The Daily Egyptian, August 30, 2002

Daily Egyptian Staff

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Second West Nile case reported in Jackson County

Illinois ranks third in nation for human West Nile cases

Greg Gima
Daily Egyptian

A 47-year-old woman from the Murphyboro area has been infected with West Nile virus, becoming the second person to be infected with the mosquito-carried virus in Jackson County in one week.

The case was reported by the Illinois Department of Public Health Thursday. Health officials said the woman did not require hospitalization. The first case of West Nile virus in the county was a 37-year-old man also from the Murphyboro area. Jackson County Health Department officials could not release locations or names of the two people but were able to give the general area.

West Nile virus is a mosquito-carried virus that causes West Nile encephalitis. Encephalitis is an inflammation of the brain. Illinois reported its first case of human infection Aug. 6. To date, there have been 98 reported cases of West Nile virus causing five deaths in Illinois.

"About 80 percent of people bitten by infected mosquitoes do not show any symptoms and less than 20 percent will experience the mild for symptoms," said Kevin Gillespie, director of the Environmental Health Division of the Jackson County Health Department. Gillespie said less than 1 in 150 who are infected will contract encephalitis or meningitis.

The Illinois Department of Public Health said symptoms of the virus can range from mild to severe, including headache, fever, stiff neck, tumors or convulsions, muscle weakness and paralysis. The virus can lead to neurological damage or death in a person who is older or has a weakened immune system.

"People are being bitten by infected mosquitoes and not realizing it," Gillespie said. "This is the day the 'They allow for some time for people to get ready.'" Gillespie said. "We're going to West Nile next year."

Schafer said the disease is on its way in Illinois and the United States and its spread 'comes in waves,' so it's not unexpected to see the public health field. "Schafer said the number of cases in East Coast states has dropped off dramatically once it moved through the area, but it is unknown whether the same will happen in Illinois. New York had 60 cases in 1999 and four this year."

When you think a disease takes five years usually isn't enough to have a good understanding of how a disease will progress," Schafer said.

The Illinois Department of Public Health stresses the importance of avoiding bugs. It recommends avoiding being outside during dawn, early evening and dusk. It also said that when mosquitoes are present, keep doors, long pants and socks when outside. Other methods of prevention include checking screens on other home openings and eliminating standing water, which is where mosquitoes breed.

Reprinted from Greg Gima can be reached at gima@dailyEgyptian.com

Enrollment figures to be released Wednesday

Samantha Edmondson
Daily Egyptian

The 10th day of classes is not only the last day to add or drop a class, but it is also the day the University counts the enrolled students. But this year's 10th-day enrollment figures will be announced Wednesday because the usual day to release the numbers would fall on Labor Day.

At the University of Southern Illinois, the enrollment number for students is slightly above last year's figures. University of Southern Illinois students were also a major contributor to the trend.

See ENROLLMENT, page 5

Mediacom hears from irate customers

Cable provider fields complaints about rate increases, poor customer service and blackouts

Phil Beckman
Daily Egyptian

Representatives of Mediacom faced more than 15 customers Wednesday night at a meeting to discuss problems with cable service in Carbondale.

"Customer complaints about customer service, rate hikes and service outages during the Caribbean Information and Telecommunications Commission meeting Monday." Mediacom resident Sam Goldsmith said there was no mystery that there were problems with Mediacom.

"We've heard your complaints about the quality of the service in Mediacom's Benton, Ky., customer service office. Many of the people in attendance and those who had tried to contact Mediacom they were put on hold after waiting up to 30 minutes, were disconnected.

"When you call Mediacom, it's like going into the 'Twilight Zone,'" one customer complained. "I have no problem with the rate increases," said another customer. "I just want to know when my cable is going to be fixed."

"We want to reassure you that our technicians are still out fixing problems with Mediacom's cable service. "I've been a Mediacom customer for a long time and I've never had a problem," said one customer.

See MEDIACOM, page 12

McAndrew mayhem

The first home Saluki football game under the new lights brought out an estimated 12,125 fans Thursday night, almost doubling last year's average of 6,175. The Salukis were treated to a thrilling 78-point shutout over Kentucky Wesleyan College.

William A. Bice
Daily Egyptian
National News

More remains found near WTC

NEW YORK - More human remains from the collapse of the World Trade Center towers have been found by construction crews working almost 2 years after the terrorist attack.

A medical examiner found human bone fragments and small bags on the roof of a heavily damaged 40-story building just south of ground zero, according to Port Authority Police Lt. John Ray, who oversees remains recovery operations.

Earlier this month, workers testifyed a woman's body at the southwest end of the trade center site.

Ray said other fragments have been found in recent weeks.

Police and the families of the victims are on alert and the force of the cleanup, even though everything was thoroughly reviewed during the recovery, is going to have situations where remains will be found.

