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Daily Egyptian Staff

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Free Internet access has now expanded outside of the offices and computer labs.

A grant issued by Lt. Gov. Pat Quinn has allowed Carbondale to offer free wireless Internet from various locations centralized throughout downtown.

In the 2005 State of the City speech, Mayor Brad Cole pitched a proposal offering free wireless Internet to Carbondale patrons. As a result, City Manager Jeff Doherty began the application process to obtain the grant from Quinn.

The major issue here is these buildings were never constructed to be a police station," Ledbetter said. "They were never constructed to have offices; they were never constructed to run a 24-hour operation."
Michael Harris, Agent
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POLICE REPORTS

Three teens arrested after handguns found at Pontiac High School

(AP) — Police aren’t sure what was planned for the three guns.Sequentially, the Pontiac High School police said they didn’t know what three guns "were used in a room at the 900-pupil school on Tuesday, police Chef Dale Newsome said during a news conference in Pontiac, a town of 11,800 about 10 miles northeast of Bloomington.

Livingston County State’s Attorney Thomas Brown declined to identify the three students because of their ages. He wasn’t sure what charges they could face.

Police locked down the high school about 9:30 a.m., after someone told a police officer based on campus that at least one student had brought guns to school.

Five other schools near the high school were locked down as a precaution Tuesday morning. Woodford said.

Three teens arrested after handguns found at Pontiac High School

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Illinois poverty down, number of uninsured up since 2006

(SPRINGFIELD) — Poverty dropped in Illinois last year, but the number of resi-

dents without health insurance increased, U.S. Census Bureau data showed Thursday.

About 1.19 million, or 11 percent, of state residents last year were poor, down from 1.2 million, or 11.9 percent the year before.

Middle-income people also were more likely to purchase health insurance, with a Medicaid program that the Le

solved. But he cut $463 million last year, and he waived $463 million last year, and he said it was a "misleading" decision.

Bloomington.

The guns weren’t loaded and students were arrested for six handguns.

Woolford said those guns included .380 caliber, .40 caliber and .45 caliber.

A police officer based on campus that at least one student had brought guns to school.

The age of that student was not released, and police did not identify the student.

Police Chief Dale Newsome said no one was injured.

There is no evidence.

The measures that the Illinois House of Representatives and Senate begin the legislative day with prayers led by members of the clergy.

Tuesday shows AccuWeather discovery, and the legislature on April 15, 2007.

The first red flag incident that ever considers us has experienced," she said.

She declined to comment on Astin, citing federal privacy laws.

The votes to establish the court also were 5 to 0.

Several other people from Chinook had temporary jobs on campus this fall busying tables, washing vehicles, vacuuming floors and doing other tasks, Hilliard said. He said the university hopes they can put middle-income people into the workforce.

"It’s not going away the problem is gone to be solved," said Joe Doffert, executive director of the Illinois Campaign for Better Health Care.

For those of us who are fortunate enough to have health insurance, we’re going to pay more and more.

Hilliard said. He said the university hopes they can put middle-income people into the workforce.

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Scholarship deadline becomes uniform

Christian Holt  Daily Egyptian

For most students, the process of filling out a scholarship application is grueling and tedious enough without having to worry about deadlines.

An official deadline put intact this week for all university scholarships should help alleviate some of the stress students feel.

“The court needs to do more without having to worry about deadlines,” said Kevin McGhee, a freshman from Chicago studying accounting.

McGhee said, “As long as the University puts out flyers to let students know they are available.”

The process would be made even easier by setting a campus-wide deadline for all university scholarships — March 1.

While the change seems to be a step in the right direction for many, Terri Harfst, a financial aid representative for the Financial Aid Office, said she hopes the deadlines will eventually fall between Dec. 1 and Feb. 1.

Harfst said she was worried about the lack of cooperation between the colleges when it came to scholarship information and their deadlines. She said a definative deadline would only help students apply for scholarships.

“There is not a one-stop shop on campus for scholarships,” Harfst said.

The Financial Aid Office has tried to make the current process more bearable though.

Kevin McGhee, a freshman from Chicago studying accounting, said he feels not only will the process be more bearable, but it also makes more sense for the scholarships to be on the same deadline.

“I think it’s a good thing,” McGhee said. “As long as the University puts out flyers to let students know they are available.”

After FAFSA and other information is completed and turned in, the Financial Aid Office prepares a package for each student showing how much money the student will be rewarded.

