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Price of preventing pregnancy rises

Provision to 2005 act causes some birth control to rise in cost

If it's 40 or 50 dollars ... it's kind of an outrageous amount of money to have to pay when we're trying to be safe and be smart about things.

-- Holly Phillips
junior from Peoria studying chemistry

A federal government provision has slipped into the beds and pocketbooks of young women using prescription contraceptives.

Brandy Oxford
DAILY EGYPTIAN

Hundreds of health centers at colleges and universities across the country have been forced to raise their contraceptive prices due to a provision in the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005. The price of some contraceptives at SIUC’s Student Health Center have increased by as much as five and a half times.

The provision ended drug manufacturers’ long-standing practice of offering contraceptives to student health centers at greatly discounted prices. Some lawmakers have said the provision was inadvertently included in a law originally meant to reduce Medicaid abuse.

Instead, the provision removed college and university health centers from the list of entities considered exempt from paying rebates to Medicaid. Many lawmakers now claim that leaving student health centers off that list was unintentional.

Since it took effect in January, the provision has caused the cost of contraceptives at the Student Health Center to skyrocket.

NurulRing, which cost $11.50 at the beginning of the year, now costs $40. Ovcon has gone from $9 to $46.85 and Enstrostep has gone from $9 to $51.05. But Susan Chaney, pharmacy director at the Student Health Center, said the center would eventually offer Enstrostep and Ovcon in their generic forms at better discounts.

Holly Phillips, a junior from Peoria studying chemistry, said these increases would have a negative effect on students because college students rely more on birth control pills than other options.

“During college, the safest way to be is on birth control. It’s just about protecting yourself from becoming pregnant,” Phillips said. “If it’s 40 or 50 dollars, it’s kind of an outrageous amount of money to have to pay when we’re trying to be safe and be smart about things.”

See BIRTH CONTROL, Page 5
This poll is brought to you by COUNTRY Insurance & Financial Services. For more information, call 618-457-5373.

NEWS BRIEFS

Suits against Blagojevich health plan barred, another proceeding

A Sangamon County judge barred a lawsuit against Governor Rod Blagojevich’s expanded health care program Monday. But that’s only because a similar one is proceeding in Cook County.

Cook Judge Len Zappa agreed with lawyers for Blagojevich that allowing the lawsuit would be unfairly duplicative because a similar suit in Cook County was filed on Monday.

The Illinois Coalition for Jobs, Growth and Prosperity sued the governor last week to stop him from adding 147,000 parents to state-subsidized health insurance.

Blagojevich announced plans to expand the program while the other lawsuit was being filed.

Newspaper mogul Conrad Black gets 6 1/2 years in fraud case

CHICAGO (AP) — Former newspaper mogul Conrad Black was sentenced Monday to 6 1/2 years in prison for swindling shareholders in a Hollinger media empire out of $6 million.

“Mr. Black, you have violated your duty to Hollinger international shareholders,” U.S. District Judge Amy J. St. Eve told the silver-haired millionaire member of the British House of Lords known throughout the newspaper industry for his lavish lifestyle and flamboyant use of words.

Prosecutors had asked for as many as 30 years in prison for the former owner of the Chicago Sun-Times, Daily Telegraph of London, Jerusalem Post and hundreds of U.S. and Canadian community newspapers.

But they faced a great deal of resistance from the lighter-than-expected sentence, said Black’s attorney Jeffrey B. Steinbeck, who delivered a searing denunciation of prejudice for leniency.

Black, currently staying at his estate in Palm Beach, Fla., on a $21 million bail, was given until March 3 to report to prison. St. Eve also said Black’s sentence should be closer to that of F. David Radler, his former business partner, who became the government’s star witness at the four-month trial.

Black’s lawyers agreed with prosecutors, Radler will get a 29-month sentence and $250,000 fine.

But Zappa prohibited the Sangamon County suit from being filed while the other one proceeds.

City Council holds hearings on mayor’s health care proposal

The Springfield City Council heard from health care professionals Monday for the first time on Mayor Mike Lowery’s plan to expand the city’s health insurance program.