Ray said.

After the excarnation of the 16-story site ended in June, firefighters and police officers expanded the recovery effort to several nearby buildings. They have found bone fragments, teeth and parts of an airplane luggage tag.

International News

UK deploys troops near Zimbabwe

LONDON, England - Britain is to send ground troops to South Africa's border with Zimbabwe.

The Ministry of Defence is playing down suggestions that the deployment of up to 500 members of the elite Parachute Regiment is because of increasing fears for the safety of white farmers, threatened by Robert Mugabe's land seizures.

Defence chiefs in the long-planned operation in South Africa is not connected to the violence over the border.

But a MoD spokeswoman in London did not rule out using the 4,000-strong South African Paras, if an evacuation proved necessary.

Every citizens of the United Kingdom placed on an international terrorist blacklist.

The statement came amid reports that the SAS have explosives and aggressive chemicals and with possession of illegal immigration documents.

Italy freezes 'terror' funds

ROME - Italian authorities have frozen the bank accounts of at least 11 Libyan nationals, including two named as key players in the funding of terrorist groups in Europe.

The Italian government made the move in cooperation with Libya to block the financing of a militant Palestinian group Hamas.

While there is no connection between the accounts and the Italian court decisions of the 11 individuals, dozens of other Libyan groups are known to use money from oil sales to fund terrorist activities.

Indians teen hid pregnancy, let puppy be baby born

MUGLE, India - A high school student who kept her pregnancy secret allegedly let her premature baby be discovered by the child in an abandoned playground, police said.

Seethal Patts, 16, was being held without bond.

Sunday in the Dehradun County Jail on a preliminary charge of murder in the case of her newborn.

Detectors searching the playground near Patts' house in Dehradun said that a dead baby was born in the area on Aug. 24, 2001, a bath in a bathtub.

You can't kill someone just because you think they are going to die," police Capt. Robert Baker said.

National Weather

Today

High 87
Low 65

Parly cloudy with north-east winds 5 to 15 mph.

Five-day Forecast

Today

High 87
Low 65

Partly cloudy

Tuesday

High 87
Low 65

Mostly cloudy

Wednesday

High 87
Low 65

Mostly cloudy

Almanac

Average high: 86
Average low: 62

Today's Calendar

The Spanish Table meeting Cub Melting 6:00 p.m., Social Ave.

4 to 6 p.m.

Today only.

Police Reports

No items to report.
Future uncertain for off-campus housing

Approved housing may have to alter marketing strategies

Katie A. Davis  
Daily Egyptian

With the end of exams near, students may begin to think of housing for the next academic year. Although the housing market shows signs of tightening up, students may have to rely on other marketing strategies to convince landlords to rent to them.

"I think the market is tightening up," said Edward Jones, director of University Housing. "That doesn't mean landlords aren't going to take the chance to advertise their units, but students may have to use other marketing strategies to get their foot in the door."

Jones added that students should not only focus on finding a place to live, but also make sure the landlord or property management company is aware of their interest in the housing.

"If I were a landlord, I'm not going to advertise my place if I don't know who's interested," said Jones.

Despite the tightening market, University Housing is still trying to fill units for the upcoming year. Students can now apply for housing in 187 positions from the housing office, which is located in the Office of Student Affairs.

"We have 187 positions available for this year," said Jones. "That's up from 185 positions last year."
New structure acts as student forum near Fanner Hall

Brian Peach

Daily Egyptian

Physical plant workers are hops®

ing the newly installed kiosk outside

Fanner Hall's surrounding build-

ings and sidewalks clear of the usual

signs and advertisements that litter

them on a daily basis.

The two-week old kiosk is part of the

ongoing land use and improve-

ment plan that began in June of last

year. The multi-million dollar initia-

tive will continue to improve SIUC's

physical image in the coming years.

Scott Weber, an assistant Univer-

sity engineer who helped design

the 10-foot concrete cylinder, said

he hopes students find the new struc-

ture a valuable informational

tool.

"It gives them a forum to display

information they want to pass along

to others, similar to signs and

advertisements that litter sidewalks and

sidewalks," Weber said.

Though the kiosk is well-built and

appealing to the eye, it is still being used

on a trial basis to determine if more should be built throughout the campus. Weber and

administrators have considered building the kiosks for more than a

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at
Fraternity earns national honors

Beta Theta Pi

receives honors at annual convention

Jessica Yowama

Daily Egyptian

Every year, the members of Beta Theta Pi set out on a journey acrossthe SIUC campus. Their destination is not a bus, or party as some considered the endless Greek stereotypes might suggest. And though they may be walking in circles, it is not the simplest journey they will take.

