests — were expected before a precise cause of death would be released, Nunn said.

Nunn was unavailable for comment Tuesday, a worker in the coroner's office said.

A message was left Tuesday with David Elson, the Alton school district's superintendent.

Kevin Harp, a seventh-grade friend of Raevin, said the girl "was always healthy," and was lately part of the middle school's basketball team.

Funeral arrangements are pending with Cathy Williams and Sons Funerary Home in Alton.

Voters were subject to sampling error higher for subgroups.

Lara Rashidul, speaking after casting her ballot in Collinsville, said she voted for Blagojevich. But the 62-year-old accountant said that "I wasn't too thrilled to vote for him," saying she had questions about his administration's ethics.

"I've been a poll watcher, it's a very worthwhile profession," said Goforth.

"But I think they need to give them some sort of class to teach them what to look for before sending them out." Calls to the local and state offices of the attorney general were not returned.

Dave Lopez can be reached at 536-3313 ext. 272 or dave_lopez@dailyegyptian.com.

Tara Burghart
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Girls who collapsed at school and later died had a previously undiagnosed heart defect — and toxicology tests — were expected before a precise cause of death would be released, Nunn said.

Nunn was unavailable for comment Tuesday, a worker in the coroner's office said.

A message was left Tuesday with David Elson, the Alton school district's superintendent.

Kevin Harp, a seventh-grade friend of Raevin, said the girl "was always healthy," and was lately part of the middle school's basketball team.

Funeral arrangements are pending with Cathy Williams and Sons Funerary Home in Alton.

Voters were subject to sampling error higher for subgroups.

Lara Rashidul, speaking after casting her ballot in Collinsville, said she voted for Blagojevich. But the 62-year-old accountant said that "I wasn't too thrilled to vote for him," saying she had questions about his administration's ethics.

"I've been a poll watcher, it's a very worthwhile profession," said Goforth.

"But I think they need to give them some sort of class to teach them what to look for before sending them out." Calls to the local and state offices of the attorney general were not returned.

Dave Lopez can be reached at 536-3313 ext. 272 or dave_lopez@dailyegyptian.com.

Tara Burghart
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Girls who collapsed at school and later died had a previously undiagnosed heart defect — and toxicology tests — were expected before a precise cause of death would be released, Nunn said.

Nunn was unavailable for comment Tuesday, a worker in the coroner's office said.

A message was left Tuesday with David Elson, the Alton school district's superintendent.

Kevin Harp, a seventh-grade friend of Raevin, said the girl "was always healthy," and was lately part of the middle school's basketball team.

Funeral arrangements are pending with Cathy Williams and Sons Funerary Home in Alton.

Voters were subject to sampling error higher for subgroups.

Lara Rashidul, speaking after casting her ballot in Collinsville, said she voted for Blagojevich. But the 62-year-old accountant said that "I wasn't too thrilled to vote for him," saying she had questions about his administration's ethics.

"I've been a poll watcher, it's a very worthwhile profession," said Goforth.

"But I think they need to give them some sort of class to teach them what to look for before sending them out." Calls to the local and state offices of the attorney general were not returned.

Dave Lopez can be reached at 536-3313 ext. 272 or dave_lopez@dailyegyptian.com.

Tara Burghart
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Girls who collapsed at school and later died had a previously undiagnosed heart defect — and toxicology tests — were expected before a precise cause of death would be released, Nunn said.

Nunn was unavailable for comment Tuesday, a worker in the coroner's office said.

A message was left Tuesday with David Elson, the Alton school district's superintendent.

Kevin Harp, a seventh-grade friend of Raevin, said the girl "was always healthy," and was lately part of the middle school's basketball team.

Funeral arrangements are pending with Cathy Williams and Sons Funerary Home in Alton.
BAGHDAD, Iraq — A somber and subdued Saddam Hussein called on Tuesday for clemency for Iraqi Kurds and other Iraqis subjected to mass killings by his regime, saying Saddam's "very existence is only anti-human." The starling call from Saddam came after he rose from the reading the afternoon news, when the Iraqi state television announced his execution was postponed until at least another day because of security concerns.

"We ask God to help the execution be completed," said Saddam, his voice lower than usual, in a measured and measured style. "We ask God to help us escape the hangman in December [the trial's expected date]."

