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TUESDAY

Class creates muscle-controlled robotp.3

PULSE: Entertainment in the new yearp.13

Salukis sum up football season.....p.16

DAILY EGYPTIAN

Gus Bode says look for our Semester in Photos and Graduation Guide this week. We'll be back Monday, Jan. 14. Have a good break!



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VOL. 93, NO. 76, 16 PAGES

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

DECEMBER 11, 2007



RYAN RENDLEMAN ~ DAILY EGYPTIAN

Linda Hess, of the Barrett Spinal Health & Wellness Center, gives a man who identified himself only as Santa Claus a massage in University Mall Sunday evening.

Saluki triumphs over trauma

Student graduates after suffering severe brain injury

Allison Petty
DAILY EGYPTIAN

Seven years ago, Alex Figueroa spent Christmas in a coma.

This year, Christmas morning will find him on NBC's The Today Show.

Figueroa, of Aurora, will graduate from SIUC Saturday with a bachelor's degree in marketing after recovering from a traumatic brain injury that left him temporarily unable to eat, talk or walk without assistance. Figueroa's injury and subsequent journey through college will be documented in The Today Show's Dec. 25 special.

On Dec. 2, 2000, Figueroa, who enlisted in the Marines in 1997, was stationed at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune in North Carolina when he

See BRAIN, Page 5

Price of preventing pregnancy rises

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

Brandy Oxford
DAILY EGYPTIAN

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

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 intended to reduce Medicaid abuse.

Instead, the provision removed col-

“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

lege 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.

NuvaRing, which cost \$11.50 at the beginning of the year, now costs \$40. Ovcon has gone from \$9 to \$46.85 and Estrostep has gone from \$9 to \$51.05. But Susan Chaney, pharmacy director at the Student Health

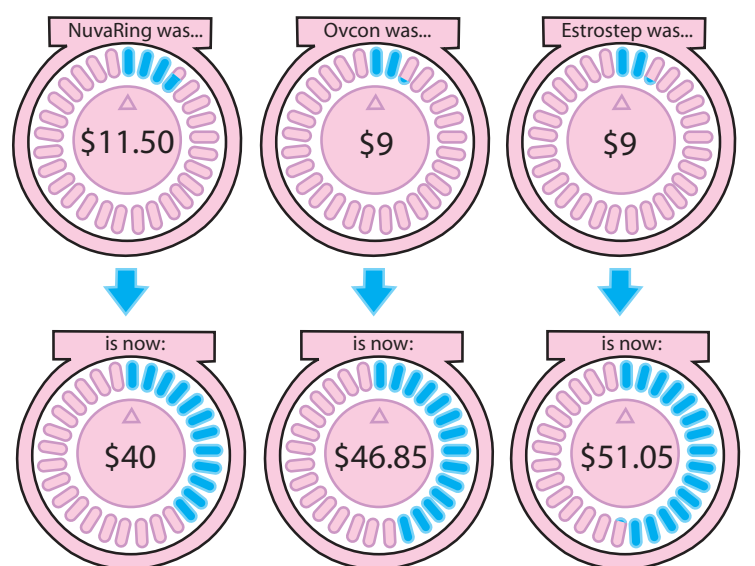
Center, said the center would eventually offer Estrostep and Ovcon in their generic forms at better discounts.

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 one way to protect yourself from becoming pregnant,” Phillips said. “If it's 40 or

See BIRTH CONTROL, Page 5

Birth control prices go up



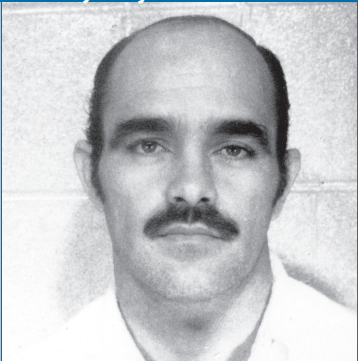
Cheapest pills:

Desogen \$17.80 Aviane \$18.75 Tri-Sprintec \$17.40 Tri-Cyclen Low \$19.20*

*will go up soon

Michelle Arras ~ DAILY EGYPTIAN

Timothy Krajcir



- Pleaded guilty for 1982 killing of Deborah Sheppard
- Confessed to eight other murders

Deborah Sheppard



- SIUC student murdered by Timothy Krajcir in 1982

Kracjir enters guilty pleas

Man who killed SIU student confesses to eight other murders

Barton Lorimor
DAILY EGYPTIAN

The 1982 killing of an SIUC student along with eight other cold case murders dating back nearly 30 years were solved Monday.

Timothy Krajcir, a 63-year-old man from Allentown, Pa., pleaded guilty Monday morning in a Jackson County courtroom to the murder of

Deborah Sheppard, a former SIUC student from Olympia Fields who studied marketing. Immediately after the plea had been filed, Judge W. Charles Grace sentenced Krajcir to 40 years in an Illinois prison for Sheppard's murder.

At a press conference in Cape Girardeau, Mo., later Monday afternoon, Cape Girardeau prosecutor Morley Swingle charged Krajcir with

five southeast Missouri murders and three cases of rape. Cape Girardeau County sheriff Carl Kinnison said Krajcir confessed to the crimes during a Dec. 3 interview. Two of the three women Krajcir raped were also murder victims, but one victim, whose name has yet to be released, survived.

See KRACJIR, Page 5

Most worn-out keyboard keys in Carbondale.

Salukis turn impulses to movements



Using wires attached to his forearms, Jim Ehrenstrom, a senior in electronic systems technology from Pinckneyville, watches as he moves the arms of the Rhino XR4. Ehrenstrom is part of a project to develop robots that respond to muscle flexes. In roughly 15 years, the technology will give amputees almost full use of a robotic limb, he said. Timothy Krajcir, a 63-year-old man from Allentown, Pa.

Students build muscle controlled robots for class

Christian Holt
DAILY EGYPTIAN

Jim Ehrenstrom said his favorite part of his electronics troubleshooting and maintenance class was trying to hit 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 Corey Tumpane from Hinsdale used what they learned in Brian Kearney's class, information from other classes and even some things they taught themselves.

Kearney, 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 Robo Talk controlled the robot. Flure was the only one of the group members who had previous experience with the program.

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 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 here, 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 Tumpane would be able to continue their work and possibly enhance the project by adding more amplifiers and getting more power out of the robot.

