Student government supports BAS major

Ryan Rendleman

The Undergraduate Student Government voted in favor of expanding the university’s Black American Studies program.

After a lengthy discussion, senators voted to support a major for the BAS program, which began at SIUC in 1968. Many senators urged the university to make a degree in the program a priority for the university.

Both an internal and external review in the fall called for additional faculty to create a major.

The internal review stated the university has neglected the program for too long, and has failed to keep up with similar departments at other universities.

USG Vice President Paul Ogual, who helped write the vote Wednesday night in favor of expanding the university’s Black American Studies program, said the creation of a major is long overdue.

Ogual said his support stems from the program’s ability to educate all students. He said it is a key part of American history.

“The Black American Studies program is instrumental in educating students in Black American history, from a very diverse mix of faculty and professors,” Ogual said.

Sean Smith, a junior from White — who represents the College of Liberal Arts in which the program resides — said BAS needs an option for a major. He said the university has neglected the program on the campus, and the external review indicated the major would work with proper resources.

“We want the university to actually take this issue seriously, and do all they can to make this happen,” he said. “The students for years have been requesting such a program to become a major, and yes after years...they’ve given us the...”

See USG, Page 5

Faculty union approves contract

BOT approval required for deal

Brandon Weisenberger

The faculty union gave a thumbs up to a tentative contract deal with the Board of Trustees Wednesday. Nearly all voting members approved the terms.

Money more and more faculty power in tenure decisions are included in the agreement, which requires board approval before it goes into effect.

Faculty Association Vice President Lesore Langsdorf said 94 percent of union members who voted approved the terms.

Trustees could vote to accept or deny the deal as early as April 12 when they meet at SIU-Edwardsville.

“This contract is a positive step forward for this university and the entire community,” said Faculty Association member Mark Amos, an associate professor of English.

Negotiators for the union and BOT reached a tentative agreement Feb. 15 after eight months of bargaining.

During that time, multiple deadlines occurred as the sides could not agree on salary issues and a Faculty Association request for the university to give professors more say in tenure decisions.

“A professor of speech communication, said union members cast votes Tuesday and Wednesday in the Student Center. A four-member committee tallied the ballots before announcing the results Tuesday afternoon. She would not say how many faculty members voted because the union wants to focus on the 94 percent approval.

The faculty and university have operated under terms of the old contract that expired June 30, 2006, and a half week after bargaining began for a new agreement.

One portion of the tentative agreement grants a panel of faculty members more say when an associate or assistant professor, who is denied a promotion, appeals the administrators’ decision.

The panel can decide whether the review process was fair and vote to make administrators consider the faculty member’s application for promotion again.

SIU administrators have also pledged more than $3 million in new faculty wage increases.

The board’s contract spokesman Gary Kolb and interim Chancellor John Dunn have hailed the tentative agreement as historic. It is the first deal reached

See CONTRACT, Page 5

Gov. Blagojevich proposes largest tax increase in state history

Sean McGahan

Low. Rod Blagojevich’s proposed budget for the 2008 fiscal year is a step in the right direction for the SIU system, President Glenn Poshard said Wednesday.

“The budget that presented to Poshard and others in Springfield Wednesday — calls for a 9 percent, or $65.4 million, increase for SIUS operational budget — fiscal year 2007, Poshard said.

All in all, I think the budget is a good budget for us,” Poshard said. “It’s certainly better than two, three, four years ago, and I think we are the road into the screeching years, I think you going to see us get more funds into higher education.”

In 2002, the university, was cut 8.2 percent budget cut. This year’s proposed increase at the largest SIUC has seen since.

The governor proposed $1.5 billion in education spending for the year, but Poshard said most of that would go toward funding for K-12. Poshard said this is typically the case.

“Higher education never gets as much money as K-12, because the K-12 system is so vast, but we are getting a 1.9 percent increase in the

See INCREASE, Page 14

Republicans lawmakers fear new business tax would hurt economy

Andrea Zimmerman

Illinois would see the largest tax increase in its history under Gov. Rod Blagojevich’s plan to provide health care for the uninsured and ramp up state support for education.

“The choice is simple: We can let the pension nightmare worsen or have corporations pay their fair share,” he said Wednesday in his 33-minute State of the State address.

In all, Blagojevich’s budget calls for a record $66.1 billion in spending, a 9.5 percent increase over the current year.

Blagojevich presented a sweeping proposal to make health insurance available to anyone who wants it, an idea he called “a moral imperative.”

He called on lawmakers to support “Illinois Covered,” his $2.1 billion plan to offer free coverage to the poor and subsidize coverage for the working poor and middle class.

The administration says the plan would cost about $280 million the first year. To finance his landmark proposals for healthcare and education, Blagojevich called for a $320 billion tax, which he said would target large corporations, not small businesses or consumers.

See TAX, Page 14
This poll is brought to you by

**COUNTRY**

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suDe.com Questions: Who do you think will win the Mayoral Race?

