Ameren shown power in numbers

Hundreds attend forum against utility rate increase

Barton Lorimor  
DAILY EGYPTIAN

MARION — As he spoke of his struggles with rising energy costs, Thomas Head said his wife was next to an oil heater to keep warm.

Head, a 75-year-old Marion resident, was one of hundreds in attendance at an Illinois Commerce Commission public forum about a potential rate increase for all Ameren utility customers in Illinois. Head and nearly 40 others shared words of frustration and disapproval directed at the thought of paying more for electricity and natural gas.

The request, filed on Nov. 2 to the Illinois Commerce Commission, would provide the company with $247 million to compensate for increasing maintenance costs, said Craig Nelson, an Ameren vice president.

Wednesday night’s forum at Williamson County Pavilion came at the request of State Rep. John Hoodley, D-Marion, who was one of the state legislators supporting a bill that would require the commission to take such an event in areas with the most interest. Five similar events will be held in other Illinois cities, such as Champaign, Decatur and Quincy.

A court reporter was on the scene to record all testimony for commissioners in Springfield and Chicago to review before their vote on the request, which must be taken by Sept. 30.

Head said his wife has recently

See RATE, Page 9

International tastes warm tongues

Tastes of the Nations limits hunger, spreads diversity

Christian Holt  
DAILY EGYPTIAN

Dressed in his native Indian clothes and serving up traditional spices in the Lentz Dining Hall on Wednesday, Enoch Paul told anyone who would listen about his heritage.

Paul, a graduate student in public administration aviation, told hungry gatherers anything and everything about the food he brought from his home country. As a member of the Chi Alpha Campus Ministries, Paul represented India as one of six nations in the first installment of the Taste of Nations program. The program, jointly sponsored by Chi Alpha and Residence Hall Dining, attempts to share food and culture from around the world to those who would never otherwise be exposed to it.

The function also has another purpose, Paul said — giving international students a sense of comfort.

Paul said he got involved with the RSO because he was looking for people from his own culture he could relate to on campus.

“It’s basically just to get together so that nobody feels homesick,” he said.

The group has been on campus since 1970 with a similar purpose of bringing students from all backgrounds together.

Beth Swartzendruber, a 2003 SIUC graduate and full-time staff member of Chi Alpha, said she came back to work for the organization after spending a year teaching elementary

See TASTE, Page 9

Voters allow water district to disband

Alternative will save Carbondale consumers money

Barton Lorimor  
DAILY EGYPTIAN

Although presidential primaries took the limelight, Carbondale locals took to the polls to make some decisions about water districts and judges.

Voters from five eastern Carbondale precincts sided in favor of allowing the Crab Orchard Water District to dissolve during Tuesday’s elections and voted in a primary for a southern Illinois district judge.

At in Nov. 6 meeting, the city council unanimously approved a request by officials from the water district for the city to assume responsibility of its customers and to accept the transfer of other assets in the wake of necessary repairs.

According to an intergovernmental agreement with the city, the water district is in need of repairs valuing $2 million. Had the city not taken over, the district’s customers would have seen a rate increase of 263 percent to allocate money for the repairs, which include replacing water mains to increase water pressure.

Instead, customers in the district will continue to pay an extra $1.87 per 1,000 gallons than regular city water customers for the next 10 years. Michael Twomey, attorney for the water district, said he did not know the details of the agreement.

“It made a lot of sense that the city take over given the improvements needed,” City Manager Jeff Doherty said.

Voters may have allowed the water district’s disbandment, but they had a different attitude towards Democrat Judy Cates, a candidate for the 5th District Appellate Court in Illinois.

Incumbent James Weisstein, who was appointed to the position in January when Judge Terrance Hopkins died unexpectedly, defeated Cates with 53 percent of the vote in an election that spanned across 37 of the southernmost counties in Illinois.

In Jackson County, Cates defeated Weisstein by a single percent. There were no Republican candidates running for the seat, which means Weisstein will run unopposed in November’s general election.

Cates had campaigned on

See DISBAND, Page 9
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Hummus, Somewhere in Southern Illinois

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My name's Potts. I’m outgoing, friendly, and energetic. I would LOVE to meet you!

I’m only a year old, so if I’m playful, I would love to be your best friend for life!

Smiley Face...
A committee of students who want to rename a Carbondale street in honor of Martin Luther King Jr. and Coretta Scott King gathered more support Wednesday night.

Undergraduate Student Government voted unanimously to approve a resolution in support of renaming Oakland Avenue. Following the USG meeting, nine students calling themselves the Ambassadors for a Legacy Committee met formally for the first time to outline their goals.

Vincent Hardy, a senator representing the College of Business and Administration, wrote the resolution. “From here, we will move to key administrators. From the university, we will go to the city with a clear-cut plan,” Hardy said. “We don’t expect to have a lot of opposition from the city, but we are prepared.”

Kouri Marshall, a graduate student from Peoria studying public administration, said he and USG President Demetrous White would act as chairs of the Ambassadors for a Legacy Committee. However, he said the committee would act as a unified body, with only its public relations officers authorized to talk to the media.

