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Athletes play a new game



DuVALE RILEY ~ DAILY EGYPTIAN

Chris Dieker, a redshirt freshman quarterback on the SIU football team, picks up Kai Spears for a dunk during Saluki Kids Night Out Friday at the SIU Arena.

Salukis volunteer at Kids Night Out

Jeff Engelhardt
 DAILY EGYPTIAN

SIU athletes dedicate most of their time to playing for the win. On Friday, they just played for fun. More than 100 athletes from all

SIU sports volunteered their time during the first Saluki Kids Night Out at the SIU Arena Friday. The event was a way for children to spend a night with Saluki athletes while their parents spent a night on the town.

The Student-Athlete Advisory Committee put the event together and had been talking about the idea for more than a year. Erin Pauk, senior women's basketball guard, was a driving force behind the event and said she was excited to finally see it come

to fruition.

"It's fun for us to come out here and hang out and give back to the community," Pauk said. "Everybody in SAAC really helped out and brought ideas every week and this event was a team effort."

Pauk spent the beginning of the night coordinating the event and making sure it ran smoothly.

Pauk's teammate Erica Smith was also at the event, proving why she was one of only 10 athletes to receive the

State Farm Missouri Valley Conference Good Neighbor Award.

Smith's community service has included everything from reading to children, visiting hospitals and volunteering with American Red Cross. She said this was just another way to help where she can.

"I always want to be involved with the community and it's important to help, especially with kids," Smith said.

See VOLUNTEER, Page 14

Rise in pension costs concerns city

Mayor: Property tax not yet necessary

Barton Lorimor
 DAILY EGYPTIAN

A debate about reinstating Carbondale's property tax could be on the horizon as the state continues to raise the cost of pensions for police officers and firefighters.

Serious consideration must be given to reinstating the property tax to pay for pensions, City Manager Jeff Doherty said in his opening letter to the proposed fiscal year 2009 budget. Before its elimination in 2002, the city's property tax was the primary revenue source for public pensions. But as pension continues to rise, the reappearance of that tax may be necessary, Mayor Brad Cole said.

The state-mandated increase allows the pensions of police officers and firefighters to include previous marriages as well as their current spouses.

"If the costs continue to rise because of the unfunded mandates from the state, we may have to look to go back to that," Cole said.

But right now, the mayor said, the city can continue using revenue sources other than a property tax.

Cole, who proposed the tax's elimination as a member of the City Council in 2002, said there is not an initiative or effort to reinstate the tax at this time.

Cole said the city changed its major revenue source to sales and service taxes after the council approved his proposal in December 2002. The proposed 2009 budget shows the city expects to collect more than 43 percent of its revenue from sales and service taxes. The current city sales tax is 7.5 percent.

The last property tax collected by the city for its own budget brought in \$1.07 million, which Doherty said would not be enough to fulfill all the needs in public pensions.

"(Property tax) would help," Doherty said. "But some of it would come from the general revenue fund."

The proposed budget for fiscal year 2009 does not reflect a reinstated property tax since the City Council voted in favor of continuing to use other funding methods in December.

Aside from county and state property taxes, Carbondale residents do pay a city property tax to support the library, which is required by state law, said Connie Steudel, director

See TAX, Page 14

Improvements to Campus Lake continue

Grants exhausted for lake's improvements

Lindsey Smith
 DAILY EGYPTIAN

Time has run out on Campus Lake's research grants, but the people have not.

Nick Wahl, a graduate student from Dwight studying fisheries, has been working on his portion of the lake improvements since 2006. The Environmental Protection Agency placed Campus Lake in its Clean Lake Program a year before Wahl's work began. The program gave multiple students opportunities for research and improvement projects through grants.

"Since the grant is done and we don't have any funding anymore to do things, basically we're just going to continue to monitor the lake, how clear it is and the fish population," Wahl said.

Before the grants from the EPA,



Jim Zeigler, a graduate student from Marion studying fisheries, holds a large mouth bass caught at Campus Lake Wednesday morning. Zeigler is a member of the SIUC subunit of the Illinois Chapter of American Fisheries Society, which is trying to increase the population of large mouth bass at Campus Lake.

STEPHEN RICKERL
 DAILY EGYPTIAN

the lake looked more like grass, Wahl said.

"Obviously it's not a really clean lake, but I have pictures from early 2000s and it was nasty. It

was completely green, green as the grass, algae everywhere, vegetation everywhere," Wahl said.

Three research projects later, the lake is a muddy brown color.

Wahl said his research focused on the food chain, which is a big factor in the upkeep of the lake.

See LAKE, Page 14

Student Life
 USG candidates vie for student voters.
 PAGE 3

Pulse
 Clooney turns up the charm in 'Leatherheads.'
 PAGE 8

Campus
 Bluegrass group taps it up at Shryock.
 PAGE 14

Sports
 Softball, baseball bust out the brooms.
 PAGE 16

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I am for a "green" campus but don't think students should pay for it.	24%																			

10% 20% 30% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90% 100%

Do you think the Undergraduate Student Center Government elections should be held online?

A. Yes, it's cheaper & more efficient to hold elections online. C. No, the online system is too easily corrupted

B. Yes, because holding them online is the only way most people would vote. D. It doesn't matter- student government doesn't do anything anyway

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CALENDAR

Student Trustee Election Petitions Due
• 4:30 p.m. today at the Undergraduate Student Government office

Touch of Blue Ice Cream Social
• 6:14 p.m. today at the bottom of Grinnell Hall
• An ice cream social for students to have the chance to know the brothers of Phi Beta Sigma

Translating Vana'diel: Japanese and North American Game Players Creating a Hybrid Culture
• 4:30 p.m. today at the Communications Building, room 1032
• Lecture and discussion with Professor Mia Consalvo, Ohio University-Athens

Family Fun Night
• 6 p.m. today at the Carbondale Civic Center
• Community Floss, an SIUC improv group, will perform for families
• Free and open to the public

'Photoshop Jesus'
• Noon-1 p.m. today at the UCM Interfaith Center
• Slideshow and discussion of 75 images of Christ from different cultural and ethnic contexts with responses from Jewish, Muslim and Pagan perspectives

Touch of Blue Open Mic
• 7:14 p.m. Tuesday at the bottom of Grinnell Hall
• Poetry and spoken word performed by SIUC students

The calendar is a free service for community groups. We cannot guarantee that all items will run.

Submit calendar items to the DAILY EGYPTIAN newsroom, Communications 1247, at least two days before event, or call (618) 536-3311, ext. 266.

NEWS BRIEFS

Campus power fails in network of buildings
Morris Library, Anthony Hall, the Wham Education Building, Greek Row and the SIU Arena all went black at 4:20 p.m. Sunday.
University spokesman Rod Sievers said the outage was due to an over voltage relay malfunction.
"It detects variation in voltage," Sievers said. "And when it detects a variation it automatically shuts itself down."
Sievers said the lights officially turned on at 6:02 p.m.
Morris Library had a generator and was therefore able to avoid total blackness, though the clocks remained stilled. Susan Tulis, associate dean for Information Services, said an identical blackout occurred Wednesday.
"We had no generator, so we had to do without lights for quite awhile," Tulis said.
They were able to light the majority of the floors with the generators Sunday, though the first-floor remained black.

Tim McGovern can be reached at 536-3311 ext. 254 or tmcgov@siu.edu.

Eastern Illinois authorities say law working to combat meth labs

CHARLESTON (AP) — Eastern Illinois law enforcement officials say an 18-month-old law that limits the sale of some cold medicine is working to clamp down on methamphetamine production.
The measure went into effect September 2006 and limits how much cold medicine with pseudoephedrine people can purchase. It also requires stores to put the drug behind a counter.
Pseudoephedrine is a key ingredient in methamphetamine, which is an illegal stimulant.
Authorities with the East Central Illinois Task Force say the new limits have made it harder for people to make meth.
Last year, the task force handled 14 meth labs in the region. That's down from 92 in 2004.

State senator suggests possible cap on foreign students at U of I

URBANA (AP) — A state senator from Chicago says the University of Illinois might consider placing caps on numbers of international students it accepts.
Ed Maloney broached the possibility after one institute found Illinois' 41,000-student Urbana-Champaign campus has more than 5,000 foreign students.
That's more than any other public U.S. university.
The Democrat — who chairs the Senate's Higher Education Committee — cites projections that Illinois high schools will graduate more students in coming years.
He says that means many qualified Illinoisans may not have a shot at getting into U of I.
But an associate provost at the Urbana-Champaign campus cites the welcomed diversity foreign students bring to U of I and says it'd be wrong to impose caps.

POLICE REPORTS

Police have no suspects for a reported case of criminal damage to a lock at Kellogg Hall at 7:30 p.m. March 29.
An Apple iPhone valued at \$427 was stolen from a room in Warren Hall sometime Feb. 29. Police, who have no suspects, reported no forcible entry to the room.

CORRECTIONS

If you spot an error, please contact the DAILY EGYPTIAN accuracy desk at 536-3311, ext. 253.

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STUDENT ELECTIONS

Meet the candidates

Allison Petty
DAILY EGYPTIAN

Dave Loftus and Steven Turner

Dave Loftus and Steven Turner jokingly say they are opposites.

Some of their differences are audible. Loftus is quiet, frequently checking his notes and pausing between sentences to make sure his words convey the right meaning. Turner is animated, leaning forward to emphasize his most important points.

Both, however, speak passionately about the students they hope to represent as Undergraduate Student Government president and vice president.

Loftus entered the race with running mate Jennifer Arteaga, but she dropped out of the race last week because she wanted to be a resident assistant and could not hold the two positions at the same time. But he said he is happy with Turner, who he said can help him consider more angles to every situation.

Loftus, who studies political science, said he understands issues of cost as well as anybody can. The 22-year-old sophomore from Princeton said he had to take time off to work and save money before coming to SIUC. His parents were unable to save for college, he said, because his mother has multiple sclerosis and his father died from wounds received in Vietnam.

"I worked for two years to come here. I know, just like many students who have to do the same thing, what they go through to get a good education," Loftus said. "I know the value behind that education because I worked very hard for it."

Loftus and Turner, a senior from Chicago studying aviation, said they hope to protect students' pocketbooks, living standards and morale.