- Brad Cole
- Sheila Simon
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Up next: If your favorite bar/restaurant hangs out wont
smoke free would you still go there?
- No, big deal, I don't smoke anyways.
- Ok, but can I still smoke outside?
- Nn any, nothing comes re my ciggarret

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**CALENDAR**

**Petitions available for student government elections**
- Deadline 1st submission March 23
- Available in USG office

**Islam and the women's movement in Morocco**
- Celebrating International Women's Day
- 3-4:30 p.m. today at the Student Center Lower Lounge
- Speaker: X. Yamaa Saadat, University of Fes, Morocco
- Free admission

**Dinner at Jane's**
- Celebrating International Women's Day
- 12-1:30 p.m. today at Student Center Video Lounge
- Brown bag lunch, video and discussion with Lisa Hutter Downtown of International Relations
- Free admission

**Getting a job in the U.S.: Workshops for international students**
- 5-6:30 p.m. today at Quigley 140B

**HHH 5k run for beer with Geocaching**
- Saturday at Carmon Park in Carbondale
- The Hetl House Haies is sponsoring its monthly run, this month the run will include Geocaching where people use your GPSs to find little treasure buried people have hidden
- Contact Reg Simpson at 687-2901, 5 to enter, numbers should be 21 or over

Submit a sample items to the Daily Egyptian newspaper, Communications 1247, at least two days before event, or call 282-4111, ext. 282.

**CORRECTIONS**

1. You spot an error, please contact the Daily Egyptian accuracy desk at 536-3111, ext. 253.

**DAILY WEATHER**

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**ILINOIS WEATHER**

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**NEWS BRIEFS**

Teenager shoots ex-girlfriend, kills himself

MIDILAND, Mich. (AP) — A teenager shot his former girlfriend four times outside her high school Wednesday, then killed himself, police said.

Jessica Forsythe, 17, was taken to Hurly Medical Center First, where she was in serious but stable condition, hospital spokeswoman Christe Wolfe said Wednesday afternoon.

Midland police Chief James St. Louis said the gunman died in the parking lot.

The boy, a 17-year-old from Coleman, had gone to Hurly High School on Wednesday morning to try to talk to Jessica, but he was turned away by school officials, the police chief said. The boy then called her and asked her to meet him outside the building.

After a conversation in the parking lot, the boy pulled up a handgun and shot him four times before turning the gun on himself. St. Louis said.

The girl's mother, who had dropped her daughter off at the school, saw the shooting from her van and drove between the boy and St. Louis, the authorities said.

**Dollar coins mission: In God We Trust**

FRANKFORD, Ill. (AP) — An unknown number of new George Washington dollar coins were mistakenly struck without their edge inscriptions, including "In God We Trust," and are fetching around $50 apiece online.

The property struck dollar coins, bearing the likeness of the nation's first president, are inscribed along the edge with "In God We Trust." "E Pluribus Unum" and the year and mint mark. They made it past inspectors and went to circulation Feb. 10.

The U.S. mint struck 200 million of the coins, which are golden in color and slightly larger and thicker than a quarter.

Ron Guth, president of Professional Coin Grading Service, one of the world's largest coin-authentication companies, said he believes that at least 16,000 error coins put in circulation.

The coins design has already spurred e-mail conspiracy theories claiming that the religious motto was purposely omitted. That rumor may have started because the edge lettering cannot be seen on photographs of the coin.

It is the first U.S. coin to have words stamped around the edge since the staged 1993 $20 gold "double eagle" among the rarest and most valuable in the world.

**Deal close in campaign that caused bomb scare**

BOSTON (AP) — The saw against two men charged in a botched advertising scheme that created a bomb scare in the Boston area could be resolved by the end of the month, a prosecutor said Wednesday.

Peter Bondich, 27, and Sean Stevens, 28, who pleaded not guilty to placing a hoax device and disorderly conduct, appeared in court Wednesday but the hearing was continued to March 26.

The ad scheme involved linking signs designed to promote the Cartoon Network show "Cow & Banana Fox." The campaign was paid for by larger Broadcasting systems.

But when the first device was spotted on Jan. 31, attached to a support structure beneath Interstate 93, police, unaware of the ad campaign, called in the bomb squad. Bridges and roadways were shut down as more signs turned up, three dozen in all.

Rumor broadcasting and the advertising agency that carried out the campaign, Infotainment Inc., said they have agreed to pay $52,000 to cover the city's costs and to restitution.

The head of the Cartoon Network weighed nine days after the start.

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As a U.N. weapons inspector who searched for weapons of mass destruction in Iraq, Hans Blix said the war could have been avoided if more time was given to the weapons inspectors.

Blix, chairman of the International Commission on Weapons of Mass Destruction, presented the 2007 SIU School of Law Hiram H. Lesar Lecture Wednesday to a full house in the Student Center Ballrooms.

In his lecture, “Disarming Iraq,” Blix discussed events leading to the war with Iraq in 2003. He said the war could have easily been avoided.

“Had we been allowed to continue inspection for a few months — which a majority of the U.N. Security Council wanted — we would have been able to avoid the war in Iraq,” Blix said. “No weapons would have been found.”

Blix is a Swedish diplomat who led the United Nations Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission from January 2000 to June 2003, when the Bush administration believed Iraq had weapons of mass destruction.

Although weapons weren’t found, Blix said he doesn’t blame the United States for thinking Iraq had weapons of mass destruction, because he had a gut feeling they were there.

“Most people, including myself, thought so at that time in the autumn of 2002 because we had seen how inspectors were stopped during the meetings,” Blix said.

He said the United States entered the war to crush terrorism, but its actions have had the opposite effect.

“It was to be a step to terrorism, but it has created more terrorism — a breeding ground for terrorism,” Blix said.

Mike Lawrence, director of the Paul Simon Public Policy Institute, said after Blix’s lecture that the government didn’t have enough information to invade Iraq.

