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Buckminster Fuller 'dome' to be moved

SARAH SCHNEIDER
Daily Egyptian

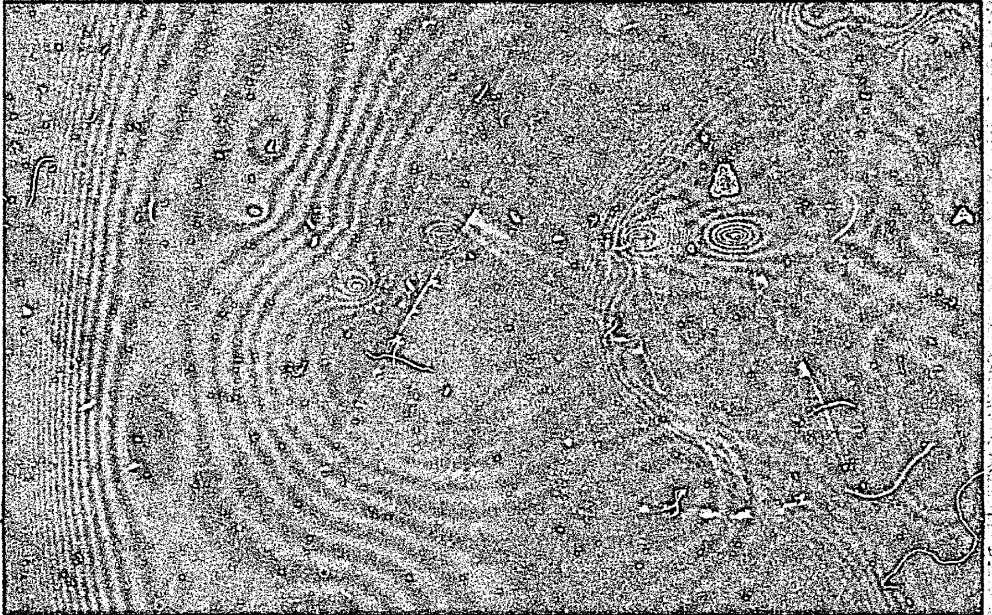
Whether the three-ton steel dome in front of Quigley Hall is funded by a green fee initiative or not, it will be moved to a new location this summer.

Jon Davey, a professor of architecture professor, said he and other people have been on a search for money to make the dome a true memorial to former SIUC professor Buckminster Fuller since it was constructed last year by architecture students, faculty and volunteers.

"In a way, it is supposed to be a memorial, but (it's) more of a way to recognize who he was on the SIU campus and what he represents universally with some of his ideas and concepts," he said.

Davey said the dome doesn't mention anything about Fuller at this time. If he cannot find money for the structure, Davey said it will be permanently removed from campus.

Fuller was a professor on campus for 12 years from 1959 to 1971 in the School of Art and Design. He worked to solve global problems of misuse of natural resources and a lack of conservation. Fuller held 28 patents, authored 28 books, received 47 honorary degrees and his most well-known artifact, the geodesic dome, has been reproduced more than 300,000 times worldwide. Renditions include Spaceship Earth at Epcot



Amina Wilson, 8, of Carbondale, perches on the arms of the illuminated geodesic dome Wednesday outside Quigley Hall. Janet Donoghue, director for the Fuller Dome in Carbondale, said the

theme park in Walt Disney World.

Janet Donoghue, development director for the Fuller Dome, where Fuller lived while he was teaching in Carbondale, said there is no place on campus dedicated to

the memory of Fuller even though he is the most famous professor SIUC has ever had.

She said Fuller is considered the father of the sustainability movement and his name is recognized

structure was illuminated to raise awareness of efforts being made by architecture students and faculty to make a permanent Buckminster Fuller memorial on campus.

internationally more and more because of the green movement.

Davey said he applied for green fee money to make the dome into a memorial. The green fee is a \$10 per semester student fee for on-

campus renewable energy, energy efficiency and sustainability projects, according to the SIUC Green Fund website.

Please see DOME | 3

Provost search committee yet to name candidates

JULIE SWANSON
Daily Egyptian

The provost search committee still hasn't released the names of the six provost candidates, SIUC spokesman Rod Sievers said Thursday.

The committee met for

the first time March 9, with Chancellor Rita Cheng.

Pat Manfredi, a professor of philosophy and chair of the committee, deferred comment to Sievers.

Sievers said the committee has probably experienced some minor scheduling setbacks and will most

likely release the list of candidates the week of April 18.