They are walking for a cause, the Walk for Life, during which they will walk around an SLC track to raise money for cancer research. This event is one of several acts of charity that contributed to the decision to move Beta Theta Pi national honors at the fraternity's annual convention.

The SIUC chapter of Beta Theta Pi was the winner of four awards this year, including first place for the Campus Involvement, Simon and Virginia Tech awards, as well as runner-up for the John Hadji Duncan award.

The awards won by the fraternity recognize a cumulative grade point average of 3.27, consistently above the male average, commitment to philanthropy and performance community service such as the Walk for Life.

During this event, members walked from the Thursday preceding the first day of spring, gunning to raise money for cancer research. Last year alone, they were able to raise $1,000. Because of these efforts, the fraternity has won awards such as these several times in previous years.

Mary Obey, president of Beta Theta Pi, knows that philanthropy and charity are not two words commonly associated with fraternities.

"There are a lot of negative stereotypes about how people have associations that have been built up through the years," said Obey, a senior in political science from Robinson. "Things like shooting, parties and drinking, some activities that are carried out by people that forget what it means to be a fraternity is about."

Beta Theta Pi, according to an often forgotten aspect of Greek life, should be seen as a positive force, said the organization earned recognition not only on the SIUC campus, but also several national honors.

"Though the Walk for Life is probably the biggest event, the organization performs multiple things throughout the year. The events, most of which are in athletics including Coaches vs. Students, helped us to raise thousands of dollars last year for various causes."

"Though the fulfillment from performing charity work and national recognition are something the members of Beta Theta Pi see at the end of the year, they say there are many other benefits to Greek life."

"Beta Beta, a senior in finance from Springfield, said being a member of the organization has taught him, among other things, "Leadership, Skills and a better way to conduct himself."

"Members Jonas Dews agrees that there are many unrecognized benefits to Greek life."

"They are from a small town, and I didn’t know a lot in high school," said Dews, a friend, they are taken until the end of the day on the first occasion. It it happens again, they are taking it seriously."

Even though the fraternity was selected for these awards, member JR. Early said it is important to realize that all of the fraternities have done something to contribute to the positive picture of Greek life.

"It think it’s important to realize that they’re a lot of fraternities out there doing good things," said Early, a senior in special education.

"There would be no Beta Theta Pi if we didn’t have a Greek community supporting us."

"There are a lot of fraternities out there on the same track we are."

The SIUC chapter of Beta theta Pi is shown decked out in their official dress with the Saluki mascot at the SIU Arena. The SIUC chapter was honored by their national organization for outstanding involvement in community and campus.

Mary Obey said he hopes to perform 2,500 hours of community service this year, more than they performed last year. He hopes that Beta Theta Pi’s ongoing devotion to the campus and community will help to dispel stereotypes about fraternities. Obst, as well as the other members of the organization, wants to remind those possessing negative perceptions that Greek life is about friendship, getting involved and giving back to the community, something Jonas Dews has come to realize during his time in the organization.

"When I do something like the Walk for Life, I feel like I’m giving back. Jonas said. "I just want people to see our letters and think, they’re doing a great job."

Reporter Jessica Youzama can be reached at jyouzama@dailyEgyptian.com

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Court case changes special education certification guidelines

Lindsey J. Mastis

Daily Egyptian

Special education majors are now under new, updated guidelines in Illinois because of a recent court case called the "Corey H. Decision" that changed courses in programs.

"This means — as far as we being able to meet diversities needs — is a good change," said Early, who was a student in special education.

"Our school is working hard to notify us about changes. I see a lot of students frustrated and thinking the school is making it hard in fact it is the state.,"

Foley said the new program allowed SIUC to integrate instructional courses in which Illinois certified many changes in a short amount of time.

"We were on a very short timeline implementing this, she said. "The state board required that we have the program designed and in place by May and implemented at the end of July."

Towers said the case failed to give adequate certification for the changes, but says talking with advisors can help.

"I encourage students to speak with their advisors and get a head start when things are changing," she said.

Reporter Lindsey J. Mastis can be reached at lmastis@dailyEgyptian.com

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CELL PHONES

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

...council trying to come up with solutions to possible problems," Bullock said.

"We want to meet students’, parents’ and educational needs, but not at a disruption," he said.

Reporter Kristina Herradue can be reached at kherraude@dailyEgyptian.com

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ENROLLMENT

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

...state, and the enrollment figures help determine how much they can raise to help meet the budget.

"Even though enrollment numbers went down about 1,000 students last fall, De Luci said new student enrollment this year looks promising.

"New student counts look optimistic, but without retaining students, we earn little," De Luci said. "I think there will be positives in the overall numbers, but right now it is too close to call."

De Luci said she also believes new student enrollment may have increased because of programs like Student Orientation Achievement Registration (SOAR) and other informational programs that help students to campus extensively before coming.