“I think he made a good point that we need to have all the information we can get before we commit U.S. troops to combat,” he said. “In the case of Iraq, we may well have gone into the country prematurely.”

Unlike in the Gulf War, the United States also went without support, Lawrence said.

“He made the point that the elder Bush rallied the international community behind our effort,” Lawrence said. “The current President Bush did not achieve that kind of support before he committed us to Iraq.”

Lawrence said he liked what Blix said about nuclear weapons around the world.

“I thought it was encouraging that he thought there is an opportunity to reduce the number of nuclear weapons in the world and ultimately eliminate them,” he said.
**WIRE REPORTS**

**TEXAS**

**Student kills self in front of peers**

GREENVILLE, Texas (AP)— Police on Wednesday said a Greenville High School student opened fire on a classroom full of students, killing one of the teenagers and himself.

The Greenville Herald-Banner quotes witnesses as saying the student entered a classroom around 9 a.m. and started shooting in front of several students.

A school district spokesman in the Northeast Texas town said the school was locked down, but a police dispatcher says the situation is under control.

A total of about 26,000 residents live in Greenville, near Dallas.

**HONG KONG**

**Pet dog shooting planned in China**

HONG KONG (AP)— All pet dogs will be killed in a district of the southern Chinese city of Guangzhou as part of a massive campaign to control rabies, the government said.

Residents of the Wanzhou district, which has the highest number of rabies cases in southern China, will be asked to have their dogs killed by Feb. 20 or face fines of up to $15.

**SAN ANTONIO**

**Infants’ bodies found under house**

SAN ANTONIO (AP)— The bodies of two young children, no older than toddlers, were found wrapped in plastic bags under a house on the city’s south side, police said Wednesday.

Residents of a triplex were searching under the house late Tuesday after smelling something that was described as rotten for two weeks. They found two black plastic bags containing decomposing bodies of small children, said police Sgt. Gabe Trevino. The officers who arrived on Tuesday said they were responding to a report of one of the bags’ contained an infant wrapped in a blanket, according to the police report.

The medical examiner will determine the cause and manner of the children’s death.

**IRAQ**

**Bomb kills soldiers**

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP)— A powerful bomb hit a military checkpoint in Baghdad on Wednesday, killing five U.S. soldiers and wounding dozens.

The deadly assaults occurred as Iraqi security forces struggled to protect civilians from serial killers who sometimes keep for research purposes, military and commercial purposes would be spared.

**NASA**

**Fires love triangle astronaut**

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP)— Emily Nowak was fired from NASA on Wednesday after an investigation found she had engaged in a sexual relationship with an astronaut who was getting a divorce.

Nowak, who was hired in 1997, was accused of having an inappropriate relationship with a married astronaut after she was assigned to a space shuttle pilot from 1998 to 2004. Nowak and the astronaut were romantically involved since 2004.

The agency's investigation found that Nowak had had an affair with the married astronaut since 2004 and that she had lied to investigators about their relationship.

**Bill Gates, chairman of Microsoft, testifies at a Senate hearing on American competitiveness in science and engineering**

Gates, chairman of Microsoft, testifies at a Senate hearing on American competitiveness in science and engineering.

**WASHINGTON**

**Microsoft Chairman Bill Gates testifies at Senate hearing on constitutionality of the nation's schools and immigration laws that are urgently needed**

The U.S. cannot maintain its economic leadership unless its work force consists of people who have the knowledge and skills needed to drive innovation, Gates told the Senate committee that oversees labor and education issues.

Gates, whose charitable foundation has given away more than $3 billion since 1999 for education programs and scholarships, said that about 30 percent of U.S. ninth-graders didn’t graduate on time.

A federal study released last month showed about a third of high school seniors fail to take a standardized test. That is a statistic, which is defined as including all students who can communicate in English and those who can, English and those who can’t.

Gates also called on lawmakers to give more resources to improving the teaching of math and science.

**Nancy Zuckerbrod
The Associated Press**

**WASHINGTON**

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**Bill Gates, chairman of Microsoft**

**Man found guilty in girl’s rape, death**

Curt Anderson
The Associated Press

MIMAI — A sex offender was found guilty Wednesday of kidnapping and raping a 9-year-old girl by burying her alive in a case that led to a crackdown on child predators.

Jail guards and investigators testified that Couey repeatedly detailed the slayings.

**Sentencing is to begin Tuesday.**

**Bill Gates, chairman of Microsoft**

**NASA fires love triangle astronaut**

Mike Schneider
The Associated Press

CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida (AP)— Emily Nowak, a former astronaut with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, was fired Wednesday after a federal investigation found she had engaged in a romantic relationship with an astronaut who was getting a divorce.

Nowak was accused of having an inappropriate relationship with a married astronaut after she was assigned to a space shuttle pilot from 1998 to 2004. Nowak and the astronaut were romantically involved since 2004.

The investigation documents released Tuesday by the Orange-Osceola State Attorney’s Office shed some light on the details of the couple’s relationship.

They include the shuttle pilot, Navy Cmdr. William Oefelein, who was filed with the agency about the romantic relationship he had had with Nowak from 2004 to 2006 and how she reacted with no emotion when he said he was dating another woman.

She seemed a little disappointed, but she seemed to be accepting it. The couple’s relationship was more than a romantic one. But Oefelein, 41, told investigators they had been romantically involved since 2004.

Nowak’s firing marked the first time NASA has publicly dismissed an astronaut to be charged with a felony, he said.