Ehrenstrom and Flure both

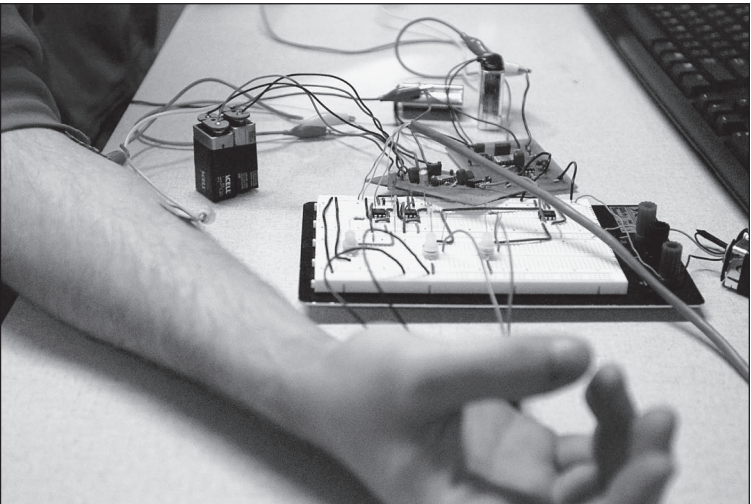
have an interest in biomedical procedures and said one day they would like to work with similar but more advanced robots. They said they hoped to eventually build robots that used brain waves as control systems.

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 A's in the class.

Christian Holt can be reached at 536-3311 ext. 268 or cholt@siu.edu.



Using human muscle and robotics technology, Ehrenstrom demonstrates how to move a robot with wires attached to his forearm. If the technology continues to advance, amputees may have full use of a robotic limb in the not-to-distant future, he said.

Head of Alumni Association announces retirement

Buerger to end 24-year career Dec. 31

Joe Crawford
DAILY EGYPTIAN

Alumni Association Executive Director Ed Buerger has officially announced he will end his 24-year career at the university at the end of the month.

Buerger, who has held the executive director post since 1989, said he would retire Dec. 31 to travel and spend more time with his family. Preparation for a nationwide search for a new executive director is set to begin next year.

Buerger, 62, said he has been taking retirement counseling sessions

for a few years and he said he found out about a month ago that retirement was a viable option for him. His retirement was not a surprise to the university, he said.

"After 24 years of service there comes a time when you feel as though you need to do what's best for you and your family," he said.

Rickey McCurry, vice chancellor for institutional advancement, said Michelle Suarez would act as interim director beginning next year.

Buerger said Suarez, director of member services, has already taken over most of the day-to-day operations as executive director and

would likely do so for the rest of the month.

Buerger said he was one of 12 members of his family who attended SIUC, starting with his grandmother, who graduated from what was then Southern Illinois Normal University in 1918. He said he and his wife, Janice, planned to stay in the area and would remain involved with the university.

"Frankly we're big SIU Saluki fans," he said. "I've gone to almost every ball game in the history of the (SIU Arena) and almost all the football games."

Doris Rottschalk, president of the Alumni Association, said the association would be involved in the search for a new executive director

but she did not know who else would be on the search committee.

Rottschalk said she was a "deep admirer" of Buerger and the Alumni Association would be deeply affected by his leaving.

"I'm just happy he can retire," she said. "But it's going to be hard to replace him."

Joe Crawford can be reached at 536-3311 ext. 254 or jcrawford@siude.com.



Ed Buerger
• Alumni Association Executive Director

Bill Clinton says Hillary should have run in the first place

Mike Glover
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

AMES, Iowa — Campaigning for his wife, former President Clinton says that when they were starting out he was so struck by her intellect and ability he once suggested she should just dump him and jump into her own political career.

That didn't happen, of course, and on Monday he gave an Iowa crowd his version of why it didn't.

"I thought it would be wrong for me to rob her of the chance to be what I thought she should be," said Clinton. "She laughed and said, 'First I love you and, second, I'm not going to run for

anything, I'm too hardheaded."

Hillary Rodham Clinton is running now, and husband Bill was stumping for her in the 2008 campaign's leadoff caucus state — two days after rival Democrat Barack Obama got a full weekend's worth of attention by bringing in talk show queen Oprah Winfrey to campaign for him.

The former president opened a two-day swing through Iowa on behalf of his wife, packing nearly 500 people into a theater on the campus of Iowa State University.

"She has spent a lifetime as a change agent when she had the option to do other things," he 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 home to Chicago or go to New York and take one of those offers you've got and run for office."

Now that she's a New York senator and in a tight Democratic contest — with Illinois Sen. Obama and former

North Carolina Sen. John Edwards — the former president said he wanted to persuade voters that she has "the best combination of mind and heart."

He offered a self-deprecating view of the couple's early life in Arkansas.

"When she came down there and we got married, I was a defeated candidate for Congress with a \$26,000 salary and a \$42,000 campaign debt," said Clinton. "If she were half as calculating as someone said, that's a really great way to run for president."

In his latest Iowa swing, Clinton is bringing heavy attention to his wife, who is competing in the precinct caucuses that will launch the presidential nominating season on Jan. 3.

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WIRE REPORTS

BAGHDAD

Mortar shells hit Baghdad prison, killing seven inmates

BAGHDAD (AP) — Mortar shells slammed into an Interior Ministry prison on Monday, killing at least seven inmates and wounding 23, officials said. A major oil refinery came under fire elsewhere in the capital, sending up billowing black smoke.

The mortar rounds hit a prison made up of several cell blocks, each containing prisoners accused of terrorism-related crimes or civil offenses, police said.

Police said American troops sealed off the area and were investigating the bombardment, which took place about 6:30 a.m. The U.S. military said it had no immediate information, and Iraqi Interior Ministry officials could not be reached for comment.

A hospital official said the inmates were still asleep when the mortars hit, one landing directly on a cell and two others nearby.

Elsewhere in Baghdad, a rocket or a mortar shell hit an oil refinery on Monday, police and an Oil Ministry spokesman said. The U.S. military confirmed an attack in the area.

WASHINGTON

Presidential candidates press for answers on destroyed CIA videotapes

WASHINGTON (AP) — Congressional leaders are pressing to find out who knew what about the CIA's destruction of interrogation videotape and whether justice was obstructed in the process.

Politicians in both parties and in the presidential campaign said inquiries must get to the bottom of the matter and questioned who, if anyone in the White House, knew what was happening. But there appears to be little support for appointment of a special prosecutor.

The Justice Department and the CIA's internal watchdog are conducting a joint inquiry, one step short of a full investigation, and congressional committees were turning to the tempest as well.