Saddam then calmly spoke about how Prophet Muhammad and Jesus Christ asked for forgiveness for those who had sinned against them. "I call on all Iraqis, Kurds, to forgive, reconcile and shake hands," Saddam said before resuming his seat. The former president's demeanor was far different from his combative performance Sunday, when another court convicted him in the deaths of about 150 Shiite Muslims following an assassination attempt against him in the town of Dujail in 1982. Saddam and two others were sentenced to death by hanging. Four co-defendants received lesser sentences, and one was acquitted. Saddam thun- dered: "Long live the people and death to their enemies" when the sentence was imposed.

On Tuesday however, Saddam, dressed in a dark suit and white shirt, sat quietly along with the six other defendants in the Anfal case, calmly taking notes as four Kurdish witnesses gave their testimonies. Saddam's goal in making the statement was unclear. However, the remarks followed at least two other public declarations by Saddam in recent weeks in which he urged national unity — perhaps to secure a more favorable place in history or to encourage contacts between the Americans and his supporters.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Guatemala, Venezuela drop out while Panama wins seat to Security Council

Edith M. Lederer

UNITED NATIONS — One of the longest battles for a seat on the powerful U.N. Security Council ended Tuesday with victory for Panama after U.S.-backed Guatemala and leftist Venezuela led by anti-American President Hugo Chavez withdrew to end a deadlock.

The General Assembly’s over- whelming vote for Panama on the 48th ballot was greeted with loud applause by diplomats across the packed chamber, who had been trying since Oct. 12 to choose a candidate from Latin America and the Caribbean to serve a two-year term on the UN’s most powerful body.

In the secret ballot, Panama received 164 votes — more than the required two-thirds major- ity of the 189 voting members in the 192-nation assembly. Venezuela got 11 votes, Guatemala 4 votes, Barbados 1 vote, and 9 countries abstained.

General Assembly President Sheikha Haya Rashed Al Khalifa, who announced the results, said she was "delighted" at Panama’s victory and that all five new members of the Security Council had now been chosen — Belgium, Indonesia, Italy, Panama and South Africa. They will join the 15-seat council on Jan. 1.

Panamanian President Martin Torrijos Espino said he was honored his country was elected, Panama will try to unify Latin American and Caribbean nations and help the council reach consensus on sticky issues, he said.

"We have always aspired to be the face that can unite positions," Torrijos said during a visit to the Mexican Pacific coast resort of Acapulco, where he is attending a meeting on efforts to help disabled people.

Panama’s election was virtually assured last week when the foreign ministers of Guatemala and Venezuela met and agreed to withdraw in favor of the Central American nation, which they called a bridge between the north- ern and southern Latin America. The 34 Latin American and Caribbean nations nominated Panama as the group’s candidate on Friday.

The race for the council seat became highly political because of the U.S. support for Guatemala and Chavez’s refer- ence to President Bush as “the devil” in his speech in September to the General Assembly ministerial meeting. A num- ber of countries said Chavez’s anti-Bush comments hurt Venezuela’s chances. Guatemala left Venezuela in all but one of the 47 ballots but could not muster the two-thirds support needed to win in the General Assembly. The standoff was the third-longest battle for a Security Council seat in the U.N.’s 61-year history.
IBM develops new technology to help improve language skills at India call centers

Rajesh Mahapatra
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW DELHI — Even as Indian call centers have thrived in the past decade, helping U.S. companies cut costs and creating hundreds of thousands of jobs here, they have faced a seemingly insurmountable problem: Most Indians speak heavily accented English.

Now IBM Corp.'s India Research Lab says it has a way to help operators fix the harsh consonants, local idioms and occasionally different grammar of Indian English, often a source of frustration to those who call in search of tech support and other information.

IBM, which operates large call center facilities here, has developed a Web-based training technology that can help improve language skills of operators.

Although the technology was initially developed for its call center employees in India, it has broad applicability for individuals as well as in schools and businesses, said Ashish Verma, who led efforts to develop the tool at the India Research Lab in New Delhi.

The program evaluates grammar, pronunciation, comprehension and other spoken-language skills and provides detailed scores for each category. It uses specially adapted speech-recognition software to score the pronunciation of passages and the stressing of syllables for individual words.

The technology also consists of voice-enabled grammar evaluation tests, which identify areas for improvement by highlighting shortcomings and providing examples of correct pronunciation and grammar.

“Most of the existing solutions are available offline, where you listen to model speakers and mimic their accents,” Verma said. “In our case, we are analyzing speech.”