"A lot of times these searches just take longer than expected," he said. "The need to get a provost in place is critical, and the committee is doing as well as they can to make that happen."

Cheng could not be reached for comment by press time.

Cheng previously said she would have the list of candidates by the end of March.

The person chosen will replace former Provost Gary Minish, who was selected by Cheng Nov.

18 after a months-long search. Minish spent 10 official days in office before he resigned in an e-mail to Cheng Jan. 19. He did not publicly give an explanation for his resignation.

Please see PROVOST | 3

Fritzler receives tentative approval from community

LEAH STOVER
Daily Egyptian

Elaine Ramseyer said she hopes newly elected city officials will take strides to strengthen the relationship between government and community.

"If Brad Cole had ever walked in here and eaten a grilled cheese sandwich, they would've had to carry me out on a stretcher," said Ramseyer, general manager of Longbranch Coffee House.

Ramseyer said the coffee

house received tax breaks after its renovation, but otherwise the interaction between the business and city government has been non-existent. She said she is hopeful new city officials will take the initiative to build a better relationship with local businesses so everyone can work together.

City Council member Jod Fritzler was elected mayor in the general election Tuesday, and he said his first step as mayor will be to revitalize Carbondale's main street and enhance the city's appearance.

He said his hope is to bring the city back to the way it was in the past — an attractive place for future students and residents.

Kathy Renfro, director of the Carbondale Park District, said because the district is stationed on public land and property, it encourages the community to get involved in recycling initiatives and act in the best interest of the environment. She said the district supports Fritzler's interest in a greener city.

"Reduction, really, I hope is at the forefront, just to use less," she said.

Renfro said Fritzler's council position allowed him to understand the importance of the district and the impact it has on the city. She said the relationship between the city and the district has been strong in the past, and she has no doubt in Fritzler's ability to maintain it.

Ramseyer's relationship with city government was quite the opposite, she said. She said the Carbondale Main Street program has been more than supportive of local businesses, but the city has fallen behind on showing appreciation for local establishments.

The lack of city support has led the community to come together and clean up Carbondale to the best of its ability, Ramseyer said.

"We just tried to make coming to the town square a happy, friendly experience," she said. "In terms of the city, we haven't had a lot of interaction."

Fritzler said Tuesday he hopes to clean up neighborhoods throughout the city and make them safer by providing more law enforcement.

Please see COMMUNITY | 3

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The DAILY EGYPTIAN is published by the students of Southern Illinois University Carbondale 50 weeks per year, with an average daily circulation of 20,000. Fall and spring semester editions run Monday through Friday. Summer editions run Tuesday through Thursday. All intercession editions will run on Wednesdays. Spring break and Thanksgiving editions are distributed on Mondays of the pertaining weeks. Free copies are distributed in the Carbondale, Murphysboro and Carterville communities. The DAILY EGYPTIAN online publication can be found at www.dailyegyptian.com.

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.

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Reaching Us

Phone: (618) 536-3311
 Fax: (618) 453-3248

- E-mail: editor@dailyegyptian.com
- Editor-in-Chief: Nick Johnson ext. 252
- Managing Editor: Jacob Mayer ext. 253
- Campus Editor: Julie Swenson ext. 254
- City Desk: City Desk ext. 263
- Sports Editor: Jacob Mayer ext. 256
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Correction

In the Wednesday edition of the DAILY EGYPTIAN, the story "Panthers game gives SIU perspective on past" should have said the Salukis have not faced freshman pitcher Jamie Fisher in the past. The DAILY EGYPTIAN regrets this error.

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DOME

CONTINUED FROM 1

The initial cost to build the dome was \$22,000 but after a \$12,000 donation from provider Dome Incorporated, \$10,000 is needed to keep the structure and additional money will be needed to move it to the intersection of Southern Illinois Avenue and East Mill Street, the former location of the ROTC building, he said.

Davey said when he applied for a green fund grant he asked the

dome be moved to a foundation of recycled ash pavers provided by Karen Midden, a professor in plant and soil sciences. He also asked recycled tin; material be put inside the dome and that natural landscape be planted outside.

The first time Davey applied for the grant, it was not approved because not enough green materials were being used. He said he applied for another grant and is waiting for a response.

"In the green fund's mission they use the term 'spaceship earth'

(in deciding what to fund)," he said. "Fuller coined that word and wrote a book about operating 'spaceship earth' so it is kind of surprising it has not yet been funded."