Housing is an issue with which Loftus has long been concerned. In February, he showed the USG pictures of his own crumbling off-campus apartment and said he wanted the senators to work together and with the city

to make sure other students weren't living in unsafe conditions. He said he has also met with Julie Payne Kirchmeier, director of university housing, to discuss options for the dilapidated Greek Row area.

Loftus said one of his biggest goals was to make sure all students' accomplishments are recognized. He said the media and other factors cause too much attention to fall on negative aspects of the university, while students' achievements are often ignored or overlooked. But if he were USG president, Loftus said, he would work with the media and announce students' accolades at the beginning of the organization's meetings to ensure the positive stories were told.

Both Loftus and Turner said they were not bothered by USG's inability to pass binding resolutions.

"USG, when it comes down to it, it's a voice," Loftus said. "But how we use that voice and how we appeal to certain people and make our voice heard, that's what counts."

Turner added, "To say that we have no binding power, I think, is an understatement. I would say that we have the greatest power because we have the ability —"

"— to bring people together," Loftus finished.

They looked at each other and laughed.

"Great minds think alike," Loftus chuckled.

Chiquita Watts and Vincent Hardy

Undergraduate Student Government presidential candidate Chiquita Watts said she believes in starting small.

Watts, who listed her main goals as improving student safety, keeping costs low, expanding student parking and increasing retention rates, said she knows her vision of a better campus cannot happen all at once.

"Everything is not going to happen overnight," Watts said. "You've got to crawl before you walk, so let's start taking some small steps to get these things accomplished."

The junior from Chicago studying finance said she wants to improve handicap accessibility on campus and start a program

Watts said she would use petitions, rallies and a relationship with the administration to accomplish her goals.

"(I would be) always in their face, always writing letters and sending it to them, letting them know that we have a problem and it needs to be rectified," Watts said.

Vice presidential candidate Vincent Hardy, a sophomore from Chicago studying business, has already sacrificed for the job.

Hardy said he had the opportunity to intern during the summer at Loop Capital Markets, a minority-owned banking company in Chicago. He gave up the internship, he said, because the students need him more.

"There's more important things than money," Hardy said. "I just feel like I'm called to do this. It's been a battle with myself for a while, even with my parents."

Hardy said his mother wanted him to come to Chicago and work during the summer, but he explained to her that a lot of people count on USG.

He added that students should take more ownership of the organization.

"A lot of students have no idea about USG and what we do and I think that needs to change considering that we are their voice," Hardy said. "Power comes in numbers and without their support, USG is powerless."

Both Watts and Hardy said they are excited about their campaign. Watts said at the campaign's kick-off party, 85 supporters showed up to make Watts/Hardy T-shirts.

She added that if she were elected, her presidency would follow in the footsteps of current president Demetrious White.

"Those are some big shoes to fill, and I think I have the feet to fill them," Watts said.

USG 101

What is Undergraduate Student Government?

- USG is designed to be the voice of undergraduate students.
- Just like U.S. government, USG has a senate, judicial branch and executive branch.
- Students elect senators, who represent different colleges and areas of Carbondale.
- The senate can also appoint senators to empty seats.
- Students also elect the president.
- The president appoints other members of the executive and judicial branches.

What does the USG senate do?

- Controls the distribution of money from the student activity fee
- Approves new Registered Student Organizations
- Passes resolutions, which are nonbinding statements of policy or opinion
- Controls student election polling places
- Allows or denies referendums to appear on student election ballots

What powers/duties does the president have?

- Recognize RSOs during the summer
- Hire, fire and determine duties of student employees for the executive branch
- Veto legislation (including resolutions and bills to fund student groups)
- Receive a wage not exceeding \$1,800 per semester

What powers/duties does the vice president have?

- Chair all senate meetings and vote only in the case of a tie
- Keep an updated public record of the senate proceedings on file
- Receive a wage not exceeding \$1,600 per semester

Source: USG Constitution

Allison Petty can be reached at 536-3311 ext. 259 or allison.petty@siu.edu.



Dave Loftus



Steven Turner



Chiquita Watts



Vincent Hardy

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ILLINOIS ARTS COUNCIL

Rocket attacks kill three U.S. soldiers

Kim Gamel
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BAGHDAD — Rockets or mortars slammed into the U.S.-protected Green Zone and a military base elsewhere in Baghdad Sunday, killing three American soldiers and wounding 31, an official said.

The attacks occurred as U.S. and Iraqi forces battled Shiite militants in Sadr City in some of the fiercest fighting since radical cleric Muqtada al-Sadr ordered a cease-fire a week ago. At least 16 Iraqi civilians were killed in the fighting, according to hospital officials.

A military official said two U.S. troops died and 17 were wounded in the attack on the Green Zone, which houses the U.S. Embassy and the Iraqi government headquarters in central Baghdad.

Another American service member was killed and 14 were wounded in the attack on a base in the southeastern Baghdad area of Rustamiyah, the official said, speaking on condition of anonymity because he wasn't authorized to release the information.

The U.S. military said separately that an American soldier was killed Sunday in a roadside bombing in the volatile Diyala province north of Baghdad.

The deaths raised to at least 4,017 members of the U.S. military who have died since the Iraq war started in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count.

Nobody claimed responsibility for the Baghdad attacks, but U.S. commanders have blamed what they call Iranian-backed rogue militia groups for launching missiles against American forces.

The strikes occurred despite a strong push by the U.S. military to prevent militants from using suspected launching sites on the southern edge of Sadr City, the Baghdad stronghold of the Mahdi Army of anti-U.S. cleric Muqtada al-Sadr.

Hospital officials said at least 16 civilians were killed and nearly 100 wounded as fierce fighting erupted in Sadr City earlier Sunday after Iraqi troops backed by U.S. soldiers and attack helicopters tried to advance deeper into the enclave of some 2.5 million people.

Women, children taken from polygamist compound



Women and children from the YFZ Ranch, the compound built by polygamist leader Warren Jeffs, are moved by bus to San Angelo, Texas, Sunday. Authorities are investigating allegations of child abuse.

KHAMPHA BOUAPHANH ~ McCLATCHY TRIBUNE

Michelle Roberts
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ELDORADO, Texas — Authorities who removed 219 women and children from a polygamist compound were struggling Sunday to determine whether they had the 16-year-old girl whose report of an underage marriage led them to raid the sprawling rural property.

Many people at the compound, built by followers of jailed polygamist leader Warren Jeffs, are related to one another and share similar names; investigators said in some cases they were giving different names at different times.

Investigators Sunday bused them out of Eldorado, nearly 200 miles northwest of San Antonio, as other law enforcement agents continued to search for more children and evidence at the 1,700-acre compound, the former site of an exotic game ranch.

State troopers armed with a search warrant raided the compound Friday to look for evidence of a marriage between the girl, who allegedly had a baby at 15, and a 50-year-old

man. Under Texas law, girls younger than 16 cannot marry, even with parental approval.

The women and children were taken out of the compound Friday and Saturday and had been staying in a local church and civic center.

By midday Sunday, dozens of women and children, mostly girls, were seen boarding buses on their way to San Angelo, a larger town 45 miles away. The women wore long pastel dresses and many carried bedding; several had infants.

Officers entered the temple on the grounds late Saturday, but by Sunday they still had not located the 16-year-old whose initial report of abuse led to the raid.

"There were some tense moments last night, but everything has remained calm and peaceful and they are continuing their search," Allison Palmer, a prosecutor from a nearby county handling the case,

said early Sunday.

Marleigh Meisner, a spokeswoman for Child Protective Services, said investigators were still

“There were some tense moments last night, but everything has remained calm and peaceful and they are continuing their search.”

— Allison Palmer
prosecutor handling
the underage marriage case

trying to determine whether the girl who called authorities last week was among the people, including 159 children, removed from the compound.

Meisner said the adults were cooperating with investigators, and she didn't believe any had been forced to leave the compound.

Investigators were also looking for the man the girl allegedly married, Dale Barlow. Palmer said other law enforcement agencies "know where (Barlow) is and have talked to him, but our investigators have not."

Barlow's probation officer told The Salt Lake Tribune that he was in Arizona.

Bush, Putin still divided on missile defense plan

Terence Hunt
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SOCHI, Russia — President Bush and Russian President Vladimir Putin failed to overcome sharp differences over a U.S. missile defense system, closing their seven-year relationship Sunday still far apart on an issue that has separated them from the beginning.

"Our fundamental attitude toward the American plan has not changed," Putin said at a news conference with Bush at his vacation house at this Black Sea resort. "Obviously we've got a lot of work to do," Bush said. Despite the impasse, the two leaders agreed that Moscow and Washington

would work together closely in the future on missile defense and other difficult issues.

Putin declared there were no breakthrough solutions but said "certain progress is obvious" in the long-running dispute on missile defenses. He was referring to U.S. concessions to assuage Russia's concerns. U.S. officials said that was what they wanted to hear him say.

Bush also conferred with Putin's hand-picked successor, Dmitry Medvedev, but did not claim gaining any insight into his soul, as he

had with Putin upon their first encounter. He pronounced Putin's protege "a straightforward fellow" and said he was eager to work with him.

Putin was asked whether he — or Medvedev, the president-elect — would be in charge of Russia's foreign policy after May 7, when Putin steps down as president and is expected to be named prime minister.

Putin said Medvedev would

be in charge, and would represent Russia at the Group of Eight meeting of industrial democracies in July in Tokyo. "Mr. Medvedev has been one of the co-authors of Russia's foreign policy," Putin said. "He's completely on top of things."

National Security Adviser Stephen Hadley, when asked later whether he thought Putin actually was going to cede authority on Russian foreign policy to Medvedev, said: "My guess is that these two men who have worked very closely together for now almost two decades will have a very collaborative relationship. That seems to be a good thing, not a bad thing."

WIRE REPORTS

CALIFORNIA

Charlton Heston, dead at 84, left political mark to rival cinematic legacy

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Nancy Reagan was heartbroken over Charlton Heston's death. President Bush hailed him as a "strong advocate for liberty," while John McCain called Heston a devotee for civil and constitutional rights.

