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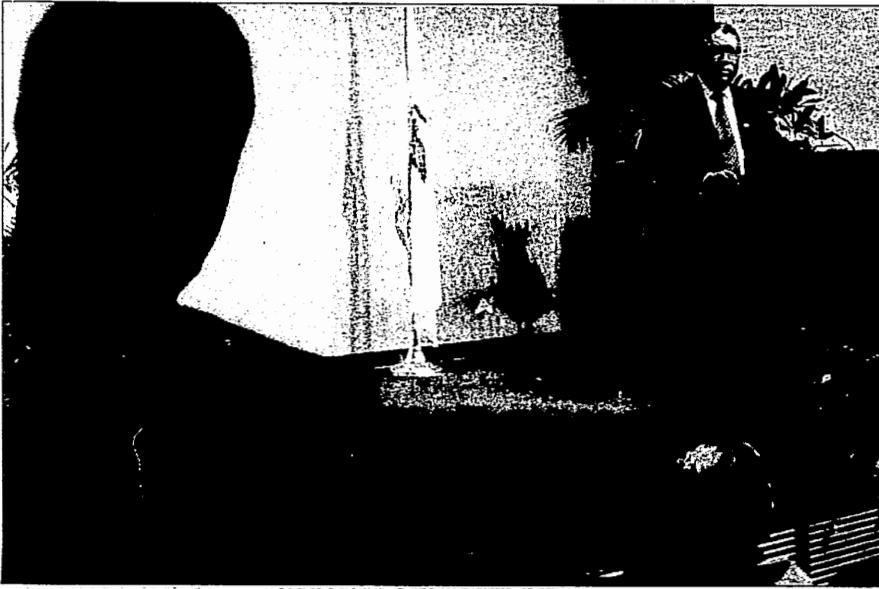
WEDNESDAY DAILY EGYPTIAN

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

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JANUARY 24, 2001

DAILYEGYPTIAN.COM



JESSICA KOLEB - DAILY EGYPTIAN

SIUC President James Walker spoke Tuesday with faculty, students, and staff at the Student Center Auditorium. Walker fielded questions from the gathering for more than an hour and a half in an effort to better grasp issues and concerns of the University community.

Walker discusses issues with SIUC community

ANNE MARIE TAVELLA
DAILY EGYPTIAN

Even when the lights blinked out, and SIUC President James Walker stood in a pitch black auditorium, he still wanted to focus on the "brighter side" of SIUC's future.

The momentary darkness occurred during Walker's opening statements to an open forum with faculty, staff and students Tuesday in the Student Center Auditorium.

Walker requested those who attended the forum to discuss SIUC's strengths, major challenges in the short and long term and how SIUC should be perceived in 2010.

After the forum, Walker was pleased and called it a success.

"I think people were very responsive in the comments they made and had really

thought through what they wanted to do," Walker said.

Faculty, staff and students presented concerns and comments on topics from faculty recruitment to minority issues for more than an hour and a half, with Walker attempting to provide thoughtful and often jovial responses.

When a transfer student expressed disappointment with dining halls and her transfer credits, Walker said he hoped she was not misled intentionally, and provided a personal anecdote.

"There were people who told me it never snows in Carbondale, and if it does, it melts in one day," Walker said. "And these people were on the Board of Trustees."

Although the auditorium was nearly filled, few of the speakers and attendees were students. Walker said he had hoped

more students would attend, but was still pleased with the students who did participate.

"The [students] that spoke were very articulate and represented themselves very well," Walker said.

The students who spoke addressed topics including disability services, the Student Conduct Code, environmental issues and minority issues.

Victoria Grayson, a senior in radio-television and journalism from Chicago, voiced concerns about the possible revisions to the Student Conduct Code, which remove students' right to appeal to the Board of Trustees.

The other point Grayson addressed was

SEE WALKER, PAGE 2

Chicago native considers running for governor, courts Southern Illinois

MOLLY PARKER
DAILY EGYPTIAN

Rep. Rod Blagojevich, D-Chicago, visited SIUC Tuesday to speak with the Southern Illinois community about his possible quest to become Illinois' next governor.

Blagojevich addressed several issues of concern of the rural southern districts such as equal education funding, the infrastructure of roads and increasing tourism.

"I would like to see a four-lane highway to connect Carbondale with the Metro East area," he said.

Blagojevich also said that he would like to see an airport that would connect Marion and Carbondale residents with Nashville and St. Louis, though Williamson County Airport already connects residents to Nashville and St. Louis on a daily basis.

Visiting places around the state and gathering information and concerns from patrons is

the first step in a long process of making a final decision to run for governor, Blagojevich said.

"Next, I have to make sure everyone can pronounce my name, bla-GOYA-vich," he said laughing.

Blagojevich expressed opposition to the current administration of the state under Gov. George Ryan. A Democratic governor would give Illinois a new direction after 25 years of Republican precedence, he said.

Although he commended Ryan for several of his positions on pressing issues such as putting a halt to the death penalty until further investigation of the appeals process, he had conflicting interests with Ryan on issues of funding education and transportation.

Illinois First, the governor's plan to provide infrastructure of roads, schools, and transit, is a good step in the process of bettering funding for Illinois, but it is not a completed process, Blagojevich said.

The plan doesn't provide a long-term vision in what is a constantly changing world,"

Blagojevich said.

Blagojevich did not yet have a developed plan to initiate such a long term goal of leading the state of Illinois into a prosperous state of equal education and excellent road conditions, but he did have clear stance on issues of school vouchers and gun control.

Blagojevich opposes President Bush's plan of school vouchers, which provides parents with federal funds to send their children to private schools. The emphasis should be put on ensuring that all school are adequate for the educational needs of students, he said.

The problem with the equality of schools in Illinois is that funding for education relies too heavily on property taxes, he said.

"There are great disparities and saving inequalities between school districts," Blagojevich said.

Politicians have addressed the possibility of

SEE BLAGOJEVICH, PAGE 6

Simon shares experience with Bush

President reaches across party lines for advice

MARK LAMBIIRD
DAILY EGYPTIAN

After months of campaigning on a platform of bipartisanship, President George W. Bush wasted no time in seeking input from Democrats — and SIUC's own Paul Simon was one of them.

Director of the Public Policy Institute and former U.S. Senator Simon was one of six individuals Bush invited to the White House Monday to discuss issues including education, increased student aid and minority concerns. Simon said he believed the reason he was asked to attend revolved from his personal friendship with Vice President Dick Cheney.

Simon noted that during the hour and fifteen minute meeting Bush's main objective was to reach out to Democrats, and added that the president was more interested in listening to his guests than pushing his objectives.

"I was impressed that he reached out this early in his administration," Simon said.

Along with Simon were former Ohio Sen. John Glenn, former national Democratic Party chairman Robert Strauss, former press secretary to President Carter Jody Powell, former U.S. Representative and CEO of the United Negro College Fund William Gray and Richard Moe, former top aid to Vice President Mondale.

Associate Director of the Public Policy Institute Mike Lawrence said the president chose these individuals because they have been in positions of leadership; however, they no longer have to worry about how a meeting like this would affect their re-election.

"The individuals the president met with have been involved in the process, they now have enough distance that they can offer advice," Lawrence said.

One of the top issues discussed was education. The president would like more funding for math and science without dictating curriculum to school districts, Simon said.

During the meeting it also became clear that the president was concerned about minority support of his administration. Rep. Gray discussed specifics of reaching out to the minority community and those who felt disenfranchised by the November election.

Bush is preparing legislation on the issues he highlighted during his campaign and will be requesting congressional action soon, Simon said. But Simon said that with Congress and the nation closely divided the president will have a hard time enacting some of his programs.

After the meeting ended Simon pointed out to the president that Simon's son, Martin, a photographer for a news agency, was among the press photographers at the meeting. Photographers are in a rotational pool that allows different ones to have access to the president.

"It was pure coincidence that I happened to be in the pool Tuesday," Martin said.

After the conclusion of the meeting Bush gave Martin a big thumbs up and said he hopes to see him again.



Simon

DAILY EGYPTIAN

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WALKER

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

minority student organizations, who feel they are not supported by the University.

She said she tried to get more students from these organizations to attend the forum and express their concerns.

"I wish more students would have come," Grayson said.

During the forum, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management Larry Dietz requested that students who were experiencing problems to speak with him after the forum.

Dietz said concerns about transfer credits and student employment are long term issues to be dealt with, but that individual student problems could be addressed in the short term.

The faculty speakers discussed issues including poorly-funded colleges and programs, the Core Curriculum, faculty salaries and retention and graduate student funding.