Both Luecking, New Student Program staff member, said De Luci 1,600 students attended the SOAR program, introducing new students to academic and extra-curricular programs and helps students get settled and increases retention.

"Instead of standing on things on their own, everyone is all next and tidy for them," Luecking said. "We have gotten a lot of positive feedback and they feel more comfortable, more connected, stay and become successful."

Reporter Samantha Eisenmenger can be reached at seisenmenger@dailyEgyptian.com

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Southern Illinois’ Premier Entertainment Venue

TICKETS ON SALE NOW!
Just say no to THEIR WORD

Drugs have nothing to do with the creation of music. In fact, drugs are dumb and self-indulgent. Kind of like sucking your thumb.

By Gordon S. Clark
Knight Ridder/Tribune

The high-low binary in the Bush administration are pushing for a "regime change" in Iraq and preparing for war. But the consequences of a U.S. attack on Iraq range from troubling to potentially catastrophic.

First, the unprecedented (or the new stealthy-weak, "preventive") attack on Iraq would increase the already substantial anger felt toward the United States by Muslim and Arab peoples. Such anger, if continued, could create fertile recruitment ground for terrorists.

Second, an all-out attack on our Saddam Hussein might precisely be the motivation he needs to use weapons of mass destruction. If so, he has said "Saddam would be likely to conclude he had nothing left to lose, leading him to unleash whichever weapons of mass destruction he possesses," then, "Our own".

Third, there is every reason to believe that Hussein will wage again attack Israel, as he did during the Gulf War. Arab and Middle Eastern leaders seem in no mood to practice restraint, and if Israel responds, it could easily become a region-wide war.

Fourth, to keep Iraq together or to support our chosen ersatz government, the United States would need to keep troops in Iraq—thousands of troops, for many years. This would create more resentment among Arabs and Muslims even more need for terrorism.

Fifth, the anger on the Arab street could help ensure the overthrow of other Middle-Eastern governments. Our allies in Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Jordan are called "moderate" in the U.S. press, but in reality they are corrupt and repressive dictators. They have objected to U.S. plans largely because they know the public might seem to support our chosen ersatz government if it comes to power.

Sixth, an attack could have a profound negative effect on the economy, bringing an oil price shock, market distortions and a huge bill for the United States. The $600 billion price tag of the Gulf War was largely paid up by allies, but they have no intention of doing that this time.

An attack could also fundamentally disrupt the economic landscape of Turkey and Jordan, which depend on trade from British Prime Minister Tony Blair, and Israel, who used that knowledge to produce... an attack. A new, "preventive" strike would have to be balanced by an economic strategy, leading to more war around the world.

Eighth, an attack would further degrade our image and weaken our relationship with the other nations of the world. Apart from British Prime Minister Tony Blair, and Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, no other nations support our plans in Iraq, and most strongly oppose them.

Nine, if you are concerned about morality or human rights, any large-scale action in Iraq would almost certainly kill thousands of innocent civilians. How many Iraqi civilians are we ready to kill to remove Saddam Hussein?

Tenth, how many Americans are we ready to sacrifice? The number of casualties to American troops could be large, and the threat to homeland security is just as plausible. Are we prepared for that situation?

Preemption of the war means to sweep all of these concerns aside. But the public is not so gung-ho. Bush's war plans are a distraction. It is up to us, the American people, to put on the brakes.
COLUMNS

Have you heard the news?

BY SAMANTHA ROBINSON

The girl has been arrested, but the boyfriend has not because police say he has been very cooperative by leading them to where she was first spotted.

While searching the area, police received a boost and are writing for the missing to confirm they belong to the baby.

What has this world come to? There used to be a time when people did what they had to do instead of killing the baby. At 17 years old and an honor student, I don't think she knew any better.

I want to know how she hid the baby. Why didn't she just go out for a walk? That would have been the right thing to do instead of killing the baby. At 17 years old and an honors student, I don't think she knew any better.

This has happened many times in the past and people still haven't learned. If you kill, nine times out of 10 you will get caught, especially if you tell other people.

I was talking to my sister trying to get her to see that she was pushing for me to write something on an environmental issue.

Since that is her forte and mine, I have to do a little more research so I can write more about the issue.

The owner of the car should have made sure the car was in a secure cage and not put all the responsibility on the dog. The dogs were traveled with five cats, and they got four back. They should be happy.

A year ago, a high school honors student gave birth prematurely. She did not want the baby, so she drowned it in the sink.

They were traveling with five cats, and they got four back. They should be happy.

She is not a threat to the details of the case. They are ridiculous. It's silly and those people need to be educated.

Not only are they stupid, but they have no idea what is happening in the animal rights activist. In fact, it's only in the case of young people that we don't see animals more than another human.