Even Michael Moore, who mocked Heston in his gun-control documentary "Bowling for Columbine," posted the actor's picture on his Web site to mark his passing.

Heston, who died Saturday night at 84, was a towering figure both in his politics and on screen, where his characters had the ear of God (Moses in "The Ten Commandments"), survived apocalyptic plagues ("The Omega Man") and endured one of Hollywood's most-grueling action sequences (the chariot race in "Ben-Hur," which earned him the best-actor Academy Award).

Better known in recent years as a fierce gun-rights advocate who headed the National Rifle Association, Heston played legendary leaders and ordinary men hurled into heroic struggles.

VIRGINIA

Workers charge \$2.6 billion on government credit

WASHINGTON (AP) — Veterans Affairs employees last year racked up hundreds of thousands of dollars in government credit-card bills at casino and luxury hotels, movie theaters and high-end retailers such as Sharper Image and Franklin Covey — and government auditors are investigating, citing past spending abuses.

All told, VA staff charged \$2.6 billion to their government credit cards.

The Associated Press, through a Freedom of Information request, obtained the VA list of 3.1 million purchases made in the 2007 budget year. The list offers a detailed look into the everyday spending at the government's second largest department.

By and large, it reveals few outward signs of questionable spending, with hundreds of purchases at prosthetic, orthopedic and other medical supply stores.

POLITICS

DNC chairman: Deal to seat Florida, Michigan delegations unlikely before primaries end

WASHINGTON (AP) — A deal to allow delegates from Florida and Michigan to participate at the Democratic National Convention is unlikely before summer, party chief Howard Dean said Sunday.

Dean said that was partly because presidential candidates Hillary Rodham Clinton and Barack Obama want to focus on the coming round of contests. Next on the schedule are Pennsylvania on April 22 and Indiana and North Carolina on May 6, followed by several other states and U.S. territories. Voting ends June 3.

But he continued to express confidence that an agreement would be reached to seat delegates from both states.

"It's going to take some time to work that out because these candidates are really focused on these primary battles in ... Pennsylvania and West Virginia and North Carolina and so forth and so on," Dean told "Face the Nation" on CBS. "And so it's going to take some time to work this out."

ENGLAND

Anti-China protesters almost snuff Olympic flame in London relay

LONDON (AP) — Demonstrators grabbed at the Olympic torch, blocked its path and tried to snuff out its flame Sunday in raucous protests of China's human rights record that forced a string of last-second changes to a chaotic relay through London.

The biggest protests since last month's torch-lighting in Greece tarnished China's hope for a harmonious prelude to a Summer Olympics celebrating its rise as a global power. Instead, the flame's 85,000-mile journey from Greece to Beijing has become a stage for activists decrying China's recent crackdown on Tibetans and support for Sudan despite attacks on civilians in Darfur.

One protester slipped through a tight police cordon early in the day and managed to grip the torch before he was thrown to the ground and taken away by police.

Students move to battle multiple sclerosis

Participants walk 2.3 miles around Campus Lake

Tim McGovern
DAILY EGYPTIAN

Students slipped on their walking shoes and shorts Saturday in the hopes of outrunning multiple sclerosis.

More than 150 students and members of the community gathered around Campus Lake to commence a 2.3-mile walk on a picture-perfect morning. Hosted by the Public Administration Student Organization, the walk's goal was to raise at least \$5,000 in the hopes of procuring a cure for MS. The group raised nearly \$11,000.

Keith Snavelly, a professor of political science, assisted in organizing the first MS walk, which he said should become an annual event. Snavelly was diagnosed with MS four years ago, though he first experienced symptoms in 1994.

MS is a disease that attacks the central nervous system. Symptoms can be both mental and physical. While treatments are available, the disease has no cure.

"It is a nerve condition," said Snavelly, who uses both a cane and a scooter for mobility. "You lose flexibility in your arms and shoulders and your legs get weak and stiff."

Participants all pledged a minimum of \$10 and received T-shirts. All proceeds go to the Gateway Chapter of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society. A multitude of corporations and small businesses contributed to the walk, including Allied Physicians & Rehab, Southern Illinois Healthcare, Don Taco and Mary Lou's Grill in Carbondale.



Alana Rametta, left, smiles as her sister Madison Rametta and friend Sharon Leaman, right, pet a pug named Molly during the Southern Illinois Multiple Sclerosis Walk Saturday afternoon at Campus Lake.
DUVALE RILEY
DAILY EGYPTIAN

Shayla Leibovitz, a graduate student from Silvis studying public administration, said preparations for the walk began in October. The walk was in honor of Snavelly, she said.

"This is the first year, so we are building everything from scratch," Leibovitz said. "We've had excellent support from the community. Our main goal is to get the community involved and we hope people have a fun time — the bigger, the better."

Leibovitz said she posted flyers on campus, sent out e-mails and used word of mouth to increase interest in the walk.

SIUC alumna Tiffany Heil is a volunteer development coordina-

Our main goal is to get the community involved and we hope people have a fun time — the bigger, the better.

— Shayla Leibovitz
graduate student studying public administration

tor at the Gateway Chapter in St. Louis. She said researchers have made great strides in developing treatments for MS, but said the disease is quarrelsome because of its progressive nature.

"(MS) affects every area of their lives," Heil said. "Everyday activities become difficult ... (Snavelly) really opened my eyes to MS."

Tom Heller, a junior from Petersburg studying international relations and business manage-

ment, said he attended the walk in support of Snavelly. Heller said his former neighbor was a victim of MS — a distant disease many people may not understand. As for the 2.3-mile walk, Heller said he'd manage fine.

"I've run it before," he said. "But I was a healthy college student back then. Now I'm a college student, if you know what I mean."

Because Snavelly was unable to

participate physically in the walk, he worked to raise awareness and organize others' participation.

He added that drug companies are pouring plenty of money into research, but a lot of that research is directed toward treatment rather than a cure.

"But I think eventually they'll have (a cure)," he said.

Tim McGovern can be reached at 536-3311 ext. 254 or tmcgov@siu.edu.



BRANDON CHAPPLE ~ DAILY EGYPTIAN

Murphysboro High School students Joe Van Buskirk, Dajia Elliot and Ashley Elliot share answers during the second annual Dr. James E. Walker Black History Knowledge Bowl Saturday in the Student Center Auditorium. The event, hosted by Black American Studies Professor Pamela Smoot, saw high school teams compete to see who knew more about black American history. Cairo High School, the defending champions, could not make the competition, making the contest a two-team event between Murphysboro and Carbondale, who went on to win the bowl.

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THEIR WORD

The Games should go on, as should the protests

McCLATCHY-TRIBUNE

Last week, German Chancellor Angela Merkel became the first world leader to announce that she would not attend the 2008 Summer Olympics in Beijing. Though the German government gave no reason, Merkel recently caused sparks with the Chinese leadership by meeting publicly with the Dalai Lama amid Beijing's brutal crackdown in Tibet.

European governments are sending signals that, should the repression continue, Merkel will not be staying home alone.

As if China doesn't have enough problems managing its Tibet crisis, Beijing is about to have its brutal complicity in the

Darfur atrocities brought to the American public's attention in a series of high-profile demonstrations intended to brand the summer games the "Genocide Olympics." True, it's unfair to indelibly stain the Olympic Games with the blood of Darfurians, but it's well worth countering Beijing's Olympics PR offensive with the ugly truth about its key role in the ongoing African genocide.

Chinese money and influence make possible the savage war Sudan's militant Islamist government is waging against its own people in Darfur

European governments are sending signals that, should the repression continue, Merkel will not be staying home alone.

province. China is Sudan's largest trading partner, is its arms dealer and last year gave President Omar al-Bashir money to build a new palace. And China runs interference for the Sudanese in the United Nations, using its Security Council veto to stave off sanctions against the nation for raping, pillaging and slaughtering more than 200,000 of its own people.

Because it promises material assistance without making human rights demands, China is developing a close relationship with despotic Third World regimes throughout the world.

Nobody should imagine that protests in the West will entirely flip Beijing's policy, but emerging signs indicate that it's starting to show flexibility

on Darfur. China is reportedly moving to accept a U.N. peacekeeping force there and applying diplomatic pressure to the Khartoum regime

This is a hopeful sign. But the world won't know if the move is real or merely cosmetic until U.N. troops are actually on the ground in Darfur. Unless and until that happens, let the Games begin — and let the protests continue.

This editorial appeared in the Dallas Morning News Thursday.

THE WEEKLY WENGER

Keep the money, stop the tax

DANNY WENGER

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I don't know if anyone else has noticed, but Carbondale's economy is doing spectacular.

New businesses are popping up everywhere. House values are climbing and people are buying and selling realty and making good money. On top of that there are countless openings at high paying jobs across the city.

Oh wait, none of this is happening.

Just this past week the Animal Crackers pet shop closed its doors forever. The Hallmark Store in the Murdale Shopping Center is also going out of business.

The housing market is about the same it has always been, something just above stagnant. If you can find a job, it's nothing short of miraculous, but don't expect more than minimum wage.

Seems like the perfect time to raise taxes.

As reported in the DAILY EGYPTIAN Wednesday, the city may consider reinstating property taxes. The increase would supposedly pay for rising costs paying pensions to retired city employees.

The last time Carbondale collected property tax was 2002. At the time, the tax brought in \$1.1 million. According to the 2000 census, there are 11,005 housing units in the city, meaning each unit was taxed about \$100.

However, City Manager Jeff Doherty said if the tax was reinstated it wouldn't cover the costs of the pensions. So the residents would pay more, but the problems would persist.

More taxes are not what Carbondale needs. The depressed economy has almost half of the city's population living below the poverty line; 41 percent according to the 2000 census. The looming threat of a national recession would only worsen the situation.

As it stands, the residents already pay a pretty hefty tax to

Jackson County. I paid more than \$1,600 in property tax last year for my little three-bed, one-bath, 1,000-square-foot house.

If the city needs money, there is a very simple, very obvious solution.

Last year the city voted to raise sales taxes, and \$1 million every year goes to the sinkhole that is Saluki Way. Now the city wants to raise property tax to get somewhere around \$1 million, or more.

Since the city is already bringing in money, it should just keep it. If anyone out there still lives with the delusion that the \$83 million belly flop of a project will

somehow save the school I invite you to wake up.