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

PAKISTAN

Suicide bomber strikes bus carrying children at Pakistan base

KAMRA, Pakistan (AP) — A suicide car bomber struck near a bus carrying children of Pakistani air force employees to school at a northern army base Monday, the military said. At least five children were wounded.

The bomber sped toward the bus and detonated his explosive yards away from it, said Tariq Hanif, the police chief in Kamra, where the army base is located.

"The bus driver has told us that he tried his best to avoid a crash on seeing the suspected speeding car approaching toward him," Hanif said.

Police said the children were all younger than 12. They were in stable condition, said army spokesman Maj. Gen. Waheed Arshad. The bus driver and a guard were also injured.

"This barbaric attack shows how cruel the terrorists are," Arshad said.

NORWAY

Gore, UN panel to accept Nobel Peace Prize for raising alarm over global warming

OSLO, Norway (AP) — Al Gore said the Nobel Peace Prize he accepts Monday already has helped draw the world's attention to global warming and he expressed optimism that growing public pressure would push governments to cut carbon dioxide emissions.

The former vice president shares the prize with the U.N.'s Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, which will be represented at Monday's award ceremony by its leader, Rajendra Pachauri.

A day before accepting the prize, Gore said reducing greenhouse gases was essential to fighting the "planetary emergency" of global warming. "That phrase may sound shrill to some ears but it is accurate," he said.

"It is a question of the survival of our civilization," Gore told reporters at the Nobel Institute in downtown Oslo. "CO2 increases anywhere are a threat to the future of civilization

Artists add protest work to Bethlehem's wall

Dion Nissenbaum
McCLATCHY TRIBUNE

BETHLEHEM, West Bank — A little girl with pigtails in a pink dress pats down an Israeli soldier standing spread-eagle against the wall. Down the road, another soldier has stopped a donkey for questioning and is checking its ID.

Nearby, a large rat holding a slingshot appears ready to launch a few stones as he gazes up at Israel's towering concrete wall separating Bethlehem from Israel.

This is "Santa's Ghetto," an ongoing collaborative graffiti project that has evolved into the biggest artistic assault on Israel's separation barrier and the latest hope among Bethlehem's leaders to draw tourists back to this troubled town during the Christmas season.

Led by the enigmatic British artist known as Banksy, painters from around the world are adding works daily 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's hopeful that more than a half 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.

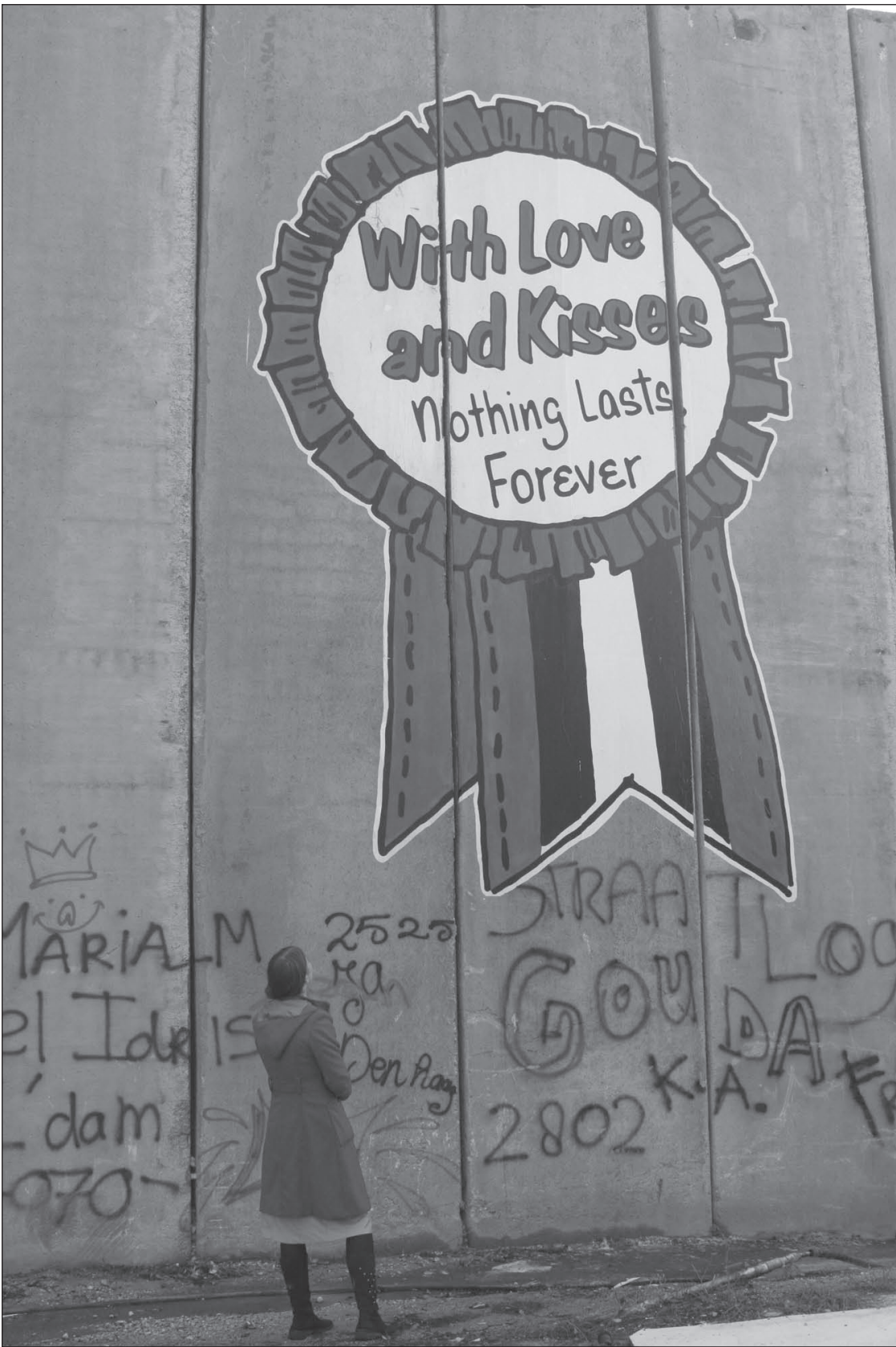
"I hope people will come visit because I don't see how things can change for the citizens of Bethlehem as long as the wall is here," Batarseh said.

"It's excellent artwork," he added.

There's Banksy's silhouette of the soldier questioning the donkey. There's a leg in blue jeans and a sneaker that appears to be smashing through the concrete wall. There's a dove of peace wearing a bulletproof vest with a red sniper's target aimed at its chest.

This week, noted American pop artist Ron English is expected to arrive 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 chance to draw attention to the problems in Bethlehem.



DION NISSENBAUM ~ McCLATCHY TRIBUNE

A visitor gazes up at a new piece of artwork on Israel's separation wall near Bethlehem in the West Bank, Dec. 8. The piece by New York based artist Faile is part of 'Santa's Ghetto,' a collaborative artistic assault meant to draw renewed attention to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

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 sentence with life without parole, which would spare the life of a sex offender whose crimes sparked Megan's Law. The bill has the support of the Democrat-controlled Assembly and the Democratic governor.

New Jersey has eight men on death row and hasn't executed anyone since 1963. It reinstated the death penalty in 1982, six years after the U.S. Supreme Court allowed states to resume executions.

The last states to abolish the death penalty were Iowa and West Virginia in 1965, according to the Death Penalty Information Center. Thirteen states currently don't have

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 communities.

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

"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 deliberated their fate and the majority of New Jersey residents who still support the death penalty," they wrote.

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

Ice storm causes blackouts in Midwest

Ken Miller
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

OKLAHOMA CITY — A wintry storm caked the center of the nation with a thick layer of ice Monday, blacking out more than 600,000 homes and businesses, and more icy weather was on the way. At least 15 deaths in Oklahoma and Missouri 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.

"You can hear them falling everywhere," Lonnie Compton said Monday as he shoveled ice off his driveway.

The National Weather Service posted ice and winter storm warnings

Tuesday for parts of Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska, Iowa and Illinois. Missouri declared an emergency on Sunday and put the National Guard on alert.

Oklahoma utilities said a half-million customers were blacked out as power lines snapped under the weight of ice and falling tree branches, the biggest power outage in state history, and utilities in Missouri said more than 100,000 homes and businesses had no power there.

"If you do the math, probably one out of three Oklahomans has no electricity at this point," said Gil Broyles, a spokesman for Oklahoma Gas & Electric, 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.

“
You can hear them [iced branches] falling everywhere.”

— Lonnie Compton
Oklahoma resident

EDITORIAL CARTOON



THEIR WORD

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 privations 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

The problem is not just how some of those elections turned out, but that the mere act of voting does not create a democracy.

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.

MISSION STATEMENT

The DAILY EGYPTIAN, the student-run newspaper of Southern Illinois University Carbondale, is committed to being a trusted source of news, information, commentary and public discourse, while helping readers understand the issues affecting their lives.

WORDS OVERHEARD

“Someday we’ll be able to look back and say we had a good season. But right now it just hurts.”

Nick Hill
senior quarterback
on the Salukis’ 20-17 loss to Delaware in the Football Championship Subdivision semifinal game Saturday

GUEST COLUMNS

Presidential candidates not available to press

James Klurflied
McClatchy Tribune

I noticed with amusement recently that some colleagues who are out on the presidential campaign trail are voicing a complaint that echoed some of my own sentiments when I was on a similar assignment: They are hardly getting any opportunity to ask the candidates questions, let alone spend any quality time with them.

If anything, the reporters are saying, campaign organizations have become more controlling than ever. This complaint is especially true for the front-running candidates such as Sen. Hillary Clinton and former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani. Reporters are lucky to get a press conference once a week, some said.

From a candidate’s point of view, this is how it should be. To the politicians, there is paid media — their television and radio commercials — and free media, the coverage they get from journalists. Paid media they can totally control. Free media they do their very best to manipulate. And limiting access to a candidate is part of that effort. This is especially true

of the traveling press, as opposed to the local press, at least in part because those who are regularly following a candidate are quicker to see contradictions or changes in position and tend to be more critical.

But there is a new — changing is a more accurate word — element to political coverage these days that offers voters, and reporters, more and maybe better ways to find out who these people who want to run our country are and what they have done in the past. And it might mean that traveling with the candidate is not necessarily the best or only way to cover a campaign.

I’m talking about the explosion of Internet sites that are looking at every aspect of the campaign and the candidates.

At the most basic level, you can watch a debate or interview you missed by going online to a site such as YouTube or a TV network’s site. You can also visit a candidate’s Web site and review his or her position papers or, of course, contribute your

dollars to the campaign. But what has really caught my interest this campaign cycle are the nonpartisan journalism sites that are quickly and thoroughly evaluating what the candidates say compared to what the facts or the historical record really are.

For instance, there is a site called PolitiFact.com, sponsored by the St. Petersburg Times and

Congressional Quarterly, that runs a “Truth-O-Meter” that evaluates what candidates say on a true, mostly true, half true, barely true or false scale.

When Sen. Barack Obama says, “I do provide

universal health care,” the meter says barely true, and you can click on to a spot that explains the difference between his health care plan and Clinton’s in some detail. Or when Sen. John McCain says that Giuliani never took part in the Iraq Study Group and was either fired or asked to leave, the meter says “True” and goes on to explain that the mayor missed the group’s first two meetings and never participated

in its work. At FactCheck.org, there’s a multimedia piece on “how to spot political ads powered only by hot air.” The story contains one commercial from Republican Mitt Romney and one from Democrat John Edwards and explains how each uses positive words and images that are largely devoid of substance. “Voters should beware,” it says.

There are many other sites illuminating the campaign in different ways, including Politico.com, RealClearPolitics.com and mainstream media Web sites such as those of Newsday, The New York Times or The Washington Post.

My point isn’t that it is not important for reporters to be following a campaign on a regular basis. Of course it is. They have to keep pressing for more access to candidates. But 20 years ago, we were limited to what we knew about candidates by our local newspaper or the television networks.

The Internet represents a revolution in communications, for better or worse. For the news consumer, with a little bit of effort, it is definitely better.

Klurfeld is a columnist for Newsday.

ABOUT US
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OUR WORD is the consensus of the DAILY EGYPTIAN Editorial Board on local, national and global issues affecting the Southern Illinois University community. Viewpoints expressed in columns and letters to the editor do not necessarily reflect those of the DAILY EGYPTIAN.

Online avengers influence the problem

Barbara Shelly
McClatchy Tribune

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 meddling appears to have played a role in the suicide of a 13-year-old neighbor girl.

They have published her address, phone numbers and photos, and harangued the clients of her advertising business.

The Drew family has fled its home. Their 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 to meddle in the life of another person has earned her worldwide scorn. And now a legion of strangers, under the guise of justice, is stooping to her level.