“We do have the support of the student body with this resolution,” Marshall said. “Now we need the support of the city council.”

The committee would seek support from the residents and churches located on Oakland, Marshall said.

USG Vice President Candace Fletcher, left, President Demetrous White and Executive Assistant Whitney Weller, right, count votes to decide a new senator during a USG meeting Wednesday night.
Students took cover in dormitories. On Tuesday’s busiest primary night in history, Clinton and Obama were separated by 40 delegate votes, several hundred yet to be allocated. Overall, that left Clinton with 1,266 ballot-bound delegates who needed to secure the Democratic nomination. Obama was right behind with 993.

Delegates still to be allocated are a worry. McCain has nearly clinched GOP nod close to call. The 30% time to net, both Obama and Clinton pointed toward the next contests, primaries in Louisiana, Maryland, Virginia and the District of Columbia plus caucuses in Nebraska, Colorado, Iowa and the Virgin Islands over the next week. In all, those states total 336 delegates.

At a news conference in Chicago, Obama claimed victory around Tuesday, saying he had won more states than the former first lady for the day and would win up with more delegates by the time all were tallied.

“Today’s victory is about as definitive a win as possible,” Obama said. “We did it by winning a major victory in Ohio, we did it by winning states like Colorado, and we did it by winning a major victory in Arkansas.”

Obama said states will go his way because of their “understanding” of the need for change.

“People want a new direction for America and a new vision for our future,” Obama said. “They’ve been energized by their faith in our party’s core values.”

Obama also said GOP will “fail” to deliver economic stimulus bill to the American people. He said the economy was “stagnant,” and that the stimulus plan was needed to help low-income seniors and disabled veterans.

McCain, the Arizona senator, said the “tallies are in” and that the 703 delegates, nearly 60 percent of the 1,191 needed to win the nomination at the national convention in St. Paul, Minn., this summer. Former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney had 293, former Arizona Sen. Mike Huckabee 190 and Texas Rep. Ron Paul 14.

Despite steady4ly leaking odd, neither Romney nor Huckabee had any time they were ready to exit the race. McCain, the Arizona senator, said the nomination was his, though, and when he acknowledged that work had to be done to unify the party after acrimonious campaigning.

“I do hope that at some point we will come down a little bit and see if there’s any way to cooperate,” Obama said.

To be effective, this economic growth package must be timely, so it is crucial that the Senate now move quickly to pass a bill that will deliver relief to our economy.

— press secretary Dana Perino
Craig Lambert, left, of Marion comforts his daughter Kendall Lambert, 9, during a response to a tornado warning at the SIU Arena during the first half of the Saluki’s game against Indiana State Tuesday night.
Send a viral Valentine

This holiday season, 26.4 million people visited a Web site sponsored by OfficeMax that invited them to upload a photo of themselves, attach it to the body of a dancing elf and forward it to everyone in their e-mail address book. Toy New York, the ad agency behind Elf Yourself, said those people spent a cumulative 2,614 years elfing themselves.

If this is the first you’ve heard of it, we’ll save you a trip to the computer: The site is no longer online. You can bet it will be back, though, along with zillions of companies from toy sites to news groups to change the law have failed, mainly because supporters in Congress don’t want to tangle with the religious right. Words such as “reproductive health” or “contraception” risk provoking a presidential veto.

The irony is, if Congress fails to act quickly, the nation could soon see a sudden jump in unwanted pregnancies. In light of Texas’ high rates of pregnancy among teens and single, low-income women, this issue deserves urgent attention. The irony is, if Congress fails to act quickly, the nation could soon see a sudden jump in unwanted pregnancies.

Congress: Fix the birth control problems you caused

Sometimes, a minor change in legislation aimed at addressing one problem leads to a bigger, unintended problem elsewhere. That’s what happened with the Deficit Reduction Act that became law in 2006. Congress wanted to prevent pharmaceutical companies from discounting medications to the point that they undercut the government’s guaranteed lowest prices offered under Medicaid. So the Deficit Reduction Act placed strict limits on how companies could sell discounted pharmaceuticals. The unexpected consequence is that the act also blocked 203 family-planning clinics nationwide from providing discounted birth-control pills, severely curtailing the availability of affordable oral contraception to low-income women and college students.

For the last year, clinics have drawn from stockpiles of pills purchased before 2006. But those stockpiles are dwindling, and already, women are seeing their monthly prescription prices jump 400 percent to 500 percent. Family-planning activists warn that low-income women might opt for no contraception, rather than pay $40 or $50 a month for the pill, that could lead to a jump in unwanted pregnancies. In light of Texas’ high rates of pregnancy among teens and single, low-income women, this issue deserves our lawmakers’ urgent attention. Blocking low-cost contraception was never the intention of the Deficit Reduction Act. But getting the provision restored has been nearly impossible.

Successful attempts by Planned Parenthood and other advocacy groups to change the law have failed, mainly because supporters in Congress don’t want to tangle with the religious right. Words such as “reproductive health” or “contraception” risk provoking a presidential veto.