In a statement, Oefelein said the agency’s belief in her guilt or innocence is not affected and that she is a space shuttle pilot.

Oefelein was accused of confronting the woman through a partially closed window, police found a BB gun, an astronaut diaper so that she would not have to stop.

**Check Kennedy — McClatchy Tribune**

The evidence at trial included DNA from Jessica’s blood and Couey’s semen on a mattress in his bedroom, as well as Jessica’s fingerprints in a closet in the bedroom.

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Ethics hearing postponed

State files motion to dismiss SIUC professors’ lawsuit

Ryan Rendleman  Daily Egyptian

A hearing set for Wednesday morning that could have halted punishment of four professors of interest to the SIUC has been rescheduled until next month.

Faculty Association President Marvin Zeman — who, along with mathematics professor Walter Wallis, professor Matthew Bilinsky of the Hagen Foundation, and former SIU computer specialist Matthew Bilinsky — filed a lawsuit against the state in February asking officials to abstain from punishing them for completing the test too quickly.

The state’s response was filed Wednesday, and both sides have been told to appear before the USG meeting Wednesday night in the Student Health Center Auditorium.

The professors’ lawsuit requests that the state not pursue disciplinary action against SIUC faculty members who were deemed non-compliant after taking the test in less than 10 minutes.

“They just want to make it go away,” said Zeman. “They have some things that are particular surprise to us, but of course the fact that they filed it the day before the hearing late in the afternoon made it really impossible to adequately present the case.”

Ralph Loewenstein of the Hagen Foundation, PSC, attorney, who represents Zeman and Wallis, said the Sangamon County judge in Springfield agreed Wednesday to give the firm time to write a response to the motion.

He said the response would be presented to the court April 3.

Zeman said a preliminary injunction would halt any action the state was planning to take against the employees until the court decided whether the lawsuit should be upheld.

He said the punishment could include firing, which would violate the faculty’s collective bargaining agreement with the university.

“The reason that they cited are not things that are particularly surprising to us, but of course the fact that they filed it the day before the hearing late in the afternoon made it really impossible to adequately present the case to the court our response to it,” he said.

Loewenstein said the motion to dismiss stated that the grounds for a lawsuit were legally insufficient.

He said he was not surprised by the state’s response, but doesn’t believe the case should be dismissed.

Matthew Bilinsky, the state’s attorney in the ethics case, did not return calls for comment Wednesday.

The office of the inspector general in November found 65 university faculty members in violation of a maximum time limit placed on a statewide ethics exam all Illinois employees were required to complete in the fall.

The professors’ lawsuit requests the state not pursue disciplinary action against SIUC faculty members who were deemed non-compliant after taking the test in less than 10 minutes.

Zeman said, he thought it was unfair if punishment was dealt to those who finished the test under the specified time because such specifications appeared nowhere on the test.

Speedy exam takers were given the option of signing a non-compliance form, but Zeman refused and decided to take his grievance to the courts.

Inspector General spokesman Gilbert Jimenez said he could not comment on the court proceedings.

Zeman said the next step is to wait and see how the court rules regarding the motion to dismiss.

“We don’t believe that they’ll succeed, but then we don’t know,” he said. “Anytime you go to court, who knows what happens.”

ryan_rendleman@dailyegyptian.com

Contract

Former Navy sailor arrested on terror charge

Matt Apuzzo  The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A former Navy sailor was arrested Wednesday for allegedly releasing classified information that ended up in the hands of a suspected terrorist financier.

Hassan Abujahhad, 31, of Phoenix, is accused in a case that began in Connecticut and followed a suspected terrorist network across the country and into Europe and the Middle East.

He was arrested in Phoenix on charges of supporting terrorism with an intent to kill U.S. citizens and transmitting classified information to unauthorized people.

Abujahhad, who is also known as Paul R. Hall, is charged in the same case as Babar Ahmad, a British computer specialist arrested in 2004 and accused of running Web sites to raise money for terrorism. Ahmad is scheduled to be extradited to the U.S. to face trial.

During a search of Ahmad’s computers, investigators discovered files containing classified information about the positions of U.S. Navy ships and discussing their susceptibility to attack.

Abujahhad, a former enlisted man, exchanged e-mails with Ahmad while on active duty on the USS Benfold, a guided-missile destroyer, in 2000 and 2001, according to an affidavit released Wednesday.

Abujahhad was planning to take against the state’s response, but doesn’t believe the grounds for a lawsuit were legally insufficient.

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ryan_rendleman@dailyegyptian.com
536-3312 ext. 268
Headlines we don’t want to write

It seems every year, after any break, we have to write about bad news that happened during the off-time. This year, we want it to be different. We hope these headlines don’t make into the Daily Egyptian.

Student dies in car crash

Almost every year, we hear about a fatal accident involving a student in a hurry to get home or too drunk to be on the road. Please slow down on the trip home, and make ample time for a leisurely trip back to Carbondale next week. And, of course, if you drink, don’t drive.

Professor disappears in Belize

Foreign travel involves visiting a land where the rules are different. And sometimes, the traffic comes from the other side of the road. Look both ways, and keep a tight grip on that passport.

WMD cache found in Faner

Hans Blix was here. He may have looked around.

Library collapses, tunnel remains

There’s no way we weren’t going to mention the tunnel. So, if the library were to collapse, unoccupied, we hope it takes out the Tunnel of Death on the way down. Or, on a brighter note, we hope construction goes so well that the tunnel can come down over break anyway.