"Spaceship earth" refers to concern about the use of the planet's limited resources and the call for every person to change their behavior to contribute to the greater good of the planet, according to the Buckminster Fuller Institute website.

The most important part of the project will be a sign dedicating the

dome to Fuller and his legacy both at SIU and worldwide, Davey said.

"He is the only faculty member that made the cover of Time magazine and has his own stamp," he said.

Donoghue said she asked the SIU Foundation many times to fund the project and heard no response.

Representatives from the foundation did not respond to calls for comment by press time.

This weekend 50 design students will be participating in a design

reunion. Donoghue said the students were all inspired by Fuller and have been successful because of him.

"(The university) is profiting from his legacy, and they don't actually give him the proper respect," she said. "Buckminster is becoming an international movement with his sustainability movement; this could be a smart business move for the university."

Sarah Schneider can be reached at sschneider@dailyegyptian.com or 536-3311 ext. 255.

PROVOST

CONTINUED FROM 1

The provost, the No. 2 position of power on campus, oversees the departments of New Student Programs, Career Services, Supplemental Instruction, Pre-Major Advisement, University 101, the Center for Academic Success, Student Support Services, Residential Life, and International Programs and Services.

The provost also oversees Peter Gitau, associate vice chancellor for student affairs and dean of students, who heads Disability Support Services, Veterans Services, Student Legal Services, Student Judicial Affairs and Multicultural Programming.

COMMUNITY

CONTINUED FROM 1

Cathy McClanahan, executive director of the Women's Center, said Fritzer's goal to make the city a safer place would directly benefit the center. She said finding safe and affordable housing for clients after they leave the shelter, which is the center's top priority, is often a challenge. McClanahan said she believes Fritzer will help.

"More officers that are familiar with the city and familiar with problem areas would promote more safety for the victims," she said.

In the past, Fritzer has said he may cut financial ties between the city and certain nonprofit organizations because of the city's

budget deficit. McClanahan said the financial relationship between the center and the city has been an issue, and those in the Women's Center remain concerned. She said she hasn't heard any news on whether cuts may happen, but she remains positive.

"It's been an issue in the race, and now that the race is over I'm anxious to see how that is going to impact our organization's funding, as well as the other community organizations," McClanahan said.

Despite her business concerns, Ramseyer said her greater concerns are with the relationships between community members.

"We already have a strong relationship with Carbondale Main Street," she said. "Hopefully this is the like-minded, reasonable person we've been looking for."

Council changes result in two new faces

Four of seven positions to change May 3

LINDSEY SMITH
Daily Egyptian

The City Council will experience its own sort of graduation in early May, council member Corene McDaniel said Thursday.

Council members Steven Haynes, Mary Pohlmann and recently appointed Michael Neill will leave the council May 3 when Don Monty, Jane Adams and Lance Jack take over their positions. Joel Fritzer, a councilman, was elected Tuesday to replace Mayor Brad Cole. His move to mayor will leave his council seat open, which will likely be filled with another new face.

"The current council members are experienced and seasoned. With the exception of Lance Jack, Don Monty and Jane Adams would be very new to the process

of the council. Even though Don Monty has worked for the city, he hasn't been on the City Council," McDaniel said.

Though four of the seven positions will change, the only new faces, for now, are Monty and Adams. Jack resigned from his council position in October after serving since 2003. Fritzer has served on the council since 2005.

Monty, former assistant city manager of Carbondale, has significant insight on city operations because of his 35 years of being a high-level city employee, which will benefit every discussion the council has, said John Jackson, a visiting professor at the Paul Simon Public Policy Institute.

Monty has said some of his priorities were to increase city public health and safety, support organizations that decrease criminal activity, and ensure water and sewer operations remain in the city.

During her campaign, Adams, an anthropology professor at SIU, said her priorities included

enhancing the city's sustainability, renewing the city's neighborhoods and revitalizing the community through code revisions.

McDaniel said she hopes the incoming members will bring new ideas. She said in the end, though, the council looks to the mayor for guidance and has a choice on whether to act on each idea.

Fritzer, a research project specialist at SIUC, will have a unique obligation as mayor of Carbondale, as he is the first full-time active employee of the university to be elected mayor, Jackson said. He said Neil Dillard, who was mayor before Cole, had retired from the university before he was elected.

"His being a full-time employee gives him a very special and very difficult obligation to weigh every single vote and see whether or not he has a conflict of interest," Jackson said. "Joel has an obligation to be very careful about which hat he's wearing."