The irony is, if Congress fails to act quickly, the nation could soon see a sudden jump in unwanted pregnancies. In light of Texas’ high rates of pregnancy among teens and single, low-income women, this issue deserves urgent attention. The irony is, if Congress fails to act quickly, the nation could soon see a sudden jump in unwanted pregnancies.
A Message from the Voices Desk

As some might already have gathered, technology has not been on our side lately. The Voices e-mail, voices@sude.com, has officially gone kaput.

We have not received any of the surely numerous letters, submissions and other messages for about a week. For this we apologize and bring you a NEW e-mail address that will hopefully never let us down again.

voicesdesk@gmail.com

We hope to hear from you soon. We’ve been lonely.

Guest Column

Results? Just hints of battles to come

Dick Polman
McClatchy Tribune

I pore over the tallies of Tuesday’s races, across the country, and can hear my mother’s faint voice as a whisper: “I told you they would be close.”

It’s been the predictable: Obama won Tuesday, just as he won Monday. McCain lost Tuesday, just as he lost Monday. But the fight continues.

The Iowa results, which are mere imitations of the first big test of the 2008 campaign. There is no other way to say it.

But it’s misleading to focus on the popular vote.

For instance, Clinton won the popular vote in Iowa, but Obama won the popular vote in New Hampshire, and McCain won the popular vote in South Carolina.

So yesterday, we watched the Democratic race seem to be going, that those states generally vote blue.

Sheepishly, I took ownership and stated that it was my fault, and it was made in my breath, 1979.

But on the first day of class I turned on the calculator, pressed a number and the screen went blank. Here I was in the finest row trying to work with simple arithmetic on a dead calculator.

Mom’s old clothes. I am beginning to wonder if she was a great fashion guru—fact clothes, then a calculator. It seems like everything Mom used to wear is now in fashion. My grand- 

Iowa way

But it’s misleading to focus on the popular vote.

Under typical Democratic rules in a primary state, a candidate who, for example, gets only 40 percent of the vote can still receive around 40 percent of the delegates. So even though Obama lost New York, Massachusetts and New York, he’ll get some delegates in all three; and even though Clinton lost Illinois, Connecticut and Georgia, she’ll get delegates in all three. And California, again, will take time to sort out.

If Obama can emerge from the Feb. 5 contests within striking distance of Clinton in the delegate count, he may be in good shape going forward. The next round of contests features Louisiana this weekend, and Virginia and Maryland on Feb. 12. And Obama has the money to lavish attention on those states, having raised $33 million in January. But if they cancel each other out in the Feb. 12 contests, they’ll move on to Ohio and Texas on March 4. And if Ohio and Texas don’t bring clarity ... dare we suggest that Pennsylvania, six weeks later on April 22, could actually become the pivotal state? Pennsylvania would be ripe for a little attention. It has been 16 years since Democrats cast a meaningful primary vote, and even 1992 was a low-turnout affair dominated by the new kid on the block, Bill Clinton.

So, I’m sure Pennsylvania is ready for some new primary experiences, perhaps some that might prove to be historic. And the way this Democratic race seems to be going, perhaps the voters who bring up the rear of the calendar will render the final verdict. They live in Texas.

Dick Polman is a columnist for the Philadelphia Inquirer.

DAILY EGYPTIAN
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605 W. Freeman #2,3 (available June 08)
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410 E. Hester
410 1/2 E. Hester
208 W. Hospital #1
703 S. Illinois #101
703 S. Illinois #102
703 S. Illinois #201
703 S. Illinois #202
703 S. Illinois #203
612 S. Logan
612 1/2 S. Logan
507 W. Main #2
507 1/2 W. Main A,B
400 W. Oak #3
410 W. Oak 1,2,3,4,5
202 N. Poplar #2
202 N. Poplar #3
507 Poplar #2
301 N. Springer #1-4
414 W. Sycamore #8
414 W. Sycamore #E
404 1/2 S. University
406 S. University #1,2,3,4
606 S. University
504 E. Vermont
334 W. Walnut 1, 2
602 W. Walnut
703 W. Walnut #1
703 W. Walnut #2

Two Bedroom

503 N. Allyn
607 N. Allyn
609 N. Allyn
616 N. Allyn
616 1/2 N. Allyn
710 N. Allyn
408 S. Ash
408 S. Ash #1,2,3
514 S. Ash #2
514 S. Ash #5
407 S. Beveridge
502 S. Beveridge #2
512 S. Beveridge #1-7
514 S. Beveridge #1-5,7
506 N. Carico
510 N. Carico
602 N. Carico
720 N. Carico
905 N. Carico
306 W. Cherry
311 W. Cherry #2
404 W. Cherry Court *
405 W. Cherry Court
406 W. Cherry Court
407 W. Cherry Court