Lowery said the city could save $15 million to $20 million a year by expanding the program.

The city already pays 33 percent of the cost of its employees’ health insurance, but the mayor said the city is spending too much on insurance.

The plan also will include a voluntary counseling and wellness program.

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University of Illinois researchers share in Nobel peace prize

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The water survey scientists are Kenneth Kunkel and Stanley Changnon.

Most worn-out keyboard keys in Carbondale.
Students build muscle controlled robots for class

Christian Holt

Jim Ehrenstrom said his favorite part of his electronics troubleshooting and maintenance class was trying to make his classmates with his robot.

Three seniors studying electronic system technologies learned to control a metal arm ending with a small clamp using technology and a little of their own muscle power. Ehrenstrom and Gavin Flure, both from Pinckneyville, and Coryn Timpane from Hinsdale used what they learned in Brian Buerger's class, information from other classes and even some things they taught themselves.

Buerger, an associate professor of electronic system technologies, said he requires his students to pick a special project and encourages them to come to him with ideas.

"This one was partially done from last semester but they didn't really get too far with it," he said.

Ehrenstrom's muscles and a computer program called RoboTalk controlled the robot. Flure was the only one of the group members who had previous experience with the programming, he said.

Ehrenstrom used his right arm muscle to move the robot right and his left to move the robot left. To move forward, Ehrenstrom had to synchronize his arm muscles to move the robot at the same time.

"He supplies the muscle, I do the programming," Flure said. "Whenever Jim flexes a muscle, we get that voltage through amplifiers which will boost it up 1,000 times."

Ehrenstrom said his group had gotten more use out of the project than any group before it. He said just getting the robot to work at all was good enough for him.

Ehrenstrom said he wished he could work on the project more next semester but is graduating on Saturday. He said he hoped Flure and Timpane would be able to continue their work and possibly enhance the project by adding more features and getting more power out of the robot.

Ehrenstrom and Flure both have an interest in biomedical procedures and said one day they would like to work with similar but more advanced robots. They said they hoped to eventually build robots that used brain waves as control systems.

Kearney said it was impressive the group had gotten so far because only Flure had a background in biomedical procedures. The other two students had to teach themselves the theories.

For now, the students said they were happy with the outcome. Kearney said the group had met all of its goals on the project and would receive $5,000 in the class.

Bill Clinton says Hillary should have dumped him and jumped into her own career

Joe Crawford

Bill Clinton says Hillary should have dumped him and jumped into her own career at the university at the end of the year when her husband, former President Clinton retired Dec. 31 to travel and, presumably, to run for office.

"She laughed and said, 'I thought she was the most gifted person of our generation.'" — Bill Clinton, former President

"I thought she was the most gifted person of our generation," said Clinton, who said he told her, "You know, you really should dump me and go back to school to run for Congress with a $26,000 salary and a $42,000 campaign debt," said Clinton. "If she were half as smart as she said she was, she'd have been running for president.""
Artists add protest work to Bethlehem’s wall

Dion Nissenbaum
McClatchy Tribune

BETHLEHEM, West Bank — A little girl with pig tails as a pink Artsa dyes down an Israeli sol- der standing spread-eagle against the wall. Another soldier has stopped a donkey for questioning and is checking ID.

Nearby, a large rat holding a shotgun appears ready to launch a few stones as he gazes up at Israel’s towering concrete wall separating Bethlehe m from Israeli.

“Nazi’s, Gehenna,” an ongoing collaborative graffiti proj- ect that has evolved into the biggest attack on Jerusalem separation barrier and the latest hope among Bethlehem’s leaders to draw tourist attention to this troubled town during the Christmas season.

Led by the enigmatic British art- ist known as Banksy, painters from around the world are adding works to the walls around Bethlehem in an attempt to draw attention to the impact the separation barrier has had on life in the Biblical birthplace of Jesus Christ.

Victor Batarseh, Bethlehem’s mayor, sees “Santa’s Ghetto” as a chance to help entice tourists back to his city. He hopes that more than a million people will come this year, which is just a fraction of the record 1.2 million who visited in 2000, before a suicide-bombing campaign sparked construction of the barrier, which in the Bethlehem area is a 25-foot-tall concrete wall.

“I hope people will come visit because I don’t see how things can change for the citizens of Bethlehem as long as the wall is here,” Batarseh said.

“It’s an excellent artwork,” he added.

The Banksy’s silhouettes of the soldiers questioning the donkeys. There’s a leg in blue jeans and a sneaker that appears to be smudging through the concrete wall. There’s a dove of peace wearing a bulletproof vest with a red rapper’s target aimed at its chest.

This week, noted American pop artist Keith Haring — who is expected to transform Bethlehem billboards into new political messages.

Banksy, who has managed to keep his identity a secret even as his popularity has skyrocketed, sees “Santa’s Ghetto” as a way to bring attention to the problems in Bethlehem.

New Jersey abolishes the death penalty

Tom Hester Jr.
The Associated Press

TRENTON, N.J. — New Jersey took a major step Monday toward becoming the first state to abolish the death penalty in more than 40 years, a change that is expected to become law within a month.

The state Senate approved a measure to replace the death sen- tence with life without parole, which would spare the life of a sex offender whose crimes sparked Megan’s Law.

Then, the state House gave final approval to the Democratic-controlled Assembly and the Democratic governor.

New Jersey has seen runs on death row and hasn’t executed any- one since 1903, and 15 states have abolished the death penalty since 1982, on average every 10 years.

The last states to abolish the death penalty were Iowa and West Virginia in 1962, and Missouri in 1973.

In New Jersey, 29 of the 50 inmates are sex offenders and 10 more than 1,000 have been on death row.

The bill has the support of the majority of New Jersey residents, 56 percent of the state’s lawmakers and the Christie administration.

“It is a step toward making government more empathetic and humane,” said Assemblyman Steve parole. "The inmates currently on death row are the worst of the worst in our society, and to offer them the opportunity of life is a disgrace to their victims, the jurors that deliber- ed their fate and the majority. New Jersey needs to move on and sup- port the death penalty,” they wrote.

The effort to abolish capital punishment in New Jersey stems from a January report by a spe- cial state commission. It found the death penalty was a more expensive sentence than life in prison and has the death penalty.

Among the death row inmates who would be spared is Jesse Timmendequas, a sex offender convicted of murdering 7-year- old Megan Kanka in 1994. That case sparked a Megan’s Law, which requires law enforcement agencies to notify the public about convicted sex offenders living in their com- munities.

Megan’s parents, Richard and Maureen Kanka, have sent a letter to legislators urging them to retain the death penalty.

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You can hear them (*cia*) falling everywhere.

— Ronnie Compton

OKLAHOMA CITY — A wintry storm knocked the center of the nation with a thick layer of Monday, blank- ing out more than 600,000 homes and busi- nessess, and more snow and ice was on the way. At least 15 deaths in Oklahom a and Minnesota were blamed on the conditions, with 13 of them killed on slick highways.

A state of emergency was declared for the entire state of Oklahoma, where the sound of branches snapping under the weight of the ice echoed through Oklahoma City.

“Investigation of the case by fire officials and the state’s largest utility.

Roughly 11,000 customers were blacked out in southern Illinois and more than 5,000 had no electric heat or lights in Kansas, where Gov. Kathleen Sebelius was expecting requests from several counties for emergency declarations.

Ice storm causes blackouts in Midwest

Ken Miller
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Congressional leaders are pressing to find out what caused the IRS destruction of interrogation videotape and whether justice was obstructed in the process.

Politicians in both parties and in the presidential campaign said negotiators must get to the bottom of the matter and question the IRS, which destroyed the tapes of the questioning of two terrorism suspects were destroyed to protect the identity of the interrogators.

Democrats and some Republicans expressed skepticism about CIA claims that tapes of the questioning of two terrorism suspects were destroyed to protect the identity of the interrogators.

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of the price increase.

"I know a lot of my friends just go to their doctors at home, so I’m sure a lot more girls are going to be doing that," Roeder said.

Students with greater financial restrictions may be able to obtain free contraceptives, if they qualify, from the Jackson County Health Department’s Family Planning Clinic in Murphysboro. Ruth Miner, a registered nurse and certified nurse practitioner at the clinic, said they are exempt from the provision because their programs is a Title X, federally funded, subsidized program, which is also funded through the taxes paid in Jackson, Franklin and Williamson Counties.

"The prices we charge are income based so that, depending upon your stated income, your charges can be as little as nothing to a full price," Miner said.

The full price on any pills the clinic can afford to offer is $35. At this time, that includes Ortho Tricyclen Lo, Ortho Cyclogen, Lo Ovral and Micronor.

Kraicir

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The Cape Girardeau officials who announced charges against Kraicir Monday also said he confessed to three more murders. Officials have not released names or locations of the new victims.

Sheppard’s nude body was found at her Graham Street apartment on April 9, 1982. A second autopsy requested by her family revealed Sheppard had been strangled. Twenty-five years later, Carbondale Police linked DNA found in Sheppard's apartment to Kraicir.

Kraicir will begin to serve his 40-year sentence at the Big Muddy Correctional Center in Issa for the Sheppard murder while Cape Girardeau prosecutors organize their case for the others, Swingle said.

"He's a little combative, but he's not putting up much of a fight," the detective said. "Swingle said he would not pursue the death penalty as part of an agreement with Kraicir.

"His description of himself is that he’s a right young man." Swingle said the Bruce, Illinois, native has been released, but Swingle said he would not pursue the death penalty as part of an agreement with Kraicir.

"He's doing great," King said. "He thinks what he has done is just normal, but he's really, really bright young man." Figueroa said he hoped to enter the field of event marketing after graduation.

He will also be the first member of his family to graduate from college.

"We think Alex is an inspiration to other people who have to overcome challenges. What he’s doing is great." - Karen Trosset, one of The Today Show’s producers

BRAIN

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

received a phone call from an inebriated roommate.

The young man wanted Figueroa to act as his designated driver. Despite a snowstorm raging on the base, Figueroa agreed. However, shortly into the drive, Figueroa swerved to avoid hitting a deer and lost control of the vehicle. The car wrapped around a tree, forcing the rear to collide with the driver’s side window.

He was in a coma for six weeks. When he awoke, family members surrounding Figueroa’s bedside.

"I thought, What are they all doing here? Why are they standing in front of me?" Figueroa said. "I didn't know what happened." Until he was able to resume eating on his own, Figueroa received food through an IV. After six weeks of therapy, he regained much of his function and was able to return home with his parents.

He said he suffers from extreme migraines almost daily, but the effects of the injury are generally invisible to those who do not notice his scars.

"The adversity he’s been through and to achieve the way he has, to do well and to just make it through the program — it knocks my socks off," King said.

Allison Petty can be reached at 536-3311 ext. 259 or allison.petty@siude.com.

Kraicir's

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Figueroa said. "I didn't know what happened." Figueroa is just normal, but he's a really, really invisible to those who do not notice his scars.

"The cheapest option right now would be most of our generic pills," Chaney said. "The cheapest price right now is about $18 a month and there are maybe six or seven that fall into that category."

Other contraceptives, including Ortho Tricyclen Lo, will undergo price increases after stock bought at the discounted rate runs out, Chaney said.

Leah Roeder, a sophomore from Indiana studying public relations, said she thinks the Student Health Center will lose business as a result of the price increase.

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Putin and Chavez offer reasons for concern

McClatchy Tribune

You would think small "D" democrats would be pleased by recent events in Venezuela and Russia. Both countries held elections. Voters in those countries expressed the popular will— in Venezuela, by rejecting Hugo Chavez's bid to get himself elected president for life, and in Russia, by handing a robust victory to the party of President Vladimir Putin, whom the people would like to elect for life. So what's not to celebrate? Plenty.

Venezuela and Russia offer more reasons to worry than to applaud, just as do the supposedly democratic elections that have benefited Hamas in Gaza, Hezbollah in Lebanon and the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt. The problem is not just how some of those elections turned out, but that the mere act of voting does not create a democracy.

The challenge in such places goes beyond ink, paper and ballot boxes. As diplomat and Brookings Institution President Strobe Talbott observed recently, a functioning democracy requires an infrastructure— things like independent courts, traditions of respect for opponents, checks and balances in government structure, free and unfettered media and so on. It is not enough to enforce a brief cease-fire on Election Day.

In Russia, people were appalled by the economic privatizations and other indignities that followed the collapse of the Soviet state. They are more susceptible than they should be to the appeal of Putin, who has improved conditions for ordinary people while bringing back totalitarianism— and making the people believe the trade was worth it. The ex-KGB man has risen to a position more powerful than any that has existed since 1991, but it is hard to see how he represents a triumph of democracy.

In Venezuela, the popular Chavez similarly has undermined the free institutions that could give him legitimacy. Remember his recent nationalization of oil holdings and his seizures of private property. What's worse, his oil puts him in a position to cause no small amount of financial havoc; Venezuela is among the biggest suppliers of oil to the United States, a country he regularly denounces. The narrow defeat of his proposed constitutional reform— which would have done away with the term limits of his office— drew a quick promise from Chavez that he will try again and again. Like Putin, he seems determined to concentrate state power in himself.

The answer to both of these problems, and to others around the globe, is to help people build their democracies from the ground up. That's a huge diplomatic undertaking, but it's the best way to accomplish America's avowed goal of promoting democracy around the world. It would be folly to suppose the challenges to U.S. strategic interests begin and end in the Middle East; meeting those challenges requires the United States be smart, as well as strong.

This editorial appeared in the Minneapolis Star Tribune on Friday.
Presidential candidates not allowed to press

Online avengers influence the problem

Barbara Shelly

An army of Internet avengers has set out to destroy Lori Drew and her family.

With ruthless efficiency, they have learned the identity of the suburban St. Louis woman whose cyberspace modding, they claim, has caused harm to a sole in the suicide of a 13-year-old neighbor girl.

They have published her address, telephone and photographs, and harassed the girls of her advertising business.

The Drew family has fled its home. Her teenage daughter is living apart from her parents, for her safety. The advertising business is closed.

And still the online avengers forge on, seeking the whereabouts of Lori and Curt Drew and vowing them no peace, ever.

The irony is rich. Lori Drew’s use of the Internet in the life of an awkward teenager has now worldwide scope. And now a legion of strangers, under the guise of justice, is stooping to her level.

“They’ll basically say they’re doing the same thing to that family and their daughter that they did to Morgan,” said Craig McGee of the St. Charles County Sheriff’s Department told the Riverfront Times, a weekly newspaper in St. Louis. “The story of aCyepremptor that went wrong bites first published Nov. 11 in the St. Charles Journal. Writer Steve Pekon meticulously detailed how 13-year-old Megan Meier sunk a friendship on MySpace with a cute teenage boy named Josh.

But Josh was a phantom created by Lori Drew, her daughter and an older teenage boy who worked for Drew.

They used him to gain access to Megan’s MySpace page and monitor what Megan was saying about Drew’s daughter.

The charade ended with Megan receiving a spate of nasty messages from the person she believed was Josh. Jack Baras, the St. Charles County Prosecuting attorney who investigated the case and decided no laws had been violated, said the mean messages were composed by Drew’s 18-year-old employee, and Drew didn’t participate. Other teenagers became aware of the online fray and jumped in with vicious comments. Megan, who suffered from depression and low self-esteem, hanged herself in her bedroom.

One can conclude from the information available that Drew, who is 48, is in the worst kind of helicopter parent and cowardly. Instead of owning up to the acts of her own self-styled daughter, the popular choice for the Today Show, and more, said her parents learned about it from others.

Personally I have no right to meet the mean messages, her vindictive words without insight into the dynamics of two families or the state of Megan’s mind, even a complete explanation of what actually occurred.

Accomplished in the art of cyberstalking, they direct their fury at a family whose only form down that road had tragic, but unintended, consequences.

Don’t we have a First Amendment right to say what we think? The way the Internet presents today issues be argued, be a model to the nation, be a leader to the world.

Surely one of the best things parents can do to guard their children from Internet hazards is to show them, by example, how to live a life that doesn’t require tapping on a keypad.

Be a tutor, help at a food pantry, visit an elderly neighbor. Engage in real relationships with real people. You’ll strike more of a blow for justice and leave the world a better place than all the avengers of cyberspace.

Shelly is a member of the Kansas City Star Editorial Board.

Joshua Klahr/Editor for Newsday.

Used with permission.

Barbara Shelly

The cyber jury has decided Drew’s cause Megan’s death, as surely as she had fired a gun at the child. Any professional will say that’s not the case.

“One incident never causes a suicide,” said Marilyn Mental, a Kansas City psychologist. “It’s always a series of events.”

Mental, who works with children, adolescents and adults, sees the workings of cyber obsession all the time. She’s counseled teenagers who have flunked out of school because their parents live on the Internet and they are no longer able to keep the business of actual living. She’s seen marriages ruined by phantom cyber lovers.

“The World Wide Web is incredible, but it’s also dangerous,” Mental said. “When you’re dealing with a fantasy life, it can be wonderful or horrible.”

Surely one of the best things parents can do to guard their children from Internet hazards is to show them, by example, how to live a life that doesn’t require tapping on a keypad.

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About Us

The DAILY EGYPTIAN is published by the students of Southern Illinois University at Carbondale, with fall and spring, circulations of 20,000. Five copies are sent to dormitory, and the Cardinal, Murphysboro and Carbondale communities.

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Voices

Daily Egyptian

Tuesday, December 11, 2007

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Tuesday, December 11, 2007

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Often follows when a business falls into trouble, or goes under. (11)

Aries (March 21-April 19) — Today is a 4 — Your job is particularly challenging now. Something must be done immediately, but it’s not clear how. A brilliant idea is necessary, and quickly. Fortunately, you have time.

Taurus (April 20-May 20) — Today is a 6 — Armed with lists of wants and wishes, head out to the fray. The danger is that you want everything. Take care, and you’ll do brilliantly.

Cancer (June 21-July 22) — Today is a 7 — A difficult situation is overcome with the help of a technical friend. Let them all know what’s going on. At least one of them knows how to fix it.

Gemini (May 21-June 21) — Today is a 6 — Armed with lists of wants and wishes, head out to the fray. The danger is that you want everything. Take care, and you’ll do brilliantly.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) — Today is a 7 — Start away provisions for the future! You will find a great deal of comfort in having plenty to last you a long time. You won’t have to shop every day.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) — Today is a 7 — You take some of the wealth you have acquired, and update household technology. There are some lovely bargains to be had now, if you shop around.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — Today is a 6 — You’re more in control of the situation, although there’s still lots to be done. Come up with a brilliant idea, and possibly a helper. You can still make that happen.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) — Today is a 5 — Amazing! As you clean up the mess, you discover buried treasures. These are things of value you forgot, and possibly even treasure. You’re more in control of your situation, although there’s still lots to be done. Come up with a brilliant idea, and possibly a helper. You can still make that happen.

Pisces (Feb. 19-Mar. 20) — Today is a 7 — You’ll have a brilliant idea, and possibly a helper. You can still make that happen.
Dear Hollywood: Take a step back and look ahead

ALICIA WADE
awade@siude.com

The question? Can Bush America continue to accept Will Smith as the last human for the first few months and not...
The Salukis are expected to win the Missouri Valley Conference title this season, according to winning coach Jerry Kill. The Salukis are now 12-5 overall and 9-3 in the MVFC after Saturday’s home victory, which is the best start for the Salukis since 1984.

The Salukis are ranked 17th in the latest Associated Press poll.

This is the best start for the Salukis since 1984 when they finished with a 10-3 overall record and a 6-1 conference record.

The Salukis also have the best start in conference play since 1988 when they were 6-0 in conference play.

The Salukis are currently the MVFC’s top seed for the upcoming conference tournament.

On Saturday, the Salukis defeated the Illinois State Redbirds, 22-14, in a close game that was decided in the fourth quarter.

The Salukis scored a late touchdown in the fourth quarter to secure the victory.

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VIK SENTENCED TO 23 MONTHS IN PRISON

Larry O’Dell
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

RICHMOND, Va. — Michael Vick was sentenced to 23 months in prison Monday for running a “cruel and inhumane” dogfighting ring and lying about it.

The suspended Atlanta Falcons quarterback could have been sentenced up to five years by U.S. District Judge Henry E. Hudson. Vick, who turned himself in Nov. 19 in anticipation of his sentence, was wearing a black-and-white striped prison suit.

After Vick apologized to the court and his family, Hudson told him: “You need to apologize to the millions of young people who looked up to you.”

“Sir,” Vick answered.

“The 27-year-old player acknowledged using ‘poor judgment’ and added, ‘I’m willing to deal with the consequences and accept responsibility for my actions.’

Although there is no parole in the federal system, rules governing time off for good behavior could reduce Vick’s prison stay by about three months, resulting in a summer 2009 release.

“Vick was suspended without pay for his crime,” Hudson said. “We sincerely hope that Michael will use this time to continue to focus his efforts on making positive changes in his life, and we wish him well in that regard.”

One of Vick’s attorneys, Lawrence Woodward, asked for leniency. He said Vick “grew up on some of probably the most brutal and toughest streets in this commonwealth,” but had never been in trouble with the law and had done much for charities.

Vick was denied any credit for taking responsibility for his crime. Hudson agreed with a federal prosecutor’s finding that Vick had lied about his hands-on killing of dogs and about his drug use.

Vick testified for marijuana Sept. 13, violating conditions of his release while he awaited sentencing.

Hudson recalled that Vick at one point said he only handed over two dogs to co-defendant Quanis Phillips, who killed them. On another occasion, Vick said he dropped a dog after Phillips tied a rope around the animal’s neck, the judge added.

“I’m not convinced you’ve fully accepted responsibility,” Hudson told Vick.

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“I’m not convinced you’ve fully accepted responsibility,” Hudson told Vick.
Saluki season was more than a sour ending

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As a wet crowd emptied the confines of McAndrew Stadium after the Salukis’ heartbreaking loss, a somber tone filled the air.

Sounds that did break through the silence were mostly critical.

“I can’t understand how you go for it on fourth-and-one,” one dismayed Saluki follower offered.

Another pondered senior quarterback Nick Hill’s final throw as a missed the point. Those moments as they left the stadium for the final time this season seemed more in the minds of Chattanooga.

Senior forward Diamon Falker said his mind was pitched back to another teammate, wide receiver Alan Turner. With guard Aaron Lockwood allowing Turner to spring out, the drive showed promise — so much that announcer Mike Trade purportedly exclaimed: “He’s gonna score!”
The teamwork and resiliency displayed in the play showed the character of the team. But Turner, like the team’s title hopes, came up just short.

**Defining moment**
Mieszala: The upset win at Northern Illinois, capped by Justin Allen escaping a couple defenders on the winning touchdown. The Salukis had no business winning that game, but stayed in it with defensive touchdowns and then sandwiched an onsite kick recovery between two late scoring drives. That win really set the tone for the rest of the season. This team was never out of any game.

McGahan: The final play in the loss against Northern Iowa. The Salukis looked dead in the water, but rode a fourth quarter wave to get in position to win the game. With the Panther defense spread wide, quarterback Nick Hill looked like he was about to show off more of his arm strength. Instead, he used his feet after a short throw to running back John Randle that was pitched back to him. Randle showed his versatility by throwing a devastating block to free up Hill to pitch back to another teammate, wide receiver Alan Turner. With guard Aaron Lockwood allowing Turner to spring out, the drive showed promise — so much that announcer Mike Trade purportedly exclaimed: “He’s gonna score!”
The teamwork and resiliency displayed in the play showed the character of the team. But Turner, like the team’s title hopes, came up just short.

**Favorite moment**
Mieszala: I need to go back to the end of the Northern Illinois game. When the Salukis were lining up for the extra point after the go-ahead touchdown, SIU left tackle Darren Manquez looked across the line of scrimmage with a small smile on his face and shrugged. The shrug seemed to convey two messages — I don’t know how we pulled this off, and “Scoreboard.” Easily the most dramatic comeback I’ve seen in person, and the writers were brought down onto the field for the final photos. Somehow, we paid to do this.

McGahan: The second time safety Calvin Crumpton intercepted an onside kick to give the Salukis a shot at a late comeback. Sadly anyone has ever seen what Kirk Herbstreit calls “the most exciting play in college football” executed properly in person, but followers of this team got to see the best completed twice, on the road, by the same two players. After the first onside recovery made way for the thrilling Northern Illinois come-from-behind victory, this viewer thought it was a lucky fluke. That assumption was proven incorrect when kicker Kyle Dougherty punt off the exact same kick, and Johnson made the exact same leap to bring in the ball once again against Northern Iowa. John Randle admitted Dougherty is probably the best onside kicker ever.

**Favorite play**
Mieszala: Craig Turner’s 88-yard kick return for a touchdown against Delaware. It was unbelievable to see in person, but won games. Turner’s run was shown on ESPN showed just how incredible it was. The announcer, though not faultless of her own, said the return was over after about 20 yards, as it should have been.

See FOOTBALL, Page 14

Salukis ready for turnaround

**Megan Kramer**
*

After his first scoreless game in three years, SIU senior forward Randall Falkner said he needs to get back on track tonight.

The Salukis (5-3) will look for their fourth win of the season as they take on No. 24 Saint Mary’s at the SIU Arena. After looking at game film of Saturday’s 73-56 loss to Charlotte, Falkner said his mind needs to be more focused to turn things around.

“My head is really humble right now and just really hungry and willing to do anything to get a win right now,” Falkner said.

Falkner said the transformation must start with playing better defense, something he was extremely disappointed with in the film.

Coach Chris Lowery said pressure may have gotten the best of Falkner on Saturday night, and the team isn’t looking for him to be their lone standout.

“We don’t need him to be the guy,” Lowery said. “We need him to be what he’s always been, and that’s a good player, a good leader and terrific defensive player.”

The Saluki defense will be key against Saint Mary’s (7-6), which outscored SIU this season by an average of 22.5 points per game. The teams undefeated season includes a statement 12-point victory at then-No. 11 Oregon on Nov. 20.

The Gaels boast freshman point guard Patrick Mills who, in his first collegiate games, is averaging 36.1 points, 4.4 assists and 2.2 rebounds per game.

Three other Saint Mary’s players also have scoring numbers in the double digits, with sophomore Omar Samphan averaging 13.9 points, junior forward Dhamon Simpson recording 11.3 points and junior Smith posting 10 points per game.

When the two teams met last season, the Salukis walked away with a 66-61 edge over the Gaels on their home court in Moraga, Calif.

But Lowery said the team is much improved, especially with the addition of Mills. Lowery called the point guard the team’s playmaker that all the returning players feed off of.

See BASKETBALL, Page 15

Junior guard Aaron Lockwood rumbles through Delaware defenders during SIU’s 73-56 loss Saturday. Lockwood’s seven-yard carry was his first as a Saluki and came on a crucial third-and-one possession. **INSIDER, page 15: When Santa comes bearing gifts, what are you asking for?**