Jackson said Fritzer's new role as mayor is a change to the council's body, but it's unclear how that will affect the council.

If Fritzer decides he wants to influence city policy, he will have the opportunity to exercise leadership to persuade the council, Jackson said.

"We will see how many of them decide to sort of rally around his flag and cause," he said. "If he decides to be a more symbolic head of the city and restrict his role to presiding but not leading the council, then it's going to be much more fragmented and a different kind of creature, because Brad Cole has provided very strong leadership and very clear definitions of where he wanted to go."

The council's focus is to do what it thinks is best for the city, McDaniel said. She said that may lead to similarities between the new and former councils, but those won't be seen until after the new council is seated.

The council seats of Chris Wissmann and McDaniel are the only ones left unchanged after Tuesday's election.

However, City Manager Allen Gill's role is an important unchanging variable, Jackson said.

"Gill is the same guy with the same job, and he will provide enormous continuity to that group," he said.

Jackson said such a high turnover rate on the council is unusual and will create a new playing field, though who will be on what team will be determined with time.

"We'll wait and see what exactly, say, coalitions might form or what kind of voting patterns form. It will take a while for that to shake out," he said.

While it may take some time to see how the council members interact with each other, it shouldn't take long to get the new members settled in to how the council operates, McDaniel said.

"It's just going to be an adjustment of getting used to how things are done and who to go to research what you need when you have the items on the agenda," she said.

Lindsey Smith can be reached at lsmith@dailyegyptian.com or 536-3311 ext. 265.

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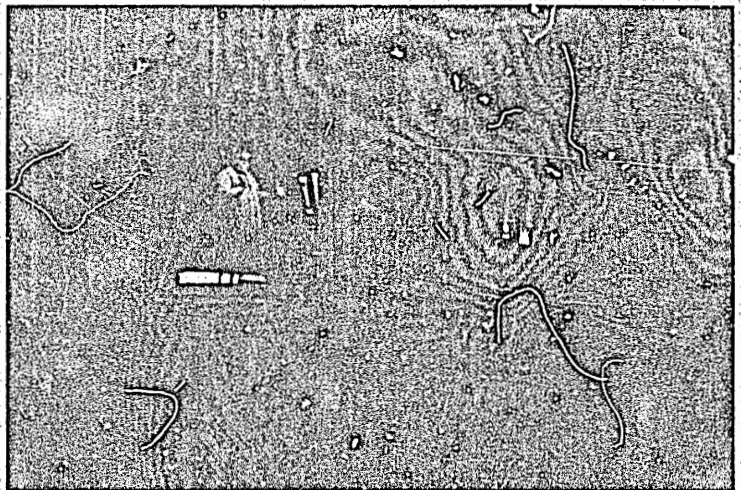
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Comedians hang out at Hangar



GEORGE LAMBOLEY / DAILY EGYPTIAN

As the sun set over Carbondale on Monday, people began filing into Hangar 9 for an evening of comedy. Chairs filled the usually sparse dance floor, and regulars of the establishment could tell they were in for something a bit different. With more than 15 local comedians on the bill and two traveling from the St. Louis area, the crowd expected plenty of laughs. Aaron Brooks, a St. Louis native, was one of the night's highlights, taking time from his set to put a random heckler in his place. Local comedian Garrett Callender's set was another high point of the evening with topics ranging from male genitalia to a recent trip to St. Louis. Callender, who has been doing stand-up

comedy for the past eight months, said he was surprised with the reception from the crowd. "I thought it went really well," he said. "Everyone was paying attention and were really there to see comedy." Callender said he was also pleased to see the other local comedians. "I'm really surprised how great the comedy environment is in Carbondale," he said. "We've taken trips to St. Louis and the comedians there don't seem to enjoy others' sets. A lot of the guys around here are really supportive and will help each other with jokes." The Carbondale comedians perform every Wednesday at Station 13 located on Route 13, and they look to make additional appearances at Hangar 9.