Poshard takes job as president of (insert school name here)

Seriously, we like him. No, really, we do. He’s making some big charges around campus, and we look forward to what he has in store for the rest of the semester.

Student returns to empty apartment

The bad guys know when you leave for break. Fortunately, so do the good guys. Let the police know you’re out of town and they’ll make sure you can still sell that math textbook as “unused.”

Inferno devastates Brush Towers

Along with locking your doors, unplug that portable heater, turn that coffee pot off and blow out the “Fire” element of your Feng Shui bathroom.

SIUC exhausts funds for poetry awards

We hope the cash keeps amassing in the various poetry contest coffers, because SIUC’s poets look forward to taking it all away. Congrats to all the winners.

Enrollment doubles, Marketing department booms or Students denounce alcohol

If any of these were to happen, we don’t know what we’d write about on this page.

In short, let’s make this a good, safe break. Have fun, because there’s a lot of the semester left.

Our Word

Women in conflict make an awareness

This abuse is an infringement against women and girls, and it is occurring in our own backyard.

They have yet to receive the apology. In fact, the government refuses to acknowledge it ever happened. “My Village is My City” depicts the mass rape and physical assaults perpetrated against refugees from Bosnia and Kosovo. During the show, a group of women portray soldiers and surround another woman as she screams. This is a difficult scene for me to watch, and not only because of its subject matter, but also because it hits too close to home for comfort.

At the time of publication, my mother, an SIUC grad, is in war-torn Liberia. This is not her first or second trip, but a third to relieve to nation devastated by civil war. I could not help but let my thoughts drift to her, my anxiety spiking because it hits too close to home for comfort.

It is appropriate that Liberia is now led by the first female head of state in the history of Africa. My mother met with President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf briefly on her second trip — one that was postponed because the Executive Mansion burned down — two women in conflict working toward peace. Their efforts were very much the same as every person in this weekend’s performance of “The Vagina Monologues.”

It is men’s turn to act. I’m not going to quote John Mayer’s “D humid” to you or suggest that we take sensitivity training together. Simply learn to appreciate the most important feminine influences in your life, and then let them know that you care. I know I do.

Wolfe is a junior studying English education.

Words Overheard

“I’ve actually heard [construction workers] listening to Celine Dion, which I think is a very interesting, non-stereotypical view of construction men.”

Erika Wentzel

Senior from Collinsville studying public relations, commenting on the construction of Morris Library.

Guest Columnist

Women in conflict make an awareness

After last weekend, I am embarrassed to admit I didn’t know March was Women’s History Month. I have always been distracted by the NCAA Tournament, how to get off work to watch basketball and who the Salukis were playing in the first round. This year I turned off SportsCenter and did something that didn’t involve filling out a bracket.

I went to “The Vagina Monologues.” Before any men reading this roll their eyes and flip to the sports section, think about the following: 64 percent of women over the age of 18 who reported being raped, assaulted or stalked were victimized by their boyfriend or husband. And according to the Rape, Abuse and Incest National Network (RAINN), this occurs every 90 seconds.

The abuse was very much the same as every person in the audience. During the show, a group of women portray soldiers and surround another woman as she screams. This is a difficult scene for me to watch, and not only because of its subject matter, but also because it hits too close to home for comfort.

At the time of publication, my mother, an SIUC grad, is in war-torn Liberia. This is not her first or second trip, but a third to relieve to nation devastated by civil war. I could not help but let my thoughts drift to her, my anxiety spiking because it hits too close to home for comfort. However, so did my pride in her efforts to heal a country where, under the dictatorships of Samuel Doe and Charles Taylor, women were habitually raped and stoned.

It is appropriate that Liberia is now led by the first female head of state in the history of Africa. My mother met with President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf briefly on her second trip — one that was postponed because the Executive Mansion burned down — two women in conflict working toward peace. Their efforts were very much the same as every person in this weekend’s performance of “The Vagina Monologues.”

It is men’s turn to act. I’m not going to quote John Mayer’s “D humid” to you or suggest that we take sensitivity training together. Simply learn to appreciate the most important feminine influences in your life, and then let them know that you care. I know I do.

Wolfe is a junior studying English education.
Nothing beats a good concert. I’m a firm believer in this after watching the Red Hot Chili Peppers perform Saturday night at Assembly Hall in Champaign.

I was standing at the front of the stage, in front of the guardrails with my camera and phone pass when the lights went out.

When the lights came back on, John Frusciante, Chad Smith and Flea were onstage.

The band worked itself into a funky groove for a moment, and then Frusciante began to strum the opening riff of “Can’t Stop,” from the album “By the Way,” and Chili Pepper front man Anthony Kiedis began bouncing onto the stage.

Goosebumps spread across my arms like a forest fire as a wall of red light blanketed the stage with a warm glow, and the full band started the song.

The Chili Peppers played a variety of songs from many of their albums, and thunderous applause followed each and every one of them.

Watching them perform up close, I got the sense that they really loved playing music.

When he wasn’t singing, front man Anthony Kiedis would close his eyes and groove with the music. Flea, the bassist, always had the goodfoot look on his face, and drummer Chad Smith just couldn’t stop laughing.

I couldn’t help but smile as I watched them perform.

It was refreshing to see such a talented band have a good time, and it reminded me of why I love the Red Hot Chili Peppers. They are fun.
Big Muddy wrap-up

Ben Erwin
Daily Egyptian

With a wider range of films and increased ticket sales, first-year Big Muddy Film Festival coordinator Sally Shafto said she considered the 29th annual event an “encouraging success.”