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503 N. Allyn
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609 N. Allyn
408 S. Ash
410 S. Ash
504 S. Ash #2, 3
506 S. Ash
508 S. Ash #1
514 S. Ash #1,3,4
405 S. Beveridge
409 S. Beveridge
502 S. Beveridge #1
503 S. Beveridge
506 S. Beveridge
507 Beveridge #1-5
509 S. Beveridge #1-5
513 S. Beveridge #1-5
515 S. Beveridge #1-5
510 N. Carico
309 W. Cherry
311 W. Cherry #1
405 W. Cherry
407 W. Cherry
501 W. Cherry
503 W. Cherry
506 W. Cherry
606 W. Cherry
404 W. Cherry Court *
405 W. Cherry Court
406 W. Cherry Court
407 W. Cherry Court
820 W. Walnut #2
1004 W. Walkup
404 W. Willow
406 W. Willow
804 W. Willow
603 S. Forest
706 S. Forest
716 S. Forest
605 W. Freeman #1
607 W. Freeman
109 Glenview
500 S. Hays
503 S. Hays
505 S. Hays
507 S. Hays #1
509 S. Hays
511 S. Hays
514 S. Hays
402 E. Hester
408 E. Hester
208 W. Hospital #2
212 W. Hospital
401 S. James
611 W. Kennicott
903 W. Linden
610 S. Logan
614 S. Logan
515 S. Logan *
407 E. Mill
409 E. Mill
411 E. Mill
308 W. Monroe
413 W. Monroe
417 W. Monroe
6299 Old Murphysboro Rd.
400 W. Oak #1,2
402 W. Oak #E, W
501 W. Oak
505 N. Oakland
511 N. Oakland
514 N. Oakland
600 N. Oakland
602 N. Oakland
1901 N. Oakland
617 W. Owens
1305 E. Park Lane
506 S. Poplar #1-7
202 N. Poplar #1
509 S. Rawlings #2,6
519 S. Rawlings #25
913 W. Sycamore
1619 W. Sycamore
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suffered from health problems, and the two were forced to sell their two-story home for a smaller house because of their inability to pay its energy costs. But even after their move, he said, he and his fixed Social Security and pension checks were still not enough to pay his electricity bill.

Nelson said the increase in average energy costs, as well as the company’s possession of “junk bonds,” were the main reasons Ameren filed the increase request. Ameren’s request also includes riders, which would place a surcharge on each customer’s bill for improvements that may not be related to the services and would cover the cost of unpaid energy bills. Nelson said electricity customers in southern Illinois would pay an extra $4.17 per month, while natural gas users could face $5.42.

As soon as Nelson’s presentation was finished, Bradley, a former attorney, made a speech that sent audience members to their feet. “What I’ve just heard is the weakest case I’ve ever heard,” he said. “They have sufficient resources, currently, to provide for infrastructure. This is about profits.”

“We cannot as a society find the voice to support for Ameren’s request by 8:45 p.m. was Larry Ivory, president of the Illinois State Black Chamber of Commerce. Ivory said he would challenge utility companies, such as Ameren, to educate their customers with ways of how to conserve their energy and save money.

Michelle Ostien, a nutrition counselor and graduate assistant for Residence Hall Dining, was in charge of putting together the dining side of the event.

Ostien has also planned three other events throughout the month and they happened upon each other by accident.

Connors prepared enchiladas verde de puerco, or pork enchiladas with green salsa. He said the whole event was more than he expected.

Connors also said the food was the primary focus for the evening.

“Knocks were available at each table along with one specific meal made available for students.”

Even Chef Bill Connors, known throughout the dining halls for his famed omelets, got in on the action.

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A man who identified himself only as Martin periodically held up a sign during the forum last night to reinforce his position on the proposed Ameren rate increase.

But Ivory’s message did not sit home with speakers skeptical of the request, such as Don Phillips of Marion.

Phillips voiced aggravation with Ameren for increasing rates in southern Illinois, where most residents have a fixed income. Phillips said his 83-year-old father will not adjust his thermostat in fear it will cost him more money.

“Southern Illinois has a lower cost of living and lower wages,” Phillips said. “There are a lot of people in this community with fixed incomes.”

Michelle Elebhart, an employee with Ameren in Marion for 27 years, said the company has been replacing underground cables, trim trees and replacing worn-out equipment in Illinois’ southern 14 counties.

Infrastructure costs for the region are estimated to be $3.5 million in 2008, and $4.3 million for the year after, he said.

Elebhart said these improvements are needed in order to continue the company’s commitment to reliability.

“I think we have to be able to step back and make what I consider fundamental business decisions that is not only good short-term,” Ivory said.

Erica Abbert, a spokeswoman for Ameren, said her company was in Marion for the same reason as the commission — to listen and help their customers.

Bertens Lorimer can be reached at 536-3312 ext. 268 or bertens.lorimer@siu.edu.

SIUC’s main campus in January. She was a trial attorney from Belleville, whose record includes a lawsuit against Publisher’s Clearing House for unethical treatment through solicitation drives in 1992 and 1997.

Before his appointment last January, Wexstten was a circuit judge for 18 years in Mount Vernon.

Contingent on campus, she said, “I just felt like God was calling me.”