“They’ll basically end up doing the same thing to that family and their daughter that they did to Megan,” Lt. Craig McGuire of the St. Charles County Sheriff’s Department told the Riverfront

Times, a weekly newspaper in St. Louis.

The story of a cyberspace stunt that went horribly wrong was first published Nov. 11 in the St. Charles Journal. Writer Steve Pokin meticulously detailed how 13-year-old Megan Meier struck up a friendship on her MySpace page with a cute teenage boy named Josh.

But Josh was a phantom created by Lori Drew, her daughter and an older teenager 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 Banas, 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 immature, the worst kind of helicopter parent and cowardly. Instead of owning up to the

MySpace stunt, she let Megan’s parents learn about it from others.

I personally have no wish to ever meet the woman.

But who are these people who have made it their business to destroy her? They are a jury with laptops, their verdict rendered without insight into the dynamics of two families or the state of mind of a fragile 13-year-old girl or even a complete explanation of what actually occurred.

Accomplished in the art of cyberspace nastiness, they direct their fury at a family whose own foray down that road had tragic, but unintended, consequences.

The cyber jury has decided Drew caused Megan’s death, as surely as if

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

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Dear Hollywood: Take a step back and look ahead



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Terrible weather strikes, fat men in lobster-red suits take up residence in the nearest mall with a promise of breaking and entering and holiday cheer, candy canes clutter the shelves at retail stores and Hollywood cranks out blockbusters and Oscar contenders.

It's nearly the end of the year and time for an obligatory entertainment wrap-up, with a look at what should excite you next year.

While there are certain things no entertainment junkie is looking forward to — the release of the “Alvin

and the Chipmunks” movie being number one on the list by far — 2007 did a great job of confirming why the public keeps coming back for more.

This year saw more baby bumps than anyone could count on his or her fingers and toes, and ravenous gossip fans should look forward to seeing blurry pictures of Jennifer Lopez’ and Marc Anthony’s tot.

Thanks to them for keeping it a secret for the first few months and not making too much of a spectacle out of the joyous occasion. Hopefully they keep the tabloid blitz at bay and have a happy, healthy and clandestine baby.

Bunches of books-turned-screen-plays hit the movie theaters, including “The Golden Compass” and “The Seeker,” and while some were disappointing, it should only leave audiences even more thrilled for new trailers from “The Chronicles of Narnia” for

“Prince Caspian.”

Because if any franchise seemingly does books to movies right — if such a judgment can be made from one film — it’s the Narnia crew.

Check it out on YouTube because you won’t be disappointed.

While most movies worth watching stayed under the radar this year or were completely unexpected, such as “No Country for Old Men” and “Knocked Up,” audiences should look forward to even more stellar entertainment from the silver screen next year.

The new “Star Trek” film is set to hit theaters about a year from now, following the original crew members from their years at Star Fleet Academy. Who doesn’t want to let the inner geek free for a few hours and attempt a Vulcan grip on the seat-kicker behind them?

“The Dark Knight,” the latest

in the Batman series, should sweep in next summer, representing everything comic book movies should be — moody, action oriented and starring Christian Bale. With Heath Ledger as the menacing Joker, it seems as though this series can’t take a misstep.

But when tabloid watching and movie viewing become a little too much to handle, thank goodness for television. With the writers’ strike still ongoing, praise to Hollywood for its infatuation with reality shows, especially reality love shows.

“I Love New York 2” is nearly over (Punk has this one in the bag), and it has had more drama and fistfights than a “Rocky” movie. But fret not because VH1 is planning a “Flavor of Love 3,” this time with classy ladies for everyone’s favorite clock-wearing hype man Flavor Flav.

Speaking of rap, let’s hope even

more feuds break out between artists similar to the Kanye West and 50 Cent tiff. Though it appeared West won the sales battle and 50 Cent would be forced to throw in the towel on his solo career, it remains to be seen if the loser will be true to his word.

Here’s hoping even more drama breaks out amongst music artists and keeps people running to CD racks even when they could just download it.

Well, it’s been quite a year Hollywood. Even though it seems nearly everything you do could be criticized, you deserve some praise for the exciting year in entertainment you gave us.

Can’t wait for next year, Hollywood — you beautiful multi-billion dollar industry, you.

Alicia Wade can be reached at 536-3311

PULSE

CHATTERBOX

Recently, rumors have been spreading on entertainment Web sites and in tabloid magazines that Britney Spears might be pregnant again. Do you have any speculation as to what is going on in the pop princess’ life?

Alicia Wade

She might be pregnant. Again. You would think after two children Britney might know where they come from. My only hope is that possibly she could start attending a health class to figure out the birds and the bees.

Jakina Hill

I speculate that the pop princess is not pregnant, she just needs her album sales to at least reach No. 1.

Audra Ord

That’s the last thing we need — another Britney clone. At least we can hope that it won’t be K Fed’s.

Legendary workaholic Will Smith is movie gold

John Anderson
McCLATCHY TRIBUNE

As someone once said, change is inevitable, except from vending machines. In 1959, Harry Belafonte starred in “The World, the Flesh and the Devil,” playing a miner who emerges from a cave-in to find himself the last human on Earth — save for a comely blonde, played by the Swedish actress Inger Stevens. The question? Would Eisenhower America accept the outrageous suggestion that a “Day-O”-singing black civil-rights icon and a white woman would be left to perpetuate the human race?

That movie is virtually unknown today. It is now 2007, and Will Smith will be the last human on Earth in “I Am Legend,” the post-apocalyptic Warner Bros. thriller based on the celebrated 1953 novel by Richard Matheson (“The Twilight Zone,” “Night Gallery”). The question? Can Bush America continue to accept Will Smith as its leading box-office star, perpetuating a collaboration with the film industry that has resulted in a career total of \$4.4 billion in worldwide box-office receipts?

Hollywood likes change. At least the kind you get from a vending machine.

But change — in the sense of transformation, metamorpho-

sis, difference — isn’t something audiences particularly spark to. They like questions with reliable answers, and there’s no one more reliable than Smith. He is simply the top male American movie star, and a global phenomenon: Some of his films have done better overseas — “Bad Boys,” for instance. And while it’s safe to say race is always an issue in America, Smith — the biggest thing ever to come out of rap, lest people forget — isn’t identified exclusively, or particularly, as anything. He’s just huge. His popularity is based on an amiable persona that the actor has parlayed into various manifestations: confidence man (“Six Degrees of Separation”); young hipster (“The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air”); older hipster (“Men in Black”), authoritarian hipster (“Bad Boys”), hip savior of the world (“Independence Day”), wise-cracking lawman (“Wild Wild West”), wise-cracking aquatic (“Shark Tale”), desperate parent (“The Pursuit of Happyness”). And he does it all via the same technique used by every major star in the history of Hollywood: by making it seem like he’s playing himself.