But many call center companies in India said the new technology could prove to be a supplement rather than a substitute to existing training programs.

“Online solutions and software can act as an aid in training an individual. However, it is critical that this is supported by classroom training,” said Pradeep Narayanan, chief delivery officer at 24x7 Customer, a leading Indian outsourcing company.

Narayanan said his company already uses software to help employees improve fluency and clarity of speech as well as undertake self-evaluations of their language skills.

“Such tools can be amalgamated as new modules into existing training programs. They can never be a standalone solution,” said Asutosh Malik, vice president training at EXL Services, a New York-based outsourcing company that employs more than 7,000 people at call centers in India.

EXL encourages its employees to improve their English language skills. They can never be a standalone solution.

The need to develop the new technology was driven, in part, by IBM's own plans to expand and hire more people in India.

Over the next three years, it plans to invest $6 billion in India, making it a hub for its outsourcing business. It plans to hire more employees for all of its businesses, including Daksh eServices, an Indian call center company that employs more than 25,000 people and was acquired by IBM in 2004.

“English has become the common language of the business world, so the ability to communicate effectively in English can dictate success or failure in integrating into the global business environment.”

Dan Dias
director of India Research Lab.

The program evaluates grammar, pronunciation, comprehension and other spoken-language skills and provides detailed scores for each category. It uses specially adapted speech-recognition software to score the pronunciation of passages and the stressing of syllables for individual words.

The technology also consists of voice-enabled grammar evaluation tests, which identify areas for improvement by highlighting shortcomings and providing examples of correct pronunciation and grammar.

“Most of the existing solutions are available offline, where you listen to model speakers and mimic their accents,” Verma said. “In our case, we are analyzing speech.”

But many call center companies in India said the new technology could prove to be a supplement rather than a substitute to existing training programs.

“Online solutions and software can act as an aid in training an individual. However, it is critical that this is supported by classroom training,” said Pradeep Narayanan, chief delivery officer at 24x7 Customer, a leading Indian outsourcing company.

Narayanan said his company already uses software to help employees improve fluency and clarity of speech as well as undertake self-evaluations of their language skills.

“Such tools can be amalgamated as new modules into existing training programs. They can never be a standalone solution,” said Asutosh Malik, vice president training at EXL Services, a New York-based outsourcing company that employs more than 7,000 people at call centers in India.

EXL encourages its employees to improve their English language skills. They can never be a standalone solution.

The need to develop the new technology was driven, in part, by IBM's own plans to expand and hire more people in India.

Over the next three years, it plans to invest $6 billion in India, making it a hub for its outsourcing business. It plans to hire more employees for all of its businesses, including Daksh eServices, an Indian call center company that employs more than 25,000 people and was acquired by IBM in 2004.

“English has become the common language of the business world, so the ability to communicate effectively in English can dictate success or failure in integrating into the global business environment.”

Dan Dias
director of India Research Lab.

The program evaluates grammar, pronunciation, comprehension and other spoken-language skills and provides detailed scores for each category. It uses specially adapted speech-recognition software to score the pronunciation of passages and the stressing of syllables for individual words.

The technology also consists of voice-enabled grammar evaluation tests, which identify areas for improvement by highlighting shortcomings and providing examples of correct pronunciation and grammar.

“Most of the existing solutions are available offline, where you listen to model speakers and mimic their accents,” Verma said. “In our case, we are analyzing speech.”

But many call center companies in India said the new technology could prove to be a supplement rather than a substitute to existing training programs.

“Online solutions and software can act as an aid in training an individual. However, it is critical that this is supported by classroom training,” said Pradeep Narayanan, chief delivery officer at 24x7 Customer, a leading Indian outsourcing company.

Narayanan said his company already uses software to help employees improve fluency and clarity of speech as well as undertake self-evaluations of their language skills.

“Such tools can be amalgamated as new modules into existing training programs. They can never be a standalone solution,” said Asutosh Malik, vice president training at EXL Services, a New York-based outsourcing company that employs more than 7,000 people at call centers in India.

EXL encourages its employees to improve their English language skills. They can never be a standalone solution.

The need to develop the new technology was driven, in part, by IBM's own plans to expand and hire more people in India.

Over the next three years, it plans to invest $6 billion in India, making it a hub for its outsourcing business. It plans to hire more employees for all of its businesses, including Daksh eServices, an Indian call center company that employs more than 25,000 people and was acquired by IBM in 2004.