The school has struggled like a monkey in quicksand to raise money to build a stadium and it just continues to sink. Instead of contributing to a losing cause, the city

could use the money to help its residents.

If the city raises property tax it will be a triple whammy to students. Recently students faced raised tuition and fees and raised sales tax. The property tax would transfer directly to them because the landlords will just increase rent to make up the difference.

However, if the city just keeps the money instead of pouring it into the Saluki Way money pit it could possibly avert a property tax, or at least keep it lower.

If you own property in Carbondale, by all means make your voice heard on this one. As of yet there is no official motion to reinstate the tax, but the idea is out there. Communicating your opposition by attending City Council meetings, writing e-mails or letters or even making phone calls to City Hall could stop the idea before it gets to the table.

While it is possible the city might eventually have to reinstate or raise taxes in the future, now would be a terrible time to do so.

The city's residents deserve any break they can get, not another burden.

Wenger is a senior studying Spanish and journalism.

If the city raises property tax it will be a triple whammy to students.

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.

WORDS OVERHEARD

“What I learned from economics is that the market is not always going to be a happy place.”

Sandi Heller

University of Colorado student on a recent poll that indicates 81 percent of Americans are dissatisfied with the country's direction

TALK TO THE THUMB

Tow truck revisited

ANDY FRUTH

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Authors Note: Talk to the Thumb is taking a week off due to my excursion to watch the opening weekend of baseball and the NCAA Final Four. For this week's column, I thought I'd share one of my favorite columns from back in the day. Here is an updated version of "Towing with a vengeance" which originally ran in the DAILY EGYPTIAN on August 29, 2006.

In most places other than Carbondale, tow-truck drivers are considered to be your friend. They are there to help out when you and your car get into a tricky situation and are always happy to see you.

Sadly, this isn't the case for the city of Carbondale. Here in our small college town, we are fortunate to be the home to a rare breed of tow-truck driver that inhabits our city limits.

The job of this rare breed is to enforce some of the strictest towing policies around, put in place by the city for the sole

purpose of snatching more money from your already cash-strapped pockets. I'm sure throughout the year many of you had a late night encounter with Larry, Rich, American, Express or any other one of the several towing companies that have Carbondale's parking lots carved up better than a Thanksgiving turkey.

Sometimes I wonder why we need so many towing companies in this small college town, anyway. Apparently it's a pretty lucrative business, since the Carbondale phonebook lists more than 10 towing companies within a 10-mile radius of town. There are so many that, on any given night, after realizing your car has been towed, it can take at least four phone calls at 2:30 a.m. to find out which company took your car.

My personal favorite is Larry's Towing, the undisputed "King of Towing." He is a form of hybrid mutant with snake and vulture-like characteristics. To catch his prey, he slithers around apartment complexes patrolling lots with a maglight flashlight waiting to catch his victim and then picks them clean.

Larry caught up with me one

night last year. What a way to put a damper on a good night — a trip out to the auto yard and a compelling conversation with Larry the tow-truck driver in the wee hours of the night. After an intense argument laced with choice words about what a public service he had done in towing my car, I left the yard \$65 in the hole and a new perception that the tow-truck drivers in this town are not our friends.

Many students find themselves in similar situations with Larry; many of them are faced with a difficult decision at 2 a.m., when they have to decide if they get their car then or wait until the morning. Unfortunately, many of them aren't waiting until the morning to get their cars. They go to the bad part of town to retrieve their car in the early morning hours after a night of drinking.

Other than the police, there aren't many sober drivers meandering around town late at night. Maybe if people allowed us to park our cars overnight and retrieve them in the morning, we wouldn't have these problems.

Another thing that gets me is I'm always reading about how the

rise in gas prices had a dramatic effect on the towing businesses of Larry and the others. Cry me a river.

I've seen you hook up a car and haul it away in just under 30 seconds, only to return 10 minutes later and do it all over again. At that rate, you could tow about four-to-five cars an hour. At \$65 bucks a pop, that doesn't make me very concerned about your business' financial well-being.

I respect guys like Larry for the job they do, I just don't agree with the policies they have to enforce. To me, it's just another way to milk more money out of the students, as if we don't contribute enough into the economy as it is.

So remember, when it comes to parking your car around town, park it legally. Even though you might get away with it once, twice or even a few times, trust me — they will find your car and tow it away. Then you, my friend, will have the pleasure of a late-night encounter with Larry the towing guy.

Fruth is a graduate student in curriculum and instruction.

GUEST COLUMN

What line must undocumented immigrants get in?

Cristina Lopez

McCLATCHY-TRIBUNE

Enough of the anti-immigrant rhetoric already.

It's bad enough that radio shock jocks and cable TV personalities demonize undocumented immigrants. But what bothers me even more is the reflexive response by many well-meaning Americans that undocumented immigrants ought to "get in line and wait their turn."

What these Americans don't realize is that our immigration system is so broken that there is no line.

When my parents and I immigrated to the United States back in 1965, it was simple. My father, an architect, went to the consulate in our hometown in Colombia and inquired about a student visa that would allow him to work part time while going to graduate school, and have my mother and me accompany him. After a brief conversation, the consulate officer gave him the paperwork for a resident visa. My father filled out the application and paid the fees, we all got medical

checkups and six months later we were being welcomed by Mother's Cuban family in Miami.

Since then the "line" has become a black hole. Around 1979, my father petitioned to have his elderly parents join him in America. He believed it would be a speedy process. How wrong he was. My grandfather died in 1985 waiting his "turn in line." My 83-year-old grandmother had to wait three more years before her turn came up, living alone without immediate family present.

About five years ago, my husband (an American citizen) sought to bring his younger brother to the United States with the hope of starting a business his brother could help manage. He learned the waiting period would be 15 years. His plans quickly vanished.

Today, a hardworking, low- or semi-skilled individual has virtually no possibility of immigrating legally to this country, and even professionals find it almost impossible. It's not that these immigrants refuse to go to the post office and fill out the paperwork; the doors of the post office are essentially closed.

Immigrants wanting to come to this country have three ways of getting here legally.

One is through family petition, which makes available 500,000 visas annually and results in years of waiting, depending on the relationship to the petitioner and country of origin. For example, it is not uncommon for spouses of American citizens to wait between two to six years to join their husband or wife. The waiting period for the sibling of an American citizen of Filipino origin is about 22 years. (During the waiting period, the family member generally cannot enter the United States for visits, since once you petition for a resident visa, you cannot apply for a tourist visa.)

Another way is through sponsorship by an employer. The employer needs to demonstrate that no American can be found to fill the open position. This route ties the immigrant to that employer and often results in exploitation.

The last resort is the annual lottery for entrants who demonstrate a high-school degree or five years' work experience in an occupation that requires a high-school degree

or its equivalency. Last year, more than 1.5 million hopeful entrants worldwide sought to be one of the lucky winners of the 55,000 annual visa slots. The odds make it a true jackpot.

Americans of European descent should ponder how many of their immigrant ancestors would have qualified for entry under today's immigration system. Those who say their ancestors followed the rules should ask themselves what those rules were. Did your ancestors have to do more than arrive at Ellis Island?

To more recent immigrants who protest that they waited their turn in line, I say that the only difference between us and an undocumented immigrant today is timing. We got to the line just in time, before it, in effect, closed.

When I hear well-meaning Americans tell immigrants who seek the American dream and to reunite with their loved ones that they need to go through the system, to get in line and wait their turn, I have to ask: What system? What line?

Lopez is the deputy executive director at the Center for Community Change.

ABOUT US

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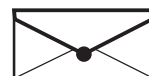
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Sarcasm meets romance in 'Leatherheads'

Julie Engler
DAILY EGYPTIAN

'Leatherheads'
Rated: PG-13

Starring: George Clooney, Renée Zellweger, John Krasinski
Directed by: George Clooney
Run time: 114 minutes

George Clooney is Time magazine's proclaimed "last movie star," a title that gives him one heavy load to carry and a whole new way of analyzing his films: Is he really that good of an actor to earn the title?

His role as Dodge Connelly in "Leatherheads" is that of a typical charmer, an easy role for a good-looking man like Clooney to play, but he brings such a suave, amusing vitality to the film that indeed Time might be right: It's hard to find many flaws in his snippy, witty and outright hilarious character so different from some of his other recent films.

"Leatherheads" is a classic, charming film that's full of sarcastic, slapstick comedy, romance and, of course, leather-headed football players who revolutionized football into the game that's played today — one with rules and regulations, that is.

For a movie set in the 1920s, Clooney as a director captured the style and feel of a classic film, working the script full of out-



3.5 out of 5 stars

dated puns and bar brawls from first-time screenwriters Duncan Brantley and Rick Reilly. There's no attempt to hide the fake and cheesiness of the fist fights, and they put faith in the audience understanding the insults of the times — it's got a certain sentimentality that is reminiscent of old, black-and-white films.

Before professional football was respected, teams like the Duluth Bulldogs were struggling for financing and even spectators. But Dodge Connelly is about to change all that. He recruits a young and extremely popular college football player, Carter Rutherford (played by The Office's John Krasinski), to bring thousands of his followers to their games.

With Rutherford's new-found fame, Chicago Tribune reporter Lexie Littleton (Renée Zellweger) is assigned to cover him. Rutherford is made out to be a war hero after reportedly single-handedly taking out a platoon of German soldiers in World War I. As Rutherford becomes more popular and falls in love with Lexie, the truth comes out, threatening both of their careers.

Zellweger's persona is perfect for playing the character of Lexie: She has the perfect pouty lips for the bold red lipstick she wears, and the perfect piercing glare for the role of a serious, hard-working female reporter in a time when the newspaper



PROVIDED PHOTO

world was dominated by men.

Then there's Clooney trying to win her over, which sparks a war of wits whenever the two talk, since it's obvious the two are in love with each other from the beginning.

"Leatherheads" is cute for as hard as it tries to be masculine with football, the hard-nosed female reporter and the drama

surrounding a famous athlete. But Clooney and the rest of the team are such charmers it's impossible to think any different.

"Leatherheads" isn't a football movie; it's a comedic romance about football with guaranteed laughs.