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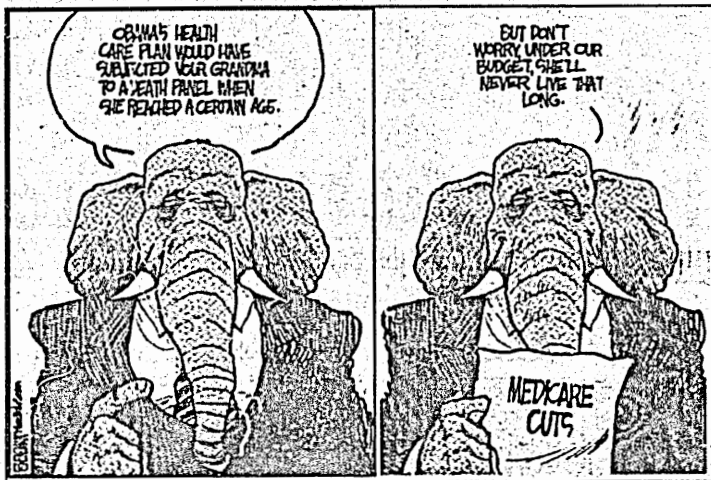
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Voices

Friday, April 8, 2011 • 5

www.dailyegyptian.com

EDITORIAL CARTOON



GUEST COLUMN

Libyan intervention unjustified on several counts

KEVIN ALEXANDER GRAY
McClatchy-Tribune

Bombing another nation that hasn't attacked you is an act of war. Any Nobel Peace Prize winner should know that. But President Obama never uses the word "war" when he describes the missiles and bombs and CIA operatives he has sent to Libya. If he did, he might have to follow the Constitution and go to Congress to get a declaration of war.

In his speech to the nation on March 28, he put forward a couple of justifications for war, however.

"We have intervened to stop a massacre," he said. "When our interests and values are at stake, we have a responsibility to act." But if we should intervene to stop a massacre, then why didn't we intervene when Israel killed more than 1,400 Palestinians in Gaza back in 2008? Why aren't we intervening in Yemen and Bahrain, where protest movements are being violently suppressed by governments that the United States currently supports? If "our values and interests are at stake," then why is the Obama administration selling \$60 billion in weapons to Saudi Arabia? Saudi King Abdullah not only oppresses his own

dissidents but also recently sent troops into neighboring Bahrain to crack down on peaceful protesters there. Obama's justification to protect Libyan civilians is also shaky. According to the top Vatican official in Tripoli, at least 40 civilians have been killed in air strikes by Western forces. "The air strikes are meant to protect civilians, but they are killing dozens of civilians," said Bishop Giovanni Innocenzo Martinelli, the apostolic vicar of Tripoli. And what about the Libyan rebels, on whose behalf the United States is intervening?

Who are they? U.S. officials have publicly acknowledged an al-Qaida presence among the rebels. That's bizarre, to say the least. The rebels are also rounding up hundreds of their perceived political opponents and imprisoning them without charges in dictator Moammar Gadhafi's former torture chambers. Many of those being rounded up are black immigrants from other parts of Africa. One rebel spokesman told the international press that suspected Gadhafi mercenaries who don't voluntarily turn themselves

in will be subjected to extrajudicial "justice" — which means they will be murdered — for being "enemies of the revolution." Obama said nothing about the possibility of civil war in Libya, even though that's what the coalition against Gadhafi is fueling. He didn't say what the United States might do if the war grinds on for months. Nor did he tell us what the price tag might be. In the first week alone, his Libyan war cost us \$550 million. That's a crime at a time when we're cutting crucial services and aid to the needy here in our own country.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Our generation is far from worthless; yet to be defined

DEAR EDITOR:
Have you ever heard the phrase "too far in the forest to see the trees"? That's what came to mind while I read Kyle Aken's column in the April 5 edition of the DAILY EGYPTIAN, "Where 'na's all the style gone, millennium babies?" In the article Aken says, "all issues of tolerance have fallen to the wayside. There are no great leaders ... no great obstacles for our nation to climb, as all of them have been conquered ... The only thing that seems noteworthy

about our generation is the lack of noteworthiness." Simply put, that is not true in the least. The fight for equal rights for the GLBTQ community is still raging and unfortunately has quite a long way to go. The biggest national tragedy in America's history was probably 9/11, which led to a string of military conflicts that still linger to this day. We can tell our kids how the Internet was used to revolutionize the way people interact with each

other. The human experience has been forever changed by blogs, Facebook and Twitter — and that's not even mentioning the recent Egyptian revolution that would not have been possible without them. Try telling the Egyptian people that our generation has contributed nothing. President Obama seemingly came flying in on a cloud to be our generation's "great leader." True, things seem to have taken a turn, but just remember two things. First, all leaders have

their supporters and their detractors, including figures such as JFK, Lincoln, Churchill and Reagan; the difference is their generations didn't have 24-hour news channels devoted exclusively to attacking them. Second, 15 years ago most of our parents never thought we'd see a non-white American president in our lifetime. That alone is noteworthy. With all that said, Aken does say something that's almost true: Our generation has "no real definition ... no direction." What

he's getting at is our story has yet to be written. Our generation has already seen major events in our lives and has contributed our fair share, but we're not done. What we're missing is the one overriding theme they will teach in American history classes 50 years from now. What will we tell our children about our generation? That's the beauty — it's still for us to decide.