I know I am just a boy (yes, I am), but those dogs should have been put to death because of the responsibility on the owner. It's not just that one dog, but whether you are African-American; if you are, you're mulatto, and if you are not, you are a bastard.

That was a stupid thing to do. If she was a smart woman, she would have let the police take the baby.

I felt compelled to protect myself from those advances, if you could call them that, not because I thought I'd get hurt or even do something fatal, but because I didn't want to get labeled a slut.

Although I am a high school student, I wasהמלפיא to make an attempt. I was certainly familiar with the stigma of a random hookup, and if colleges were to be clean the way people gear up for something.

We look at every scene as if there were an animal inside. The Crocodile Hunter — see the fashions girls write in their binary looks, as the boy first watches from behind. Crooked! He just moved in with a new one. Why do we buy into this?

Boys and girls, sexual relationships — they're mutual interests. It is not only to be used not only to...
Dave the dog leads the SIU Cycling Club to the finish line to of the 24-hour race in Winter Park, Colo., this summer. As the last teammate was riding down the finish chute, the rest of the team joined him to run together and celebrate 24 hours of hard work.

The SIU Cycling Club recently returned from a cross-country trip to Winter Park, Colo., where the team participated in a 24-hour mountain bike relay race and spent a few days riding on what are considered to be the finest mountain bike trails in the country. The race was one of seven U.S. races that make up the 24 Hours of Adrenaline series, and at 9,100 feet, it was held at a higher altitude than any other. With all the excitement going on, the SIU cyclists were...

Riding HIGH

STORY BY BRENDAN COLLIER
PHOTOS BY MARY COLLIER

Leaded with bicycles and camping gear, the team caravan traveled for sixteen hours, fighting through rush-hour traffic in St. Louis, crossing the flatlands of Kansas, and snaking up Colorado's mountain roads in time to witness a glorious sunrise. Nestled in the Rockies at a lung-searing 9,100 feet, Winter Park carried the aroma of pine in its brisk, thin air. Team members remarked how odd it felt to have shifted from "school mode" to "vacation mode" after leaving Carbondale and final exams just less than a day ago. To the mountain bike team, it seemed as though they'd found paradise. Camper registration began at 9 a.m.; and the team members' only ambition was to set up their campsite so they could get some sleep. When 9 a.m. finally came, most of the road-weary team moved into the camping area and unloaded equipment while a few others drove to town to buy the perfect addition to any sophisticated campsite - a hide-a-bed couch. Other creature comforts the team also enjoyed were an espresso maker, a home stereo, and even a homebuilt shower complete with a hot-water heater. With the sleeper couch and shower unit in place, the team was assured of a comfortable stay despite the physical punishment they'd face in the next day's race.

See CYCLING, page 9
Cycling

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

ascillation, the race was on. The event commenced with a L-Main-style start in which the riders first must race 2-3 minute course before mounting their bicycles and heading for the trail. At noon, Ben Miller, a sophomore in aviation management, ran the Lemans start and rode the team's first lap, finishing with a competitive time that put SIU in second place. For the next 24 hours the Cycling Team battled to maintain that second place position, facing rain, cold temperatures and racers from around the world. As the sun dropped below the horizon, the team prepared for the long night ahead of them — charging lights and adjusting bikes in between shifts. Darkness fell and SIU riders headed out into the bone-chilling night, riding the24 hours of the race; especially for the teams from lower elevations. Trying to breathe properly while riding the long climbs was quite difficult for some, while Matt Gindlesparger, a senior in architecture, said the most recent aspect of the race for him was "getting up at six in the morning and trying to muster up the energy to ride another lap." The team's only mechanical problem occurred sometime in the wee hours of the morning, when Vic Henderson, a junior in industrial technology, was forced to walk nearly a half hour to the transition area because of a broken rear derailleur, the part of the bike that shifts gears. A rapid turnaround put him back on the racecourse in a matter of only a few minutes.

Mary Collier, a junior in photography, finished her final lap at 11:40 a.m., just 20 minutes before the cutoff for the final lap. The latest information had told us the we were still in second place, several laps behind a professional team from the Netherlands, but holding a slim margin over third place, a team from Fort Collins, Colo. SIU Needed the final lap to keep second place. Music blared over loudspeakers and crowds gathered around the start/finish area as I was passed the finish and waved out on the final lap. Pouring rain and thousands of mountain bike tires rolling over the same terrain had worn the trail considerably over the past day. It would all come to an end soon. Completing the lap, the course led me up through the corporate sponsored tent area and past hundreds of spectators, leading to the transition area. "Who Let The Dogs Out" was playing over the loudspeakers, and the entire remainder of the team gathered at the entrance of the finishing chute, SIU banner waving. I felt like a rock star as I coasted across the finish line and under the clock bridge, my teammates running alongside me. At 24 hours, 22 minutes and 56 seconds, the race was 1.6 miles over, and SIU had claimed second place.