Julie Engler can be reached at 536-3311 ext. 275 or julie86@siu.edu.

'Ruins' is frighteningly real

Wes Lawson
DAILY EGYPTIAN

'The Ruins'
Rated R

Starring: Jonathan Tucker, Jena Malone, Shawn Ashmore, Laura Ramsey
Directed by: Carter Smith
Runtime: 91 minutes



PROVIDED PHOTO

People planning on taking a trip to Mexico should probably stay far, far away from "The Ruins."

Based on the novel by Scott Smith, "The Ruins" is the first good horror movie to be released this year. Although it isn't as good as the novel, it still provides one heck of a scary story and enough blood and gore for horror aficionados.

Most horror films spend the first act setting up the characters to be killed, and this one is no different. Here it's two couples from the United States spending a week in Mexico before they all go off to school. They meet a foreign man by the pool, who invites them to explore an ancient pyramid that his brother went to visit on an archaeological dig (and never returned ...) They go off hiking through the jungle to find the pyramid, but once they get there, the local Mayan tribe makes it pretty clear they won't be allowed to leave. The remainder of the film is a fight for survival for everyone involved, although the Mayans turn out to be the least of their problems.

What they discover on the ruins would seem silly if viewed objectively, so that secret won't be revealed here. What is true about the film is that it is intense and frightening, and far bleaker than most horror films released. After the characters are introduced, the audience is pretty much thrown into the chaos with almost no time to catch its breath, which works incredibly well.

Anyone going to the film in hopes of a gorefest won't be disappointed; the film's violence is definitely not for the faint of heart. This is not a film like "Saw" where the violence is almost comical and entertaining. This is harsh and uncomfortable, since the audience gets the sense that these are real people in a real situation. The crude doctoring tools used during



4 out of 5 stars

one crucial scene inspired walkouts at the screening.

Smith, who adapted his own novel for the screen, knows a thing or two about taking ordinary people and throwing them into extraordinary situations. His previous book/film, "A Simple Plan," was a hard-hitting examination of how crime doesn't pay. Here he focuses more on how the prospect of death messes with the minds of five ordinary people, and how we can be more dangerous to ourselves than any mass murderer could be. Obviously this is difficult to translate on screen, but director Carter Smith and his fine team of actors do an excellent job of conveying the emotional gamut these people go through, despite some of the deeper implications and characterizations being lost in the translation to screen.

The only area where Scott Smith errs in his adaptation is the ending. Though the film's ending isn't exactly happy, it's not a bad ending. It's abrupt and a distinct shift in tone from what has come before. The book's ending was far bleaker, and although it wouldn't have been as pleasing to audiences, it would have fit the film better than the current ending.

In spite of that quibble, "The Ruins" succeeds at what it intends to do, which is create a suspenseful and scary ride with deeper implications along the way. If nothing else, the cinematography is gorgeous, if you can see it from between your fingers.

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'Nim' is for children

Wes Lawson
DAILY EGYPTIAN

'Nim's Island'
Rated PG

Starring: Jodie Foster, Abigail Breslin, Gerard Butler
Directed by: Jennifer Flackett and Mark Levin
Run time: 95 minutes



PROVIDED PHOTO

There is a distinct difference between children's films and family films. Children and adults can both enjoy family films, whereas children's films are most likely to make adults want to gouge their eyes out.

"Nim's Island" is a children's film, specifically for young girls. Though it's unlikely adults will want to die while watching it, the fact remains that there's very little here that anyone who has gone through puberty will find worthwhile. So, girls, add a star and a half and ignore the review that follows.

Based on a novel by Wendy Orr, the film concerns Nim (Abigail Breslin), a spunky and adventurous girl who lives on a remote island with her father (Gerard Butler) and a bunch of cute sea animals. Nim begins exchanging emails with Alex Rover (Jodie Foster), author and certified crazy person, since she hasn't left her house in month. In a predictable turn of events, a storm hits and Nim's father is lost at sea, and Nim begs Alex to come to the island. Again, predictably, Alex overcomes her fears of the outside to come help Nim, and her father tries to fix his boat so he can get home.

It's interesting that one of the film's threads involves a group of tourists who want to turn the island into a theme park, because a theme park would be an apt description of "Nim's Island." It's a movie filled with a lot of bright cinematography and silly pratfalls, but at the end of it, it's largely disposable. It's a relentless assault of cuteness, from the wacky farting sea lions to the unbelievably cute Breslin.

The problem is the film lacks any sense of peril or gravity. It's not like the film needs to be as weighty as "The Spiderwick Chronicles," but to be frank, there's not much here that provides any sort of dramatic tension and the whole film is rather predictable. The scariest thing in the whole film is the possibility that the volcano on the island might erupt at some point. It also doesn't help that the movie turns into "Home



3 out of 5 stars

Alone" in the final half hour, as Alex and Nim attempt to get the tourists off the island with a series of traps that fell right out Macaulay Culkin's playbook.

Despite all these problems, it appears that the children in the audience at the screening had a wonderful time. They laughed at all the right spots and clapped at the end, even if they didn't know the name for Alex's condition (agoraphobia). It must be said that Foster, who has spent a lot of time playing dramatic roles recently, does well with this comedic one, although it doesn't require much except flailing about and looking exasperated. Breslin also does well, as does Butler, despite a faltering accent. At 95 minutes, the film is short and entertaining enough for children so parents don't have to feel guilty about napping through it.

This film was not made for 20-year-old college males, so perhaps this review of "Nim's Island" was a bit harsh. It's a cute movie for girls, but it's not likely to inspire much of a reaction from anyone else, especially the parents who are dragged to it by said girls.

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- 407 W. Cherry Court
- 408 W. Cherry Court
- 310 W. College #1-4
- 401 W. College #7
- 501 W. College #4,6

Three Bedroom

- 607 N. Allyn
- 408 S. Ash
- 504 S. Ash #3
- 508 S. Ash #1
- 514 S. Ash #1,3
- 409 S. Beveridge
- 502 S. Beveridge #1
- 503 S. Beveridge
- 506 S. Beveridge

Four Bedroom

- 409 S. Beveridge
- 502 S. Beveridge #1
- 503 S. Beveridge
- 506 S. Beveridge

- 503 W. College #4,6
- 507 W. College #6
- 509 W. College #6
- 710 W. College #6
- 305 E. Crestview
- 303 W. Elm
- 716 S. Forest
- 500 W. Freeman #1,3,6
- 109 Glenview
- 520 S. Grahm
- 505 S. Hays
- 507 S. Hays #2
- 408 1/2 E. Hester
- 408 E. Hester
- 410 E. Hester
- 703 W. High #E
- 208 W. Hospital #1
- 705 N. James
- 507 1/2 W. Main #B
- 207 S. Maple
- 906 W. McDaniel
- 300 W. Mill #2-3
- 411 E. Mill
- 400 W. Oak #1,3
- 402 W. Oak #E,W
- 408 W. Oak
- 501 W. Oak
- 300 N. Oakland
- 505 N. Oakland
- 511 N. Oakland
- 514 N. Oakland
- 602 N. Oakland
- 1305 E. Park
- 507 S. Poplar 6,7
- 301 N. Springer #1,2,4
- 913 W. Sycamore
- 919 W. Sycamore
- 404 S. University #S
- 404 1/2 S. University
- 402 1/2 W. Walnut
- 820 W. Walnut #2
- 406 W. Willow
- 804 W. Willow

- 509 S. Beveridge #4
- 513 S. Beveridge #3-5
- 515 S. Beveridge #5
- 510 N. Carico
- 405 W. Cherry
- 405 W. Cherry Court
- 406 W. Cherry Court
- 407 W. Cherry Court
- 408 W. Cherry Court
- 608 W. Cherry (available June)
- 400 W. College #3,5
- 407 W. College #1,2,5
- 409 W. College #1,3
- 507 W. College #2
- 509 W. College #1
- 809 W. College
- 807 W. College
- 305 E. Crestview
- 104 S. Forest
- 120 S. Forest
- 603 S. Forest
- 716 S. Forest
- 605 W. Freeman #1
- 109 Glenview
- 503 S. Hays
- 505 S. Hays
- 509 S. Hays
- 408 E. Hester
- 208 W. Hospital #2
- 212 W. Hospital
- 610 S. Logan
- 614 S. Logan
- 515 S. Logan*
- 411 E. Mill
- 417 W. Monroe
- 400 W. Oak #1,2
- 402 W. Oak #E, W
- 501 W. Oak
- 505 N. Oakland
- 511 N. Oakland
- 514 N. Oakland
- 602 N. Oakland
- 1305 E. Park Lane
- 506 S. Poplar #2-4,6,7
- 913 W. Sycamore
- 404 W. Walnut
- 820 W. Walnut #1, 2
- 406 W. Willow

- 405 W. Cherry
- 807 W. College
- 809 W. College
- 305 Crestview
- 104 S. Forest
- 120 S. Forest
- 603 S. Forest
- 208 W. Hospital #2
- 610 S. Logan
- 400 W. Oak #2
- 408 W. Oak
- 412 W. Oak
- 514 N. Oakland
- 602 N. Oakland
- 506 S. Poplar #1-7
- 820 W. Walnut #1
- 404 W. Walnut
- 501 S. University #2

Five Bedroom

- 312 W. College #2
- 305 Crestview
- 208 W. Hospital #2
- 402 W. Oak
- 412 W. Oak

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U-Card Events for the Week of March 31 - April 6

April 7

The History of Food *

Student Center Auditorium--7:00pm
Educational Program Category
Sponsored by: Student Development Multicultural Programs and Services--453-5714

SIUC Percussion Ensemble

Shryock Auditorium--7:30pm
Performing Arts Category--\$5
Sponsored by: School of Music--536-8742

April 8

Inon I Schenker--Tikkun Olam *

Student Center Mississippi Room--5:00pm
Educational Program Category
Sponsored by: Student Development Multicultural Programs and Services--453-5714

April 9

SIUC Civic Orchestra

Shryock Auditorium--7:30pm
Performing Arts Category--\$5
Sponsored by: School of Music--536-8742

April 13

Chamber Music Society Cavani String Quartet

Unitarian Fellowship--3:00pm
Performing Arts Category--\$3
Sponsored by: School of Music--536-8742

*-Denotes Asian American Awareness Month Event

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1, 2, 3 & 4 BDRM, apts & houses, rental list at 324 West Walnut, walk to SIU, 549-4808, 9 am-4 pm.