“Smith gives a performance of mind-boggling range,” critic Michael Sragow wrote of “Happyness.” Smith himself seems less impressed: “I’ve never viewed

Facts on movie ‘I Am Legend’

- Warner Bros. reportedly passed on filming in New York because of costs and logistics
- “I Am Legend’s” production team got the city to approve closing the Grand Central viaduct, several blocks of Fifth Avenue and Washington Square Park (nights and weekends between September 2006 and April 2007)
- The studio then spent an estimated \$5 million for a six-night shoot on the Brooklyn Bridge, an effort that required more than a dozen government-agency approvals, a crew of 250, and 1,000 extras.

myself as particularly talented. I’ve viewed myself as ... slightly above average in talent,” he told “60 Minutes” in an interview that aired recently. “Where I excel is with a ridiculous, sickening work ethic. While the other guy’s sleeping, I’m working. While the other guy’s eating, I’m working.”

Michael Tadross, executive producer of “I Am Legend” backs that up. “One night during shooting it was cold out, freezing, and I told him ‘Will, please, go back to your trailer,’” Tadross said. “He told me, ‘No, no, no. This is what I do. And I get paid a lot of money to do it. If everybody else is out here, then



PROVIDED PHOTO

I’m out here, too.”

It got worse during what Tadross called the “evacuation scene.” “It was freezing, again,” Tadross said. “Three-thirty in the morning, productivity was at an

all-time low. Will picks up the microphone, starts laughing and saying, ‘I’m going to Miami!!!’ and it got everybody up. We got the scenes done. Who else is like that?”

TRACK AND FIELD

Salukis start on the fast track

Jeff Engelhardt
DAILY EGYPTIAN

The SIU Fast Start Invitational lived up to its name.

Two Saluki track and field athletes are already positioned for a run in the NCAA National Indoor Track and Field Championships after solid starts in the season-opening invitational held at SIU Friday.

Senior Brittany Riley started the season in similar fashion to last year as she recorded a mark of 24.23 meters in the 20-pound weight throw, which is three meters more than the qualifying mark.

While Riley's performance secured her an automatic bid, junior Bianca Stuart earned herself a provisional bid to the NCAA National Championship with her performance. Stuart recorded a 6.29-meter mark in the long jump. Riley said even though she has already qualified for the national championship, she still has plenty to work on.

"I have the standards set high for myself so I kind of get down a little bit if I'm not throwing as far as I think I should," Riley said. "I have to work on my foot work a little bit and keeping my head up, so I still have plenty of room to grow."

Last season's Pan-American athletes were not the only Salukis to have a good first event. SIU showed its field team could be hard to beat beyond Riley and Stuart.

The SIU men took four of the top five spots in the weight throw, with senior Joe Mueller winning the event with a throw of 18.95 meters.



JASON JOHNSON ~ DAILY EGYPTIAN

Brittany Riley prepares for her first weight throw of the season at the Fast Start Invitational held at the Student Recreation Center. Riley's throw automatically qualified her for the NCAA National Indoor Track and Field Championship.

In the pole vault events, senior Justin P. Kozak finished third with a mark of 4.70 meters, while freshman Miracle Thompson and senior Jacque Menke tied the SIU school record with a mark of 3.20 meters.

Thompson is just one of 37 freshmen on the track and field team this season. Jumps coach Andre Scott said the addition of freshmen to his squad has made it one of the deepest groups he has coached.

"I was very satisfied with what the jumpers did in the first meet," Scott said. "They are ahead of any group of jumpers I have ever coached before."

Aside from Stuart, the best finishes for the jump team came with junior Trenton McKinney's fourth-place finish in the long jump and sophomore Mikeya Nicholson's third-place finish in the triple jump.

On the track, senior Andrea Norris led the way with a first-

place finish in the 200-meter dash after posting a time of 24.99 and a third-place finish in the 60-meter dash. Junior Terri Counts also had a strong showing with a second-place finish in the 60-meter hurdles with a time of 8.70.

Freshman Brandon Deloney had a good first meet with second-place finish in the 200-meter dash with a time of 22.19 and a seventh-place finish in the 60-meter dash.

The meet was unscored, but still attracted big schools such as Louisville, Illinois and Memphis. Riley said it was a good first meet for the team and good things could be in the horizon.

"I think our freshmen are way ahead of the other freshmen in the conference," Riley said. "We have way more depth than we had last year and I think we can be really good on the conference level."

Jeff Engelhardt can be reached at 536-3311 ext.238 or jengel@siu.edu.

SWIMMING & DIVING

Swimming coasts to victory

Jeff Engelhardt
DAILY EGYPTIAN

Going in to the SIU swimming and diving team's second home meet of the season, coach Rick Walker said his squad was one of the most focused he has ever coached.

Coming out of Saturday's meet, the statement was all but validated.

The Salukis rolled over Saint Louis in a dual meet held at the Student Recreational Center, beating the Billikens 181-73 on the men's side and 160-96 on the women's side.

Despite having a large lead on points midway through the meet, the Salukis never lost focus and finished strong, earning 23 first-place finishes in 28 events.

Assistant coach Tiffany Gowens said it was a great performance for the Salukis and helped set up a promising second half of the season.

"We have definitely stepped it up in practice and they swam tired on Saturday," Gowens said. "It's good to see where they are before we go into winter training."

The Salukis started strong, with both squads winning the 400-yard medley relay. The men and women swept the relay events, taking first in the 200- and 800-yard medley relays, along with the 400.

The women's squad also swept the top three spots in the 50- and 100-yard freestyle, the 200-yard butterfly and the 200-yard freestyle. Sophomore Therese Mattsson won the 50- and 100-yard freestyle with times of 24.32 and 52.31 respectively.

Sophomore Lisa Jaquez won the 200-yard butterfly with a time of 2:09.85, while junior Isabel Madeira won the 200-yard freestyle with a time of 1:54.52.



STEPHEN RICKERL ~ DAILY EGYPTIAN

Senior Julie Ju completes a lap during the women's 400-yard medley relay Saturday. The Saluki women's team defeated Saint Louis 160-96.

On the men's side, the Salukis had six different swimmers finish in first place. Freshman Colton Kleynhans and junior Alex Marrucho each won two events.

Kleynhans won the 1,650-yard freestyle and the 200-yard butterfly with times of 16:36.08 and 1:56.97 respectively, while Marrucho won the 400-yard individual medley and 200-yard backstroke with times of 4:07.88 and 1:54.06 respectively.

Seniors Julie Ju and Antonio Santoro had strong performances again, winning their respective races by a large margin. Ju won the 200-yard breaststroke by a margin of 13 seconds, while Santoro won the 500-yard freestyle 17 seconds ahead of the second-place finisher.

Senior Ivan Zgomba, who finished second in the 200-yard butterfly, said he was surprised by how well the team performed through fatigue.

"We were practicing so hard the

week before I wasn't sure how good we do," Zgomba said. "We did really good actually and the team was cheerful and excited for the meet."

The team will get some time off over break but will pick up right where it left off at the beginning of the new year.

The Salukis are scheduled to take a week-long trip to Puerto Rico to train for a Jan. 8 competition. The team will face other colleges from the United States, but the specific schools are not yet known.

Sophomore Christopher Gaffney said even though the team has no idea what the Puerto Rico trip will involve, they are all excited.

"Nobody really knows what to expect," said Gaffney with a laugh. "It will be practice and we will be training, training a lot."

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FOOTBALL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

But Turner somehow eluded four or five Blue Hens right by the sideline, broke free and tied the game at 17. With one improbable play, Turner delivered the last gasp from a team that defied expectations.

McGahan: Aaron Lockwood getting some glory for the grunts during Saturday's semifinal. Lockwood transformed his body and game after coach Jerry Kill told him he was "too fat to play," and it paid off for the player and the team. After the weight loss, the guard was able to line up as a blocker in the backfield during heavy run sets. Delaware had likely seen the formation several times when watching late-season film, but they never saw what happened with the Salukis facing a crucial third-and-one just three plays before SIU's only offensive touchdown of the game. Lined up directly behind Hill, Lockwood took a handoff and barreled through the defense. The lineman put up seven yards as defender after defender struggled to pull him to the ground.

Biggest improvement

Mieszala: Early in the season, junior running back Larry Warner looked like the fastest Saluki, but also the easiest for defenders to bring down. And generously listed at 5-foot-8 and 180 pounds, it made sense. But as the season went on, he seemed to get stronger, and an opponent needed to get more than a hand on him to bring him down. The result was more long runs for the sparkplug running back, culminating in his 64-yard touchdown dash against Massachusetts in the quarterfinals, when he looked to be bottled up before breaking free.

McGahan: The linebacking corps was the stronghold of SIU's defense throughout the season, and the speed and precision of the unit seemed to improve drastically throughout the season. After getting abused over the middle early on by teams, the linebackers increased their tenacity and nastiness as the weeks went by. Especially notable was the emergence of Chauncey Mixon, who would lead the team in tackles despite being delegated to a backup role in the first few games. Mixon saved the team on several plays with his ability to get from sideline to sideline quicker than some runners on the offense could run straight, and then have the timing to lay a debilitating hit.

Best hit

Mieszala: How can it not be Marty Rodgers' German suplex on Delaware receiver Aaron Love? Rodgers was struggling to pull Love down, so went the resourceful route and threw him back over his head. This is probably the best reenactment of pro wrestling involving football players. Terrell Owens body-slammng Hugh Douglas in a fight when he was causing problems on the Eagles would be first if there was video proof of it. I wonder if it's on YouTube ...

McGahan: Anybody who watched SportsCenter's Top-10 plays Saturday

night knows Craig Turner can run the ball, but the cornerback can also hurt people on defense. During the Salukis 10-9 defensive struggle with Western Illinois, Turner was one of several Saluki defenders to bounce off 220-pound running back Herb Donaldson and be met with some post-play jawing. Turner obviously didn't appreciate the remarks, as evidenced by the next play when Turner sliced through the air before laying into Donaldson's knees while spread straight as an arrow and parallel to the ground. Donaldson fell back instantly and never ran with the same fire the rest of the game.

Favorite quote

Mieszala: I think he wanted me to print it (sadly, I can't), but tight ends coach Carl Mauck's assessment of the Daily Egyptian's quality and what it isn't worth, ranks at the top. (Hint: rhymes with grit.) Mauck is concluding his coaching career here, after 34 combined years playing and coaching in the NFL. I could've listened to him talk about his days in the NFL for hours, but it was getting late and the hand holding my voice recorder was starting to shake because of the cold.

McGahan: Special teams specialist Kyle Walker may not fit the typical profile of a Division I football player, but his speed and toughness gives him a chance. The everyman spoke for every person who has ever donned a pair of shoulder pads when he summed up the reason he likes playing football: "I just like to hit people."

Last words

Mieszala: It's not often that a team fits together quite like these Salukis did. Joe Flacco, Delaware's quarterback, will likely be a first-day pick in the next NFL Draft. Illinois State started Laurent Robinson, a future third-round NFL draft pick, at receiver from 2004 until 2006. SIU doesn't have NFL-ready stars. Nick Hill comes close, and he's the leader who gets everyone involved offensively. Pro teams can spend close to \$100 million on players, but the talent doesn't quite fit together (see: Redskins, Washington; the New York Yankees since they acquired Alex Rodriguez). College teams can land the top recruits, but ask Notre Dame how that's working for them this season. It isn't often that all the parts fit together without one transcendent star — like the 2005 White Sox, 2001 Patriots or 2004 Pistons. But this kind of season doesn't come along that often anywhere in sports, so I hope everyone who wanted to was able to enjoy it.

McGahan: Colorful characters made this Saluki team even more fun to watch. Whether it was Larry Warner flailing on the sidelines when an outdated rock song came on the speakers or James Cloud popping up after a hit with identical velocity as he laid into the ball carrier, there was never a dull moment on the Saluki sidelines. With limited ego-balancing and unsportsmanlike outbursts, this team played the game like it was supposed to be played while allowing the average fan to join in the fun.



ANTHONY SOUFFLE ~ DAILY EGYPTIAN

University of Delaware quarterback Joe Flacco gets sacked by defensive end Devon Reese (top) and linebacker Chauncey Mixon (bottom) during the 2007 NCAA Division I Football Championship Semifinal matchup between SIU and Delaware Saturday evening at McAndrew Stadium.

Saluki Insider

If you could pick one athletic gift to have for a day, what would it be?