Through the rusted members were tired, spirits ran high as the awards ceremony began. Racers from all the teams gathered at the start/finish area as awards and random drawings were given out. The awards ceremony came to an end and racers returned to their daily lives, turning what has been called "the Woodstock of mountain biking" into a ghost town.

For the SIU Cycling Team, the fun was not over. Over the next few days, members rode some of the most awe-inspiring trails the country has to offer. The team rode up and down mountain trails, occasionally being forced to stop and hide under trees during short rain showers. One ride took the team atop Mary Jane, the highest peak in Winter Park. At 11,020 feet, the terrain looked like the surface of the moon — rocky, gray and without vegetation. The wind howled past a ski-resort shack, the only building at the top. Miller remarked that he liked airplanes at altitudes lower than when we were riding our bikes. Team members considered the long climbs an investment that would pay off with blazing descents. Returning from the popular climbs was always an adventure. Lightning-fast speeds and ribbon-like winding trails gave riders ear-to-ear grins all the way back to town. The adrenaline high lasted for hours after the ride ended. At the end of every day the team members would tend to their wounds, make necessary repairs to their bikes and head for the restaurants to review their tales. Eventually, team members had to go to their jobs and school. For the team members who journeyed to Winter Park, the memories, photographs and scars made there will all make for an unforgettable experience.
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Weekday Mass: Check www.sfx.org

Newman Catholic Student Center
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Weekday Mass: Tues-Fri 5:15 pm

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Traditional Worship @ 10:00
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Adventist Campus Ministries
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Marion Church website: www.trinity.org/marion

Vineyard Church
9:30 & 11:15 a.m.
Sundays
351-VINE (8463)
www.vineyard-church.com
Mediacom continued from page 1

concern. After Mediacom purchased the system from AT&T, they initiated a $1 million program to upgrade the system to the latest technology. As they replaced components of the old system, as many as 500 people at a time experienced service outages during the course of the upgrade.

Citzens complained that they never knew when the outages would take place and that they were unaware that they were eligible for refunds for the time the cable service was out of service.

"If you've had some service outage, then credit is due," said Randy Hollis, Mediacom government relations manager.

Citizens demanded to know the reason for the August rate hike.

Lemasters explained that rates were increased because of the system upgrades and became the program provider had increased its prices.

There were also complaints that customers did not have a local number at which to contact Mediacom and that there was no listing for Mediacom in the phone book.

Mr. Grubb, chairman of the commission, said that according to the franchise agreement, Mediacom is not required to have a local customer service number but only a number that is publicly listed. The number is not listed in the local telephone directory because when Mediacom purchased the local cable system from AT&T, it was too late to get the listing in, but it will be in the next published phone book.

Goldman urged the city to be proactive in dealing with these issues. He recommended that the city look into getting satellite television service to provide local TV stations as a way to provide Carbondale residents with a viable alternative to Mediacom. Mediacom currently has a monopoly on cable service in Southern Illinois.

Grubb said that in communities where there is competition, customer service is excellent and prices are competitive. The commission, he said, would do what it could, but federal law severely restricts the power of local governments to regulate cable service providers.

Grubb said that as long as Mediacom fulfills the basic requirements of the contract, there is an expectation that the contract, which expires in November 2006, will be renewed. Within the constraints of federal law, he said, only some kind of gross negligence could justify non-renewal of the contract.

While he was aware there were problems with the contractors during the upgrade, Grubb said that was unaware of the extent of the customer service problems until Wednesday night. He said that without feedback from the community, the commission does not know what is going on.

The city attorney's office provides a complaint form that the commission can fill out and the city will forward to Mediacom. The company is required to respond, and the complaints forms are kept on file at the city offices.

The Mediacom representative will return to report on their efforts to improve service at the next commission meeting at 7 p.m. on Sept. 25 at City Hall, 200 S. Illinois Ave.

Reporter Paul Beckman can be reached at phbeckman@dailyEgyptian.com

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- **September 3, 2002**
- **Volume 11, Number 23**

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**Announcements**

**DAILY EQUUS**
- **September 3, 2002**
- **Volume 11, Number 23**

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**Daily Egyptian**
- **Help Wanted**
  - **Fall 2002 semester**

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**ONLINE PRODUCER**

The Daily Egyptian is looking to hire a professional and creative individual who should be interested in combining news and the fast-paced world of the internet. Candidates must be enrolled in at least 6 credit hours at SIUC this fall and be able to work evenings. The candidate should have the following skills:

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**Daily Horoscopes**

By Linda C. Black

Today's birthday (Aug. 30). You're tired of settling for symbolism over substance. You want a job that you love and that pays well - one that comes with respect and authority. If there's one ready, apply this year. If not, relocation is a possibility. If you already have this type of a job, move on up. To get the advantage, check the day's rating: 10 is the easiest day, 0 the most challenging.