The festival, which ran from Feb. 22 through Sunday, ended with a “Best of the Fest” screening and the announcement of various award-winning films.

Among those most honored was Linda Hattendorf’s “The Cats of Carbondale,” which documented the struggle of a formerly homeless Japanese-American.

“(The film) is a wonderful story about one man, but with much larger political implications,” Shafto said.

The film, which draws parallels between the internment of those of Japanese descent during World War II and the treatment of Muslims after Sept. 11, won the festival’s top prize, known as “Audience Choice” awards and the John Michaels award.

Shafto is already looking toward the Big Muddy’s upcoming 30th anniversary.

Shafto said she is considering the possibility of expanding to 12 or 14 days, but the goal is to keep the festival within the current length of 10 days. These possible changes are being considered because of constraints in both time and money.

Midnight screenings did especially well, but some showings were a mixed bag in terms of attendance, Shafto said. Screenings of “Dr. Strangelove” and “The Longest Day” were seen by fewer viewers as “Waiting for Happiness” and “The Cats of Carbondale” were by more.

Some of the competition films, Shafto said, were already looking toward the Big Muddy’s upcoming 10th anniversary.

Shafto said she is considering the inclusion of fewer competition films while scaling the festival back to its previous length of 10 days. These possible changes are being considered because of constraints in both time and money.

Despite the mixed turnout to various films, Shafto said the Big Muddy met the objectives of promoting international and independent cinema.

“Big Muddy has always, and will continue to, contribute to the diversity and variety of film events in Carbondale,” he said.

Gloria Bode says find out what ‘chck chck’ means online at our Web site
Today’s Horoscopes are brought to you by...

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) — Today is an 8 — Finally, the money’s coming in. All that work was not for nothing. Unfortunately, a loved one and/or child wants you to take them shopping.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) — Today is an 8 — You’ve the strong silent type for a reason. That’s how you’re most effective. Maintain the mystery now; excessive info will cause confusion.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) — Today is an 8 — You’re asked to take on a new and very difficult assignment. Don’t worry; luck is with you in this. Proceed with confidence.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — Today is an 8 — Discuss your most recent insights with friends who can help you understand. The part that at first is the most confusing turns out to be the most basic.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) — Today is a 9 — There’s plenty of money to be made, if you can do what’s required. To be part of the team, you must learn that there’s someone who outranks you.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) — Today is an 8 — Encouragement from far away is certainly heart warming. But, can you accept adoration from one who doesn’t know the whole story? Sure, if it makes them feel good.

(c) 2007, TRIBUNE MEDIA SERVICES INC. Distributed by McClatchy-Tribune News Network.
Mark Kelly bats during the SIU vs. Central Michigan game Feb. 23 at Abe Martin Field. The Salukis were defeated by the Maroons 9-8 Wednesday afternoon.

INCREASE CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

governor's budget, and it may be possible to get along with that as we go along," said Blagojevich.

Overall, Blagojevich made little mention of higher education in his combined State of the State and budget address Wednesday.

Sen. David Luncatefeld, a Republican from Oakawville, said it seems that higher education looks to get about the same amount of funding it received last year.

"They did mention a huge increase in education, but by far that majority goes to K-12," he said.

Luncatefeld said the problem with legislating for higher education is that the number of state legislators has four-year universitites in their districts. He is one of only nine Democrats and nine Republicans in the state representing the universities.

Posh said Blagojevich's budget for higher education came in higher than what the Board of Higher Education proposed.

"That has to be viewed in a positive light," he said. "We'll just have to keep working on that process. It is just beginning."

The university also has a chance to acquire additional money in the budget in the form of performance-based funds for teaching and research programs, Posh said.

David Gross, executive assistant to the president for government relations, said the governor intends for these funds to improve the quality of graduates entering the professions. Gross said he is confident the programs at SIUC and Southern Illinois University Edwardsville can meet those goals.

"We're well prepared to compete for those funds," he said. Gross also said university officials are to take advantage of the possibility of a capital bill that Blagojevich cited as a priority. The capital bill would help pay for large-scale projects at the university — including construction at Morris Library and the proposed $42 million transportation Educational Center, Gross said.

"All the conversation about a capital bill is a good thing," he said. "We need the money for the library, we need the money for the tech center to keep running forward, and that's exciting news about those projects with them being listed as priorities." the governor's Raues 16-10 but it wasn't enough to compensate for the bullpens late collapse.

Despite the loss, the Salukis offense played well with their backs against the wall.

In the top of the ninth, SIU talled three runs to regain a one-run lead. After another Salukis going 3-for-5 with three RBI of three from the Huskies while scoring a home run.

"Coming out of the bullpen with Adam Hills," Dixon said. "It hasn't really been much of a confidence issue. We just need to get back out there," Choate said. "We'll spend the next few days working with (pitching) coach Tim Dixon and try to work this staff," he said.

Choate's record dropped to 1-1 on the season after falling behind the count on each hitter he faced in the last two innings.

"He did mention a huge increase in this year," he said. "It's really a hidden sales tax you will be paying that $6 billion?" he asked. "Stop buying things!" the governor says.

"It isn't really much of a priority," he said. "We're just going to have to work on it. The process is just beyond puzzling." the possibility of a capital bill that Blagojevich cited as a priority. The capital bill would help pay for large-scale projects at the university — including construction at Morris Library and the proposed $42 million transportation Educational Center, Gross said.