With the new all-encompassing deadline, the Financial Aid packets should be more accurate and help students know if SIUC can be an affordable choice, said Bruce Chrismas, coordinator for the College of Engineering.

Chrismas said 90 per cent of SIUC students are eligible for Pell Grants and all other federal aid. However, the Pell Grant does not completely cover a full time student’s tuition.

“The biggest reason that SIU’s enrollment has gone down has more to do with this gap between the state and federal governments not being willing to provide educational opportunities to students whose families don’t have the financial resources,” Chrismas said.

A Thank You

Recognition and appreciation are extended to these employees for their years of faithful service to SIUC. Their effort has contributed greatly to the mission of the University in serving regional, national and world-wide constituencies, bringing us closer to meeting the goals of Southern at 180: Building Excellence Through Commitment.

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Blagojevich defends state budget cuts

Governor says cuts were ‘moral choices’

Christopher Wills  The Associated Press

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. (AP) — Gov. Rod Blagojevich defended his state budget cuts Tuesday as moral choices meant to help people, but he couldn’t explain why the cuts largely helped political allies and hurt opponents.

Still, he denied that politics played a role in his actions.

Blagojevich also stood by his decision to set a campus-wide deadline for all university scholarships — March 1.

The Democratic governor cut $463 million from the budget before signing it into law last week. The cuts hit health care for the poor, raises for home-care workers and pet projects requested by lawmakers.

Blagojevich cut virtually all projects requested by House Democrats and Senate Republicans, two groups with which he has strong disagreements. He spared money for his Senate Democratic allies and for House Republicans, where he needs votes to sustain his spending vetoes.

He also approved most of the projects requested by members of a legislative panel that is likely to review new rules for health programs later this year.

Blagojevich, appearing Tuesday in Du Quoin to sign a bill, called budgets “tortured documents. They are agreements to help people.”

He insisted his cuts, which could still be reversed by lawmakers, were intended to help people by cutting wasteful spending.

“If you make the decision about what’s more important — getting a child health care or investing in a resale shop, or getting a woman access to a mammogram or investing in salsa festivals — I think the choices are pretty obvious,” he said.

Blagojevich called a series of special sessions over the summer as an attempt to force lawmakers to stay in Springfield and negotiate a new state budget.

Now he is suing Madigan, a fellow Chicago Democrat, for not scheduling the sessions at the specified time and for telling lawmakers they should skip some of the sessions.

Blagojevich considers that an unconstitutional infringement on his power to order special sessions — an argument that Madigan rejects.

“We think a court needs to get involved and clarify precisely what the Constitution is,” Blagojevich said.
**WIRE REPORTS**

**Lead**

Pilgrims ordered to leave as Shiite gunmen dash in Karbala

BAGHDAD — Firing intoieting between rival Shia million in Karbala during a religious festival, slamming lies and fear tactics, officials to start five violations and order up to 1 million Shia pilgrims to leave the southern city, security officials said Mubad Army gunmen loyal to radical cleric Moktada al-Sadr fled from around two shishies protected by the Badr Brigade, the armed wing of the Supreme Islamic Iraqi Council.

Residents of Karbala contacted by telephone said they feared the Shiites were firing onto Iraqis.

The two even managed to crack jokes about the event, saying that they were dead after they were delivered Friday from the illegal zone — which had no oxygen, ventilation or emergency exits — in the 30 miles south of Baghdad.

**China**

Chinese miners trapped for days at 6 coal, drank urine

BEIJING — The three miners felt pretty good about their chances of making it out of the collapsed coal mine, until the sound of digging suddenly stopped. With no food or water, they were forced to eat coal and drink their own urine from discarded bottles. When they were too exhausted to try to dig themselves out, they slept huddled together in the coal dust. Meng Xianchen and Meng Yianyou found their way to the surface after nearly six days underground — a rare tale of survival in China’s coal mines, the world’s deadliest, where an average of 13 workers are killed every day.

In a sign that tension in China continued to rise as a result of the economic news at a con- siderable price. With the current economic recovery, the Fed’s test in a police sting operation.

**Turkey**

The secular opposition is a new force that is on the rise as it is a threat to the country’s political scene. It is reflected what may be the future of Turkey’s political scene.

Under fire — Sen. Larry Craig

WASHINGTON — Volatility Wednesday, the former foreign minister in Turkey's Islamic-oriented government.