Jason Miller
Senior from Edwardsville
studying theater

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6 • Friday, April 8, 2011
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“Run or shut up.”

Bill Cosby
comedian, on Donald Trump, who has hinted at running for president
in 2012 while questioning where President Obama was born.

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Glenn Beck
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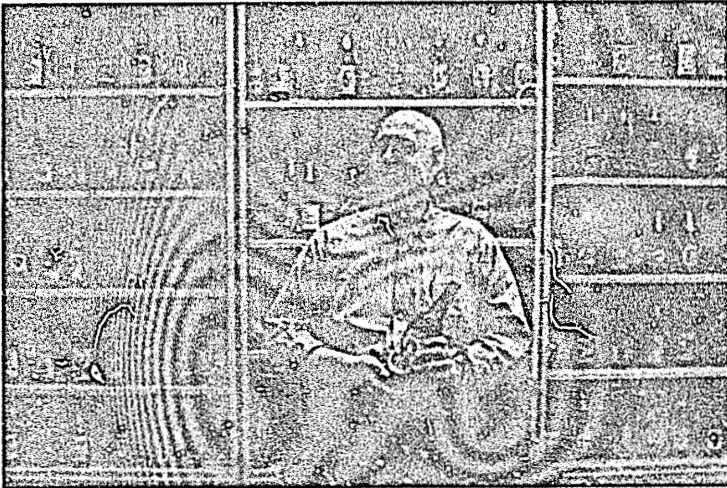
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GEORGE LAMBOLEY | DAILY EGYPTIAN

George Feldhamer, professor of mammalogy, reflects on his collection of beer bottles Tuesday in his office in the Life Sciences II building. Feldhamer collects bottles bearing images of non-human mammals and now has a collection of 840. "I get them sent to me from all around the world," Feldhamer said. "I never thought there would be

this many bottles, but when you think about the number of breweries in the world it seems endless." Although the collection is incredibly expansive, it is rare for the professor to actually drink. Feldhamer said he drinks a beer approximately once every nine months and said he just does not like the taste.

Professor's unique beer collection continues to evolve

RYAN VOYLES
Daily Egyptian

George Feldhamer has more than 99 bottles of beer on his wall. He has 840 of them decked across three bookshelves in his office.

Feldhamer, a professor in zoology, has been collecting bottles for more than 15 years and adds more when he can. But they are not just everyday bottles of beer. Feldhamer said he collects only bottles with labels featuring non-human mammals.

Feldhamer said the collection started in 1995 when he attended an annual meeting of the American Society of Mammalogists. Those at the convention were offered a beer bottle with a Pronghorn on the label.

"It just kind of grew from there," Feldhamer said. "I had no idea there would be this many bottles, and I thought, 'Oh, there's moosehead and red wolf, maybe 15 or 20 of these things and I'll go collect them all.' It's kind of gotten out of hand since then."

Amy Cross, a graduate student in zoology from St. Charles, Mo., who works alongside Feldhamer, said the collection gave her an idea

of what sort of person Feldhamer would be when she met him.

"You think, 'He must be a really laid back guy to have such a large quantity of alcohol in his office,'" Cross said.

Sara Resting, a graduate student in zoology from Eden, N.Y., said it was shocking to come into his office for the first time and see the collection.

"You think since you're in an academic building that it would be boring, but it's amazing to walk in there and see all of the bottles," Resting said.

The collection has helped Feldhamer gain publicity. He wrote a paper for *The Journal of Popular Culture* about why beer distributors choose different animals to put on their labels. Despite the fact bats and rats represent 60 percent of mammal species, they make up fewer than 2 percent of bottle labels, he said.

— Sara Resting
graduate student in zoology

"People don't relate to rats and bats," Feldhamer said. "Regardless of what the beer is, they'll go for something big and strong."

Feldhamer said he is still unsure what he will do with his collection when he retires next summer. He said he could pack up his bottles and take them home to Minnesota, give them to a graduate student or open up a beer bottle museum.