Aries (March 21-April 19) - Today is a 7. You can make progress if you practice. You're finally getting better at a difficult chore. Allow extra time to reach your destination. There's a lot of confusion out there.

Taurus (April 20-May 20) - Today is a 6. Have you been asked to do more? That's because you're so responsible. Don't let them forget to pay you what you're worth. Pitch a fit if necessary.

Gemini (May 21-June 21) - Today is a 6. You have the power to call a halt to something you don't like. Don't be bullied if you have the law on your side. Find out whether you do.

Cancer (June 21-July 22) - Today is a 6. Your workplace could be a real mess. You'll have to think quickly and be alive to meet requirements that keep changing. Never a dull moment!

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) - Today is a 7 - Brace yourself for another startling revelation. Better keep a lot of cash on hand in case you need to make a quick getaway. Don't spend it on junk. Instead, support a friend's good cause.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) - Today is a 6. Changes currently under way could be to your benefit. Don't profit from another's loss. Profit by providing necessary services.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) - Today is an 8. Changes currently under way could be to your benefit. Don't profit from another's loss. Profit by providing necessary services.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) - Today is a 6. The cost is too high. Friends may be disappointed, but the bender might be worth it. In any case, the others who could do it are too busy.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) - Today is a 6. Don't be late with your bill this month. The cost is too high. You're not doing things that will benefit others, but you're not doing things that will benefit others, either.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) - Today is an 8. You're sharp and creative, but you're slowed somewhat by daily routine. Make plans to get things started.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) - Today is an 8. Changes currently under way could be to your benefit. Don't profit from another's loss. Profit by providing necessary services.

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Northern Iowa gets transfer

Northern Iowa moved up in the Missouri Valley Conference by two spots to No. 2 in the latest MVFC media poll which was released Monday.

"This is a definite reward for our team," coach Jerry Colangelo said. "For us to be rated as high as 13th in the nation is really an indication of the progress we have made this season."

The Panthers are now ranked 15th in the nation, one spot ahead of Southern Illinois.

"We have made a lot of progress in the last few weeks," Colangelo added. "We are looking to see if we can keep it going and improve our record."
SIU volleyball to open season in Lone Star State this weekend

Michael Brennan
Daily Egyptian

The SIU volleyball team will begin its season tonight in a strange land against four strange teams.
The Salukis will square off against four teams today and Saturday at the Southwest Texas State Bobcat Classic in San Marcos, Texas, though they are unsure of what they will feel when they get there.

"I don't know very little about Texas and it is a strange to the storms it will be playing. But the uncertainty doesn't seem to bother it."

"I don't think it matters what we know and what we don't about these teams," senior Tam Cairns said. "They play volleyball, and that's all we need to know about them."

Although the Salukis haven't secured Air Force, Mississippi State, host Southwest Texas State or North Texas, they will plan on beating the Lone Star State with four wins in their pockets.

Senior Kristie Kemner has little doubt her team will make losses of its opponents.

"We can beat all four of these teams," Kemner said. "We should be coming home 0-0." STI finished last season 11-15 -- for respect to Air Force 3-2-1 -- so a victory need be expected. But the other four teams posted records nearly identical to the Salukis during their 2001 campaigns which could make for a competitive tournament.

Locke believes SIU will take all four games, but she expressed her confidence a bit more cautiously than Kemner.

"We just want to get as many wins as possible," Locke said. "We want to play good volleyball, and sometimes you play good volleyball and don't win. We want to play up to our potential." Locke is sensing that although non-conference opponents are a great chance to test your team and find out who can do what, she is already looking to the postseason.

Who the Salukis beat in Texas this weekend, though it's early, could start their post-season chances. They are not taking these games lightly.

Locke said Mississippi State is a great example of this weekend's importance. If SIU beats the Bulldogs, the Bulldogs win the SEC, it would increase the Salukis' RPI and put a lot of weight on the selection committee team consideration.

Therefore, the Boost Classic is much more than a time-up.

Marissa Washington and Qiana Nelson practice their kills Monday in John P見積. The SIU volleyball team will meet the season today at the Southwest Texas State Bobcat Classic in San Marcos, Texas.

"If you've just wanted to practice, you'll get someone to come in and scrimmage us," Locke said. "This is a senior-elder team, we need to test." Friday's match against Air Force will be the first collegiate match for one of the five Salukis who are a senior -- Marissa Washington.

Washington is in the setting for the second middle blocker position and as of Thursday, that position's starters hadn't been named. But whether she starts or not, Washington won't have any regrets with most flights.