Craig entered his plea several weeks after an undercover police officer in the airport arrested him and issued a complaint that said the three-term senator had engaged in sexual conduct. Craig said he had hired a lawyer and will ask him to review the case.

Craig said he had pleaded not guilty.

The incident occurred limited the case to see if the court document.

The former astronaut Lisa Nowak arrived in Orlando, Florida, after confronting a romantic rival, according to a court document released Tuesday.

Nowak suffered from major depression, obsessive-compulsive disorder, insomnia and "bipolar disorder," defense attorney Donald Lydkeshbuk wrote in his notice of intent to rely on the insanity defense.

He also noted that the already petite Nowak recently lost 15 percent of her body weight and struggled with "unstabilized"

**Turkish foreign minister wins presidency**

Christopher Torchia

ISTANBUL, Turkey — A devout Muslim won Turkey’s presidency Tuesday after months of confrontation with the secular establishment, promising to be impartial and praising the idea that Islam and the state should be separate. Still, in a tension that Islam could lead, top generals did not attend the swearing-in cerem- ony in parliament of Abdullah Gul, their new president and commander in chief. Local media said there was a protest at the 56-year-old Gul, the former foreign minister in Turkey’s Islamic-oriented govern- ment.

Gul, who has tried to engineer Turkey’s entry into the European Union with sweeping reforms, received a majority of 339 votes in a parliamentary ballot in the cap- ital, Ankara. The secular opposi- tion had thwarted Gül’s earlier bid for the presidency, but his triumph this region. Of the richness of what may be the future of Turkey’s political scene.

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**Former astronaut to lead insanity**

Travis Reid

ORLANDO, Fla. — Former astronaut Lisa Nowak is set to take the aside defense on charges that she assaulted and tried to kidnap a romantic rival, a court document released Tuesday.

Nowak suffered from major depression, obsessive-compulsive disorder, insomnia and "bipolar disorder," defense attorney Donald Lydkeshbuk wrote in his notice of intent to rely on the insanity defense.

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**Iran: U.S. influence waning in Iraq**

Ali Akbar Dareini

TEHRAN, Iran — Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said Tuesday that U.S. political influ- ence in Iraq is "collapsing rap- idly," adding that "the American occupation is ready to help fill any power vac- uum left by the occupiers is collapsing rapidly,"

Ahmadinejad said at a news con- ference following a trip to Iraq that U.S. troops in Iraq "soon, we will see a huge power vacuum in the region. Of course, we are prepared to fill the gap, with the help of neighbors and mainly the Shia Arab community and the United Arab Emirates, and with the help of the Arab nations.”

Ahmadinejad did not elabor- ate on what he had in mind, but his remarks reflected what may be the future of Turkey’s political scene.
Cities join the Rev. Jackson in protesting gun violence

Lubna Taksuri
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

About 100 people rallied outside a gun shop Tuesday, joining protesters in more than a dozen cities nationwide to call for tougher gun laws.

The national day of protest, organized by the Rev. Jesse Jackson’s nonprofit Rainbow/PUSH Coalition, was planned for at least 17 cities, and Jackson led a rally near a Chicago gun manufacturing plant.

“Where is our conscience? Most people in this community didn’t even know there was a gun manufacturer in their own backyard,” Jackson said in a statement. “We have the right to live safe and secure no matter where we live in America.”

The protesters in District Heights, just across the District of Columbia border, rallied outside Realco Guns.

Local officials said the shop provided a disproportionate number of guns later recovered in the nation’s capital, where private handgun ownership has been strictly banned for more than 30 years.

A federal appeals court overturned the D.C. gun ban in March, but it remains in place while the mayor appeals to the Supreme Court. But despite the ban, guns are commonly found in criminal hands — a major theme of Tuesday’s protest.

Realco owner Greg del Real was inside the shop and would not talk to reporters.

In a written statement, he said Realco has provided “law abiding American citizens with knowledgeable assistance toward selecting and safely using firearms for self-defense and the shooting sports” for 35 years.

The store was working to keep guns out of the hands of criminals with strict background checks for buyers, he wrote.

District police recovered 2,656 firearms last year, and many of the guns had been used in crimes. Federal registration information showed that by far the largest number of traceable weapons — 566 — was sold in Maryland and Virginia. Of the traced weapons, 76 came from Realco Guns. A distant second was another Maryland gun shop that sold 20 firearms. There was no indication the guns were sold illegally — only that they were illegally in Washington.

Realco said it has 137 homicides committed with a firearm in 2006 — 81 percent of that year’s total homicides.

On the other side of the store, a smaller crowd of counter-protesters held signs and shouted slogans through a microphone. At times the two groups drowned each other out.

“I’m not in favor of gun control because it would not affect legal customers,” said Mark Carthos, of Manassas, Va. He said Realco was being targeted because it’s the closest gun store to the D.C. border.

Pathologist says Beethoven was poisoned by physician

George Jahn
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Did someone kill Beethoven? A Viennese pathologist claims the composer’s physician did — inadvertently poisoning him with lead in a case of a cure that went wrong.

Other researchers are not convinced, but there is no controversy about one fact: The master had been very sick many years before his death in 1827.

Previous research determined that Beethoven had suffered from lead poisoning, hinting detecting toxic levels of the metal in his hair and then, two years ago, in bone fragments. Those findings strengthened the belief that lead poisoning may have contributed — and ultimately led — to his death at age 57.

But Viennese forensic expert Christian Reiter claims to know more about months of painstaking work applying CSI-like methods to strands of Beethoven’s hair.

He says his analysis, published last week in the Beethoven Journal, shows that in the final months of the composer’s life, lead concentrations in his body spiked every time he was treated by his doctor, Andreas Wawruch, for what later became the abdominal abcess. Those lethal doses permeated Beethoven’s ailments, ultimately killing him, Reiter told The Associated Press.

“His death was due to the treatment by Dr. Wawruch,” said Reiter, head of the Department of Forensic Medicine at Vienna’s Medical University. “Although you cannot blame Dr. Wawruch — how was he to know that Beethoven already had a serious liver ailment?”

Nobody did back then. Only through an autopsy after the composer’s death in March 1827, were doctors able to establish that Beethoven suffered from cirrhosis of the liver as well as edemas of the abdomen. Reiter says that in attempts to ease the composer’s suffering, Wawruch repeatedly pumiced the abdominal cavity — and then sealed the wound with a lead-laced poultice.

Although lead toxicity was known even then, the doses contained in a treatment balm “were not poisonous enough to kill someone if he would have been healthy,” Reiter said. “But what Dr. Wawruch clearly did not know that his treatment was attack-

ing an already sick liver, killing that organ.”

Even before the edemas developed, Wawruch noted in his diary that he treated an outbreak of pneumonia months before Beethoven’s death with salts containing lead, which angered what researchers believe was an existing case of lead poisoning.

But, said Reiter, it was the repeated doses of the lead-containing cream, administered by Wawruch in the last weeks of Beethoven’s life, that did in the composer.

Analysis of several hair strands showed “several prana where the concentration of lead rose pretty massively” on the four occasions between Dec. 5, 1826, and Feb. 27, 1827, when Beethoven himself documented that he had been treated by Wawruch for the edema, said Reiter. “Every time when his abdomen was punctured — we have an increase of the concentration of lead in the hair.”

Such claims angrish others who have researched the issue.

The data strongly suggests that Beethoven was subjected to significant lead exposures over the last 111 days of his life and that this may have been in the very medicines applied by his doctor,” said Bill Walsh, who led the team at the U.S. Department of Energy’s Argonne National Laboratory outside Chicago that found large amounts of lead in Beethoven bone fragments. That research two years ago confirmed the cause of years of debilitating disease that likely led to his death — but did not, he said, to lead poisoning.

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The Choice Is Simple…Same Quality For Less!
Make SIUC your home

Counseling Center
Guest Columnist

This may be your freshman year or your senior year. However, the number of years you have attended this university is not what determines if SIUC feels like home. The major factor that makes SIUC home versus an institution at which you are receiving your degree is a sense of belonging.

A primary factor that determines if students stay at their current university, transfer or drop out is having a personal connection with at least one other person. Students who have found their niche stay. Students who feel like they don’t fit in are more likely to leave. So in an undergraduate student population of 16,000, how do you begin to feel like you belong? This challenge will be different for each of you. Factors such as what town/city you came from, personality style and cultural background will all influence your approach in making SIUC your home.

The most important principle in creating that sense of belonging is to keep a balance of the old and familiar, while taking some risks trying new opportunities. Continue to be involved in activities and hobbies that are meaningful to you. Keeping up with familiar routines and rituals helps maintain a sense of continuity in life, helping us feel safe and secure. We need that feeling of safety in order to learn and to have the energy to try new experiences.