He said those interested in getting a list of what beer bottles he has can e-mail him and receive an alphabetical list of his collection.

Even with his collection growing every year, Feldhamer said colleagues are the ones who drink the beer in the bottles.

"I don't even like beer," he said.

Ryan Voyles can be reached at rvoyles@dailyegyptian.com or 536-3311 ext. 258.

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'30 Rock' star Tina Fey expecting her second child with Jeff Richmond

Associated Press

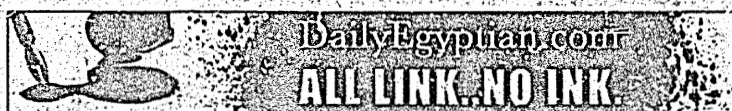
NEW YORK — Tina Fey is expecting her second child.

Her publicist confirms that the "30 Rock" star made the

announcement while taping an appearance of "The Oprah Winfrey Show" on Wednesday. Fey is about five months pregnant. Her "Oprah" appearance is scheduled to air next week.

Fey and her husband, composer Jeff Richmond, are also parents of a 5-year-old daughter, Alice.

The 40-year-old actress-writer is currently promoting a new memoir, "Bossypants."



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Sports

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Men's Golf

SIU uses Richmond course to prepare for MVC Championship

TREY BRAUNECKER
Daily Egyptian

Every golf course has its own play style, so it's important for players to experiment and prepare for any terrain, women's golf

coach Diane Daugherty said.

"It's crucial for a team to be well-rounded," Daugherty said. "Every golf course can help you prepare for the next tournament, but I think this next course will be a particularly good warm-up for the team."

The team will play in the Eastern Kentucky Lady Colonel Classic on Saturday and Sunday in Richmond, Ky.

For the rest of the story, please visit DAILYEGYPTIAN.COM.

TRACK & FIELD

Sprinters work to pick up speed at Ole Miss

JACQUELINE MUHAMMAD
Daily Egyptian

While the Salukis participate in the Ole Miss Invitational on Saturday in Oxford, Miss., senior sprinter Kandise Thompson is waiting to hear from doctors whether or not she has a stress fracture in her foot.

Thompson has not practiced for two days and had an MRI Thursday. She said doctors would notify her today with the diagnosis and if she does have a stress fracture, she will have to sit out the rest of her senior year.

"This is potentially my third stress fracture, and my senior year has been filled with injuries," Thompson said. "If this pain I'm having is from a stress fracture it might be time for me to hang up my cleats."

While Thompson anxiously awaits doctors' orders, the rest of the team will prepare for the caliber of competition at Ole Miss.

"Each meet is becoming more competitive, especially as we travel south," distance coach Matt Sparks said. "The meets allow us to see

different competition like schools from the SEC and Big Ten."

This has been a transition year for the sprinters as they have had to get used to the coaching style of first-year sprints coach Chidi Enyia. Enyia traveled to Ole Miss last year with the Salukis as a volunteer coach and said he hopes the adjustment to his coaching style will continue to bring the team success.

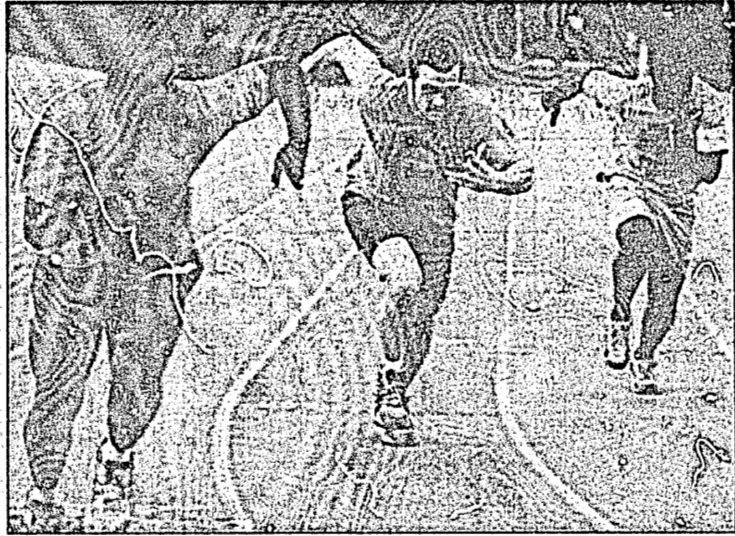
"No coach is the same. Sometimes the applications of what I'm asking them to do different can be different and cause adjustment issues," Enyia said.