"I'm ready to play," Washington said. "I've gotten a lot better since I've gotten here, so I just want to show everyone on Mississippi State and Air Force what Sonya and the rest of the seniors on this team have shown me.

Washington and the rest of the Salukis will be spending their nights in Texas, having their off-court attentions to dinner with alumni.

Kemner said she, and probably the rest of the team, will not be seeking fun on the streets of San Marcos. Volleyball will be the only thing on their mind.

"I'm not going to press our luck," Kemner said. "I'm just going to steer, sleep and play volleyball."
Kentucky Wesleyan 0 - Southern Illinois 78

Blowout

SIU football opens season with convincing victory over Kentucky Wesleyan

Todd Merchant

Daily Egyptian

It didn’t take long for the SIU football team to show that it is serious about turning things around this year.

The Salukis scored 17 seconds into their first game of the season and coasted to a record-breaking 78-0 victory over Kentucky Wesleyan Thursday night at McAndrew Stadium.

An estimated 12,225 fans turned out for the first night game in 29 years. Kentucky Wesleyan coach Jeny Todd Merchant said, “It was even more awesome in the locker room. The environment was “The whole defense was just on its game. We really turned things around this year,” said Merchant.

The SIU defense, which held Kentucky Wesleyan to 14 points in total offense, turned it up a notch in the fourth quarter. James Smith tallied an 18-yard fumble return, and Steve Davison added a 21-yard fumble return while four different players had interception returns in the final quarter to seal the victory.

“The whole defense was just running to the ball tonight,” sophomore defensive end Lionel Williams said. “We’ve been practicing as hard as we can, and it pays off.”

The 78 points were the most SIU has ever scored in the 36 years since 1973. It was the first time SIU tied a record and the first time the Salukis scored 36 touchdowns in a career with 32, but it was the first time SIU scored 36. For the game, Koutsos had 65 yards on four carries.

“The only thing better than scoring touchdowns is making field goals,” said Merchant.

“Touchdown Tommy” was pulled after the first half, but he did nothing to slow down SIU’s running game.

Samuels’ time trial was pulled early in the second quarter, but that didn’t slow down SIU’s running game. The special teams also took over in the second half.

The SIU defense also had a big day, allowing just 28 points on 253 yards of total offense.

“Touchdown Tommy” was pulled after the first half, but he did nothing to slow down SIU’s running game.

SIU placed kicker Craig Coffin was 1-for-3 on field goals, but made his three-point conversions.

“Coffin’s a big deal,” said Merchant.

“We won 78-0, but there was a lot of cautious tonight,” Merchant said. “We’ve got to go back and clean things up and get ready for SEMO.”

Football coach Todd Merchant
cofin contributed nine of the 78 Salukis points on three field goals.

Craig Coffin kicks a field goal during the second half of last night’s slaughter of Kentucky Wesleyan. Coffin contributed nine of the 78 Salukis points on three field goals.

‘Touchdown Tommy’

Jens Deju

Daily Egyptian

It was a night of firsts for the SIU football team.

It was the first time the Salukis played a home game under the lights since 1973.

It was the first time playing a conference game for Kentucky Wesleyan.

It was also the first time starting running back Tom Koutsos has rushed for four touchdowns in a single game.

Not a single game, a single quarter.

After the first 15 minutes of the Salukis’ 78-0 massacre of the Division II Kentucky Wesleyan Panthers, Koutsos had touchdowns from 12, 12 and two even shorter.

And he only touched the ball three times after the first quarter.

Koutsos said he couldn’t remember a time when he had scored so many touchdowns in such a short time.

“Not in my career; last was pretty quick,” Koutsos said.

For the game, Koutsos had 65 rushing yards, but that was on just 11 carries, and he averaged 5.9 yards per run.

Koutsos entered the game tied with Amos Bullock for rushing touchdowns in a career with 32, but he now has yet another record all to himself. The four touchdowns gave Koutsos a total of 36 for his career, putting him just one behind the all-time school record of 37 held by former standout wide receiver Cornell Craig.

This game was the first chance for Koutsos to prove himself after being named to the watch list for the Walter Payton Award earlier this week. The award is I-AA football’s equivalent to the Heisman Trophy.

Koutsos said after being nominated that he just wanted to prove he deserved the honor, and he did just that as he scored on four of his first eight touches of the season.

But despite all the scoring, Koutsos is happiest with the win.

“First touchdowns is a big deal, but we won the game,” Koutsos said.

“Thats what counts,” Koutsos added.

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SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
AUGUST 30, 2002

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SALUKI SPORTS

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SCOREBOARD GATEWAY

Dute 7, W. Illinois 64

Indiana 21, Iowa 48

Clinton 14, Valley 27

Wayne St 59; N. Iowa 34

TODAY IN THE NEWS

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY