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Daily Egyptian staff

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John and Pamela Loyd pick out a Christmas tree with their family Sunday afternoon in the Big Lots parking lot. The Carbondale Community High School Marching Terriers are selling trees in the lot to raise money for future trips and competitions. 

See ETHICS, Page 10

Race for city council off to rapid start

Simon issues ethical challenge to other mayoral candidates

Brandon Augsburg

Before filing her mayoral nominating petition Monday, Carbondale Councilwoman Sheila Simopn and SIUC Law Professor Sheila Simon gave her supporters a first glimpse at what she called a “working platform.”

Simon set three basic principles for her campaign: integrity, responsibility and opportunity.

She said ethics in government is a concern for many people, so she made her personal financial information available to the public to answer any questions voters might have about her income. She also said the city needs to practice fiscal responsibility with its resources and become a leader on environmental issues.

In addition, Simon noted many opportunities for the city, including making neighborhoods safer, developing the local economy, taking advantage of educational opportunities and improving intergovernmental cooperation.

“I think the three words at the top — integrity, responsibility and opportunity — do the best to summarize that I want people to be able to look for themselves and see whether they should be able to trust me,” she said.

Simon was the last of the three announced mayoral candidates to present her platform. Carbondale Mayor Brad Cole and Jessica Loyd, director of student development at SIU, had already announced their platforms.

Davis released a seven-point covenant shortly after announcing her election bid in September. Her platform includes topics such as education from early childhood to college, health care and well-being, economic and housing development, environmental integrity and a community-centered justice system.

Davis has elaborated on each topic through a series of town hall meetings the past few months. She has already discussed education, health care and economic development, and the next meeting is tonight at 7 p.m. at

See ETHICS, Page 10

SIUC residing spokeswoman takes new job

Andrea Zimmermann

After roughly 15 years as spokeswoman for SIUC, Sue Davis is shifting her efforts into cyberspace — specifically onto the popular social networking sites MySpace and Facebook.

On Monday, Davis, who has served as executive director for Media and Communication Resources since 2002, will assume the newly created role of executive director of strategic communications.

In this capacity, Davis said she will research new ways to help the university communicate with different segments of the community. Similar to her previous role, Davis will report her findings directly to the chancellor.

“As technology changes, you have to look at what you are using to communicate with new groups. For kids in high school and middle school, e-mail is old — now they text,” she said. “The idea is to set back and take a new look and to look at different ways we communicate with different groups.”

“Gray Davis, having a profile? Hey, that might be terrific,”

Recently, Davis’ office has been the subject of much criticism surrounding the university’s lack of a strategic marketing plan. In the spring, she was also embroiled in scandal after a portion of a 2005 speech she wrote for former Chancellor Walter Wendler was lifted from another author.

See COMMUNICATION, Page 10

New interim provost in place

Wayne Utterback

An interim provost is now in place nearly two months after Interim Chancellor John Dunn assumed the campus helm.

Associate Provost Don Rice is now provost while Dunn, who held the position since 2002, sits in the top spot.

Dunn, who announced Rice’s temporary promotion Monday, took over Nov. 16 after former Chancellor Walter Wendler was demoted to professor of architecture.

Although Rice said he is ready for the gain in responsibility, he is a bit worried about a gain elsewhere.

“Every time I’ve taken a new administrative position, I’ve gained a lot of weight, so I’m not looking forward to gaining another 20 to 30 pounds,” Rice said with a laugh.

Rice came to SIUC in 1991 to work with Interim Chancellor John Dunn’s previous position as interim provost — came to SIUC in 1991.

“I’m on one hand pleased and on the other hand nervous,” Rice said. “I enjoy working with Interim Chancellor Dunn.”

Dunn said the selection was affirmed after conversations with the Faculty Senate, Graduate Council, Faculty Association and members of the dean’s council.

See INTERIM, Page 10
Shimkus says he wishes he did more to investigate Foley's sexual internet messaging scandal

WASHINGTON (AP) — Rep. John Shimkus, R-Ill., said Monday that he regrets not doing more to investigate sexual come-ons to male pages by former Rep. Mark Foley and accepts criticism over how he handled the matter.

But the southern Illinois Republican said he and fellow GOP leaders were vindicated by a House ethics committee's report released Friday that found they broke no rules and should not be punished.

"For those points that they said we probably could have done a better job, I accept that criticism," Shimkus said after an unrelated appearance in Springfield. "But they also say early in the report that hindsight is 20-20, and even their conclusions could be jaded based upon knowing a little more of all of us known.

Shimkus also said he does not expect to continue serving on the supervisory page board when Democrats take control of Congress next month.

"I think it's time for me to give up this additional duty, which I've really enjoyed except for this experience," Shimkus said.

Shimkus has been a key player in the page scandal, Foley, a Florida Republican, mustered evidence was made public that he sent salacious Internet messages to make pages.

Governor loses one deputy, adds two new ones

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. — Gov. Rod Blagojevich on Monday announced the departure of his deputy governor, Bradley Tusk, and named two top aides to take his place.

Shelia Nix and Louann Peters will be Blagojevich’s new deputy governors as he begins his second term.

Nix, who recently handled public relations and policy for Blagojevich’s successful re-election campaign, will be based in Chicago and oversee policy, legislative affairs and communications.

She joined the administration in September 2004 as senior aide before leaving for the campaign in April.

Peters, who has served as deputy chief of staff for social services, will be in Springfield and coordinate public safety, social service programs and operations.

"I feel very fortunate to have such bright and talented people eager to help me move the state’s ethics reform in the right direction," Blagojevich said in a statement.


He will return to New York for a private-sector job.

Blagojevich credited him with helping direct three major policy initiatives: the Health Insurance Coverage for School Children; the Clean Cars and Putting America on Roads Act; and open-road tolling on state toll highways.

Judge warns Blagojevich about legal fee payment

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. — Warning that the Chicago Democrat’s legal fund may run out, a judge on Monday ordered Gov. Rod Blagojevich’s administration to tell him next week how it plans to pay legal fees in a video game lawsuit.

U.S. District Judge Matthew Kennelly is giving the governor’s office and Attorney General Lisa Madigan until Monday to say how they will pay $551,250 in legal fees to the video-game industry.

Game representatives sued Blagojevich and Madigan in over a 2001 law that barred the sale of violent or sexually explicit video games to minors.

Kennelly threw out the law as unconstitutional a year ago and ruled in August that the state should pay the legal costs. The video industry’s lawyers last month asked the judge to intervene because they said the state was dragging its feet.

Kennelly agreed.

“They have answered the plaintiffs’ entreaties with what amounts to shoulder-shrugging and finger pointing,” Kennelly wrote in an opinion. “Specifically, they have made no real suggestion about what the plaintiffs need to do to collect what a judgment has been entered for.”

Concluding that state officials “intend to give the plaintiffs the run-around,” Kennelly ordered a payment plan in setting to be filed by Monday with a status hearing on Dec. 20.
China says North Korea nuclear talks to resume Monday

Joe McDonald
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BEIJING — Disarmament talks on North Korea’s nuclear weapons program will resume next week, China said Monday, announcing an approach in which one of its monthly boycott of the negotia-
tions will be lifted.

Diplomats have been trying to set a date since North Korean leader Kim Jong Il’s government agreed to return to six-nation talks, a break in negotiations that followed the communist regime’s Oct. 9 test of a nuclear bomb.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Hong Lei said in a one-sentence statement on his ministry’s Web site that the talks, which include the United States, would resume in Beijing on Monday.

Japan’s prime minister said in Tokyo that North Korea must be urged “to take concrete steps” to disarm.

“Six-at-the-party talks, we must push for North Korea to abandon its nuclear weapons a step at a time,” Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi said.

Russia has also been participating in the talks.

Tokyo plans to bring up the lingering issue of North Korea’s abduction of Japanese nationals in the 1970s and ’80s, said Japan’s chief envoy to the six-nation group, Shinsuke Shimizu.

North Korea’s main official newspaper said Tokyo shouldn’t return to the talks, criticizing a crackdown on a pro-Pyongyang group of ethnic Koreans in Japan over its suspension of participation in the North’s weapons pro-
grams.

Tokyo is “nothing but a prisoner, not qualified to take part in the six-party talks,” the newspaper said.

“Even if they do come to the negotiating table, without the resolutions fair and reasonable, they won’t be able to get satisfactory results,” it said.

The crackdown on the Korean group, Chongryon, “is a tactic to cast a shadow on resuming the six-
party talks by intentionally provok-
ing us,” the newspaper said.

North Korea frequently issues bellicose statements about Japan and other countries, and Monday’s criticism of Tokyo was not expected to have any bearing on the negotia-
tions.

Tokyo already has angered Pyongyang by barring North Korean citizens, goods and ships from Japanese ports following the nuclear test.

The South Korean government welcomed Monday’s announcement of renewed talks and said it expects progress.

“The government expects sub-
antial progress will be made at this round of talks for a resolution of the North Korea nuclear issue and will continue to closely cooper-
ate with relevant countries,” South Korea’s Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

The science of civility

Sean McGahan
DAILY EGYPTIAN

Sitting in his nearly empty office in the Neckers Building on Monday, Jack Parker found himself contemplating a question common to most college administrators.

What, he wondered, would be his legacy?

The 61-year-old Parker is set to end his career as dean of SIUC’s College of Science after 13 years.

He said he is proud to have been affiliated with the college.

“This college really works,” Parker said. “Other deans, you hear the complaints over and over: things, I just don’t have grievances.

We have problems, sure, I don’t want to sound Pollyanna-ish — just a bunch of happy scientists — but we work them out.”

Parker has been a part of the college since he came to SIUC in 1977 as an assistant professor. He climbed up the ranks and became dean in December 1993.

It’s a testing tenure as dean has allowed him to curb many potentially problematic issues.

“I try to spend as much time as possible talking with our faculty,” Parker said. “I know everybody in the college, and that kind of helps because you kind of understand and you can talk to people and work with them.”

He said the fact that he has been in the position so long has also been a handicap — he has stayed pretty much the same, I would say, even though things in the univer-

Annan’s speech repeatedly praised the Truman administration. He never mentioned President George W. Bush or his sur-

annals.

“Talking about my legacy, deans always seem to bring to the table the issues that are very important at the time,” Parker said.

“I think everybody in the college, and that kind of helps because you kind of understand and you can talk to people and work with problem.”

— Jim Parker
dean of College of Science

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U.N. secretary-general critical of Bush administration in farewell speech

Margaret Stafford
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

INDEPENDENCE, Mo. — In his farewell address Monday, U.N. Secretary-
General Kofi Annan criticized the administration’s leadership on the global stage, warning that America must not sacrifice its democratic ideals while waging war against ter-
rorism.

“Human rights and the rule of law are vital to global secu-
rity and prosperity,” Annan told a packed audience at the Truman Presidential Museum and Library.

When the United States “appears to abandon its own ideals and objectives, its friends abroad are naturally troubled and confused,” he said.

Annan, an increasingly vocal critic of the war in Iraq, also said the U.S. Security Council should be expanded to better reflect today’s world. He leaves the United Nations on Dec. 31 after 10 years as secretary-
general.

In response to a question from Democratic Rep. Emanuel Cleaver of Missouri about the recently released Iraq Study Group report, Annan said the report clarified many issues, but the world first needs to find a way to get the Iraqis to reconcile with one another.

“We need to be as active on the political front as we are on the milit-
ary front,” he said. “We need to find a way to get the Iraqis to come together and settle their differences and renew their constitution.”

Annan said it was also important to get nearby countries, including Iran and Syria, involved in finding a solution to regional problems.

He said the United States has a special responsibility to the world because it continues to have extraordinary power.

Annan summed up five princi-

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The Associated Press

WASHINGTON
President Bush on Monday opened three days of intensive consultations on Iraq, saying the United States and countries across the Middle East have a vital stake in helping the fragile government in Baghdad succeed.

Bush went to the State Department to review diplomatic and political options — the latest in a series of consultations that dominate his agenda as he seeks a new course in Iraq.

"Like most Americans, this administration wants to succeed in Iraq," the president said after 90 minutes of discussions and a briefing from Baghdad. "We understand that success in Iraq will help protect the United States in the long run."

"We also talked about the neighborhood, the countries that surround Iraq and the responsibilities they have to help this young Iraqi democracy succeed," Bush said. "We believe that these countries understand that a mainstream society, a society that is a functioning democracy is in their interest. And it's up to us to help focus their attention and focus their efforts on helping the Iraqis succeed."

The president was joined in the State Department's Treaty Room by Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and Vice President Dick Cheney.

Bush is under intense pressure to come up with a new approach in Iraq, particularly after the Republicans' loss of Congress was blamed on the president's handling of the war.

Bush's remarks echoed his previous comments and were no indication of any change of strategy. He defined success in Iraq as a country that governs itself, that is a free society, that serves as a role model for the world.

And the reason that why it's vital," he said, "if not for Iraq a consolidation of defeating the extremists who want to establish safe havens in the Middle East, extremists who would use their safe havens from which to attack the United States..."

Later, in the Oval Office, he was to seek advice from a handful of experts, including Stephen Hadley, Biden of the Council of Foreign Relations, Eliot Cohen of the School of Advanced International Studies, and an array of generals: Wayne Downing, Jack Keane and Barry McCaffrey.

White House press secretary Tony Snow said Bush hoped to be able to announce his decisions by Christmas but that the timing could slip. "It's something that we are working on, we would like to do it, but I'm not going to promise it," Snow said.

Administration officials are weighing options, including a short-term buildup of troops and a revamped approach to dealing with Iraq's warring factions.

Whatever the choice, Bush is out to show he isn't acting alone. He is seeking advice at home and abroad — brought on by a humbling defeat in Congress, which handed control of Congress to Democrats and made clear their dissatisfaction with progress in Iraq.

WIRE REPORTS

JERUSALEM

Internal Palestinian violence in Gaza threatens to torpedo Israeli peace efforts

JERUSALEM (AP) — By threatening to ignite a Palestinian civil war, the killing of three children in the Gaza Strip on Monday has jeopardized Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert's efforts to restart long-stalled peace talks. As the violence intensified, Palestinians moved further away from their hoped for national unity government — seen as a precondition for renewed negotiations with Israel. Olmert is offering the Palestinians far-reaching concessions and a state of their own if they choose the path of peace talks.

"We are in one of those situations where we simply have to sit it out," said Shmuel Sandler, a professor of political science at Bar Ilan University outside Tel Aviv. The apparent target of the drive-by shooting in Gaza City was Baha Barhoum, a top Palestinian security officer and a potential rival of the rival Hamas, although the Islamic movement denied responsibility and denounced the killings.

HOLOCAUST

Holocaust deniers gather in Iran for conference examining whether Nazi genocide took place

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — Iran hosted Holocaust deniers from around the world Monday at a conference examining whether the Nazi genocide took place, a meeting Israel's prime minister condemned as a "sick phenomenon."

The 67 participants from 30 countries included former Ku Klux Klan leader David Duke and Holocaust skeptics who have been prosecuted in Europe for questioning whether 6 million Jews were killed by the Nazis or whether gas chambers were ever used.

"The number of victims at the Auschwitz concentration camp could be about 2,007," Australian-Francis Tofel told the conference, according to a Far East Broadcasting Company Web site. "The law to ban this kind of speech is an absurd thing."

"There are many Jewish organizations that should have been united against this," Tofel said.

The two-day conference was initiated by President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad in an apparent attempt to burnish his status as a tough opponent of Israel. The hard-line president has described the Holocaust as a "myth" and called for Israel to be wiped off the map. Earlier this year, his government backed an extension of anti-Israel cartoons in a show of defiance after Danish cartoons caricaturing Islam’s Prophet Muhammad were published in Europe, raising an outcry among Muslims.

NEW YORK

War protest 'peace mom' Cindy Sheehan, three others convicted of trespassing in NYC

NEW YORK (AP) — Peace activist Cindy Sheehan and three other women were convicted of trespassing Monday for trying to deliver an anti-Iraq war petition to the U.S. mission to the United Nations.

A Manhattan Criminal Court judge sentenced them immediately to conditional discharge, which means they will be able to vote in the November election. They are arrested in the next six months, and ordered them to pay $50 in court surcharges.

Sheehan and about 100 other members of a group called Global Exchange were indicted last March when they attempted to take a petition with some 72,000 signatures to the U.S. mission’s headquarters across a street from the United Nations.

British investigators in Moscow question key Russian witness in Litvinenko case

Judith Ingram
The Associated Press

MOSCOW — A key witness in the poisoning death of a former Russian security agent was questioned Monday by British investigators at the Moscow hospital where he was undergoing tests for radiation contamination.

The witness, Andrei Lugovoy, a former security agent turned businessman, met with Alexander Litvinenko at a London hotel on Nov. 1, the day Litvinenko was believed poisoned with the radioactive isotope polonium-210.

Another former officer who took part in the meeting, Dmitry Kovtun, has been diagnosed with radiation poisoning and is believed to be at the same hospital, which once treated victims of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster. Traces of polonium-210 have been found in Hamburg, Germany, which Kovtun visited a week before the meeting, but it remained unknown whether he was involved in the poisoning or a victim of it.

Lugovoy told the ITAR-Tass and Interfax news agencies that his questioning by British and Russian investigators lasted three hours.

"I gave testimony exclusively as a witness. I was officially informed of that before the interrogation," ITAR-Tass quoted him as saying. "They made no charges against me."

Lugovoy said the results of his medical tests would be known later this week but added he was unlikely to make them public.

Lugovoy told the RIA Novosti news agency that Kovtun, who was interviewed by British and Russian investigators on Sunday, "complained of feeling normal."

Traces of polonium-210 have now been confirmed in a Hamburg apartment of Kovtun's ex-wife, where he spent two nights, and the car that picked him up from the Hamburg airport when he arrived from Moscow.

On Monday, police said that the ex-wife, her partner and two small children showed no signs of external contamination but would undergo further tests. They might have been contaminated, for instance, by eating with the same cutlery or drinking from the same glass.

DAILY EGYPTIAN

Hundred pay respects to Chilean ex-dictator at military ceremony

Eduardo Gallardo
The Associated Press

SANTIAGO, Chile — Hundreds of supporters of Gen. Augusto Pinochet, many in tears, filed Monday past the brown wooden coffin for the ex-dictator, who was undergoing tests for normal contamination.

Pinochet was granted only military honors at the academy, where he was picked up from a hospital where Dmitry Kovtun, a key witness in Litvinenko case, was interviewed by British and Russian investigators.

While Pinochet’s relatives mourned him, hundreds of independents celebrated with champagne and lamented that they escaped justice for the torture and killings during Pinochet’s rule.

Hundreds of supporters of Gen. Pinochet, who died last Oct. 1, lowered to half-staff at the academy.

"We understand that this is a partial contamination but it is vital," said Tony Snow, a professor of political science at Bar Ilan University outside Tel Aviv. The apparent target of the drive-by shooting in Gaza City was Baha Barhoum, a top Palestinian security officer and a potential rival of the rival Hamas, although the Islamic movement denied responsibility and denounced the killings.

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SIUC alumna Joan Higginbotham isn’t the only connection between the university and the nation’s space program.

While Higginbotham, who earned a bachelor’s degree in electrical engineering in 1987, became the first Saluki in space aboard the space shuttle Discovery on Saturday, several SIUC graduates assist NASA on the ground.

Brad Regez, who earned bachelor’s and master’s degrees in science at SIUC as well as a doctorate in engineering science, works at the Kennedy Space Center in Florida as a project engineer.

Regez works on technology meant to allow NASA to inspect the space shuttles’ reinforced carbon-carbon wing panels and nose caps. The components are crucial in protecting the spacecraft from the extreme heat as it re-enters the earth’s atmosphere.

The program Regez is involved in centers on nondestructive evaluation techniques — better known as NDEs — to determine structural flaws by using a technique called thermography.

“A high-intensity light is used to heat up areas of the panels, and the panels are then scanned with an infrared camera. As the panels cool, internal flaws and cracks are revealed,” Regez said.

Also working at NASA is Jeff Spaulding, who graduated in 1987 with a degree in mechanical and thermal engineering. He is one of two shuttle test directors responsible for all launch countdowns.

Norm Tokarz, a 1987 graduate with an electrical engineering degree, runs processing on the ground for the International Space Station where Higginbotham’s crew has been sent for rewiring work and to replace an astronaut living in the station for the past several months.

SIUC’s Associate Vice Chancellor for Alumni Services has said more than 20 alumni work for NASA.

SIUC maintains strong ties with NASA

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Most worn-out keyboard keys in Carbondale.

No one understands Basketball better.
Warm thoughts for the holidays

As you transition your way into winter break, forget about the daily grind of school and fill yourself with the optimism that only the dead of winter can bring. It will become easy to shed your knowledge of the issues that have gripped the school this semester and will continue to as the snow melts and Morris Library is still see-through.

There’s too much at stake to let that happen. So here’s some stocking stuffers of information made ready for weird conversations around the Christmas tree or whatever dark corners of society you might find yourself in the next month.

• The Student Conduct Code. The last we heard, three of the nine freshmen whose suspensions catapulted the cryptic document into the dead of winter can bring. It will continue to as the snow melts and Morris Library is still see-through.
• Enrollment. It continues to fall. Several groups have mentioned efforts to study the code and call for revisions. Hopefully, next semester we can see considerable progress in that discussion.
• Walter Wendler. Many issues involving the former chancellor will continue to develop throughout 2007, namely how he will adjust to being a regular faculty member on this campus. How will the university function with John Dunn at the helm? How long will it be before a new chancellor is named? And what exactly does plagiarism mean at SIUC? Committees have been formed, but will they make any difference?
• Enrollment. It continues to fall. How will SIUC market itself to the outside world? Is the student-run newspaper of any significance to the students? Has the university functioned as a source of information or entertainment?
• Walter Wendler. Many issues involving the former chancellor will continue to develop throughout 2007, namely how he will adjust to being a regular faculty member on this campus. How will the university function with John Dunn at the helm? How long will it be before a new chancellor is named? And what exactly does plagiarism mean at SIUC? Committees have been formed, but will they make any difference?
• Enrollment. It continues to fall. How will SIUC market itself to the high school class of 2007? Will rising student fees and ongoing projects that leave student service lacking in vital areas (again, the see-through library) make the overall enrollment dip deeper?
• USG. What has been the most productive semester we’ve seen lately from this organization ended on a sour note with the misdirected call for free propaganda in this newspaper. USG has allowed for inventive thinking to occur within its senate, though—the best example of this being Fight Club and has made strides in appealing directly to its constituents. As for the constituents themselves, let’s hope students continue to populate Fight Club meetings and make better showings in the spring election.
• Sports. Football gave us another exciting season, and basketball has made a strong start. Starting with Sunday’s game at Indiana, the Salukis have a chance to put a special season in motion. On the lesser-publicized fields, we have a chance to see stark improvement from swimming and diving, and baseball, among others. But last not least, expect another top-25-worthy season from softball despite a tough schedule filled with major conference opponents.
• Contract negotiations. Conflicting schedules have kept the Board of Trustees from meeting with the faculty union, but the two sides hope to get together before the break. Take your time if you must, but there hasn’t been a salary contract signed since June 30. Also, know everything involving the issues above hinges on progress made in your talks.
• Change. Carbondale’s City Council will continue to convene over the issue of what to do with Halloween celebrations in town. The ordinance calling for a smoke-free Carbondale failed to pass last month, but anti-smoking advocates are expected to continue to push the council toward the ordinance again. Also, how much longer will Carbondale residents have to fork over more money for electricity as the 10-year rate freeze comes to an end? Mayor Brad Cole said he’s looking into having Carbondale possess its own power source. Will he ride an issue such as this through his re-election campaign, or will a change of the guard occur as Cole and fellow mayoral hopefuls Sheila Simon and Jessica Davis readied their platforms?
Without a doubt, it’s been an intriguing semester with many twists, turns and unfinished chapters.

Enjoy the breather this break, and join us next semester as we see how all of these lingering stories—and those inevitably set to pop up—pan out.
Second Wind

Alex Ayala
Student Columnist

I recently purchased a wristwatch I didn’t need. To make matters worse, I did so while waiting three hours in a line during the early bird special frenzy that was Black Friday. I mention the watch because I know this device would aid me in keeping better track of time as I returned from giving thanks.

To tell you the truth, I probably would rather not look at the time and hope that finals week will end, like instantly waking up from a nightmare. I am accustomed to the challenges finals week brings; uncertain times would be difficult, and the sheet on which I lay out my activities for the week would receive multiple slashtings from my marker. For five years I’ve been leading a step closer to graduation. I enjoy the challenges my courses bring, and how last-minute assignments have me going back and forth like a speed bag in a boxing gymnasium.

With this being my ninth finals week, I wanted to take some time to reflect on the semester. I didn’t want to skip the opportunity to write this because it’s something I’ve been considering for quite a while. Having seen some of my friends somewhere else. As I attempt to finish my last day here, I’ve reached my second wind, ready as I’ve ever been. After five years at SIU, I’ve reached my second finish line, knowing that I will soon be in the state of Illinois presume to train and question ethics test by filling it out too fast. It’s good to know there are 65 people out there whose spirit has not yet been entirely broken by the sheer lunacy of state bureaucracy. Special props should go to English professor Beth Lordan, who refused to sign the “non-compliance statement.” We live in an age in which corruption and dishonesty at high levels of all large institutions seem to have reached a kind of critical mass. But this semester strongly, making new friends has not been of my utmost interest.

To be honest, this is not my court call by any means but just a piece that allows me to reflect on how fortunate I’ve been to be able to get my studies without interruption. There are students around me who have been deployed to war, others who have made mistakes and been expelled from the university. In situations like these, I’ve seen the best come and go. I’ve realized my friend list has diminished after knowing many who have entered the university in fall of 2002 — when I first came to Carbondale — are probably working somewhere else. As I attempt to finish this semester strongly, making new friends has not been of my utmost interest.

My idea was to write a column that would be accompanied by an illustration, which amounted to twice the pressure and twice the deadlines. It’s evolved into what you are reading now, and I have Zack Quantance and Kyle Means to thank for this. Having balanced a design curriculum with my hobby as a cartoonist for a semester or two, I’ve realized my friend list has diminished after knowing many who have entered the university in fall of 2002 — when I first came to Carbondale — are probably working somewhere else. As I attempt to finish this semester strongly, making new friends has not been of my utmost interest.

people are in now. Personally, as an artist and a person, this semester has gone down as my best and most productive. I finally managed to execute an idea I had many semesters ago, back when my eyes had less prominent bags under them.

The hypocrisy, however, may have been hard to earn it.

It’s almost as if I am attempting to get into a stable mindset that will allow me to approach my last semester without panicking about going out to what some call “the real world.”

Many of my friends have left during the past semesters, and this week, more than likely, will insist on a cheat sheet.”

Hey, Gonzales! Here’s a news flash: That test wasn’t exactly quantum physics. Most professors get what they are because they are pretty good at taking tests.

Anyway, speaking of ethics, I think we all have a new ethical (or maybe moral) imperative. It’s time to show a lot more respect for authority. Our so-called “leaders” have worked hard to earn it.

Jim Glover associate professor of recreation

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

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City Hall. She is set to present her ideas on land-use and preserving historic sections of the city.

“We’re going to look at how we can continue celebrating the past as we move forward looking at the future,” Davis said. “So, I’m really looking for feedback and a conversation as much as we can.”

Cole announced his mayoral re-election bid during his Nov. 14 State of the City address and released his position paper shortly after the speech. One of Cole’s focal points is expanding the community through economic development.

“I think it’s a very good choice,” Marvin Zeman said. “I think our philosophies and approaches are consistent. I think he always cared about the faculty.”

Jessica Davis, the director of law school student development at SIUC, who announced her mayoral bid in September, said she has been committed to the state’s ethical philosophy from the get-go. “He always cared about the faculty.”

Davis said he is prepared for the campaign and working on issues such as enrollment at SIUC, alongside Associate Provost for Academic Affairs Thomas Calhoun. He said he is prepared for the position.

“There’s always somebody who wants to make an open-ended comment that will make other people wonder, so you just release it and go,” Cole said.

“I think it’s a very good choice,” Dunn said. “I think our philosophies and approaches are consistent. I think people across campus respect him.”

Rice said he would continue to work on issues such as enrollment at SIUC, alongside Associate Provost for Academic Affairs Thomas Calhoun. He said he is prepared for the position.

“We’re very pleased he was chosen,” said Davis, who has worked for SIUC since 1985, said she will also do special projects for the chancellor, as well as continue her speechwriting duties.

“I don’t think it’s necessary for me, as a candidate, to be challenged in that area because I’m committed to that, and that was my initial commitment as well,” she said.

Davis said she plans to file her nominating petitions at the end of the week. As far as disclosing her personal financial information, Davis said she would release any information that would be important to the campaign and the election. She said she did not see a problem with Simon’s challenge.

“If anyone within the university community has an idea or a suggestion, they shouldn’t hesitate to contact me,” Ruiz said.

The space station’s commander, U.S. astronaut Michael Lopez-Alegria responded: “You guys won’t even have to wipe your feet when you come in.”

The space agency has been especially alert to damage to the shuttle’s heat shield since the Columbia tragedy in 2003. A piece of foam broke off Columbia’s external fuel tank during liftoff and gashed a wing, allowing hot gases to penetrate the spacecraft during its return to Earth. All seven astronauts died.

NASA on Sunday said the shuttle’s heat shield appeared to be in good shape, but it will be a few days before engineers can rule out any damage from Saturday’s liftoff, the first nighttime shuttle launch in four years.

As the space station came into view of Discovery, Williams told Mission Control: “It’s beautiful.”

“After a long time of taking phone calls all hours of the day and night, it will be a way that I can still help the university but maybe take a different focus,” she said.

The change will also allow the roles and duties of the Media and Communication Resources office to be examined.

Mike Ruiz, communications director for the Office of the President, said he will temporarily take over all of Davis’ duties except as spokesperson. He said someone will be appointed later to take on those responsibilities.

Ruiz said he plans in the near future to begin soliciting feedback about the office, how it functions and how it is perceived. He said he will also examine its organizational structure and begin looking at ways to incorporate marketing into the office.

“If anyone within the university community has an idea or a suggestion, they shouldn’t hesitate to contact me,” Ruiz said.
Shooting victim’s relatives upset by comments on shooter's motive

Jim Suhr
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BELLEVILLE — St. Clair County’s chief judge has temporarily stepped down pending the outcome of charges against another judge who allegedly was driving drunk when the two collided in a wreck that injured another motorist.

Chief Judge Jan Fiss was a passenger Dec. 3 in newly elected Circuit Judge Patrick Young’s sport-utility vehicle when it collided with pickup truck as the judges were returning from the St. Louis Rams game, police said.

Young, 58, was charged with refusing a blood-alcohol test, a statement from the McKenna family said. “The only people who were hurt are the victims,” said Joseph Fiss, the younger’s brother.

Authorities said Fiss, 59, forced a security guard at gunpoint to take him to the law office Wood, Phillips, Katz, Clark & Mortimer, where McKenna was working as an attorney. Fiss thanked the door, then killed McKenna and two other men, and also shot a woman who, police said, was the foot of a third victim who believed he was a police sharpshooter.

Young nearly stepped down pending the tickets issued on Dec. 3, within his rights” to refuse field sobriety, Young told officers he was not drinking, Brown said. In his report, Belleville police Sgt. Tony Brown about seeing Fiss with the open can but failed to find it, Brown said. The toilet, which would be placed in the path of a pickup truck driven by Abel Muhammad, 39, of Swansea. Muhammad was treated at St. Louis’ Barnes-Jewish Hospital for injuries not considered life-threatening.

St. Clair County judges will vote walking into a law firm and shooting four people,” he said. The family also feels sympathy for the pain the brother caused when he went into a rage.

Sparks said he accompanied Jackson to meet McKenna in 2002, when Jackson was seeking a patent for a disposable toilet he had invented for truck drivers. Sparks said, costing him a patent and opportunity to become wealthy. Jackson became increasingly obsessed with the invention — and McKenna. “Joe would talk to me about it every Sunday,” Sparks recalled. “Then he snapped … Friday was lawyer dayman in his mind.”

Wood Phillips said nothing about any contact between Jackson and McKenna.

“The first firm our law firm’s managing partner, John S. Mortimer. McKenna and Paul Goodson, 78, a retired teacher who worked part time in the office, both died from a gunshot wound to the head, the Cook County medical examiner’s office said Sunday.

Allen J. Hoover, 65, a partner at the firm, died from a gunshot wound to the neck, the medical examiner’s office said.

Joe Jackson had a four-year patent dispute with one of the lawyers killed that would step down temporarily as chief judge so that the matter concerning the ticket Young was issued, is resolved without my participation.”

On Friday, Fiss, 64, said in a written statement that he would step down temporarily as chief judge “so that the matter concerning the ticket Young was issued, is resolved without my participation.”

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Sudoku

The Duplex by Glenn McCoy

Two Dudes by Aaron Warner

Sudoku

Girls and Sports by Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein

By Linda Black

Today’s Birthday (12-12-06). You’ll need to have your facts straight this year, ongoing. As long as you know what you’re talking about, you’ll continue to pass the tests.

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 6 - Your position requires that you know everything that’s going on. Don’t be distracted by outside events. Acknowledge them and move on.

Taurus (April 20-May 20) - Today is an 8 - You’re in a good mood but don’t let that persuade you to act foolishly. It’s not a particularly good time to gamble, for example.

Gemini (May 21-June 21) - Today is a 6 - Controversy arises, causing you to second-guess an agreement or purchase you recently made. This will take some getting used to.

Cancer (June 22-July 22) - Today is a 7 - You’d better already know what you’re doing, or you’ll be in trouble. There isn’t time to learn it now. Yes, this is a test.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) - Today is an 8 - Continue to be very careful when shopping, and hold off on lottery tickets. Do more research before you buy and you’ll get a much better deal.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) - Today is an 8 - You’ve done a good job, which is obvious to everybody around. Let the others do more of the regular chores and take a delicious break.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) - Today is a 7 - You’re running into a barrier in your investigation. It is OK to take a break. Let your brain rest for a while.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) - Today is an 8 - The next part of your adventure looks like it could be quite expensive. Pay off what you owe, but don’t throw your money around to impress your friends. Well, not very much, anyway.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) - Today is a 7 - You’re facing a difficult situation, so be careful what you say. Show the validity of your position; don’t talk any more about it.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) - Today is an 8 - The possibility of error is too high. Don’t venture forth. Conditions are better for staying put, and finishing what you’ve started.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) - Today is a 6 - Bookwork interferes with a social invitation. Better take care of business or you could end up in the red.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) - Today is an 8 - Everybody needs to get practical, even including you. Don’t give up your dreams; figure out how to pay for it.

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**SOFTBALL**

Salukis release spring schedule

**Matt Hartwig**

**Daily Egyptian**

Before taking a step onto Charlotte West field, the Salukis have already received respect via their nonconference schedule.

Much like the men’s basketball team, the SIU softball team has been struggling to earn respect from the bigger conferences around the nation — a string of four straight NCAA tournament appearances rivals only the Salukis men’s basketball team.

In 2007, the schedule is any indication, the Salukis are starting to garner national attention — SIU has been invited to play in two major tournaments.

The Salukis Plaza Classic on Feb. 16 to 18 should prepare the team to take on some of the highest-ranked softball teams in the nation. At the tournament, the Salukis will take on Louisiana State University, Indiana University and the University of Houston.

SIU will also play the University of North Carolina, Auburn University and the University of Michigan at the NFCA Leadoff Classic on Feb. 23 to 25.

In the final poll of the 2006 season, the Wolverines were ranked 12th in the nation while Auburn narrowly missed a spot in the top 25.

Senior head softball coach Kerri Blaylock said the tournaments are a result of earned respect.

“We’re getting to play some of the top teams in the nation, even though it’s on a neutral field,” Blaylock said. “Games against LSU, Michigan and so forth will help us down the line with our RPI numbers.”

Close losses to highly regarded teams can be helpful based on SIU’s 10-6 season.

The Salukis were narrowly defeated by 10th-ranked Arizona State University, 2-0, last season. Despite the loss, the Salukis took a 3-4 regular season record toward a fourth consecutive postseason birth.

Senior pitcher Cassidy Scoggins said the team has been respecting SIU more and more each year.

“It’s believable to take on teams like LSU and Michigan because of their national recognitions,” Scoggins said. “I think they’re nervous about playing us because they have more to lose.”

In their final nonconference game before their Missouri Valley Conference schedule begins, the Salukis stop at the University of Alabama-Birmingham to play the Blazers. A game Blaylock said will be the final tune-up for the Valley season.

“Games like that will really help us get ready for the conference season,” Blaylock said. “Strt a home-and-home deal, but playing our tough nonconference schedule gets us ready for our conference play.”

Matt Hartwig can be reached at 536-3311 ext. 210 or matt_hartwig@dailyEgyptian.com

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**Saluki tight end Braden Jones breaks a tackle from a Western Illinois defender during the Saluki football game against Western Illinois University Oct. 7.**

**FRESH**

Continued from Page 16

He threw for 132.4 yards per game for 15 touchdowns and added substantial rushing abilities while scoring six rushing touchdowns.

With another year under his belt, Hill’s numbers figure to improve next season.

Kill said the year could only help Hill and his abilities.

“The year helps tremendously, I mean, we wish we had four years,” Kill said. “The only way you can get better is to play games,” Kill said.

“The great thing about us is that we have played 26 games in the last two years. That is two long seasons. But that is the only way you’re going to get better.”

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**Life**

Continued from Page 16

After he receives his master’s, Kill said he plans to move to the Chicago area to land a career. Justice said he plans to use coaches as well as family friends to link him with the right job.

Justice said although he is sad to see his career at SIU come to a close, he felt like he felt it all on the table and has no regrets about his time as a Saluki.

“I have no regrets about anything I’ve done in my football career,” Justice said. “You can’t have regrets. We are sad we aren’t playing next year, but I think it’s time to move on. I won’t be working out for any NFL teams, though.”

The same cannot be said for some of Justice’s teammates.

Tight end Braden Jones, fullback J.T. Wise, defensive end Lorenzo Wiens, kicker Craig Coffin and Whitlock are all expected to work out for NFL scouts when Pro Day rolls around in mid-to late-March. Pro Day is an event in which NFL scouts evaluate players’ potential.

Expected to make the biggest splash in Pro Day will be Whitlock, who could be SIU’s first NFL draft pick since the New York Giants acquired Brandon Jacobs in the fourth round of the 2005 NFL Draft.

Should Whitlock go undrafted, chances are he would sign with an NFL team as a free agent. In May, former Saluki wide receiver Brent Little signed a free agent contract with the Cleveland Browns.

Whitlock, who graduates this semester, will continue to work out in preparation for Pro Day. However, scouts will probably get a good look at him earlier if they haven’t done so already.

Whitlock, who gained 1,829 yards in 2006 with 25 touchdowns, will play in the 2007 Tencent Bank Hula Bowl on Jan. 14 in Honolulu, a game similar to the NFL Pro Bowl.

Scouts from nearly all 32 NFL teams will be on hand to see Whitlock.

SIU head football coach said Whitlock has a chance to do some- thing special with his talents and expects him to play in the next level.

“Right now, certainly, Acker has a great chance at it,” Kill said. “He will be playing in the Hula Bowl and has a chance to be a Player of the Year in I-AA, which I think he has an excel- lent shot at doing.”

Junior quarterback Nick Hill, who undoubtedly benefited from Whitlock’s success, said he would be surprised if Whitlock didn’t play in the NFL.

“I think Acker really has a great shot at going to the next level,” Hill said. “It is just how hard he works and his work ethic that makes him so successful, and I think he really has a chance to do something special.”

Brian Feldt can be reached at 536-3311 ext. 269 or brian_feldt@dailyEgyptian.com
Brian Mahoney

NEW YORK — The NBA will scrap its new microfiber composite ball and bring back the old leather one opening Jan. 1, an official told The Associated Press on Monday.

The official spoke on condition of anonymity because the announce- ment of the switch was not due until at least Tuesday.

The swap was first reported by espn.com.

Players have complained about the new ball since training camp, saying that it bounced differently than the old one — off the floor and the rim. They also said the synthetic material cut their hands.

NBA commissioner David Stern told The New York Times last week the league should have sought more input from players before introduc- ing the new ball. He also said he would address the players’ criticisms with Spalding, the manufacturer.

The lack of player input about the new ball prompted one of the unfair labor practice charges the union filed with the National Labor Relations Board on Dec. 1.

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The swap was first reported by espn.com.

Players have complained about the new ball since training camp, saying that it bounced differently than the old one — off the floor and the rim. They also said the synthetic material cut their hands.

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Saluki football looking forward to bright future

Brian Feldt

The popular Chicago slogan — “There’s always next year” — could easily be applied to the SIU football program these days.

Head coach Jerry Kill said it is never too early to start thinking about next season — even when it sits exactly nine months away.

Kill has already held season wrap-up meetings and 2007 strategy meetings, while fitting a month-long recruiting trip into his busy schedule.

The Saluki football office is now working toward the 2007 season — a season that both players and coaches dub as a potentially gratifying one — just nine days removed from the Saluki’s Dec. 2 quarterfinals loss to the University of Montana.

Junior quarterback Nick Hill said looking to next season started the day after the defeat by the Grizzlies.

“I don’t think it is ever too early to look forward to next season,” Hill said. “I am really excited for next season to come, and I think we have some really good talent coming back.”

Although SIU will graduate 17 seniors — 10 of them starters — before the start of the 2007 season, the future of the Saluki football squad remains bright.

Senior center Will Justice, who ended his football career at Montana, said SIU can and should still be successful despite the turnover on the line.

“We had a tight-knit group of seniors, but we have a lot of youth coming back that should help the team out a lot,” Justice said. “We got 24 guys coming back so that will be key for them.”

Of the 24 returners, 13 were starters in 2006. SIU will return four starters from its already solid offensive line — only Justice and tight end Braden Jones will be leaving.

Hill said the return of the bulk of the offensive line is encouraging when looking toward 2007. “On offense, I think we are going to return a lot of talent,” Hill said. “We are really going to miss Will Justice on that front line, but we got four guys returning, which makes it exciting. I think we got guys that will work hard, and I think we should be very good next season.”

2007 will also bring a factor that no coach can teach — a year’s experience.

Hill, who led the Salukis to the playoffs for a fourth consecutive season, could benefit the most from his first year as the starting signal caller.

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WOMEN’S BASKETBALL
Salukis round up nonconference schedule

Scott Mieszala

The SIU women’s basketball team could have its work cut out for it this season in the Missouri Valley Conference.

The Salukis, who are in the process of finishing up their nonconference schedule, have two games remaining until their MVC opener Dec. 28 at Wichita State University.

Head coach Dana Ekenberg said this season’s nonconference schedule offered an opportunity for SIU to compete against a variety of playing styles.

The Salukis are 3-6 thus far in nonconference action and have games remaining against Indiana University on Saturday and Tennessee Tech University on Dec. 19 before heading into conference play.

“This is just the start of our season,” Ekenberg said. “The most important part for us has been the Missouri Valley, and I felt all along that this nonconference (schedule) would get us ready for what I think is going to be a great year in the Valley.”

SIU hasn’t finished with a winning record against MVC teams since the 1995-96 season when the Salukis were guided to a 15-3 conference record under head coach Cindy Scott.

In the 2004-05 season — Ekenberg’s first at SIU — the Salukis finished 1-17 in conference play and 1-24 overall. In 2006, SIU improved to a 6-12 record in the MVC and 10-18 overall.

The trend could continue this season because of a drop off from other MVC teams.

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Saluki forward Gentry Dietz goes up for a shot against center Keri Reese during the Saluki women’s basketball game against Austin Peay State University on Nov. 29 in the SIU Arena.

JAKE LECKEARD — DAILY EGYPTIAN

Saluki quarterback Nick Hill attempts to outrun University of Tennessee-Martin defense while making a pass during the Saluki first-round playoff game against Tennessee-Martin on Nov. 25 at McAndrew Stadium.

LANE CHRISTIANSEN — DAILY EGYPTIAN

FOOTBALL
Life after football

Brian Feldt

Saluki football players Will Justice and Arkie Whitlock will be running opposite routes when they leave SIU this year.

Justice, a center, and Whitlock, a running back, will be among a slew of seniors graduating before the beginning of next season.

After the Dec. 2 quarterfinals loss to the University of Montana, the Salukis ended the season with a respectable 9-4 record — and with it came the end of the college career for 17 seniors on the SIU roster.

While a select few have a chance to move onto the bigger stage — the National Football League — most are left to face the real world and life after football.

Such is the case with Justice. Justice, who many think could make the transition from I-AA football into the NFL, has retired his jersey for good, he said.

Justice said after playing football his entire life, he is ready to move on, and he looks forward to life beyond the pigskin.

“I am done with football,” Justice said. “I’ve been doing it a long time, and I am looking forward to doing something else now. I am looking forward to getting this little party known as life going here.”

With a bachelor’s degree in management completed, Justice is scheduled to earn his master’s in business administration in August 2007, meaning his tenure on the Saluki offensive line is complete.

In his four seasons with SIU, Justice became one of the top I-AA centers in the nation. Originally a guard, Justice was named to the 2005 First-Team All-Gateway Conference. In 2004, he helped the Salukis to a third-ranked rushing offense and third-ranked scoring offense in all of I-AA football.

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