"All the conversation about a capital bill is a good thing," he said. "We need the money for the library, we need the money for the tech center to keep running forward, and that's exciting news about those projects with them being listed as priorities."

The administration argues the Democratic governor's idea to tax corporations won't affect the state's tax system and make it under-taxed. Taxing gross receipts would reach companies that now escape some taxes and also would produce about $6 billion a year, while a new payroll tax would generate an additional $1 billion. By comparison, Illinois took in only $1 billion from the first full year of the income tax in 1971. Blagojevich said the new tax would not hurt the economy or cause serious pain for consumers. Small businesses would be escape some taxes and would pay a lower rate than service business."

But Republican lawmakers say the Democratic governor's idea to tax corporations won't affect individuals. No matter what kind of taxes they still add up to the largest increase in Illinois history. Carbondale Mayor Brad Cole said some of the proposals in Blagojevich's combined State of the State and budget address were bewildering.

"I'm guessing the governor is trying all he can do to send businesses to every state around us," said Cole, who is also a member of Illinois Universities to play basketball but he won't be able to sign until this semester is over."

"We're probably going to the Big 12 this season and went 21-1 in the poll last season, while the Jackals finished the season at No. 22.

"I think anybody in the league, if they say you're going to North Dakota State or another school, they're going to pick the other school," Kill said. Those are the recruiting Division I programs, and they're not going to leave the league. They're going to be there."

SIU and North Dakota State last season's league, so we had a chance to put away some hitters and we didn't finish. It's consistency that's hurrting the Huskies, and if they aren't tired then because our starters are going deep into games."

The Saluki offense remained last but after the weekend series against Northern Illinois when SIU took two of three from the Huskies while scoring 23 runs in the series. Sophomore designated hitter Mark Kelly led the attack for the Salukis going 4-for-5 with three RBI and two doubles.

"We're probably going to put gates on the entrances and exits of town so that small business owners aren't going to lose their customers," said John Bradley, a Democrat from Marion, said the speech's proposals were too vague to form an opinion, but as chairman of the House's revenue committee, he will vote closely at the governor's ideas.

"I commend him for trying to take on issues like healthcare and education, but I have grave concerns about some of the proposals that were thrown out," he said.

"We don't have enough information other than what was in the speech to know how encompassing this is and to what extent to impact different groups."

Bradley was said he was most dis- tracted that the governor said next to nothing about the electricity rate hikes, which he called one of the most important issues facing Illinoisans.

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With college basketball holding its conference tournaments and the NCAA tournament approaching, there are many candidates for Player of the Year. Who is the best college basketball player in the nation?

**Saluki Insider**

“Kevin Durant. Easy answer, yes, but it’s easy because he’s averaging 25.1 points and 11.4 rebounds per game.”

“Clearly the best player in the land is Luc Richard Mbah A Moute from UCLA. Sure he doesn’t boast the greatest numbers in the world but his name’s a lot of fun to say. Try it, you’ll enjoy yourself pronouncing the stud’s name. Besides, UCLA is probably the best pick to go to the Final Four outside of a slumping Florida simply because they’ve been there before.”

“I believe the Player of the Year award is going to Alando Tucker from Wisconsin. I am a Big Ten guy and he is leading the fourth-ranked Badgers by scoring averaging 20.1 points per game. I think the Badgers are going to go further in the tournament than Ohio State and Kansas.”

**STEVE FINLEY**

Steve Finley went 1-for-3 with a triple and a run scored for the Colorado Rockies in their 8-2 loss to the Milwaukee Brewers Wednesday. Finley, a former Saluki outfielder, is batting .385 so far in spring training with two runs scored and two RBI.

**SALUKI TRACKER**

Do you have questions for the Saluki Banter that you want answered? E-mail de_editor@dailyegyptian.com

**SPORTS BRIEFS**

**MEN’S BASKETBALL**

Senior receives more accolades

Saluki senior guard Jamaal Tatum has won a plethora of awards this season. Tatum has already been named MVC Player of the Year and earned a spot on the MVC All-Academic team.

On Tuesday, Tatum was voted onto the U.S. Basketball Writers Association and the National Association of Basketball Coaches all-district first teams.

Junior forward Randal Falker was named to the HABC all-district second team.

**WOMEN’S BASKETBALL**

Four Salukis make All-MVC

The SIU women’s basketball team placed four on the All-Missouri Valley Conference teams.

Senior forward Carlai Moore made the first team All-MVC. Moore leads the Salukis with 14.4 points per game and is shooting 57.3 percent.

Junior guard Jayme Sweere made the second team and the All-Defensive team. Sweere leads SIU with 51 steals and is second on the team with 11.3 points per game.

Sophomore guard Erica Smith was able to grab an honorable mention and freshman forward Dana Olsen made the All-Freshman team.

Smith averages 6.9 points per game and leads the team with 80 assists. Olsen has started 21 games for the Salukis and is third on the team averaging 8.7 points per game.

**MEN’S GOLF**

Senior named Golfer of the Week

SIU senior golfer Andrew Gwinup was named the Missouri Valley Conference Golfer of the Week. The award was given to Gwinup for the first time in his career as a Saluki. Gwinup won the award after placing seventh in the Grover Page Classic in Jackson, Tenn. Gwinup carded his best round at two under par with a round of 70, he also shot rounds of 72 and 78 to close out the tournament. Gwinup finished ahead of 79 other golfers in the tournament with a final score of 220.

The number of undergraduate students at Southern Illinois University.

The number of seniors honored as Southern’s Most Distinguished Seniors.

The number of juniors honored with the Super Student scholarship.

Application Deadline

**Friday, March 9**

For application materials visit www.siulumni.com
**SPORTS**

**Football**

**Gateway adds two teams**

**Scott Mieszala**

**Daily Egyptian**

Two more teams will call the Gateway Football Conference home in 2008. The conference will expand to nine teams with the addition of North Dakota State and South Dakota State for the 2008 season. This comes in the wake of Western Kentucky leaving the Gateway Conference, announced in November 2006. “Talking to the people that have been in it a lot longer than I have, I think they felt it was a necessity due to losing Western Kentucky and making sure that we had the amount of teams that they’ve had in the past,” SIU football coach Jerry Kill said.

The North Dakota State Bison and South Dakota State Jackrabbits both paid $230,000 to the teams currently in the Gateway. The money, paid to address budget and extra travel concerns, will be divided up among the teams already in the Gateway, Kill said. See GATEWAY, Page 14

**Baseball**

**SIU bullpen falters in loss**

**Scott Mieszala**

**Daily Egyptian**

It’s now safe to mark your calendars for the SIU baseball season 2008 season. The Salukis’ fall schedule was released Wednesday, and SIU will be kicking off its season Aug. 30 playing at home.

The schedule ends on a tough note against Hampton, a team that finished last season with a 10-2 record and ranked No. 11 in the nation. “It may sound money to that game whether we get into the national playoffs or not,” Saluki coach Jerry Kill said. “I think it’s very competitive and we’re going to have step up.”

In addition to traveling to Hampton, Va., for the final game of the season, SIU will also play an out of conference road game at Southern Illinois. The Salukis also have a road game at Division I-A Northern Illinois scheduled for Sept. 15 making for a total of six road games and five home games in the 2007 season. “We wish we didn’t have to travel as far as we have to travel, going to Southern Illinois and going to Hampton,” Kill said. See SCHEDULE, Page 14

**Men’s Basketball**

**Bloomington senior gives SIU verbal commitment**

**Matt Hartwig**

**Daily Egyptian**

For five weeks straight, the SIU basketball team has grabbed media attention from the Associated Press 1-2-5 poll and now the recognition is paying dividends of the court.

The No. 14 Salukis received a verbal commitment from Bloomington High School senior guard Justin Boost. Boost is widely regarded as one of the top guard prospects in Illinois for the 2007 class and is ranked fifth among shooting guards by ochohoo.com.

The 6-foot-2-inch, 170-pound shooting guard selected SIU over Iowa, Illinois, DePaul, Iowa State and Purdue. Boost played with Iowa State freshman guard Dede Denson in 2005 at Bloomington High School before leaving for prep school. After an unofficial visit to SIU during Feb. 23, Boost made his decision.

Now the only thing standing in the way of Boost joining Kokomo High School guard Brandon Wood, Pfafftown Lion high school senior Lashon Fy and Carbondale High School center/forward Nick Evans in academics. Bloomington High School Athletic Director John Szafo said it should only be a matter of time before Boost is officially a Saluki. See PROSPER, Page 14

**SCHEDULE**

**2007 - 2008 Saluki football Schedule**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Opponent / Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aug. 30</td>
<td>vs. Quincy</td>
<td>Carbondale</td>
<td>6 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 6</td>
<td>at Northern Iowa</td>
<td>Ankeny, Iow.</td>
<td>9:30 a.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 13</td>
<td>at Southern Utah</td>
<td>Cedar City, Utah</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 20</td>
<td>vs. Arkansas</td>
<td>Carbondale</td>
<td>5:30 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 6</td>
<td>vs. Kentucky</td>
<td>Carbondale</td>
<td>7:30 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 20</td>
<td>vs. Kansas State</td>
<td>Cedar Falls, Iowa</td>
<td>7:30 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 3</td>
<td>vs. Missouri</td>
<td>Carbondale</td>
<td>1:30 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 10</td>
<td>at Missouri State</td>
<td>Columbia, Mo.</td>
<td>8 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 17</td>
<td>at Hamptons, Va.</td>
<td>12 p.m.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
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**2006 - 2007 Saluki Football Results**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Opponent / Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aug. 31</td>
<td>vs. Lock Haven</td>
<td>Carbondale</td>
<td>W 49-2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 7</td>
<td>at Arkansas Pine Bluff</td>
<td>Pine Bluff, Ark.</td>
<td>W 52-16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 14</td>
<td>vs. Iowa State</td>
<td>Carbondale</td>
<td>W 55-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 1</td>
<td>vs. Western Illinois</td>
<td>Normal</td>
<td>L 37-0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 8</td>
<td>vs. Western Kentucky</td>
<td>Carbondale</td>
<td>L 24-27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 15</td>
<td>at Evansville</td>
<td>Evansville</td>
<td>W 27-12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 12</td>
<td>at Youngstown State</td>
<td>Youngstown, Ohio</td>
<td>L 31-24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 19</td>
<td>vs. Southern Utah</td>
<td>Carbondale</td>
<td>W 42-22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 22</td>
<td>at Montana</td>
<td>Missoula, Mont.</td>
<td>L 20-3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**SIU coach Jerry Kill watches the action from the sidelines of a 2006 Saluki game. The Salukis’ 2007 schedule and two additional to the Gateway Football Conference were announced Wednesday.**

**See SCHEDULE, Page 14**