CHRISTIAN HOLT can be reached at 536-3311 ext. 268 or chbol@siu.edu.
Neil Saffelder is a self-described "power plant" person. Saffelder is the chief engineer at the SIUC Power Plant, the facility responsible for producing about 15 percent of the campus’s electricity and all of the steam used to heat and cool the campus.

It’s a good job, he said, but he would like to do more.

Saffelder said he would welcome the university’s proposed coal gasification plant, a structure that, if built, would dwarf the current plant in terms of power production.

“We would love to have more generation here,” he said.

In gasification, coal is broken down into its basic components and contaminants, such as carbon dioxide, are removed and stored underground.

A study done to determine the feasibility of constructing the new plant was finished recently, Physical Plant Director Phil Gatton said Wednesday. He said he expected the president’s office would release the results soon.

Gatton has said if the new plant — proposed in March 2007 by SIU President Glenn Poshard — were to be constructed, it would have the capacity to produce either 300 or 600 megawatts of power. The current plant puts out roughly three megawatts of power at peak capacity.

Coal gasification has been promoted by some as a "clean coal" technology that could make the fuel a far more environmentally friendly energy source.

But environmental groups such as the local Sierra Club and the Student Environmental Protection Agency have raised concerns about the university’s investment in a fossil fuel. Gatton said he has received plenty of negative feedback about the project.

Coal today

The SIUC Power Plant has three coal-burning boilers that burn roughly 50,000 tons of the fuel each year combined, Saffelder said. The main function of the plant is to produce steam, which is then pushed through miles of underground tunnels and is used to either heat or cool the buildings, he said.

Because the plant only produces about 15 percent of the campus’s electricity, the university depends on Ameren CIPS to power the rest of campus. Producing part of the university’s electricity on campus saves the university $1 million, he said.

Burning coal releases a number of air contaminants regulated by the Environmental Protection Agency. Carbon dioxide is not one of those contaminants, but it could be soon.

Southern Illinois coal, which fuels the plant, is rich in sulfur. Because the EPA regulates sulfur, extra measures must be taken to keep it out of the atmosphere, Saffelder said.

The Clean Air Act, amended in 1990, requires the plant to capture at least 90 percent of its sulfur emissions and it typically captures about 92 percent, he said.

Carbon monoxide and nitrous oxide are also released in burning coal and the EPA regulates their emissions, but Saffelder said burning the coal completely keeps the emission of those elements to a minimum.

The boiler that produces most of the planet’s power and steam was installed in 1997 and is known as a circulating fluidized boiler.

While Saffelder said it is state of the art in its ability to capture sulfur, there is no carbon capture element to the structure.

John Mead, director of the SIUC Coal Research Center, said the capture of greenhouse gases was not a priority of the power plant industry in the late 1990s when the boiler was installed.

"In that time (carbon dioxide) was being discussed but it really was not part of the industrial scale power systems,” Mead said.

Carbon filters are used to remove minerals, such as chlorine, from water in order to purify it for the boiler. It costs six times more than the main boiler, so it is used sparingly.

In the future, the university’s coal gasification plant — proposed in March 2007 — said they would begin factoring in environmental risks posed by carbon emissions when loaning money to power companies.

Plans for building coal-fired plants in Texas, Florida and Kansas have been put on hold because of stalled negotiations between banks and power companies, according to Reuters.

While there are currently no pollution control laws regulating carbon dioxide emissions, the change indicates the banks are anticipating the passing of such laws, something Mead said he anticipated would occur soon.

"In terms of environmental control, we’ve gone through evolutions of design, of using new technology of seeing to what extent older technology can be modified to make it work,” Mead said. “We’ll probably be doing the same thing with (carbon dioxide)."

Mead said plants such as the SIUC Power Plant could be the subject of carbon dioxide capture projects in the future.

The U.S. Supreme Court ruled in 2007 that the federal branch of the EPA had the right to regulate carbon dioxide emissions. Jimmy Ross, the Illinois EPA’s Division of Air Pollution Control manager, said the agency was investigating the best way to regulate the greenhouse gas in relation to its effect on climate change.

A change in regulations would not necessarily mean the demise of plants like the one currently on SIUC’s campus. There are multiple ways the EPA could allow plants to make up for their emissions, he said.

See POWER, Page 13

Page 1
BE A SCRATCH GOLFER.

Win Your Own Machine Instantly!
Control could come in the form of “offsets,” in which plants have to take action elsewhere to offset their carbon dioxide emissions. Plants could also be forced to make their boilers more efficient, he said.

Saffelder said the SIUC Power Plant frequently performs experiments in an attempt to improve the plant’s efficiency. One of the plant’s 1960s-era boilers was retrofitted recently to improve its efficiency, and the plant has experimented with reusing the “bed ash” produced during the process of scrubbing the coal of sulfur.

Regardless, the possibility of building a new, larger plant to replace the current one is attractive, he said.

“The people here would like nothing more than to make more electricity,” Saffelder said. “We’re power plant people.”