Faculty Association President Morteza Daneshdoost made two points during the forum.

The first point was that the reputation of the University is directly related to the quality of instruction from the faculty and staff. The second point was made through a petition Daneshdoost presented to Walker, which about 450 faculty had signed, Daneshdoost said.

"The faculty must be treated with respect, must be paid the

same as their peers and must not live in the constant fear of losing their undergraduate and graduate programs due to a reduction in faculty lines," Daneshdoost said in describing the petition.

The Halloween riots were also mentioned during the forum as an area where SIU's image needs improvement.

Debbie Perry, a field representative in New Student Admissions, said SIU should utilize its Marketing Department when dealing with Halloween and not spend a half a million dollars on a firm with no ties to SIU.

Walker said he knew of no plans of hiring any firms and that Halloween would be addressed.

"For a half a million we can get Halloween taken off the calendar," Walker said jokingly.

The forum is one of three Walker will be conducting to assist him in creating a vision plan for the University. The next two forums will be Jan. 31 at SIU-Edwardsville and the SIU School of

It was nice to see President Walker walk in front of the room and put everyone at ease.

BEN SYFERT
 Undergraduate Student Trustee

Medicine. After the forums at the other campuses, Walker plans on having focus sessions with faculty, staff and community members. He said he hopes to have a draft of SIU's shared vision plan completed in April.

Undergraduate Student Trustee Ben Syfert said the forum was very exciting to watch.

"It was nice to see President Walker walk in front of the room and put everybody at ease," Syfert said.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

TODAY

Scholastic Books Book Fair
 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
 Wham 219

Public Relations Student Society of America Meeting
 4:30 p.m.
 Cambria Room-Student Center

Women's Midlife Career Development
 4:30-6 p.m.
 Woody Hall 306 A

Model United Nations Meeting
 5 p.m.
 Iroquois Room-Student Center

SIUC Skydiving Club Meeting
 8 p.m.
 Quatro's pizza

THURSDAY

Scholastic Books Book Fair
 noon-7 p.m.
 Wham 219

SIUC Choirs Choral Auditions
 1-3 p.m.
 Altgeld Hall 115

Women's Basketball vs. Indiana State
 7:05 p.m.
 SIU Arena.

Windsurfing Club Meeting
 8 p.m.
 Activity Room B - 3rd Floor Student Center

Only public events affiliated with SIU are printed in the Daily Egyptian Calendar. The editors reserve the right not to print any submitted item. RSO and departmental events will be printed in the Daily Egyptian Online Calendar at www.dailyegyptian.com.

Calendar item deadline is two publication days before the event. The item must include time, date, place, admission and sponsor of the event and the name and phone of the person submitting the item. Items should be delivered to Communications Building, Room 1247, or faxed to 453-8244. No calendar information will be taken over the phone.

WEATHER

WEDNESDAY:

Partly Cloudy
 High: 44
 Low: 21

THURSDAY:

Mostly Sunny
 High: 37
 Low: 26

FRIDAY:

Mostly Cloudy
 High: 48
 Low: 31

SATURDAY:

Partly Cloudy
 High: 47
 Low: 31

POLICE BLOTTER

UNIVERSITY

A weed eater was reported stolen Monday from the Physical Plant. Police have no suspects, and the loss was valued at \$240.

CARBONDALE

A Carbondale man reported that his white 1989 Oldsmobile Cutlass Sierra was stolen sometime after 4 p.m. Monday from his residence in the 500 block of South Rawling Street. At 1:45 a.m. Tuesday, the Illinois State Police (Chicago District) notified Carbondale Police the vehicle had been located and stopped. The vehicle was impounded by the State Police and the driver, Marshaan McClelland, 26, of Champaign, was arrested and charged with auto theft.

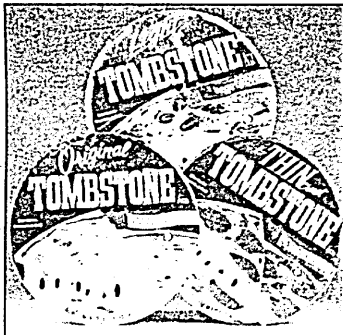
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Readers who spot an error in a news article should contact the Daily Egyptian Accuracy Desk at 536-3311, extension 228 or 229.

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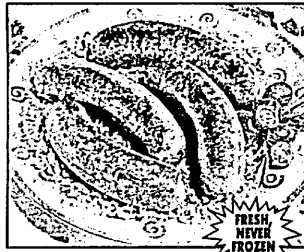
1.19 Dean's DIPS
 12-16 oz. carton-All varieties



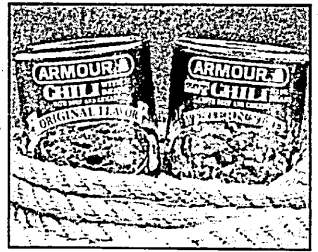
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 3.6-6.5 oz. can-Balls or curls-
 All varieties

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 12.25-13.25 oz. bag-
 Selected varieties



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 Jumbo pack-Fresh storemade!



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NEWS IN BRIEF

CARBONDALE

Model Illinois government to meet Thursday

Students interested in Illinois' legislative process are invited to join Model Illinois Government or MIG. MIG is a statewide organization aimed at giving a hands-on experience of the state legislature. Students can become involved in various roles including legislator, lobbyist, journalist, attorney judge and various positions of party, committee and chamber leadership.

The SIUC delegation of MIG will have a meeting today at 5 p.m. in the Student Center Activity Room A.

For more information, please contact Heather at 351-9382.

Bomb scare evacuates local pawnshop

SIUC and Carbondale's joint bomb disposal unit responded to a call after a suitcase was dropped outside a local pawnshop Monday.

Employees at Midwest Cash, 1200 W. Main St., were alerted to the suitcase by a customer about 5:30 p.m. The suspect placed the suitcase next to the buildings door, jumped in a vehicle and fled. Carbondale Police responded to the scene, and because of the nature of the incident, Midwest Cash and the surrounding area was evacuated and the bomb disposal unit was notified.

Bomb disposal officers examined the device, and were able to safely open the suitcase using explosive devices. No explosives were found, and the area was declared safe around 9 p.m.

Rotary club promotes international studies

The Rotary Club of District 6510 in Southern Illinois, will sponsor The Rotary Ambassadorial Scholarship for 2002-2003. Rotary International supports programs to further international understanding and friendly relations with people of different countries.

The scholarship subsidizes round-trip transportation, tuition, fees and home-stay expenses, valuing about \$25,000 for an academic year.

To be eligible, students must have completed at least two years of college, have a permanent home address in District 6510 and be proficient in the language of the country to be visited.

Applications must be returned by April 15, 2000. Family members of Rotary members are not eligible. For more information contact Jackie King at 549-5703.

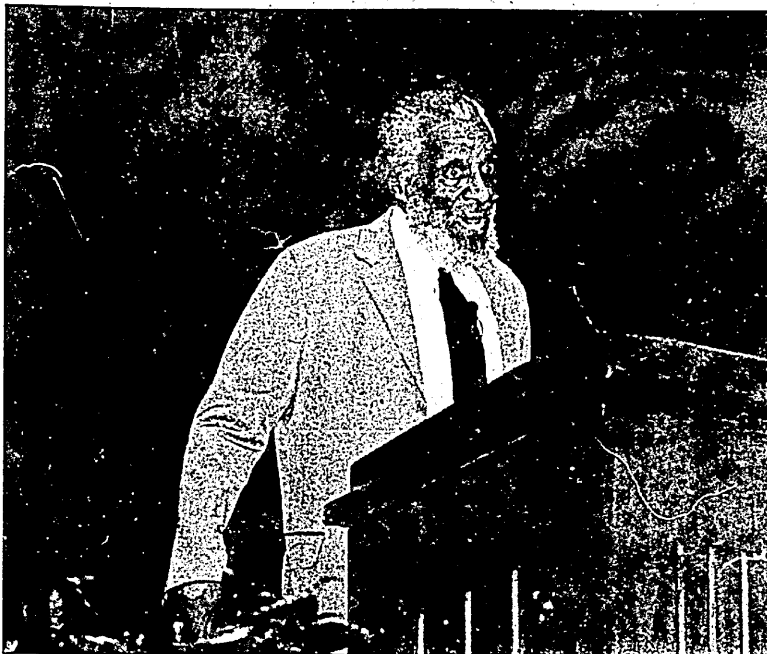
Double header at Kleinau

The Speech Communication Department will sponsor "Double Bill," two one-person shows, at 8 p.m. Thursday, Friday and Saturday at Kleinau Theatre.