“English has become the common language of the business world, so the ability to communicate effectively in English can dictate success or failure in integrating into the global business environment.”

Dan Dias
director of India Research Lab.

The program evaluates grammar, pronunciation, comprehension and other spoken-language skills and provides detailed scores for each category. It uses specially adapted speech-recognition software to score the pronunciation of passages and the stressing of syllables for individual words.

The technology also consists of voice-enabled grammar evaluation tests, which identify areas for improvement by highlighting shortcomings and providing examples of correct pronunciation and grammar.

“Most of the existing solutions are available offline, where you listen to model speakers and mimic their accents,” Verma said. “In our case, we are analyzing speech.”

But many call center companies in India said the new technology could prove to be a supplement rather than a substitute to existing training programs.

“Online solutions and software can act as an aid in training an individual. However, it is critical that this is supported by classroom training,” said Pradeep Narayanan, chief delivery officer at 24x7 Customer, a leading Indian outsourcing company.

Narayanan said his company already uses software to help employees improve fluency and clarity of speech as well as undertake self-evaluations of their language skills.

“Such tools can be amalgamated as new modules into existing training programs. They can never be a standalone solution,” said Asutosh Malik, vice president training at EXL Services, a New York-based outsourcing company that employs more than 7,000 people at call centers in India.

EXL encourages its employees to improve their English language skills. They can never be a standalone solution.

The need to develop the new technology was driven, in part, by IBM's own plans to expand and hire more people in India.

Over the next three years, it plans to invest $6 billion in India, making it a hub for its outsourcing business. It plans to hire more employees for all of its businesses, including Daksh eServices, an Indian call center company that employs more than 25,000 people and was acquired by IBM in 2004.

“English has become the common language of the business world, so the ability to communicate effectively in English can dictate success or failure in integrating into the global business environment.”

Dan Dias
director of India Research Lab.

The program evaluates grammar, pronunciation, comprehension and other spoken-language skills and provides detailed scores for each category. It uses specially adapted speech-recognition software to score the pronunciation of passages and the stressing of syllables for individual words.

The technology also consists of voice-enabled grammar evaluation tests, which identify areas for improvement by highlighting shortcomings and providing examples of correct pronunciation and grammar.

“Most of the existing solutions are available offline, where you listen to model speakers and mimic their accents,” Verma said. “In our case, we are analyzing speech.”

But many call center companies in India said the new technology could prove to be a supplement rather than a substitute to existing training programs.

“Online solutions and software can act as an aid in training an individual. However, it is critical that this is supported by classroom training,” said Pradeep Narayanan, chief delivery officer at 24x7 Customer, a leading Indian outsourcing company.

Narayanan said his company already uses software to help employees improve fluency and clarity of speech as well as undertake self-evaluations of their language skills.

“Such tools can be amalgamated as new modules into existing training programs. They can never be a standalone solution,” said Asutosh Malik, vice president training at EXL Services, a New York-based outsourcing company that employs more than 7,000 people at call centers in India.

EXL encourages its employees to improve their English language skills. They can never be a standalone solution.

The need to develop the new technology was driven, in part, by IBM's own plans to expand and hire more people in India.

Over the next three years, it plans to invest $6 billion in India, making it a hub for its outsourcing business. It plans to hire more employees for all of its businesses, including Daksh eServices, an Indian call center company that employs more than 25,000 people and was acquired by IBM in 2004.

“English has become the common language of the business world, so the ability to communicate effectively in English can dictate success or failure in integrating into the global business environment.”

Dan Dias
director of India Research Lab.
Cut and run? Let’s retire that phrase

With Tuesday’s election, we hope one lofty phrase can be stomped back into the can of political sleaze from which it escaped. The phrase? “Cut and run.” Anyone advocating immediate or even sometime- soon withdrawal of American troops from Iraq is apt to be accused of wanting to “cut and run,” meaning they advocate a dishonor- able, cowardly retreat.

But calling for an end to a fruitless, bloody conflict to which this country has devoted itself for three years and which shows no signs of ever ending on terms favorable to the United States, is in no way cowardly. It’s a reasonable, even brave, perspective. It says, in effect, don’t spend more American blood, more American treasure, on a lost cause.

That honorable point of view actually fits well with the original meaning of cut and run, lost now on most who use the term.