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M'boro, 1 & 2 bdrms, pets ok, some util incl, 1 partially furn, \$325 & up, call 687-1774.

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SPACIOUS FURN STUDIO, near campus, 549-6990, www.lincolnvillageapts.com.

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NEAR CAMPUS, LUXURY efficiencies (408 S. Poplar), w/d on site, no pets, call 684-4145 or 684-6862.

2 BDRM, WEST of C'dale, near new Wal-Mart, quiet, patio, laundry facility on-site, \$450/mo, cats ok for additional fee, 457-3321.

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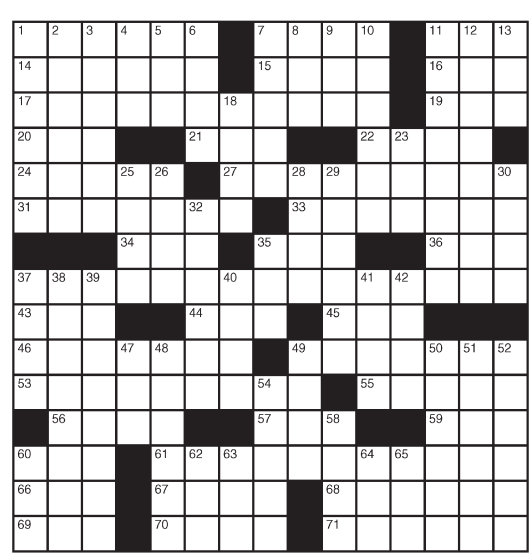
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THE Daily Crossword Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

- ACROSS**
- 1 Calls on the carpet
 - 7 Charged particles
 - 11 Peke's bark
 - 14 Repeat from memory
 - 15 Business outfit
 - 16 Wallet single
 - 17 "Chess mate" dancer
 - 19 Actress Hagen
 - 20 Hanoi holiday
 - 21 Play about Capote
 - 22 Hindu princess
 - 24 Suspension part
 - 27 "Chess mate" actor
 - 31 Christie's "sparkling" poison
 - 33 Waist watching
 - 34 Italian three
 - 35 Zone for DDE
 - 36 No more seats
 - 37 "Chess mate" poet
 - 43 Wine cask
 - 44 Made in the ___
 - 45 Two-piecer top
 - 46 Feeler
 - 49 Scrutinize
 - 53 "Chess mate" talk-show host



By John Underwood
New York, NY

4/7/08

- 55 Smooth transition
- 56 Australian isl.
- 57 NASA vehicle
- 59 Color TV pioneer
- 60 Soft metal
- 61 "Chess mate" mystery pseudonym
- 66 Solitaire starter
- 67 Level
- 68 Take offense at
- 69 Ballpark fig.
- 70 Hardens
- 71 Augments
- DOWN**
- 1 Picayune
- 2 nitpicker perhaps
- 3 As a result of this
- 4 Summer cooler, to some
- 5 Clamor
- 6 French summer
- 7 Faction
- 8 Periodical
- 9 number
- 39 Corporate web
- 40 Actor Morales
- 41 Incenses
- 42 Kemo ___
- 47 Hosp. areas
- 48 NYC team
- 49 Elbe tributary
- 50 Concurs
- 51 Softly bright
- 52 Shanty
- 54 48D, e.g.
- 58 Gore Vidal's Breckinridge
- 60 ___ kwon do
- 62 Recline
- 63 Countenance
- 64 Math proof letters
- 65 Coyote State sch.

Friday's Puzzle Solved



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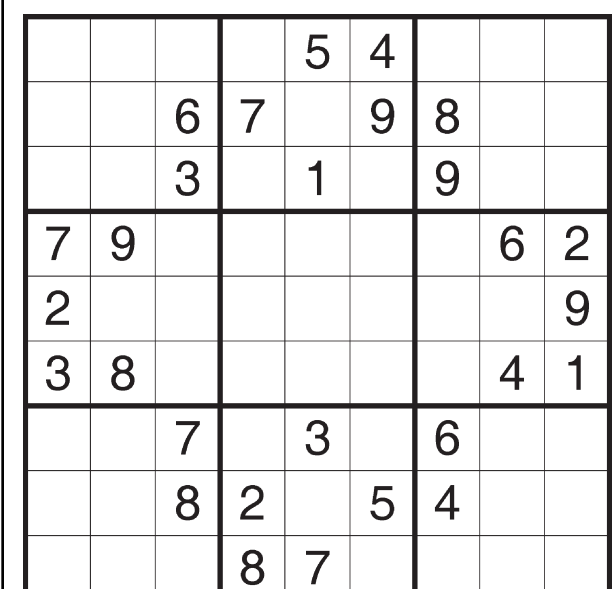
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Sudoku By The Mephram Group



Level: 1 2 3 4

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

Solution to Friday's puzzle

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

HUNGRY?

checkout the online menu at...

siUDE.com

By Linda C. Black

Today's Birthday — You're motivated to do good this year, but that doesn't bring in much cash. Do what works to bring the money in, honorably of course. Then, contribute all you can to the charity of your choice.

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 an 8** — Take care of practical matters. You'll need every cent you can earn to achieve the objectives you have in mind. Take time out to do the job.

Taurus (April 20-May 20) — **Today is a 6** — You're making it past the tough part simply through persistence. When others run away, you can be counted on to stay put. It's one of your best talents.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — **Today is a 7** — Somebody said you shouldn't believe everything you think. You'll understand that better soon. Old assumptions are modified by new information. Keep an open mind.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) — **Today is a 7** — Get practical about how you're going to achieve your objectives. Some of the items on your lists will have to wait until later. That doesn't mean you'll never get them.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) — **Today is a 7** — The trouble with including other people in your project is that they suggest changes. The good part is that some of those changes will actually work.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) — **Today is an 8** — You can always tell true love because it leads you to take action. You're motivated now, you've got that fire in your eye. Get busy on a tough job.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — **Today is a 7** — You are exceptionally attractive now, and very popular. You're darling. So, you don't need to pick up the check. Let everybody pitch in.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) — **Today is a 7** — You're gaining a lot of information, but how does it all fit in? Take time to think it over before making any big decisions.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) — **Today is a 7** — Settle into your studies. Practice makes perfect. Don't show off to your friends and family yet. Get the bugs worked out first.

Gemini (May 21-June 21) — **Today is an 8** — It's not as easy to be idealistic now. Practical matters interfere, but that's actually a good thing. Make the money before you spend it.

Cancer (June 22-July 22) — **Today is a 6** — Getting together with friends helps you out of a frustrated frame of mind. Don't spend too much on the gathering, though, or you'll bum yourself out again.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) — **Today is a 7** — There's plenty of work and plenty of problems to solve on the job. Avoid distractions or you'll never get it all done. You can socialize Wednesday.

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JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Mike Argiron and Jeff Knurek

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

RYTUL

○ □ □ □ □

OSSUE

□ □ □ □ □

ENMUJM

○ □ □ □ □

THELAH

○ ○ □ □ □

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

Print answer here: ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○

(Answers tomorrow)

Answers from Friday | Jumbles: MOUSY DOWNY MUSLIN PENMAN
Answer: What it cost the London mogul to lose some pounds — SOME POUNDS

News Delivered To You...

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Cherryholmes brings bluegrass to SIU

Shryock hosts award-winning sextet

DeMarcus Hamilton
DAILY EGYPTIAN

About 450 people filled the seats of Shryock Auditorium Saturday to see the dynamic bluegrass family group Cherryholmes in concert.

The event began at 7:30 p.m. as the band showcased its instrumental and vocal abilities while also showing off its tap dancing skills. Often stopping to perform in duos and trios, the sextet delivered a 21-song selection including a tribute to soldiers serving in Iraq, a rearranged version of the well-known song "Mary Don't you Weep" and even a song styled entirely in a capella.

"We only have one rule at our shows and that is to have fun," said Jere Cherryholmes, the father and leader emcee of the band.

And indeed they did. The

family laughed and exchanged jokes on stage, encouraging crowd interaction.

The family group, based in Nashville, Tenn., consists of a husband and wife, and four of their six children. Cherryholmes came together in 1999, though half of the group had never played an instrument. After five years of practicing and mixing its own unique family energy and sound, the bluegrass band won the 2005 International Bluegrass Music Association's Entertainers of the Year.

"Somebody asked me to describe our style of play," Jere Cherryholmes said. "I told them it was bluegrass on steroid. That's the only way we play."

The family travels 300 days a year doing shows all over the country. They also have a second album out called "Cherryholmes II," a follow-up to their first album, "Cherryholmes."

"They are very talented and put on a real show," said Bob Stanley of Marion.

“Somebody asked me to describe our style of play, I told them it was bluegrass on steroids. That’s the only way we play.”

— Jere Cherryholmes
the father and leader emcee
of the band



EDYTA BLASZCZYK ~ DAILY EGYPTIAN

Jere Cherryholmes, the father and band leader of Cherryholmes, introduces the next song during their concert at Shryock Saturday night. The Grammy nominated band consists of a family of six and have been playing together since 1999.

Although the family has limited personal time because they are on a tour bus most of the year practicing and doing shows, they show no sign of slowing down.

"We were inspired by a death

in the family and a music festival we went to," said banjo player Cia Cherryholmes. "We'll do this as long as people come out to hear it."

For more information about

Cherryholmes, visit <http://www.cherryholmes.com>.

DeMarcus Hamilton can be reached at 536-3311 ext. 254 or youngmb@siu.edu.

Aspiring cooks compete in Iron Chef competition

Students celebrate Asian American Heritage Month in Quigley Hall

Tim McGovern
DAILY EGYPTIAN

Students of every race showcased their cooking prowess Saturday, hoping to be this year's Iron Chef.

Hosted by the Student Development-Multicultural Programs and Services, the fourth-annual Iron Chef competition brought seven teams made up of between two and four people to Quigley Hall. The event was part of Asian American Heritage Month.

A cloying mixture of Vietnamese, Nubian, Latino and Asian foods permeated the kitchens as students,

donning their chef hats and aprons, chopped away at vegetables and fried various meats.