The show will cost \$5 for the general public or \$3 with a student I.D. To make reservations contact Kate at 453-5618.

Burn up the floor country line dancing

The Carbondale Park District will be host to beginning line dancing lessons from 6 to 7:30 p.m., Feb. 1 and Feb. 8 at the LIFE Community Center, 2500 Sunset Dr. The class is designed for individuals age 55 and up to kick up their heels learning the popular '90s dance, line dancing.



EULALIE FRYE - DAILY EGYPTIAN

Leading civil rights activist and comedian Dick Gregory delivers a presentation at the Student Center Tuesday. Gregory's lecture kept the audience laughing through serious issues.

Gregory to students: take the lead

CARLY HEMPHILL
DAILY EGYPTIAN

Dick Gregory came back to his alma mater Tuesday night to encourage students to follow his example in helping the University and the nation.

Using his involvement in civil rights as a guide for young people to stop racism, Gregory addressed problems in society through his humorous story telling.



EULALIE FRYE - DAILY EGYPTIAN

Gregory, an SIUC alumnus, is a member of the Saluki Sports Hall of Fame. He spent Tuesday making appearances on campus before speaking at the Student Center.

"Racism is this insanity that America can no longer afford," Gregory said to the overflow crowd of more than 600 people at the Student Center.

He stressed that society has come a long way in changing through the civil rights movement, but it is up to the next generation to help the country evolve even more.

"I say to you young people, you have the power," Gregory said. "You young folks better clean this stuff up quick because those old folks left a mess."

Gregory, who is in the Saluki Sports Hall of Fame after a standout track career at SIUC in the 1950s, included current events such as the election and issues such as police brutality to emphasize his point. Although the audience enjoyed his light storytelling, they thought about what he was saying.

"He brought to light a lot of things that people would overlook in everyday life," said Maria Perrone, a junior in painting.

Gregory was born in St. Louis in 1932. He is the author of 15 books, and has also gained notoriety for participating in several fasts to protest social injustices.

He is also regarded as a brilliant comedian, and was the recipient of an SIUC Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters in 1987.

Gregory, who has spent nearly four decades publicly fighting against racism, spent much of Tuesday meeting with various campus groups before delivering his address at the Student Center. His visit was sponsored by the Public Policy Institute.

Despite experiencing racism in his years as a student in Carbondale, Gregory thanked the institution and the black community in Southern Ill' nois for his life and the support they gave him, and said the nation still has hope.

"I do not believe we've gone beyond the point of no return," Gregory said.

“ You young folks better clean this stuff up quick because those old folks left a mess.”

DICK GREGORY
social activist

Transportation Education Center still not on top of SIUC'S priority list

Development that could create better facilities for students on back burner

ANDREA PARKER
DAILY EGYPTIAN

The SIU automotive technology program has been ranked No. 1 in the nation and the intercollegiate flight program is highest in the Midwest, but if the proposed SIUC Transportation Education Center is not built soon, the acclaim of both programs are likely to cease.

TEC is a \$35 million project that would combine the operations of SIUC's Aviation and Automotive Departments at the Southern Illinois Airport. It would be 12 acres and the main building would have classrooms, corporate training

facilities and meeting rooms, computer center, libraries, lounges, drive-through laboratories, a flight simulator, auditorium and an upper level suite of faculty offices.

It has been proposed for four years, but it is a possibility the construction will not go under way for another five years.

Because the Carterville campus is 62 years old, outdated, and lacks classroom space, the TEC committee believes this is reason enough to build the TEC.

"We just don't want a space to store equipment. We also want to bring students and faculty together, which is needed for quality," said Elaine Vitello, dean of the College of Applied Sciences and Arts. "There is only one classroom on campus dedicated to aviation management."

TEC will create four new buildings and increase potential student enrollment by 800 for the departments, where now about 200 students are on the waiting list because of a lack of class-

room space. TEC would create an extra 10 classrooms.

The project has yet to receive support from SIUC, but because the project is ranked No. 5 on SIUC's project list behind reconstruction of the Morris Library, they have to wait until the summer or fall 2001.

The state government also has yet to fund the educational project because they will not fund TEC until the committee has received \$3.5 million from private donations. The project will receive most of its money from the state government.

David NewMyer, aviation management and flight chair, said the committee last week did a PowerPoint presentation for Cyberdale, a community-based organization, to receive moral and community support, and plans to do more this semester.

From presentations and proposals the TEC project has received \$2 million, but not in cash.

They have received a 747 commercial airplane from United Airlines and numerous car donations.

"I am glad the departments receive cars and airplanes, but we need cash," NewMyer said.

The little cash the committee has received is from United Airlines, Byerly Aviation, Frasca Aviation and Boeing. Members are seeking money from other various companies, asking for \$500,000 to \$1 million from each.

NewMyer said although things are taking a long time to get started he is still keeping a positive outlook on the project. But with the same tongue NewMyer said if the project is not built in this decade the automotive technology and aviation program will come to an end.

"I am not going to complain; I do believe TEC will be built," he said. "I must have that kind of attitude."

Once the construction is finished, the Carterville campus is scheduled to be demolished.

OUR WORD

Student-Athlete -- in that order

There is an assumption among some that college athletics is just a minor-league farm system for professional sports, that a student-athlete's batting average is more important than whether he can calculate a batting average.

SIU's Athletic Department has heard this sort of criticism before, as graduation rates among athletes had not been at the level of other Division I schools. As recently as 1999, however, SIUC saw its graduation rates exceed the national average for student-athletes. Academic requirements for student-athletes have not only been tightened, they now exceed NCAA standards for cumulative grade point average.

Moreover, SIUC's academic requirements for athletes are among the strictest in the Missouri Valley Conference. Student-athletes at SIUC have a wide range of services available to them, including tutoring programs and priority status for advisement and registration. Overall, these measures have served to strengthen academic performance. The spring 2000 semester saw 49 percent of SIUC athletes achieve a GPA of 3.0 or better, with 67 athletes making the Dean's List.

This kind of academic progress among SIUC athletes in general makes last week's loss of four baseball players for academic reasons all the more unfortunate. Had these players made sufficient use of the myriad of services available to them, such as the mandatory "study tables," a kind of

monitored study hall for athletes with less than a 2.25 GPA, they might still be on the team today. As baseball coach Dan Callahan said, it's not a matter of intelligence, but of effort and discipline. Student-athletes are among the most visible members of the University community, and their actions do reflect on the Athletic Department as well as SIUC.



Athletic Director Paul Kowalzyk inherited a department operating under a deficit of nearly \$1 million, as well as sports facilities in desperate need of repair. The University overall has been struggling in terms of recruitment and fund raising, and the correlation between a strong Athletic Department and increased total revenue for the University along with a positive influence on new student recruitment cannot be denied.

The message has been sent that the University does not look the other way when it comes to poor academic performance among its athletes. The point has been made that student-athletes are not only just as accountable for classroom performance as any student, but perhaps even more so, as their records are audited twice each semester to ensure scholastic progress. In the end, it must be clear that the events of last week were caused by a lack of individual effort, and not the collective compromise of academic standards for the sake of victory.

LETTER

SIUC student thanks friends after husband's passing

DEAR EDITOR:

I would like to extend a deep heartfelt thank you to members of the SIU community. When I called and told them of the news of my husband's death, Rev. Phillip Boots, Director of Apostolic Life Campus Ministries, they expressed concern and helped in many ways.

First, thank you to Jackie Bailey, academic adviser for the College of Education, who contacted my professors and my cooperating teacher as I began student teaching this semester. A special thank you to Dr. Lynn Smith, Dr. James Jackson and Mrs. Janet Wicker who attended the memorial service held January 4th. Also thank you Dr. Waggoner for that hug in your office. Jackie, I am also thankful that you signed paperwork so that I could graduate or walk Dec. 16th. Phillip got to be there. He died 16 days later.

Second, a thank you to a precious group of people on campus whose fellowship and friendship meant a lot to my husband. The ministers of the Ministerial Alliance, who when I e-mailed them the news, I received their prayers and support immediately. The flowers, the cards, the visits and those who helped me move from Evergreen Terrace to Southern Hills so I could settle in before the start of the semester were all appreciated. I had asked God for angels with muscles and because He does not change, He answered that prayer. Thank you for making sure every box got to my new place unbroken and unopened. Again, Phillip valued and loved you all.

Third, a thank you to the Housing staff that helped me during Phillip's illness, his death at our home and the move from Evergreen to Southern Hills. Hats off to Dorothy, Joanne, Elyse, Jamie and Ruth. Oh, and even the crews that repaired items in the apartment and removed furniture. I am grateful that Phillip was permitted to remain in our home in Evergreen Terrace while in the last stages of cancer. We had been so hopeful that we would be getting a liver transplant. News from the doctor on December 27th told us otherwise.

Lastly, but just as important, a thank you to members of the Apostolic Life Church of Carbondale. Your cards, prayers, visits and meals helped during a time where when my immediate family was and is out of state, your arms of compassion enveloped and surrounded me in love. Your church was Phillip's home and he loved working for God while attending there.

Again, from my heart, thank you.
Abbie Boots
Senior, Elementary Education

COLUMNIST

Don't ditch the Electoral College

On Saturday George W. Bush was inaugurated as the 43rd president of the United States. This historic event — and the controversy surrounding the 2000 presidential election — was a fitting occasion to reflect on the role of the electoral college in our system of government. Two of my colleagues, Sen. Richard Durbin, D-Ill, and Rep. Ray LaHood, R-Peoria, have introduced a constitutional amendment to abolish that unique institution, and they were recently joined in their efforts by Sen. Hillary Clinton, D-New York.

I respectfully disagree with my colleagues. The Electoral College functions exactly as our Constitution's framers intended and serves several important and ingenious purposes. There have been more than 700 attempts to eliminate or substantially modify the Electoral College. For very good reasons, none has ever succeeded.

One of the primary effects of the Electoral College is that it helps ensure that our chief executive is a truly national leader. By requiring the president to win a set of states that represents a majority of America, the Electoral College forces candidates to campaign across the entire country and to appeal to the whole nation. Our founding fathers feared the election of a sectional or factional leader as

president, and their fears are no less relevant today. Without the Electoral College, a candidate could run as the favorite son of one section of the country. By winning an overwhelming majority in his home region, he could win the presidency without substantial support in the rest of America. While other candidates running national campaigns split the rest of the vote, the sectional candidate could win a plurality simply by racking up votes in one area. Under the Electoral College system, this scenario is virtually impossible. A candidate who ekes out a national

plurality by getting 85 percent of the votes in, say, me South, but who runs poorly in the rest of the country would lose — as Samuel Tilden and Grover Cleveland found out in 1876 and 1888 respectively. The Electoral College wisely encourages candidates to run nationwide campaigns, and thereby guards against the Balkanization of the United States.

A second important effect of the Electoral College is that it promotes majority rule while protecting minority interests. The

Constitution's framers sought to protect the small states by guaranteeing them a voice in the system. By scaling off votes by state, the Electoral College makes each state a prize for which it is worth competing. All the votes in West Virginia or Iowa may not matter much... the popular vote total, but when these states offer five and seven electoral votes — either of which would have been decisive in

the recent election — even sparsely populated areas cannot be ignored. The Electoral College also amplifies the voice of minorities

within large states. African Americans and farmers, for example, are not majority populations in the United States. But under the Electoral College system, they can help determine the outcome in several large states. Because of the Electoral College, these groups have a say in the election of our president. Although the majority still rules, minorities need not be discounted and must be courted. Witness the genius of the founders.

Under our Constitution,

majority rule is not an absolute. Instead, it is leavened with substantial protections for the minority. The Bill of Rights, for example, blocks even majority-backed government action, if that action intrudes upon a minority's fundamental rights. And because of the Constitution's separation of powers, new laws must receive support not just from a majority of Congressmen — who represent districts of equal size — but also from a majority of Senators, who represent states, and the concurrence of the president.

The occasional difference between the electoral and popular vote tallies is a small price to pay for a system that helps preserve national unity and gives small groups significant voices and protections in our presidential contests. (And which, in this very tight election, has spared us the utter chaos of a possible national recount!) Because three-fourths of the states are needed to amend the Constitution, no change in the current system is likely in any event. But for the principles it serves, the Electoral College deserves our support.

Peter Fitzgerald is a U.S. Senator from Illinois. His views do not necessarily reflect those of the DAILY EGYPTIAN.



BY PETER FITZGERALD

Guest Column

READER COMMENTARY

* LETTERS AND COLUMNS must be typewritten, double-spaced and submitted with author's photo ID. All letters are limited to 300 words and guest columns to 500 words. Any topics are accepted. All are subject to editing.

* We reserve the right to not publish any letter or column.

* LETTERS taken by e-mail (editor@siu.edu) and fax (453-8244).

* Phone number needed (not for publication) to verify authorship. STUDENTS must include year and major. FACULTY must include rank and department. NON-ACADEMIC STAFF include position and department. OTHERS include author's hometown.

* Bring letters and guest columns to the DAILY EGYPTIAN newsroom, Communications Building Room 1247.

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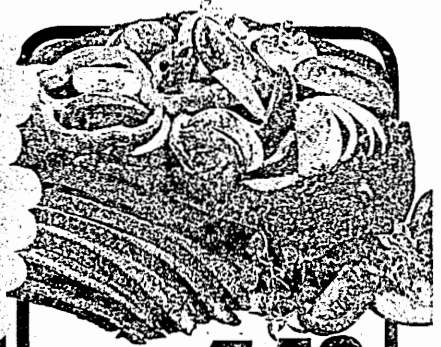


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The year of the SNAKE is upon us

Chinese students encourage others to join New Year's customs

EMILY OSTENDORF
DAILY EGYPTIAN

Those wearing red as they read this are in for a lucky year, according to Chinese custom.

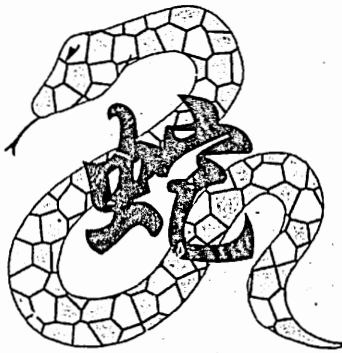
Today, Chinese New Year's Day marks the first day of the first month in the lunar calendar system. The color red helps usher in good fortune during the 15 day new year celebration, Spring Festival, which also commences this day.

Many customs and traditions are carried out during the holiday. People take care to avoid activities that will cause bad luck in the coming year. Those who follow custom refrain from foul language and unlucky words referring to illness and dying.

"Tradition stays the same, but since you're not at home, most people don't think about the superstitions," said Mike Hwang, a native of Taiwan who has been living in Carbondale since 1986.

While many older Chinese people remember the superstitions diligently, to Hwang, these practices are "more like a type of story."

One custom that Hwang follows is the giving



and receiving of ya shui qian, little red envelopes with crisp dollar bills inside. Ya shui qian are traditionally given to children for good fortune.

"It's the only way to get money besides your birthday," Hwang said, laughing.

The ya shui qian are given to help children avoid illness according to Letian Chen, a graduate student in computer science from Fuzhou, China.

"It will help them get through the year in good health," Chen said.

Decorations in red also flourish because red is the color for good luck.

Other traditional decorations include live plants to symbolize rebirth and new growth, as well as blossoms to represent wealth and high position in one's career.

The main highlight for many during the New Year is the chance to gather with friends and family.

"Chinese New Year is just like the American Christmas and the New Year. All family come home and gather together," said Han-Chao Hwang, high level Tai Chi master and Mike's father.

Chen remembers the festivities for the great meals shared during this time.

"Everyone has a very big dinner. It is like Thanksgiving," Chen said.

Chinese dumplings is a favorite new year's food for Chen. The dish represents the reunion of friends and family because the meat and vegetables are wrapped together.

This year families will gather together to welcome the Year of the Snake. People born in this year are said to be charming and popular with excellent manners. They are known to be intellectuals who rely heavily on first impressions and their own feelings rather than facts or the advice

of others.

The Republic of China Student Association will host a Chinese New Year celebration at 5:30 p.m. on Saturday at the Newman Catholic Student Center, 715 S. Washington St. The program will include a lion dance, traditional Chinese music, dinner by Super Buffet, speech by Shing-Chung Yen, an engineering professor, riddle-guessing, prizes and karaoke.

The event is open to students, faculty and members of the community. Tickets are \$12 and cover the cost of the buffet dinner and door prizes.

The Chinese Student Association will also be hosting a celebration at 7 p.m. on Feb. 2 at the Carbondale Civic Center, 200 S. Illinois Ave. Traditional music and dancing will be included in the festivities.

Cultural variances between China and the United States are realized by Chinese students, but the holiday remains the same.

"The atmosphere for the festival is much stronger in China," Chen said. "but you can feel that atmosphere here."

RESERVATIONS

RESERVATIONS FOR SATURDAY'S CELEBRATION MAY BE MADE BY CALLING MIKE HWANG AT 549-2825 OR ANDY CHANG AT 529-4035. TICKETS FOR THE FEB. 2 FESTIVITIES ARE AVAILABLE BY CALLING THE CENTER FOR TEACHING ABOUT CHINA AT 549-5111.

BLAGOJEVICH

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

decreasing the property tax and increasing the state income tax as a way of providing equal funds for schools, but raising state income taxes is not a good method of increasing school funding, Blagojevich said.

"It is impractical and imprudent to increase the state income tax. It is not a viable alternative to address the problem," Blagojevich said.

Blagojevich introduced the only gun-control legislation to become law during the 105th Congress. The measure allocated \$1.25 million to trace guns found at crime sites and as a result of the legislation, more than 9,000 guns were discovered to be sold in illegal, black market deals.

Blagojevich introduced a bill to the current legislation that would outlaw "Pocket Rockets," which are small guns that are a threat to police officers because they can be easily concealed. He also proposed legislation that would outlaw handguns to all people younger than the age of 21.

Although Blagojevich is tough on gun control, he stressed that his stance is sensitive to the needs of the people of Southern Illinois. He understands the needs of hunters but advocates taking precautions to keep guns out of the hands of criminals.

"Seriously, I want to consider where I can make the most significant contribution," he said.

Accompanied by Sen. Jay Hoffman, D-Collinsville, and U.S. Rep. Jerry Costello, D-Belle Isle, Blagojevich visited several places in Southern Illinois including lunch at the 17th Street Bar and Grill, 32 N. 17th St. in Murphysboro, visit-

ing with students from John A. Logan College and various other members of the Southern Illinois community.

Barb Brown, a lecturer in the political science department and local Democratic State Central Committeewoman, helped coordinate the event to bring the politicians to Southern Illinois.

"My role is to help connect political officials to regional voters," Brown said.

Brown also mentioned that she will be coordinating events for other Democratic leaders in the future who express interest in running for political office.

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BEST BUDDIES



USG set to do some new spring cleaning

CHRISTIAN HALE
DAILY EGYPTIAN

With a full plate of controversy already served, Undergraduate Student Government is starting spring semester with a full dance card of legislation waiting to be heard.

USG's main attraction this semester is the drafting of a new constitution, which is simply the old constitution devoid of redundant and troublesome language.

USG President Bill Archer and USG Senator Lauralee Epplin banged out the new constitution during winter break, with the intent of making the document less confusing. Archer said he and Epplin determined what parts of the previous constitution were unnecessary and eliminated them.

"Of course, it doesn't come without controversy," Archer said. "In particular, some senators have voiced concern over proper procedure concerning the bylaws and how they will be recognized

by the constitution."

The new constitution may not be fully implemented until mid-semester following necessary policy changes and senate approval, Archer said.

While the policy restructuring may take precedence, an area of equal concern is the USG election this spring. Debate was stirred last semester by the appointment of Marty Obst, president of Inter-Greek Council, as election commissioner.

USG Senator Rob Taylor voiced opinions concerning a potential conflict of interest with Obst having two prominent positions in the USG structure. Taylor is presently requesting an investigation be convened to discuss the validity of the Obst appointment.

"Marty Obst is the election commissioner," Archer said. "If anyone

doesn't think so, they are sorely mistaken."

Since being appointed as election commissioner last fall, Obst has pledged to bring integrity to USG elections. Beyond cultivating arbitrary poll watchers from outside political organizations, walkie-talkies will be utilized to keep all poll-watchers and representatives of USG communicating while observing voters.

Obst has notified Archer and USG that because of limitations in the student ID reading system, used by students to cast their ballots, the polling places for this spring's elections will be in the same locations as previous years.

"One idea we've had is to print out lists of registered student voters who can participate in the election and checking their name off as they vote,"

Archer said. "That's one idea, and there is problems with that, as well."

If USG is able to implement a new constitution and cleanly elect its officials, there still will be one more hurdle to clear: spring fee allocations.

USG Finance Committee Chairman Adam Joseph said earlier plans for USG to primarily fund Priority One Registered Student Organizations may be put on hold. Priority One RSOs are "umbrella" organizations that govern smaller organizations that share similar interests.

Archer said the idea behind funding Priority One organizations was to alleviate USG of the burden of dealing with hundreds of requests for funds.

"USG would allocate the money to the Priority One organizations, keep some money held to fund other activities and, of course, keep enough to maintain the office," Archer said. "Right now, we have 10 or less alloca-

tions scheduled."

When asked for confirmation, Joseph declined comment.

"I'm not saying it's not planned anymore," he said. "Right now, we need a few new members on the finance committee and so the decision has to be held until we discuss it."

Joseph said the Finance Committee has lost three members. Two committee members left because of time constraints, while USG member Nathan Stone will be forced to give up his seat when he assumes USG's chief of staff position, pending likely senate approval. Archer said there is some controversy concerning the appointment of Stone as chief of staff. Stone is in Beta Theta Pi, the same fraternity as the new election commissioner.

The first USG meeting of the spring semester will take place at 7 p.m. Wednesday in the Renaissance Room of the SIUC Student Center.

Student leaders to explore the importance of ethics

SARAH ROBERTS
DAILY EGYPTIAN

Leaders of SIUC's Registered Student Organizations will meet with faculty members early next month to probe the value of ethics at the annual Student Development Leadership Symposium.

The seminar, presented each spring, focuses on a specific topic that impacts student leaders. This year's topic is one Student Development Coordinator Paulette Curkin believes is timely and will serve participants long after their college days.

"It's one thing to talk about ethics, but what do you do when you're faced with a question concerning them?" Curkin said.

This year's symposium, presented on Feb. 10 at the Student Center, allows only 60 students to attend in an effort to keep discussions intimate and focused. Registration is still open and operates on a first come, first serve basis. However, no more than five people from one RSO will be accepted in order to maintain a diverse group.

Paul Simon, director of the Public Policy Institute, will open the conference with a keynote address after which participants will

break into discussion groups with philosophy students and faculty. Leaders will then have the opportunity to question a panel of representatives from various facets of campus, including Mike Lawrence, associate director of the Public Policy Institute; Pamela Snot, professor of Black American Studies; Kathy Jones, associate athletic director; and Larry Dietz, vice chancellor for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management.

Lawrence accepted his role in the conference in order to present his adamant view that leaders of any kind should be honest and ethical.

"When you are in a leadership position, people

have placed confidence in you, and you owe it to them and to yourself to be worthy of that confidence," Lawrence said.

Curkin stressed that not all learning takes place inside classrooms and that RSO leaders should take advantage of an opportunity to propel their organizations forward.

"We're trying to develop ethical leaders who can move the world forward in a positive way," Curkin said. "Not everything is for self-gain."

WANT ETHICS?

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Family Man (PG-13)
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Save Last Dance (PG-13) Digital
4:10 6:50 9:20

13 Days (PG-13) Digital
5:10 8:20

Oregon patients who use marijuana face tough battles

TARA MOOSE
OSU DAILY BAROMETER

CORVALLIS, Ore. (U-Wire) — You won't see many people turn down the possibility of taking the medication widely known as marijuana.

In 1998, Oregon voters passed the Oregon Medical Marijuana Act — also known as OMMA — which allows people diagnosed with qualifying medical conditions to obtain an OMMA card. Card members can legally grow and use marijuana for medicinal purposes.

There are currently eight states other than Oregon that offer programs such as OMMA to their residents; they include California, Alaska, Washington, Arizona, Hawaii, Maine,

Colorado, and Nevada.

According to ORS 475.300, qualifying debilitating medical conditions include: "cancer, glaucoma, a positive status for the Human Immunodeficiency Virus or Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome. A medical condition or treatment for a medical condition that produces, for a specific patient, one or more of the following: cachexia, severe pain, severe nausea, seizures — including but not limited to seizures caused by epilepsy, or persistent muscle spasms — including but not limited to spasms caused by multiple sclerosis."

On June 14, 2000, the Oregon Health Division added agitation of Alzheimer's Disease to the above list of qualifying medical conditions.

Three years after its initial approval, groups

such as Voter Power — an Oregon political committee that was one of the original initiators of OMMA — are urging the Senate to amend the current act.

Among the currently requested modifications are larger protection factors for patients and the caregivers that grow marijuana for them, and a larger amount of marijuana plants which a patient is allowed to possess.

Also requested is an increase in the number of plants a caregiver is allowed to have in one garden. As the law currently stands, a caregiver can grow marijuana for several patients, but is only allowed to have seven plants at each growth site.

Where and how to get marijuana is also one of the many topics currently being discussed regarding the upcoming Senate bills.

"My prediction is that at least two bills will

be introduced to the Senate," said John Sajo, director of Voter Power. "I wouldn't rule out a lot of forward motion taking place."

Before OMMA was passed, people like Robert, a Corvallis-area resident, were forced to illegally buy and use marijuana to ease the pains caused by their illnesses.

Robert, who spoke to The Barometer on the condition that his real name not be used, was diagnosed with testicular cancer in 1998. As a result of the illness, he underwent four months of chemotherapy at the Corvallis Clinic.

Not only did he endure much pain from the chemotherapy, but he also lost 25 pounds during those four months.

"Marijuana helped to relieve the pain, and also brought back a little bit of the appetite," Robert said.

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New club for art and design students

Police chief calls for squad car caution



RONDA YEAGER - DAILY EGYPTIAN

Sara Holmes, Susan Nonneman, and Jeff Watkin, all students in the School of Art and Design, work diligently on projects for Lara Nguyen's Drawing for Communications class on Tuesday afternoon. The students are eligible for membership in the recently-revised chapter of the American Center for Design at SIUC.

LIZ GUARD
DAILY EGYPTIAN

Stephan Marsh has not had many opportunities to express his art and design work.

Marsh, a senior in visual communication and photography from N. Akanda, wanted the opportunity to meet new people in the art and design field, and now he has it.

SIUC's School Art and Design is again a member of the national chapter of the American Center for Design. The school had a chapter about three or four years ago, but it

failed when students were no longer participating.

The club began in late fall of 2000, but is now attempting to boost its membership, have regular meetings and entertain students with shows and internationally-known artists.

Gary Parsons, a visiting instructor in the School of Art and Design, has been teaching at SIUC for about six months. When he arrived at the school, he noticed there was no program or club for students studying art and design. He immediately knew he wanted to start an organization,

whether formal or informal, so students could learn from each other.

Kay Zivkovich, assistant director of the School of Art and Design, also took notice to the lack of interaction between the students. The two organized a group of students to form a new chapter in the American Center for Design.

The club's main goals are to allow maximum student interaction on all levels, so they can learn from each other. Parsons said that students in the school tend to only work on the computers.

"We're trying to get them off the

computers and get back student interaction," he said.

The club is also seeking relationships with other institutions who are members, exploring the development of design, and meeting new people, or networking.

The top priority for the club this year is to become a Registered Student Organization. Members of the club are working on a constitution, which is a requirement to become an RSO. The club must also assign positions, such as president, vice president and treasurer.

The club officially has 12 or 13 members. To be an official member students must register and pay through the national chapter. Unofficially, the club has about 30 members. In order to boost its membership, the club is looking at the possibility of fund-raisers to aid those who may not be able to afford membership.

Plans for the spring 2001 also include, the Great Carboard Boat Regatta, the National Clay Cup Show, a field trip to St. Louis, a design exhibition and a visit from two internationally-known artists.

Parsons and Zivkovich believe the club shows promise.

Zivkovich said that the club is a wonderful way for students to learn from each other, and that it also energizes the curriculum.

Parsons could not be happier that he helped start the organization and he is honored that he is a part of it because it allows him to further the student's knowledge of the art and design field.

"I like to see the excitement of them learning, that's special for me," Parsons said.

ART & DESIGN
• THE CLUB WILL MEET AT 7 P.M. MONDAY IN ROOM 11, IN THE BLUE BARRACKS.

BRETT NAUMAN
DAILY EGYPTIAN

Police Chief R.T. Finney recently cautioned Carbondale police officers about using their squad cars to off off fleeing suspects.

An administrative memo was sent out in response to an incident that occurred on the morning of Nov. 1, after the melee of Halloween night, stemming from a police officer hitting City Councilman Brad Cole with his squad car.

Finney said the "directive" did not alter any policies of the Carbondale Police Department.

"It explained to officers to take into consideration stopping time for fleeing suspects," Finney said. "There has been no policy change."

Cole and a Carbondale police officer were chasing a suspect who, had been throwing bottles onto South Illinois Avenue. The officer called for backup as he and Cole chased the suspect north on University Avenue.

When the officer in the squad car arrived he mistook Cole for the suspect and hit him with the vehicle while attempting to cut him off.

Finney issued the administrative memo after completing an internal investigation into the incident. Finney said the investigation concluded that the officer involved acted with "proper conduct."

While the "directive" advises caution while cutting off suspects in flight, it does not prohibit Carbondale police from using their vehicles to stop them.

"There are policies in place for different purposes where a car can be used as a blocking device," Finney said.

Cole refused to comment.

North Dakota professor sues student for libelous article

BILLY O'KEEFE
TMS CAMPUS

BISMARCK, N.D. (TMS CAMPUS) — A professor at the University of North Dakota has filed a \$50,000 libel suit against a female former student, six months after he successfully sued the same student for slander and nearly two years after the she was found to be stalking him.

Physics professor John Wagner claims that an article written by 44-year-old Glenda Miskin, in addition to being libelous, is emotionally distressing and exists with the intention of dragging his name and career through the mud.

The article, entitled "Kinky Torrid

Romance by Randy Physics Professor: UND ruins the Career of Religion Student with two Children," describes in graphic detail a courtship of Miskin by Wagner. Among the accusations Miskin makes are that Wagner is a sex offender and a pedophile.

Miskin's article, which appears on her site, undnews.com, and is linked at a separate site, und-fraud.com, accuses the university and Wagner of conspiring to cover up the accusations and drive her out of the university.

"I have learned that it is not safe to make reports to UND Officials," Miskin wrote. "They will blow your confidentiality and will consider you the problem. Looking at a degree on my wall that came from an institution like UND would make me want to

throw up. The question that still remains is, is this the reputation that the State of North Dakota and the University of North Dakota wish to project to the public who pay their salaries?"

In addition to seeking punitive damages and compensation for lawyers' fees, Wagner wants both Web sites, which he claims have had hundreds of thousands of visitors, to remove the article.

Miskin, who has two children, has operated undnews.com since October. Its purpose, as described on the front page of the site, is to serve those "who are appalled by what goes on at UND, a fourth-rate institution that is desperately pretending to be halfway respectable."

In addition to Miskin's account, the site includes stories about censorship, discrimination. Most recent is an alleged interview with Playboy college playmate Veronica Folz, who in the interview refers to Wagner by name and is quoted as saying that UND has "a bad reputation for rape."

Miskin also works for UND-fraud.com as an editor. Wagner has also filed suit against the site's operator, Vivian Nelson, who said that she does not vouch for Miskin's story.

Wagner successfully sued Miskin in July for slander, in a case that involved similar accusations that appear in Miskin's article.

Miskin was suspended from the

university after a disciplinary panel in 1999 determined that she was stalking Wagner via a bombardment of phone and e-mail messages. By her own design, she did not and will not return to the university.

In addition to seeking punitive damages and compensation for lawyers' fees, Wagner wants both Web sites, which he claims have had hundreds of thousands of visitors, to remove the article.

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Effective birth control crucial for sexual women

SANDRA HOEING
DAILY TARGUM (RUTGERS U.)

NEW BRUNSWICK, N.J. (U-WIRE) — One of every two women between ages 15 and 44 in the United States has experienced at least one unintended pregnancy, according to James Trussell, faculty associate at the Office of Population Research at Princeton University. Each day, 27,000 condoms break or slip off, a recent magazine reported.

When looking for the best method of birth control, it is crucial for a woman to find a consistent routine that will fit into her lifestyle, Trussell said.

"Condoms could be very effective, but not if they're left in the drawer," he said.

There are many forms of birth control, and each woman has to research her options to find an approach most comfortable for her — and one that she will use on a regular basis — before deciding on a way to prevent pregnancy, Trussell said.

"When I see a patient, I go through everything that is available, including the pros and cons of each method," Mary Leahy, nurse practitioner at Hurtado Health Center on the College Avenue campus, said. "People usually opt for what is most

effective."

Contraception methods can be divided into categories. Barrier methods are among the most widely used, Leahy said. The term "barrier" refers to a method that physically prevents the sperm and egg from contact. They include male and female condoms, diaphragms, cervical caps, and contraceptive creams, jellies, foams and film. Many barrier methods, especially the condom, offer some protection against sexually transmitted disease, she said.

"The problem [with barrier methods] is that when people are in the heat of the moment they have to stop and do something," Leahy said. "People don't always use them consistently."

Another facet of the barrier approach is the rhythm method. This involves not having unprotected sex during days when a woman is most fertile, she said.

"To be extra cautious, I tell my patients not to have unprotected sex during days 10 to 20 [after] the first day of the women's period," she said.

Another category of contraception involves hormonal methods, which administer synthetic hormones to stop a woman's ovaries from releasing an egg each month. Such methods

include birth control pills, Depo-Provera, Norplant and Lunelle, Leahy said.

"Birth control pills are 99 percent effective if used correctly," she said. Correct usage involves taking a daily dose of the pill at the same time every day, Trussell said.

"Birth control pills are available at Hurtado for a discounted price of \$13 to \$15 a pack," Leahy said. However, a student looking to begin taking the pill must have had a Pap smear and a gynecological exam within the last year, she said.

"The reason why people opt for birth control pills is because they have been on the market for a long time, and we know of no long-term major side effect," Leahy said. "In addition, if someone does not like it, they can stop at any time."

In the case of the hormonal shot Depo-Provera, however, "once you take it, you're stuck with it for three months," Leahy said. There can also be a period of irregular bleeding for the first three to six months on the shot, and weight gain of approximately four pounds per year, she said. Depo-Provera is also available at Hurtado, she said.

Lunelle, a relatively new product on the market, involves a monthly

injection of both progesterone and estrogen. The benefit of Lunelle over Depo-Provera is that women who use Lunelle do not experience irregular periods, which may be the case with Depo-Provera, Trussell said.

Lunelle is not currently offered at Hurtado, Leahy said. Another contraceptive mechanism is the intrauterine device, a device that is surgically implanted inside the uterus to prevent pregnancy, she said.

"This is not something we prescribe to college students because of the risks of intrauterine trauma and infection," she said. Hurtado officials can offer referrals for students who do wish to employ this method.

Hurtado officials can also make referrals for students who wish to undergo sterilization, she said.

"Most college kids do not come in to ask for this," she said.

After unprotected sex, or when other methods of contraception fail, emergency contraception may enter the picture. This method, which must be prescribed, can be taken up to 72 hours after intercourse, Leahy said.

Emergency contraception can be used when a condom breaks, after a sexual assault or any time after unprotected sex occurs, she said.

Students who require emergency

contraception should call Hurtado to make an appointment, but be sure to request the morning-after pill over the phone to ensure an immediate appointment, she said.

RU-486, or Mifeprex, is a method used up to 49 days into pregnancy. This pill is administered by doctors and causes a medical abortion, Trussell said. "We do not do any terminations of pregnancies at Hurtado," Leahy said.

RU-486 does not always work and the patient must have a "contact person" 24 hours a day in case of emergency, and Hurtado has limited hours.

However, Hurtado will provide the patient with a referral, and Rutgers insurance financially assists students who wish to terminate a pregnancy, out of respect for confidentiality.

There are future methods of contraception that are currently in development, such as spermicides that can also protect against sexually transmitted diseases, new cervical caps and plastic condoms. Additionally, there will be a contraceptive patch that a woman wears for 21 days a month, leaving it off for a week to go through the menstrual cycle.

"The most effective method of birth control is one that can be used correctly and consistently," Trussell said.

Ohio student uses his life as a gay Latino to open minds

MARK GUYDISH
KNIGHT-RIDDER NEWSPAPERS

WILKES-BARRE, Pa. (TMS CAMPUS) — Jose Melendez is a gay Latino from El Salvador who moved to the United States 16 years ago, yet refuses to become an American citizen. If any of that makes you angry, afraid or uncomfortable — well, that's why he's here.

"My goals are not to change people's minds," the 22-year-old said of his visit to the area, "but to have them question what 'diversity' is and what it is to really be open-minded."

Under the auspices of Wilkes University, Melendez, a New York City resident attending

Oberlin College in Ohio, gives presentations about "diversity," a fuzzy buzzword he crystallizes through personal experience and the film title "We are all queer, but queer is not all we are."

The movie, produced by Oberlin students, documents the struggles of people with "a lot of conflicting identities," Melendez said. "What's it like if you are from Mexico with Jewish parents and going to school in the U.S.? Or an African-American gay man when other African-Americans see gay as a "white thing?"

Melendez grappled with similar conflicts. He moved to the United States when he was 6, fleeing

volatile politics in El Salvador. He is grateful for the opportunities and benefits this country offers but feels the problems of his homeland were caused by U.S. Central American policies during the 1980s. His feelings make him unwilling to become an American citizen, although he is a permanent resident.

Melendez grew up homosexual in a homophobic decade when many Americans were either hostile or indifferent to the emerging AIDS epidemic, he said.

Though fellow students were generally tolerant, he said, "There are many, many different high schools in New York where I could have

come out and would have been shot."

Wilkes University professor Jim Harrington, also openly gay, recruited Melendez through the Northeastern Pennsylvania Diversity in Education Consortium.

"I thought it would be interesting to bring both a gay and minority member to very white Northeast Pennsylvania to interact with the students," Harrington said.

For Melendez, the visit is a special project for his winter term at Oberlin. The college gives students January off to pursue such projects.

Harrington warned Melendez: "this is a very conservative and provincial community."



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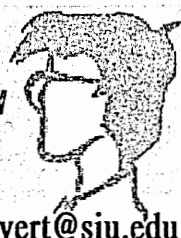
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Brazilian takeover

Edwardo Daelli and Karina Belache pay immediate dividends for SIU swimming and diving team

JENG DEJU
DAILY EGYPTIAN

For many foreign athletes, competing at the collegiate level in the United States is but a dream.

The SIU men's and women's swimming and diving team features two newcomers who are living that dream. They are Brazilian natives Edwardo Daelli and Karina Belache.

Both Daelli and Belache became Salukis at the beginning of the semester, and while Belache has been at SIU since the fall, Daelli arrived in Carbondale just three weeks ago.

"I always wanted to come to the United States for college," Daelli said. "When [current SIU swimmer and fellow Brazilian native] Danilo Luna came back to Brazil for the summer, I talked to him and he brought my times to [SIU men's head coach] Rick Walker."

Luna, who has known Daelli since 1994, said it didn't take much to steer him toward Carbondale.

"I told him about how the program is coached and about the team," Luna said. "It only took about a month of talking and he was like, 'Man, I want to come to SIU.'"

Walker said Daelli definitely possesses the talent to help the Salukis, the question was how he would adjust to living in America.

"Our main concern [with foreign athletes] is to make sure they're going to be able to withstand the English, and that they're going to be academically sound students," Walker said.

Daelli seems to have adjusted just fine so far, and Walker said the other swimmers have taken to him as though he had been around all along.

Daelli hasn't had any trouble in the pool either, as he already claimed two victories in the 200 yard freestyle in his first two meets as a Saluki.

Fellow teammate Joe Neukirch said Daelli made the adjustment by himself; all he needed help with was learning how to get around campus.

"I think he's a great friend now," Neukirch said. "He fit into the group immediately, there was no problem. He's just a great addition to the team and it's been fabulous having him around."

The change of scenery hasn't been too overwhelming for Daelli, there was only one real disparity.

"Here, the sports are related to college," Daelli said. "Here, you swim in the same place where you study and you live nearby. That's the main difference from Brazil."

The other newcomer, Belache, credits former Saluki Gustavo "Gus" Neal in guiding her toward SIU.

"Gus was on my team in Brazil and he told me



EULALIE FRYE - DAILY EGYPTIAN

Edwardo Daelli of Sao Paulo and Karina Belache of Rio de Janeiro sit near the pool Tuesday before practice. The two Brazilian additions to the men's and women's swim teams will aid the teams at the Missouri Valley Conference Championships February 15-17.

they needed girls here," Belache said. "I started playing with him, just saying, 'I'll see what happens,' and I'm here now. I was very surprised because I did not expect to come."

SIU women's head coach Jeff Goelz said when an athlete comes from anywhere other than the surrounding area it opens a recruiting pipeline.

"They go back to their clubs and their home teams and they talk about their college teams and they tell them about what's going on and take back a brochure and usually the kids' parents are friends so they brag about how their kids are doing at SIU," Goelz said. "Once you open the

door, other people come through."

Belache, like Daelli, has made the adjustment to the U.S. fairly smoothly.

"For me, the biggest difference is the weather," Belache said. "Even in my worst winter it didn't get this cold, now it's 120 degrees in Brazil."

Belache has already enjoyed success in the pool. In her first meet she finished second in the 200 freestyle and fourth in the 200 butterfly. She

SEE SWIM, PAGE 14

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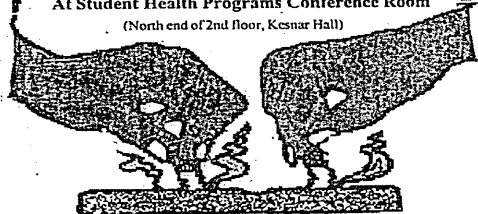
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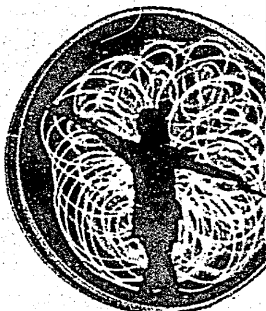
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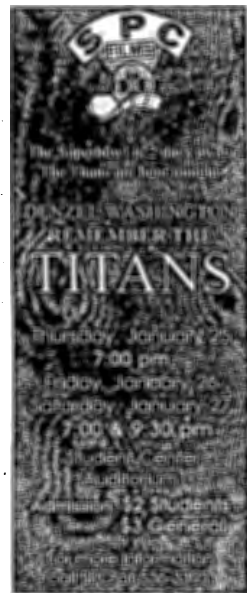
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Salukis overcome squabbles, focus on team in recent victories

The Salukis will attempt to make up for home loss to Bradley tonight

COREY CUSICK
DAILY EGYPTIAN

In the duration of the past two weeks, the SIU men's basketball team sunk to rock bottom, only to claw out and reach the season's high point with back-to-back emotional victories.

Following three consecutive Missouri Valley

SIU Salukis vs. Bradley University

Wednesday, 7:05 p.m.

at Carver Arena in Peoria
Radio broadcast on "Big Dawg" 95.1 FM WXLX
Television Broadcast on WSIU-TV

Series Notes:

Bradley increased its series lead to 32-19 in regular season contests following its Jan. 10 victory against the Salukis at the SIU Arena. The two teams split last season, with both teams winning at home. SIU has won just six of 25 regular season games at Bradley in the series.

The word on the Salukis:

SIU is coming off its biggest and most emotional win of the season courtesy of Jermaine Dearman's last second game-winning three-pointer against Indiana State University Saturday at the SIU Arena. The Salukis, like the rest of the Missouri Valley Conference, struggle at Carver Arena though.

Projected SIU starting lineup:

- #2 G- Marcus Belcher (Jr.) 6-0
- #33 G- Kent Williams (So.) 6-2
- #43 F- Abel Schrader (Sr.) 6-4
- #12 F- Josh Cross (Sr.) 6-4
- #11 C- Sylvester Willis (Fr.) 6-6



(9-8, 3-3)

The word on the Braves:

Bradley, who is tied with Indiana State for the league lead, possesses the league's best defender in guard Jerome Robinson. The 6-foot 3-inch senior shut down Saluki guard Kent Williams in the last meeting, while East St. Louis product Phillip Gilbert seems well on his way to becoming the Valley's Freshman of the Year this season.

Projected Bradley starting lineup:

- #12 G- James Gillingham (Fr.) 6-3
- #24 G- Phillip Gilbert (Fr.) 6-3
- #22 G- Jerome Robinson (Sr.) 6-3
- #1 F- Eddie Cage (Sr.) 6-7
- #5 C- Jeff Raley (Sr.) 6-11

Bottom Line:

Carver Arena is notorious for seating Valley opponents home with a big "L." The Braves are also notorious for playing an ugly game, so expect a close contest in the 60s.

Conference losses — two at home — a frustrated band of Salukis didn't appear much like a team. Poor shot selection, not playing within their roles and multiple losses were beginning to take its toll.

But instead of continuing the downward spiral, the team conducted two "player's only" meetings. The first meeting was prior to last Wednesday's road contest at Wichita State University, where the player's had the opportunity to talk as a group, and "get some things off their chest."

The heart of the meeting was to overcome the bickering and focus on everyone as a team, not as individuals.

"A lot of people — maybe they were, maybe they weren't — playing for themselves more than they were for the team," said sophomore guard Kent Williams, whose Saluki ballclub goes for its third straight win tonight when they travel to Peoria for an MVC battle against Bradley University at 7:05 in Carver Arena.

"We said 'Hey, we're all in this together, if we're going to continue to play like individuals, we're going to continue to lose.'"

The Salukis (9-8, 3-3) followed that meeting with an inspiring 80-72 overtime victory at Wichita State. A second meeting followed the Wichita State game, and the shorter of the two meetings was to reemphasize all the main points discussed in the first meeting.

The Salukis stayed true to the team concept and defeated league-leading Indiana State 68-65 Saturday on a desperation three-pointer by Jermaine Dearman as time expired.

Saluki head coach Bruce Weber admits he is not that fond of "player's only" meetings, but has to be pleased with the outcome of the past two.

"I don't mind it once in a while, I just hate when teams have meetings every four days, you've got to come on the court

and prove it," Weber said. "That's the big thing, I said that's fine you had your meeting, but now come and back up your meeting. Back up your talk with play."

So far, the Salukis have done so. But tonight presents another challenge, as the Braves (10-6, 5-2), who are tied for the league lead with Indiana State, are always tough to beat at Carver Arena. The Braves have only lost one game in the past two seasons at home.

Senior guard Jerome Robinson, the league's top defender, and his fellow Braves have been troublesome for the Salukis in recent years. Bradley handled SIU fairly easy in its 76-65 win at the SIU Arena on Jan. 10.

Weber cited two keys to tonight's game as containing Robinson and freshman guard Phillip Gilbert and getting Williams some open looks on the offensive end beyond Robinson's shadow.

"We've got to do a better job screening, a lot of times we miss [Williams]. He gets open, but we don't get it to him at the right time," Weber said. "He has got to get some easy buckets too, maybe in transition."

Williams, the Salukis' leading scorer, said he wants to take Robinson to the hoop more this time around with dribble penetration and get others involved if he can't get an open look.

The Salukis are preparing for a typical "ugly" display of Bradley-ball. Because of the Braves' emphasis on defense, they are a tough team to score on and can be a force on the boards, making for a physical, hard-fought battle.

Despite SIU's tendency to run-and-gun in the early portion of the season, a more disciplined offensive style has yielded improved play



JUSTIN JONES — DAILY EGYPTIAN

Sophomore guard Kent Williams has been in a shooting slump over the past few games due to tough defensive coverage. Williams and the Salukis will attempt to win their third straight game after a prolonged lull tonight at Bradley University in Peoria.

and better shot selection as the season winds into the bulk of the conference season.

"Earlier in the season, we never did see the end of the shot clock, we never saw it under 15 [seconds], and now we run the shot clock down and make it more of a possession game," Williams said.

The Valley standings continue to be a nip-and-tuck race as one loss separates first place from sixth place, so every game from this point on becomes the most important game of the season for SIU. Bradley stole a game at the SIU Arena two weeks ago, now the Salukis intend to return the favor.

"I know not too many people go into there and win, but they came into our place and won so we're going to have to go into their place and win," Williams said.

Electric sign short-circuited until early spring

December weather attributed to delay of sign's construction

JAVIER SERNA
DAILY EGYPTIAN

Originally, it was to be constructed mid-way through the basketball season.

But the creation of a new electric

sign — intended to promote athletics and other SIU events — won't be completed until late March or early April, according to Vice Chancellor for Administration Glenn Poshard.

The sign, which will be erected on Hwy. 51 near the Arena, was approved for construction by the SIU Board of Trustees in June, but the delay is being blamed on the elements of nature.

"We had more bad weather than we anticipated in December and we

had to stop construction," said interim Chancellor John Jackson.

The sign's supports are in the ground, but construction won't resume until the sign, which was ordered from Sign Group, Inc. of Indianapolis, arrives.

"It takes a long time to order these things," Poshard said.

When the sign arrives, a masonry base will be laid by Carbondale-based J & L Robinson Development and Construction Co. The SIU

Physical Plant will handle the electrical aspects of the sign.

The sign will be constructed near the Arena on Hwy. 51 because of the location's high visibility.

The 18-foot wide and 12-foot tall sign, is double-sided and can display multiple lines of text. The sign will cost slightly more than the original \$100,000 estimate because "some design changes," Jackson said.

The bulk of the cost is being provided by the SIU Arena and

Auditorium, which covers \$50,000 of the cost. The Chancellor's office is footing \$45,000 of the bill, followed by the SIU Foundation with \$15,000 and Public Affairs with \$5,000.

"We haven't looked for any sponsors yet," Jackson said. "We just want to get it up, and basically the Arena is the major sponsor right now because it's going to do more to advertise their events than any single thing."

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