In nautical battles among sailing ships, when enemy vessels were bearing down on a navy caught at anchor, the ropes to the anchors would be cut and the ships would run with the wind, thus surviving to engage the enemy on more equal terms. An admiral who cut and run was more likely to be praised for saving his ship than criticized for cowardice.

We seem now to have reached the phase of the Iraq war that former Minnesota Sen. Eugene McCarthy described about Vietnam: “As [the war] continued to go badly, its advocates became more defensive. The motives of those who spoke out against the war were questioned, as was their patriotism, and in the case of the Democrats their loyalty to the party. Critics were called 'nervous Nellies' and ‘special pleaders,’ and, in the language of cattle handlers, as ready to ‘cut and run.’

A case can be made for not considering withdrawing from Iraq until the conflict somehow is redeemed. But that case should be made with real arguments, not with sleazy accusations that those who advocate a different course want to “cut and run.”
**LETTER TO THE EDITOR**

Can’t have one-sided negotiation

**Dear Editor:**

Regarding contract negotiations, Dr. Kolb says that the two sides cannot simply state their positions through the media. I thought it was the administration that refused to go on with the negotiation process, thus reneging on its commitment to interest-based bargaining. Is Dr. Kolb saying they are prepared to go back to being reasonable?

By the way, if you make only one offer, I suppose it must be your “best and last” offer.

By the same token, is it not also your “first and worst” offer?

W. D. Wallis

Professor, Mathematics

---

**Saluki on the street**

Top politicians have recently been pushing Barack Obama to run for president in 2008, after only one senate term. So... 

Do you think this is a good idea?

Junior from Aurora studying finance said:

“Obama should wait a few more years. He’s popular but he doesn’t fit the presidential role. In the near future, maybe because I do think he will be the first black president.”

Christopher Tutt

Graduate student from Taiwan studying business said:

“I don’t know who he is, but it would be great to have a black president.”

Kimberly Hou

Freshman from Quincy studying theater said:

“His position as a senator shows that he can hold, a position so he has every right to showcase what his plans are (as president).”

Steve Looten

Senior from O’Fallon studying psychology said:

“Being in the military, I have to say that Obama has supported and funded the military, thus proving himself to be qualified enough for president, beyond my Republican beliefs.”

Heather Moore

Graduate student from Bloomington, Ind., studying media management said:

“I don’t know enough about him to make an educated remark, but I would hope that people vote for him because they thought he would honestly be a good candidate not just because he could be the first black president.”

Jeremy Herron

Sophomore from Princeton studying film production said:

“I don’t follow politics, but I would say political experience may not have benefited the current president very well, so it doesn’t matter than Obama has only served one senate term.”

Devin Vaughn

---

**LETTER TO THE EDITOR**

Christopher Tutt

Heather Moore

Jeremy Herron

Steve Looten

Saluki on the street
Kroger Half Gallon Milk
5$6
SAVE UP TO .99 EA

California Iceberg Lettuce
77
SAVE UP TO .22 HD

Whole Pork Tenderloin
299 LB
SAVE UP TO 3.00 LB

Pepsi Products 12 Packs
150 EA
LIMIT 1 REWARD PER TRANSACTION

Healthy Choice or Marie Callender’s
Sale 5 for $10
Buy 5 Get $2.50 OFF
Assorted Varieties, 12 oz - 20 oz

Red Grapes California
148 LB
SAVE UP TO .51 LB

Tyson Chicken Breast Fresh Bundles
199 LB
SAVE UP TO 2.00 LB

Kroger Jumbo Biscuits
10$10 FOR
SAVE UP TO .69 EA

Kroger White Eggs
Grade A Large or Extra Large Dozen
88
SAVE UP TO .21 EA

Stove Top Stuffing
6 oz or Holiday Gravy 12 oz
Assorted Varieties
10$10 FOR
SAVE UP TO .55 EA

Kroger Round Top Bread
88
SAVE UP TO .12 EA

Breyers Ice Cream
68-64 oz or Edy’s Ice Cream
56 oz, Assorted Varieties
288
SAVE UP TO 1.91 EA

Big K 24 Packs
Assorted Varieties 12 or 20 oz
388
SAVE UP TO .16 EA

Pumpkin or Sweet Potato Pie
599
GREAT DEAL!
Another winner...

Students... win $100 on your Debit Dawg account!