Joe Crawford can be reached at 536-3311 ext. 254 or jcrawford@siu.edu.

The SIUC Power Plant is full of piping and various other machinery that help facilitate the production of electricity and steam. The plant supplies 15 percent of the electricity used on campus.
By Linda C. Black

Today's Birthday — This year, you're motivated by a passion. You're still analytical and objective, but you have an extra fire in your eye. You'll be very hard to refuse.

To get the advantage, check the daily raking. 10 is the easiest day, the most challenging.

Aries (March 21-April 19) — Today is an 8 — your team is on a quest to find another elusive prize. Discipline is required, of course, but so is assertive behavior. This one won't come to you; you'll have to go get it.

Taurus (April 20-May 20) — Today is a 6 — A leader is having trouble mak ing an important decision. Suggest the option that benefits you, and see what happens next. Odds are in your favor.

Gemini (May 21-June 21) — Today is a 9 — Make up a list of all the things you want to accomplish. The odds are in your favor now. Write it all down, and catch the moment.

Cancer (June 22-July 22) — Today is a 4 — Don't rush into a new endeavor. Finish old business first. This may not be as much fun, but it's a more practical choice.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) — Today is a 7 — An enthusiastic coach can get your team motivated. You're tired of hearing them tell you what to do. Get somebody else to tell you what you actually tell them.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — Today is a 6 — Important decision-makers are impressed with your attitude, especially when you're focused. You don't whine, you put in the correction.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) — Today is a 7 — Your work is highly favored. You should be able to do more things and work an extra mile. Or if you're a couch potato, start with around the block.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) — Today is a 5 — You could make your next million from the privacy of your own home. Put your extra skills to work to benefit your family.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) — Today is an 8 — The competition is fierce. You're calm, cool and collected. You don't let emotions interfere. You've got a good plan, so work it.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — Today is a 8 — Think of more things you need to fine-tune your working space. Don't wait around until somebody else does it for you; they won't. Take the initiative.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) — Today is a 9 — You continue to make a good impression on a person who has very discerning tastes. Stand up tall. You have reason to be proud.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) — Today is a 5 — Don't talk about unfin ished work. You don't really know what your results are going to be, but the odds are favorable. Keep at it.
Dear Hollywood:

Stop the Britney blitz

ALICIA WADE

Britney Spears has a successful career. She married a friend, got it annulled, then married a backup dancer. She had a couple babies, some erratic behavior and divorced her husband. She didn’t show up for court hearings. She lost custody of her children. She went to rehab. She left rehab, acted even stranger and seemed to have a new boyfriend. She was hospitalized after a report-ed family intervention. She was… Does anyone care anymore? The hope is Hollywood — and for that matter overbeating news media outlets that can’t stop publishing these stories — that the resounding answer is “no.” As much as it pains celebrity gossip junkies to say it, it’s time we agreed with Chris Crocker, the shouting guy on YouTube.

Leave Britney alone.

We did it to ourselves, Hollywood. We scoured up copies of your gossip rags like hungry raccoons in a trashcan hill of garbage and couldn’t wait to join the next thing Spears subjected herself to in our celeb-hungry brains. Whether it was a las performance on MTV or photos of her in a strip club, we wanted it and you gave it to us.

But please, Hollywood, you have to stop.

This blitz is unnecessary, invasive and enough to make any gossip fan long for the days of Paris Hilton’s stint in prison. Spears has come across a tough time in her life, whether induced by her own actions or influenced by others. But we don’t need to know when she’s sent to a hospital, what kind of treatment she’s going through, or if Spears’ mother is accusing her daughter’s manager of drugging the pop star. And Hollywood, come on, you’re monopolizing news sources with ridiculous stories on her personal life.

We’ve got more important things to worry about. Hollywood, local and national elections, dangerous weather, foreign affairs. When we need a break from hard news, how about some stories on baby bumps, new romances and things that don’t rhyme with “shrammy dawg.”

Give her and your adoring public a break. If she has a miraculous recovery and gets her life back on track, then yes, Hollywood, by all means give us the scoop. Spears could put out another album in the coming years and of course we can tell us about that. If she keeps up her current lifestyle, then maybe an article on her wild behavior would be appropriate now and then. If you don’t like Hollywood, gossip followerts might just stop caring about you once they get sick of the Spears machine.

And what’s a business that’s all about glitz, glamour and public adoration to do without its adoring public? You can do it, Hollywood. Leave Britney alone.
NEW SPRING 2008 SIUC PAID RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES*  
Call Jamie at 453-3561  
Find out how you could earn $185-$800!  
M-F: 8:30am-5:30pm  
Director: David G. Gilbert SIUC Department of Chemistry  
At information conference.

*Acceptance dependent on confidential screening process.  
*Payment contingent on successful completion.

STUDENT JOB OPPORTUNITIES  
Stick a Band-Aid to the wall and see if you can make it stick.

SALUKIS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 20  

Defense  
On the defensive side of the ball, Lennon said he was looking for players who will fit into his 3-4 system. The Salukis brought in three defensive linemen and linebackers to anchor the system for the future.