There was one catch: each team had to incorporate mango in all of its dishes. Known as the "food of the gods," mango is a tropical fruit found throughout Southeast Asia known for its sweetness.

Ken Suzuki, a senior from Moline studying political science, assisted in organizing the Iron Chef competition. He said the event was highly successful last year and hoped for further success this year.

"It's a good way to highlight the plurality of our country," Suzuki

said. "Food is one of the cultural things that bring people together. It shows the many facets of America."

He said he considers himself more of a taster than an actual cook, having burned numerous dishes of his own.

The cooks had about two hours to prepare their dishes for a hungry public and a handful of judges, all of whom would sample foods from each of the seven teams and declare a winner. One team failed to finish their dish before the deadline and was eliminated. After the judging, the public was invited to taste

small samples from each of the teams.

William Kasel, a sophomore from Chester studying marketing, said it was difficult to finish in time, though he and his teammates succeeded in finishing their dish before the deadline. Kasel's dish, which centered on Indian and Malaysian foods, included a mushroom and beef soup and a pineapple dessert.

"It was hectic," Kasel said. "Very crazy. We started at five and though everything might not have turned out how we wanted, I think the soup was pretty good."

The judges chose the Vietnamese team as this year's Iron Chef and their dish of Banh Zeo, which is a

form of Vietnamese crepes, made up of pork, shrimp, bean sprouts, onions and sprigs, all curled up in a thin egg-like wrapping which is made from flour and lettuce.

Vien Cao, a graduate student from Vietnam studying English as a second language, captained the team. She said in Vietnam, people generally eat the same foods for breakfast, lunch and dinner.

"This is a good chance for (Vietnamese students) to do things. We all love to cook," Cao said. "Our foods are generally delicious, which is why we like to have the same dish three times a day."

Tim McGovern can be reached at 536-3311 ext. 254 or tmgov@siu.edu.

VOLUNTEER

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"It's just a lot of fun."

Children in attendance had a night of basketball, football, video games, board games and arts and crafts, among other activities. Some were a bit overwhelmed at first — until senior golfer Matt Ellis stepped in.

Ellis was in charge of assigning children to athletes and any time the children appeared apprehensive, Ellis eased their worries with a playful personality.

After the children overcame nervousness, an arena full of games and activities with their favorite Saluki athletes awaited them. While the children were excited to play with the athletes, some athletes were just as excited to play with the children.

"I heard there is a little basketball that's supposed to be a pretty good time," said SIU baseball junior catcher Mark Kelly. "We don't plan on losing a game in that. We're going to hold the court," he added with a laugh.

Kelly wasn't the only one enjoying basketball, as freshman quarterback Chris Dieker was giving lessons on how to shoot a basketball. Dieker said it was a great experience and would

like to do events like it more often.

"All we did was have fun," Dieker said. "It was great just playing basketball with Kai and teaching him how to shoot the ball."

The event brought in more than 100 children. Because of its success, Pauk said she hopes it can become an annual occurrence. Junior tennis player Hugo Vidal enjoyed the event so much he said he wishes it was two or three times a year.

Parents were also appreciative of the chance to spend a night out while their children spent a night having fun.

The only requirement of parents was a minimum \$5 donation with a portion of the proceeds going to the Boys and Girls Club of America.

Doug Lind, one of the many parents to take advantage of Saluki Kids Night Out, said he thought it was a great event and would like to see it again.

"It's better than just having a babysitter because they get to be with the athletes and play with kids their own age," Lind said. "I'm looking forward to it next year already."

Jeff Engelhardt can be reached at 536-3311 ext. 269 or jengel@siu.edu.

TAX

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

of the Carbondale Public Library. She said the library's board of directors determines how much money the library will request from a property tax. The request for fiscal year 2009 is nearly \$737,000, but Stuedel said the library receives less than that since some people do not pay their taxes.

Stuedel said the requested amount changes on a yearly basis because of the fluctuating amount of money the library receives from state grants.

State Rep. Raymond Poe, R-Springfield, a member of the House Personnel and Pensions Committee, said the state has approved these increases with the future in mind. He said holding off an increase in pensions would lead to more expensive raises in the future.

"If you don't keep those things up every year, you really start getting into a hole," he said.

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LAKE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The lake has too many bluegill, Wahl said, and they prey on tiny creatures called zooplankton. The zooplankton serve an important function, however, because they eat algae. When bluegill are allowed to overrun the zooplankton population, algae overruns the lake.

Quinton Phelps, a graduate student from Kansas studying fisheries, said he has helped Wahl with his research and believes the project is vital to the health of Campus Lake.

"I think the big picture here is that Nick is trying to increase water quality in this lake," said Phelps.

Wahl's research project is the last of three funded by the EPA. Another project can be found by the dam where the water appears to be boiling. The aerometers near the dam help to circulate the water to prevent phosphorous from becoming abundant enough for algae to grow, Wahl said.

The third project uses horticulture to reduce the nutrients in the lake, Wahl said. With a

depleted supply of the nutrients, algae cannot grow.

Wahl, the president of the SIUC subunit of the Illinois Chapter of American Fisheries Society, said the group has yet to decide how to continue the lake's improvements. He said stocking fish would be the easiest and cheapest way to keep the lake healthy.

"(We're looking at) stocking bass or some other kind of top predator in the lake so that we don't have to spend three months out here every day trying to go out and get bluegill and remove them," Wahl said.

As a temporary fix, the group has tried to involve Carbondale residents and students. The month of April brings the subunit's second annual fishing derby to Campus Lake. While the event is meant to entertain, Wahl said there's more to the derby.

"We want to get people out here using it and seeing the signs and kind of getting an idea of the improvements that are going on," Wahl said.

Lindsay Smith can be reached at 536-3311 ext. 255 or lgsmith@siu.edu.

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QUOTE OF THE DAY
Hugo Vidal



It's a great experience for the kids and it was a lot better than I thought it would be. The kids were laughing when they were playing basketball and it made me happy for them. I would do it again and I think we should do it two or three times a year.

- junior tennis player Hugo Vidal on volunteering at Saluki Kids Night Out

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Memphis and Kansas square off for the NCAA Championship today. Who's going to come out on top?



JEFF ENGELHARDT
jengel@siu.edu

"I have been driving the Kansas bandwagon all tournament and I plan to see them finish strong. The Jayhawks' annihilation of North Carolina in the first half was phenomenal and I expect them to do the same to Memphis. When Kansas is focused, there is no team that can stop them."

"I've been driving the Memphis bandwagon. This team is incredibly talented and they just play a whole different kind of style than anyone in the NCAA. Derrick Rose and Chris Douglas-Roberts are clutch and will lead the Tigers to the title."



MEGAN KRAMPER
megkramp@siu.edu



LUIS MEDINA
lcm1986@siu.edu

"Memphis' 38-1 record is impressive, but I'm sold on the Kansas Jayhawks. Their thrashing of North Carolina was impressive, and while Memphis has the better individual talent, I think Kansas plays better team ball."

Do you have questions for the Saluki Insider that you want answered?
E-mail: editor@siude.com

BASEBALL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

Head coach Dan Callahan said Kington was successful because he threw his breaking pitches well.

"He was pretty darn good for most of the game. We talked about letting him pitch to 105 pitches because he missed a start against Indiana State," Callahan said. "In retrospect, we probably left him in a little too long but he was throwing a good game."

Kington tossed 7.2 innings, walking one and striking out seven. He did not factor into the decision.

Sophomore reliever Jimmy Cornell came in to pitch for Kington and promptly hit junior first baseman Andy Heterbrueg in the arm.

The umpire said he didn't get out of the way, however, and the

pitch was called a strike.

On the next pitch, Heterbrueg hit a ground ball to senior short-stop Owen Mackedon. Mackedon's throw went high but it looked like Hills tagged him.

Heterbrueg was initially called safe but after the umpires came together, the call was overturned and SIU was out of the jam.

Cornell got his first win of the season while Hoy picked up his third loss.

Sophomore closer Bryant George picked up his third save of the season after making Callahan a bit nervous.

"Bryant George worried me a bit in the ninth," Callahan said. "The last thing he needed to do as the closer was wake a team up by walking the leadoff hitter. I didn't like to see that but he ended up pitching out of that."

SOFTBALL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

"Each kid has a role and they understand it and get in there and compete," Blaylock said. "And that's a good thing."

Game two ended in the sixth inning as the Salukis exploded for 11 hits in an 8-0 victory.

Garza led the team as she went 3-for-4 with two RBIs while Wagner added two more RBIs on two singles.

The Salukis rounded out the weekend Sunday afternoon in a pitcher's duel that held the game scoreless until the bottom of the sixth. Haas delivered a clutch two-out double to come away with the 2-0 victory.

Haas said she enjoys the challenge of being a senior leader and taking the opportunity to do big things for the team.

CONGRATULATIONS



2008 Undergraduate Research Forum Poster Winners

- 1st Place** - Nicholas Kuypers, Psychology
Bryan McConomy, Psychology/Physiology
- 2nd Place** - Amanda Rabideau, Physiology
- 3rd Place** - Jared Burde, Physics
Michael Burns, Zoology
Krishna Pattisapu, Speech Communication
- Honorable Mention** - Nicholas Birky, Psychology
Jamie Douglas, Animal Science, Food & Nutrition
- Independent Researcher** - Matthew Picchiatti, Psychology
- People's Choice Award** - Katie Butera, Psychology



The Undergraduate Research Forum is part of REACH (Research-Enriched Academic Challenge), SIUC's undergraduate research program. See www.siu.edu/~reach.