Sophomore middle distance runner Tess Shubert will be making the switch from the 400-meter run to the 400-meter hurdles for the outdoor season.

Shubert said she is focused on mastering her technique during practice.

The Salukis took home seven event titles and more than 50 top-10 finishes during last year's tournament.

Competition begins at 10 a.m. Saturday with the men's hammer throw and the women's javelin.



LAUREN LEGGIE | DAILY EGYPTIAN

From left to right, freshmen Dominic Williams and Matthew Benes and senior Kalenta Jackson run Thursday at McAndrew Stadium during practice. Benes, who is competing in the 110-meter hurdles Saturday in the Ole Miss Invitational in Oxford, Miss., said the invitational will be his second outdoor meet.

SOFTBALL

Freshmen learn leadership for future seasons

AUSTIN FLYNN
Daily Egyptian

More than halfway through the season, the SIU softball team's freshmen have an idea of what it will take to help the team accomplish more than it did last season, freshman second baseman Jayna Spivey said.

With 12 conference games this season, freshman players said they're comfortable with how they have been integrated into the

team and know which skills they need to improve in the future, which includes their series against Bradley Saturday and Sunday.

Freshman catcher Allie VadeBoncouer said even though the Braves (8-28, 1-7 Missouri Valley Conference) are ranked ninth in the conference, she still expects them to give the Salukis (20-12, 4-2 MVC) a hard-fought game.

Coach Kerri Blylock said she thinks Bradley's losses came from

facing strong teams early in the season.

"Their record isn't as good as what I think they are," Blylock said. "I think they've had a ton of one-run and two-run ballgames, and I mean against good people, good teams."

The Salukis are currently ranked third in the conference, three wins behind Illinois State and four behind conference-leader Drake.

First baseman Tylor Orsburn said the team's seniors have done a

lot to help the freshmen learn what is expected of them and develop leadership skills.

"They are always helpful with any situation I need help with, and they're always there for you no matter what," Orsburn said.

Spivey said she has tried to learn from senior catcher Cristina Trapani so she can instruct incoming freshmen when she is an upperclassman and have more of a presence on the field.

"Trap is one of our biggest

leaders on our team," Orsburn said. "I'm hoping next year and the years to come to be able to not really take her spot, but be like her and keep the team up at all times."

The Salukis' weekend series starts with a doubleheader Saturday against the ninth-place Bradley Braves at Charlotte West Stadium.

Austin Flynn can be reached at aflynn@dailyegyptian.com or 536-3311 ext. 282.

BASEBALL

Salukis visit Evansville to start conference play

CORY DOWNER
Daily Egyptian

With 49 hits in their last four games, the Salukis begin their first conference series of the year today with confidence, senior infielder Blake Pinnon said.

"We're hitting and playing as well as we have all season," Pinnon said.

The Salukis (8-19) head to Evansville, Ind., to take on the Purple Aces (17-9) at Braun Stadium for their first taste of Missouri Valley

Conference competition. With the Salukis in the middle of an offensive breakup and their pitchers taking steps forward, interim head coach Ken Henderson said he thinks his team has turned a corner.

Every batter in the lineup has had a hit in the past four games. Sophomore designated hitter Austin Montgomery returned to the field March 29 after missing 14 games from illness and has been one of the Salukis' major offensive producers.

Montgomery is hitting .476

since his return, including a solo home run in Wednesday's game against Murray State.

Sophomore left fielder Jordan Sivertsen has also caused problems for opposing pitchers. He had two runs, two RBIs and hit his team-leading fourth home run of the season Wednesday.

Sivertsen said it is important for players to focus on what has worked for them the past couple weeks as they head into conference play.

"We have to keep doing the

same things and we can't try to do too much," Sivertsen said. "We're 0-0 in conference, and right now no one's record before that matters."

The probable starting pitchers for the Salukis today and Saturday will be junior Cameron Maldonado and sophomore Cody Forsythe. Both pitchers had similar results in their two previous starts. Each pitched six innings and allowed one run.

Henderson said there has been a visible difference in the team's attitude lately.

"You could tell in practice the other day they had an extra spring in their step," Henderson said. "There may still be a bad day here and there but it's nice to see guys go out and gain confidence all of a sudden."

The Salukis start the three-game series at 5 p.m. today, with game two at 2 p.m. Saturday and game three at 1 p.m. Sunday.

Cory Downer can be reached at cdowner@dailyegyptian.com or 536-3311 ext. 282.