Lennon said Kayon Swanson was brought in as a nose guard while Josh Terry and Kyle Cavil would take the ends. Terry stands out in the group with 103 total tackles, 33 tackles for a loss and 14 sacks. The three linebackers include Jayson DiManche, Jared Marks and Joe Olsen. DiManche is an outside linebacker who had 253 tackles and 30 sacks over the span of three seasons. 

Defensive backs Keith Anglin and James M'Fadden round out the defensive class. While Lennon said cornerback is the most difficult position to recruit, he believes both players fit the Gateway style of play.

Lennon said he was happy with the way the recruiting class turned out and is excited to see what it brings to spring practices. “I’m not saying it’s great and I’ll never blow up a class and make it seem like it’s going to be the promised group that will lead us, but this is a good, solid football class,” Lennon said. “I feel very good having these young men come into our program.”

Most of those men will have to wait to see action on Saturdays. Lennon has a class come from 11 states. While in North Dakota, Lennon was known for recruiting close to home, as most players came from North Dakota, Minnesota or Michigan.

Lennon said he wants to recruit the best local talent in future classes and work his way out from there.

“I would hope that we can definitively have a strong local presence on the team, continue to recruit from the backyard and then work out,” Lennon said. “I think a seven-state class would probably be a little more expected in the future, but again we’re going to go where we feel the top athletes are going to be.”

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

FRESHMAN FORWARD KATRINA SWINGER SETS UP FOR A SHOT DURING PRACTICE Monday morning at SIU Arena  
By Dave Krusche  
Daily Egyptian

Matt Harrington can be reached at 536-3311 ext. 282 or mhartwig@siu.edu.

SALUKIS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 20

DE:  
What is your biggest pet peeve?  
JB:  
Lying. I hate people that lie.

DE:  
I’m going to let a few of your teammates and give me the first word that comes to mind. Wesley Clemmons.

JB:  
My dawg. Comes and shoots late at night. Me and him. I guess you could say, are the same on the court.

DE:  
Tyroe Green.

JB: He’s my big brother. Strong. And gets the team fired up.

DE:  
Carlton Fay.

JB: Pretty boy Carlton. We call him NSYNC. Yeah, that’s why he is. 

DE:  
Don Coopwood.

JB: My little big brother. He’s kind of short. Kind of a dancer and a comic.

DE:  
What’s in your refrigerator right now?  
JB: Milk, apples, miracle whip. That’s about it. I don’t have anything in there.

DE:  
Do you have any pre-game rituals?  
JB: Listen to music. Listen to a lot of Lil’ Wayne and Gucci Mane.  

DE: What’s one thing you can’t live without?  
JB: My family and basketball.

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**SWINGER CONTINUED**  
**PAGE 20**
**SIU prepares for busy weekend**

**Luis C. Medina**

The SIU track and field team is preparing for another two-day meet this weekend, and Connie Price-Smith couldn’t be more thrilled.

The Salukis are hosting the McDonald’s Invitational Friday and Saturday and will go against Division I teams including Jackson State, Memphis and Southeast Missouri State. SIU was successful in its most recent two-day meet at the Indiana Relays. Price-Smith said she sees positives in two-day events.

“Competing on back-to-back days is good for the athletes to get ready for conference,” Price-Smith said. “It keeps them competitively sharp and ready to go.”

Despite a strong showing at the Indiana Relays, the SIU women’s track team fell four spots to No. 19 in the U.S. Track & Field Cross Country Coaches Association Top 25. Price-Smith said the ranking was nice, but she wants to continue to focus on each meet.

Sophomore Jeff Schirmer, who won the 3,000-meter run and freshman Brandon Deloney, who finished second in the 200-meter dash, were among 12 Salukis who qualified for finals in their respective events. Price-Smith said the meet was great for all the athletes.

Senior throwers Joe Mueller, Brittany Riley and Benton Stiemons dominated the throws competitions, picking up victories in the men’s and women’s weight throw and men’s shot put, respectively.

SIU is turning to a former athlete for another two-day meet this weekend. Former Ohio State thrower Ketarah Lofton has been working with the Salukis this week, providing a different point of view and focusing on each thrower’s technique at practice.

Lofton said she hopes to get through to the throwers by giving positive reinforcement after every throw. Junior Ryan Shanemaker said working with Lofton helps him focus on technique rather than “brute force,” while senior Brittany Riley said she is learning through Lofton’s example.

“Coach might say something, but I can say it in a different way and hopefully it can click with someone,” Lofton said. “What I say I can back it up by doing it and people can appreciate that.”

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**Assistant coach Matt Sparks times Nick Waninger during a practice lap at the Recreation Center. The Track team is warming up for the McDonald’s Invitational this weekend.**

Jason Johnson
DAILY EGYPTIAN
Lennon welcomes new Salukis

2008 class boasts variety of positions, backgrounds

Jeff Engelhardt Daily Egyptian

After 504 hours of watching film, traveling and shaking hands, coach Dale Lennon finally reached his goal.

Lennon announced the Salukis’ recruiting class Wednesday that included a total of 19 players from 11 states. The class is a mixture of players Lennon targeted while in North Dakota and players who were interested in SIU before he got the coaching position.

Lennon credited his staff for making a usually long process happen in the span of three weeks and is glad the chaotic period is over.

“We would have been a perfect cast for a reality TV show,” Lennon said. “We have seven of us coaches living together right now, sleeping on the floor and trying to move our families down here and trying to recruit a class at the same time.”

Despite the tight schedule, Lennon said the 2008 class should complement the roster of returning players well and offer a few impact players.

First-year SIU head football coach Dale Lennon speaks at a press conference regarding plans for the upcoming season. Lennon’s first recruiting class featured 19 players from 11 different states.

Offense

Ten of the 19 players coming in will play on the offensive side of the ball. The majority will be on the offensive line with a total of four players, but the impact players are expected to be at wide receiver and running back.

After losing four wide outs over the offseason, SIU will welcome three wide receivers. Marc Cheatham is a 6-foot-2 transfer from University of Florida with two years of eligibility. He caught 25 passes for 452 yards and five touchdowns in 10 games at Laney College.

The Salukis added height to the receiving corps with a pair of 6-foot-4 freshmen in David Lewis and Luke Stundiford. Lewis had 50 receptions, 818 yards and 10 touchdowns last season while Stundiford earned all-conference honors as a wide receiver and defensive back.

Running back Anton Wilkins is a two-time Upstate Eight Conference Offensive MVP. He had 1,485 rushing yards and 20 touchdowns last season. He graduated from Nequa Valley High School with 3,584 all-purpose yards and 24 touchdowns.

Quarterback Taylor Beasley and tight end Christian Hanna round out the recruits on offense. Beasley led all schools in Florida during the 2005 season when he passed for 2,536 yards and 24 touchdowns. Hanna played in the Max Eference All-American Bowl and Lennon said he is a strong blocker.

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Women’s Basketball

Swinger gives SIU a foundation

Matt Hartwig Daily Egyptian

Katrina Swinger may not fill up the stat box like her freshman counterparts, but she does have one thing that should help her standout for years to come.

Her height.

The 6-foot forward from Tempe, Ariz., has used her height advantage to climb into the SIU women’s basketball team’s starting lineup and give coach Dana Ekenberg something to look forward to in the future.

Ekenberg said between October and February, Swinger has made impressive progress.

“In high school she was a face-up player,” Ekenberg said. “We’re asking her to play with her back to the basket. So not only is she changing a mental approach to the game, she’s been thrown into the fray with the physical approach.”

Swinger netted four points on 2-of-4 shooting against Northern Iowa Jan. 31 and followed that up with another four-point performance in a 76-19 loss to Bradley.

While the numbers probably won’t get anyone excited, she is currently SIU’s best active shooter at 50 percent a game.

Senior guard Jayme Swearer has worked closely with Swinger in practice and said she’s always ready and willing to learn and get better.

“She really works hard at understanding the game and advancing herself that way, as well as getting a feel for the pace of college play,” Swearer said. “We’re trying not to overwhelm our freshmen with having to do too much. We don’t need them to come in and score 20 points a night.”

See SWINGLER, Page 18

15 minutes with ...

Josh Bone

Megan Kramer Daily Egyptian

At this time last season, sophomore guard Josh Bone was recruiting—facing a season-ending knee injury.

Now he’s one of SIU’s leading scorers averaging 7.7 points and has started all but six games this season. The Daily Egyptian recently sat down with Bone to discuss his friendship with former teammate and Golden State Warrior Brandan Wright and his favorite sub from Jimmy John’s.

DAILY EGYPTIAN: Did you think at this time last year you would have a starting position on the team?

JOSH BONE: I always knew I had a chance to get the starting position but I didn’t know it was going to come so soon.

DE: If you could play for any coach besides Chris Lowery who would it be and why?

J: Brandan Wright (Tennessee basketball). He’s got a great approach.

DE: How many tattoos do you have?

J: Five.

DE: Do you plan on getting any more?

J: Yeah. I’m not done yet.

DE: If there were a movie made about your life, who gets the starring role?

J: Terrence Howard.

DE: All right, it’s late and you’re hungry. Who’s your cooking choice?

J: Right now I’d probably call Jimmy John’s. Italian Nightclub No. 9. It’s nice.

DE: Do you ever get nervous before tip-off?

J: Oh yeah. Well I haven’t been getting nervous lately, but the Creighton game I was nervous.

But I think everyone should get a little butterflies in games like that.

DE: Why did you pick No. 4 as your number?

J: I don’t know. I guess I always had 23 for all of my life and I thought it was time for a change so I picked a number where I didn’t know anyone really famous or really big in the number in the pros. I just wanted to create something of my own.

See BONE, Page 18

Freshman forward Katrina Swinger runs through a defensive drill during practice Monday morning at the SIU Arena. Swinger was a key player in the Jan. 20, game scoring 10 points when the Salukis hosted Creighton.