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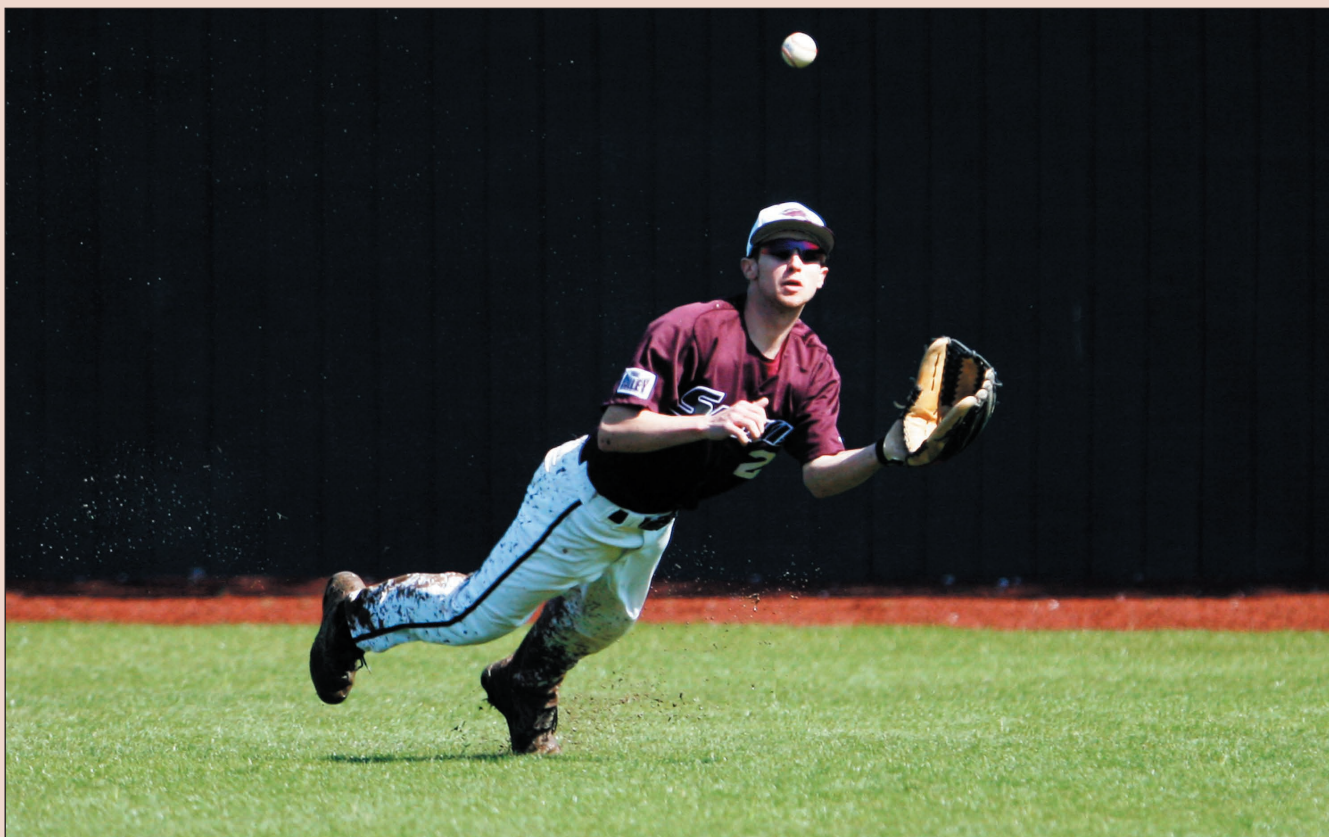


SIU SWEEPS AWAY COMPETITION

BASEBALL

Outfielder Chris Murphy makes a diving catch during Saturday's game against Wisconsin-Milwaukee. Murphy collected the game-winning single in the first game of a three-game series against Wisconsin-Milwaukee Friday.

JAMES DURBIN
 DAILY EGYPTIAN



Salukis win in comeback fashion

Matt Hartwig
 DAILY EGYPTIAN

Though it didn't take a decisive final inning, the SIU baseball team won in dramatic fashion for the third straight game Sunday en route to a sweep of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

SIU took the first two games of the series with game-winning hits in the ninth inning in wins Friday and Saturday. On Sunday, junior outfielder Bret Maugeri wanted a chance to get involved in the action.

The Salukis defeated the Panthers 5-2 at Abe Martin Field thanks to a perfect bunt single from Maugeri off

“He [David Kington] was pretty darn good for most of the game. We talked about letting him pitch to 105 pitches because he missed a start against Indiana State. In retrospect, we probably left him in a little too long but he was throwing a good game.

— Dan Callahan
 head coach

UWM senior reliever Adam Ferrell.

Maugeri's bunt was followed by an error on UWM first baseman Andy Heterbreug, allowing junior catcher Mark Kelly to score the winning run in the eighth inning.

Maugeri went up to the plate with a bunt in his mind because his wrists were so sore he couldn't take batting practice before the game. Kelly led off the frame with a double into the left

field gap off Panther junior reliever Tim Hoy before Maugeri came in to pinch hit for sophomore designated hitter Tyler Bullock.

“I was just trying to get him over in that situation. It was all I could have done because of my wrists right now,” he said. “Coach told me before hand that if Mark got on there, I should be ready.”

Senior left fielder Dean

Cademartori followed with a single up the middle that scored pinch runner Chase Sanford to give them breathing room before the Salukis added two more runs in the inning.

Early on, it didn't look as though the extra support would be necessary for SIU (17-11). Junior starting pitcher David Kington didn't allow any scoring until the eighth inning when he started to run out of gas.

With two outs in the eighth, UWM junior shortstop Andy Gerhartz singled up the middle before senior second baseman Jesse Hart drove a double to the left field gap to score Gerhartz. Junior left fielder Nick Wichser followed with a double down the left field line to tie the score at 2-2 for the Panthers (5-20).

See **BASEBALL**, Page 15

SOFTBALL

Salukis' young pitching staff dominates with shutouts in conference series

Megan Kremper
 DAILY EGYPTIAN

In the midst of a five-game win streak, the SIU softball team got a lift from its pitching staff to help complete another three-game sweep in Missouri Valley Conference play.

The Saluki defense didn't allow one run as the team swept Indiana State in a three-game series Saturday and Sunday to put the Salukis' win streak at eight games.

Freshman pitcher Nikki Waters threw two complete game shutouts, allowing just five hits. Waters has not allowed a run in her last 24 innings pitched.

Fellow freshman pitcher Danielle Glosson allowed just three hits in game two of the series and struck out four.

Coach Kerri Blaylock said even though the Sycamores sit in the bottom of the MVC standings, it's not easy to hold a team scoreless in a series.

“To shut out a team three times is pretty tough,” Blaylock said.

It was the third three-game sweep

of a conference opponent this season for the Salukis (22-15, 8-3 MVC) as they have now taken six games from Northern Iowa and Illinois State.

The series started poorly for Indiana State (9-19-1, 2-9) as the Saturday doubleheader start time had to be pushed from noon to 2 p.m. because of a bus breakdown that was carrying its equipment.

The Sycamores were also playing without ace Darcy Wood, who was out of action due to injury.

The Salukis carried a 1-0 lead into the bottom of the fifth inning when junior outfielder Chelsea Petty smoked a double to right center to start a six-run rally that would eventually give the Salukis a 7-0 win.

Petty returned to the lineup as the designated hitter Saturday after suffering a broken finger March 2.

Senior outfielder Krystal Stein singled in the next at-bat to advance the runner to third base and another single by sophomore second baseman Alicia Garza loaded the bases for junior third baseman Katie Wagner.

Wagner was hit by a pitch, which scored pinch runner senior Clare



RYAN RENDLEMAN ~ DAILY EGYPTIAN

Freshman outfielder Chelsea Held slides safely into third base during the Salukis' 8-0 victory over Indiana State Saturday. The Salukis swept the weekend series.

Ford from third base.

Senior first baseman Lauren Haas reached base on a Sycamore error and Wagner scored on a wild pitch before another error led to two more runs, securing a 7-0 lead.

Stein said the team has come together, especially during their eight-game home stand and will look to continue their streak as they head on the road for two weeks.

“It's always nice to play at home but it's just as important to play

well on the road too,” Stein said. “So that's what we are going to do and we're going to use this to help us come out like we play at home.”

Waters earned her 11th victory and had a career-high 11 strikeouts in the game.

Blaylock said the young rotation has adapted quickly to starting roles and seems more comfortable.

See **SOFTBALL**, Page 15

TENNIS

Salukis swing into second

Women's golf gets fourth top-three finish

Luis C. Medina
 DAILY EGYPTIAN

In its final tune-up before the Missouri Valley Conference Championships, the SIU women's golf team fell just short of its second straight tournament championship.

The Salukis followed up their record-breaking showing at the Saluki Invitational with a second-place tie with Cincinnati at the Illini Spring Classic, falling nine strokes short of tournament champion Illinois. The second-place finish gave SIU its fourth top-three finish of the season.

Coach Diane Daugherty said the Salukis had a good showing despite competing in difficult weather conditions, which included high winds and temperatures in the 30s. The team's strategy helped SIU excel in less than favorable conditions and Daugherty said she hopes it carries over into conference championships.

“They're focusing better right now than they have all year long,” Daugherty said. “I hope we can repeat what we did last year and everybody peak at the right time.”

The Fighting Illini shot a three-round total of 924 and a final round of 294 to clinch Illinois' 11th Spring Classic championship and first under second-year head coach Renee Sloane.

After struggling in the morning, Illinois responded with a strong afternoon showing, Sloane said in an interview on the Illinois athletics' Web site.

“We told the girls to keep their heads in the game after the first round, and they did just that,” Sloane said.

SIU's top performances came from its upperclassmen. Seniors Kelly Gerlach and Christine Zoerlein shot 72 and 73 on the par-72 course in the final round to finish in a fifth-place tie with a total score of 231. Juniors Lauren May and Braidy Hood finished in tied for 10th and 21st, respectively.

SIU finished ahead of Missouri Valley Conference rivals Bradley (fourth) and Indiana State (seventh) and in-state schools Northern Illinois (eighth), Eastern Illinois (12th), Loyola-Chicago (14th) and Western Illinois (15th).

Hood said she was proud of her teammates' performance heading into the MVC Championships.

“It's not a surprise that we finished in second. We know how good we are and we know we can play with any other team,” Hood said. “But we're going not going to focus on the other teams, instead we'll focus on how we can improve individually.”

The Salukis will be back in action Sunday through April 15 at the Missouri Valley Conference Tournament in Omaha, Neb.

Luis C. Medina can be reached at 536-3311 ext. 238 or lcm1986@siu.edu.