Here's how...
1. Make sure you have an active Debit Dawg account on your SIU student ID.
2. Join the SIU Alumni Association, for only $15 annual student membership!
3. You're automatically entered into the next $100 Debit Dawg drawing.

www.siualumni.com

Check out today's challenge

AMTRAK

They turned your room into an office, BUT THEY'LL NEVER TURN YOU AWAY.

With more trains running on more tracks, hopping on Amtrak® to get back to Mom and Dad's is now easier than ever.

New service begins October 31st. Book your trip today!

AMTRAK.COM 1-800-USA-RAIL
Illinois gubernatorial candidate Rich Whitney, center, smiles amongst supporters as they watch election results at the Holiday Inn in Carbondale on Tuesday night.

More than 40 people gathered in the Elks Lodge in Murphysboro on Tuesday to support the Republican party, anxiously awaiting ballot numbers posted on a projector in the back corner of the room.

But Tuesday night only held small victories for the Jackson County Republicans, an outcome that was somewhat expected.

Democrats still hold county board majority

“Democrats are ready to move on,” Bost said. “Even though the Green Party, which ran candidates in all 26 districts, didn’t win any, they still expressed hope.”

Ross Settlemire, a ERA real estate agent with the Green Party in the District 6 seat, said the Green Party received more votes than expected for the board.

Some employees within the County Clerk and Recorder’s Office speculated there could be a recount in the district.

The race between Lisa Buddlickr and Donald R. Barrett also came down to the wire in the Recorder’s seat, with Barrett beating Buddlickr by 69 votes.

Rich Whitney, center, smiles as he joins others watching election results at the Holiday Inn in Carbondale on Tuesday night.
Arizona OKs bills targeting illegal immigrants; 4 states ban gay marriage
Solution to Friday's puzzle

BIRCH FIFTY LAGOON CAMPER

Yesterday's Jumbles:

Answer:

A NIGHT "CAP"

Wednesday, November 8, 2006

Comics

DAILY EGYPTIAN

13

by Glenn McCoy

The Duplex

by Aaron McGruder

The Boondocks

by Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein

Girls and Sports

by Linda Black

Today's Birthday (11-08-06).

Being frugal and paying bills on time works for you this year. You'll end up with enough for a cruise, if you play your cards right. To get the advantage, check the day's rating: 10 is the easiest day, 0 the most challenging.

Aries (March 21-April 19) - Today is a 6 - Do the homework in advance. When you get to the store you'll know which is the awe-some deal, and which one is the scam. There will be a test.

Taurus (April 20-May 20) - Today is an 8 - You're under pres-

sue from the competition but that's OK. You get stronger under pressure, like a brick.

Gemini (May 21-June 21) - Today is a 5 - Give the job your full

attention for a little while longer. Once this is done you'll have time to relax, but that won't be for a little while. Hang in there.

Cancer (June 22-July 22) - Today is an 8 - Be gracious to a per-

son who isn't quite saying what he or she really means. You'll be able to tell but don't make a big fuss. Use it to your advantage.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) - Today is a 5 - Temptation raises its ugly

head. Don't let it talk you into spending more time with people you don't like and less with the people you do. Loved ones feed you power.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) - Today is an 8 - Before you begin a new assignment, make sure you know what's required. This will not be easy. The first answer isn't correct.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) - Today is a 5 - Continue to focus on

your career. You'll be very busy for a while but not forever. Well, not unless you take on another big project immediately.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) - Today is an 8 - You can afford a special treat, if you've been good. Love and luck come together in a marvelous way.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) - Today is a 6 - Assume that the

person who's doing the talking is a great storyteller. Enjoy the show but don't bet on it's being true.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) - Today is an 8 - Proceed with caution, and don't offer to pay everybody's way. You can afford it but they won't respect you for it in the morning. Encourage self-

sufficiency.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) - Today is a 5 - An easily-overlooked variable is the emotional component. As you're analyzing the situ-

ation, take that into consideration. One who's acting out of charac-

ter may be frightened, in some way.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) - Today is an 8 - Some of the things you've been worried about actually do need your attention. The trick is to figure out which is which, and do it quickly.

(c) 2006, TRIBUNE MEDIA SERVICES INC.

Distributed by McClatchy-Tribune

“The Daily Egyptian is the key to any great civilization!”

— Gusimus Maximus

Can't find where that Funky Smell is coming from in your apartment?

Find a new apartment in our Classifieds

©2006 Tribune Media Services, Inc.