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"There are so many: Randy Moss's speed, hops and hands, Rex Grossman's inability to handle snaps, Rafael Betancourt's ability to kill the flow of any game by taking so long between pitches. But if I could choose just one, it would be Devin Hester's return skills. Nothing in sports looks like it would be more fun."



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"I'd have Cowboys wide receiver Terrell Owens' ability to talk to the media. Or not talk to the media. From one of his most famed quotes ("Getcha Popcorn Ready") to not speaking until after his matchup with the Patriots' wide receiver Randy Moss. If I were a professional athlete I'd take notes from him."




GUEST COMMENTATOR: BRYAN MULLINS

"LeBron James' explosiveness. Just the way he can get by defenders and finish with his strength and athletic ability all together. I think that really separates him from everybody else."

— SIU men's basketball junior guard Bryan Mullins

QUOTE OF THE DAY

Jerry Kill



“When we came here seven years ago, I didn't know it at the time, but I think the year before that they were thinking about dropping football here. When you have that kind of area, you don't turn things over overnight. We chipped away and chipped away and got it better and better, and I think our people today, they did a tremendous job.”

— SIU football coach Jerry Kill on the turnout at the team's semifinal game Saturday at McAndrew Stadium. More than 11,500 fans came out for the game, nearly twice as many as in the team's first two playoff home games.

Do you have questions for the Saluki Insider that you want answered?
E-mail: editor@siude.com

BASKETBALL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

"He's made the biggest difference in their program," Lowery said. Just like millions of other college students around the country, the Salukis are gearing up for a month-long absence from their academic duties. Shaw said finals week can make practice and personal schedules a little

more hectic, but other teams are dealing with the same struggles. The Salukis will play nine games over the holiday break, which includes non-conference opponents Saint Louis on Saturday and Butler on Dec. 28 and conference rival Illinois State on Jan. 5. Shaw said the team will approach these games the same way they would as if they were in school, but the break can give them an advantage in daily

practices. Junior forward Tony Boyle said the break helps the team focus more on basketball, but he still misses the comforts of home during the holidays. "My first couple of years it sucked pretty bad because its not Grandma's cooking or Mom's cooking," Boyle said. Megan Kramper can be reached at 536-3311 ext. 282 or megkramper@siu.edu.

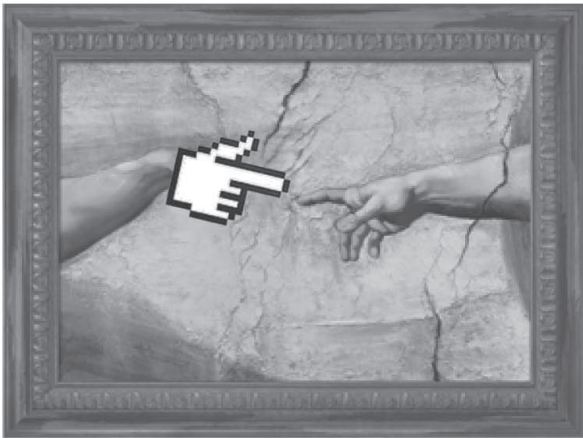
Vick sentenced to 23 months in prison

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." "Yes, 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. "You were instrumental in promoting, funding and facilitating this cruel and inhumane sporting activity," Hudson told Vick. Before the hearing, Michael Vick's brother, Marcus Vick, sat with his right arm around their mother, comforting her as she buried her head in her hands and wept. Vick was suspended without pay by the NFL and lost all his lucrative endorsement deals. NFL commissioner Roger Goodell was asked after Monday's ruling if Vick should play again. "That's a determination we'll make later on," he told The Associated Press from a legislative hearing in Austin, Texas. "As I said earlier when we suspended him indefinitely, we would evaluate that when the legal process was closed." Falcons owner Arthur Blank called the sentencing another step in Vick's "legal journey." "This is a difficult day for Michael's family and for a lot of us, including many of our players and fans who have been emotionally invested in Michael over the years,"

Blank 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 meanest and roughest 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 probation officer's finding that Vick had lied about his hands-on killing of dogs and about his drug use. Vick tested positive 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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INSIDER, page 15: When Santa comes bearing gifts, what are you asking for?



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' semifinal 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-five," one dismayed Saluki follower offered.

Another pondered senior quarterback Nick Hill's final throw as a college quarterback, an interception that kept dreams of Chattanooga out of reach.

Those who decided to dwell on those moments as they left the stadium for the final time this season missed the point.

It wasn't about the defeat, though it was the freshest memory available.

It was about the best season of SIU football in all but one player and the majority of students' lifetimes.

The season was filled with thrilling moments, all of which should resonate more in the minds of Saluki followers than one rainy wish that went unanswered.

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 onside 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 in a wide prevent, 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



Junior guard Aaron Lockwood rumbles through Delaware defenders during SIU's semifinal loss Saturday. Lockwood's seven-yard carry was his first as a Saluki and came on a crucial third-and-one possession.
JASON JOHNSON
DAILY EGYPTIAN

another teammate, wide receiver Alan Turner. With guard Aaron Lockwood allowing Turner to spring out, the drive showed promise — so much that announcer Mike Trude 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 Marquez 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 four minutes. Somehow, we're paid to do this.

McGahan: The second time safety Clayton Johnson recovered an onside kick to give the Salukis a shot at a late comeback. Hardly 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 feat 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 punted 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 watching the recorded game on ESPN showed just how incredible it was. The announcer, through no fault of her own, said the return was over after about 20 yards, as it should have been.

See FOOTBALL, Page 14

Saluki cornerback Craig Turner takes down University of Delaware tight end Robbie Agnone during the 2007 NCAA Division I Football Championship Semifinal matchup between Southern Illinois University and the University of Delaware Saturday evening at McAndrew Stadium.
ANTHONY SOUFFLE
DAILY EGYPTIAN



Senior forward Randal Falker attempts to make a basket past an Indiana defender at the SIU Arena Dec. 1. Falker was held scoreless for the first time since his freshman year during Saturday's loss to Charlotte.
DUVALE RILEY
DAILY EGYPTIAN



Salukis ready for turnaround

Megan Kramper
DAILY EGYPTIAN

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

The Salukis (3-3) 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 71-56 loss to Charlotte, Falker 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," Falker said.

Falker 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 Falker 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 (7-0), which outscores SIU this season by an average of 22.5 points per game. The team's 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 16.1 points, 4.4 assists and 2.3 rebounds per game.

Three other Saint Mary's players also have scoring numbers in the double digits, with sophomore Omar Samhan averaging 13.9 points, junior forward Diamon Simpson recording 13 points, and senior guard Tron 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