All Rights Reserved.

www.jumble.com

Sudoku

Sudoku on your cell phone. Enter 783658.com in your mobile Web browser. Get a free game!

(c) 2006, TRIBUNE MEDIA SERVICES INC.

Distributed by McClatchy- Tribune

Sudoku on your cell phone. Enter 783658.com in your mobile Web browser. Get a free game!

(c) 2006, TRIBUNE MEDIA SERVICES INC.

Distributed by McClatchy- Tribune

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.
“Do we want him to turn the ball over? No,” Kill said. “We don’t want the turnovers, and we certainly get on him for that, but his progress and job of playing the game of football has been great for us so far.”

Hill’s performance in SIU’s 35-28 win against Division I-A Indiana University has proven his abilities. He threw for 142 yards and four touchdowns in perhaps one of the biggest wins in Saluki football history.

The fact remains, though, that some of Hill’s turnovers have been untimely. Against Western Kentucky, Hill threw an interception with 48 seconds remaining in the game — just seven plays after the Hilltoppers took a 27-14 lead on a Lerron Moore 3-yard touchdown run.

WKU would take the ball on the SIU 41-yard line and run the remaining clock out to secure the upset over the Salukis.

Against Youngstown, SIU appeared poised to take the momentum and a lead into the half with the game tied at 7-7. After a 60-yard drive, which found the Salukis on the YSU 11-yard line on second-and-seven, Hill fumbled to give the Penguins possession. Youngstown kicked a field goal on the ensuing drive to give YSU a 10-7 lead.

Hill, who put up solid numbers at Youngstown despite the giveaways, said the number of turnovers by the team and himself needs to be cut down. “If we don’t turn (the ball) over, then we probably have a good chance of winning the game,” Hill said. “In the games we have lost, we turned the ball over, and that is something that I have to get better at.”

Hill said he has learned from each of his three interceptions this season and keeps the plays in the back of his head for future reference. “I am telling you right now that Nick Hill is special, and just give the kid time because it is his first year playing,” Kill said. “Any time your team is 6-3, you are there because of your quarterback, and we wouldn’t be here without him.”

State of Emergency 2.0: How to be a Citizen of the 21st Century?

Tim Reynolds

University of Miami defensive end Bryan Pata was shot and killed Tuesday night, shortly after leaving the practice field, school officials said. The circumstances around Pata’s death were not immediately clear, and Miami-Dade police refused to release specific information about what happened. A formal announcement was expected from the university at a later time.

“Right now, we’re just gathering ourselves and just trying to pull ourselves together,” Miami athletic director Paul Dee said.

Pata, a graduate of Miami Central, was in his fourth year with the Hurricanes. He appeared in 41 games, making 23 starts, and was expected to be selected in next spring’s NFL draft. It was at least the fourth time that tragedy involving a player has struck the Hurricanes in recent years.

In April 1996, reserve linebacker and Miami native Marlin Barnes was murdered in a campus apartment. In 2003, former Miami safety Al Blades was killed in a car accident, about a year after former Miami linebacker Chris Campbell — who just had completed his eligibility with the Hurricanes — also died in a crash. Pata’s death was the second incident involving guns this season for the Hurricanes. In July, reserve safety Willie Cooper was shot in the buttocks when confronted in his yard before an early morning workout. Cooper was not seriously injured. Brandon Meniewski, one of Cooper’s teammates and roommates, returned fire at Cooper’s assailant, taking three shots that apparently missed, police said.

Several Miami players, including Pata, said that incident was a robbery attempt and cautioned other teammates to always be aware of their surroundings.
The NLI’s Web site, nationalleagueofinstitutes.org, lays out the guidelines of how to happen,” Lowery said.

“Back out of a verbal commitment. It states that a verbal commitment is a “non-binding, oral agreement between you and the institution. The only binding nature of the commitment is your word and the institution’s promise.” In other words, albeit frowned upon, it is acceptable for a player to renge on it,” Spears said. “Coaches have to hold a kid accountable to a word and the institution’s promise.”

“Cross their fingers and hope their commitment.”

“Nothing can bring hockey back to the forefront,” Lowery said. “But he just wanted to know where the papers were being mailed.

“Hopefully that doesn’t continue to happen,” Lowery said.

The NLI’s Web site, nationalleagueofinstitutes.org, lays out the guidelines of a verbal commitment. It states that a verbal commitment is a “non-binding, oral agreement between you and the institution. The only binding nature of the commitment is your word and the institution’s promise.” In other words, albeit frowned upon, it is acceptable for a player to renge on it,” Spears said. “Coaches have to hold a kid accountable to a word and the institution’s promise.”

“The rule changes, but the NHL should do the same thing the NFL did to regain its popularity after a strike scenario. Just turn the game into Wayne Gretzky’s 3D Hockey for Wii. Then we’ll be asking the same question 10 years into the game into Wayne Gretzky’s 3D Hockey for N64.

“Nothing can bring hockey back to the forefront, but that doesn’t mean I will stop watching it. The NHL playoffs are the most intense of any professional sport. Anyone who doesn’t like hockey should watch an NHL playoff game — it could change your mind.”

“What’s hockey? Hockey is as important to me as yard sales — I could care less. With $1 million in college basketball and the NBA, there is no such thing as the NHL in my mind. Unless there’s a sweet fight.”
FOOTBALL

Several games lost to turnovers

Brian Feldt
DAILY EGYPTIAN

As Nick Hill goes, so does the Saluki football team. When Hill, SIU's first-year quarterback, turns in a clean stat sheet with solid numbers, the Salukis usually win. When Hill has blemishes, though, SIU (6-3, 3-3 Gateway) can be vulnerable to defeat.

In the No. 14 Salukis' three losses to Illinois State University, Western Kentucky University and Youngstown State University, Hill has turned the ball over five times.

When running back Arkee Whitlock has as solid a game, he can carry SIU on his shoulders. But when Whitlock has a poor game, SIU can still find ways to win.

The same cannot be said about Hill — the outcome seems to rely on him.

Two of the three Saluki losses — ISU and YSU — have featured Hill turnovers in the fourth quarter, allowing teams to either run out the clock or score for a win.

Head coach Jerry Kill said an interception against Youngstown State with 50 seconds remaining, though, was Hill's fault.

Hill's pass to intended receiver Phil Godforth appeared on target but was tipped by Godforth and into the hands of a Penguin defender.

Youngstown would score six plays later on a Marcus Mason 22-yard touchdown run to give the Penguins the lead 31-24, which was the final margin of victory.

Whitlock said although the turnover was disappointing, he still has faith in Hill.

"Nick is a strong quarterback, and he is never going to give up, and he is going to keep on fighting," Whitchlor said. "He is going to put that behind him and have a good game this week."

On the 2006 season, Hill has eight turnovers — three interceptions and five fumbles. Five have come in SIU losses.

Three of those eight turnovers have resulted in opponents scoring on the next drive, and two have enabled SIU to score.

SIU quarterback Nick Hill stares at Youngstown defender Jeff Koval after receiving a late hit from Koval during SIU's 31-24 loss to Youngstown on Saturday in Ohio.

Both Hill and Kill agreed turnovers are essential in winning or losing a game. Kill said Hill's progression as a quarterback, though, has surpassed his turnover ratio.

Trend of athletes backing out of verbal commitments a concern for college coaches

Carlton Fay's phone still rings with inquiring coaches on the other line.

Fay, a senior at Pattonville County High School, graduated in May to play for the SIU men's basketball team.

Yet, that hasn't stopped other coaches from actively recruiting him.

Until players sign their National Letter of Intent, though, any school is open to steal them from their prior commitments.

Head coach Chris Lowery and staff will be able to breathe a sigh of relief today, NLI signing day.

When running back Arkee Whitlock has a poor game, he can still find ways to win.

When Whitlock has a poor game, he can still find ways to win.

Head coach Jerry Kill said an interception against Youngstown State with 50 seconds remaining, though, was Hill's fault.

Hill's pass to intended receiver Phil Godforth appeared on target but was tipped by Godforth and into the hands of a Penguin defender.

Youngstown would score six plays later on a Marcus Mason 22-yard touchdown run to give the Penguins the lead 31-24, which was the final margin of victory.

Whitlock said although the turnover was disappointing, he still has faith in Hill.

"Nick is a strong quarterback, and he is never going to give up, and he is going to keep on fighting," Whitchlor said. "He is going to put that behind him and have a good game this week."

On the 2006 season, Hill has eight turnovers — three interceptions and five fumbles. Five have come in SIU losses.

Three of those eight turnovers have resulted in opponents scoring on the next drive, and two have enabled SIU to score.

SIU quarterback Nick Hill stDownload page as PDF (311.5 KB)