So, you’ve probably heard the only thing to do at SIUC is party. Well here are just a few suggestions of other activities that are available to you. All of these activities are fun, a great way to meet others and you get the bonus of no bed spins or hangovers.

Check out www.siu.edu/oir for more information.

• Join a Group – Student Development has a listing of over 450 Registered Student Organizations including departmental clubs, public and special interest groups, fraternities and sororities.

• Scholastic and professional honorary societies, religious organizations and sports and recreation clubs.

• Move your Body – If you like the outdoors, southern Illinois is the place to be! SIUC is surrounded by parks, lakes, hiking and biking trails, camping sites, etc. So get a group of people together and explore the outdoors. If you aren’t the outdoors type, you can exercise in comfort at the Student Recreation Center. Sign up for a class, go for a swim or ride a bike.

• Volunteer – Volunteering brings many personal and practical rewards. We all feel better about ourselves when we help others, plus it’s a great experience to add to your resume. So take the leap to help yourself and someone else at the same time by investigating the volunteer opportunities.

• Expand your Cultural Experiences – SIUC has a rich tradition of diversity and you are a part of that tradition. Learn about other cultures, beliefs and values and help fellow students better know your culture.

• Explore SIUC’s multicultural opportunities by visiting International Programs and Services, and the Multicultural Programs through Student Development.

• Explore the Arts – Make your own art at the Student Center Craft Shop.

• Enjoy the art of others by attending concerts, theatre, mixed media or public lectures. There are performances, lectures and art openings nearly every day on campus.

Of course, as hard as we try to belong, sometimes stress, relationship problems or anxiety gets in our way. If you are having difficulties or experiencing undue stress, please remember that we are here to help. The Counseling Center is here to assist you with personal, academic and relationship concerns. To learn more about the Counseling Center and how we can help contact us at 453-5371 or log on to www.siu.edu/counseling.

A quiet death for the EV1

AARON WOLFE
wolf66@siu.edu

It is with great reluctance that I have chosen a highly controversial woman — one whom I have harbored a love-hate relationship with for a while now — as an illustration for this column. She is none other than Ayn Rand, an infamous and brilliant personality who emerged from the height of the Cold War. For those unfamiliar with her work, she was a popular novelist and philosopher who gained most of her notoriety (and infamy) in the 1950s. The best known of her books is the epic — as an understatement at over 1,000 pages — “Atlas Shrugged,” a novel that serves as a giant allegory for her ultra-conservative beliefs.

For those familiar with this book, one of two massacres has already occurred: praise for referencing Ayn Rand or a burning desire to get me with a Soviet hammer and sickle. So why risk this frightening public backlash? It’s because some 30 years before the first Congressional hear- ings on global warming, Mrs. Rand inadvertently predicted our current environmental quandary. Her fiction has entered our reality.

In 1997, General Motors introduced 650 electric cars called EV1s. They were leased to customers that ranged from middle class Americans to Hollywood royalty, and within two years became so popular there was a waiting list for over 4,000 people. However, by the end of 2001, only a handful of celebrities, politicians and wealthy clients were allowed to renew their contracts. As for the other EV1 owners, they returned their cars to GM, but only after continuous threats of criminal prosecution.

And what happened to the world’s first marketable electric car? It was completely and systematically destroyed. The tie-in to Ayn Rand’s “Atlas Shrugged” is, if one is familiar with it, very clear. Nine chapters into the novel, a unique engine is discovered in the remnants of a car factory. The motor was not powered by gasoline but by static electricity. It was the cleanest and most effective means of transportation known to man, but it could not be utilized.

Its creator gutted the invention before disappearing and left no clues as to his identity or how to fix the engine. The story’s heroine, Daggy Taggart, suspects this person has joined a conspiracy to dismantle the country by depriving it of its greatest thinkers and therefore its vital technology, hence the title’s reference to Atlas, the Greek god who holds Earth on his shoulders.

Mrs. Rand’s symbolic “Atlases” — industrialists, philosophers and artists — refuse to allow a corrupt government to exploit their talents. And therein lies the problem. Those responsible for destroying the EV1 didn’t do so because it would be misused. In the face of a global climate crisis, corporate CEOs pulled this car — one that would have been incredibly popular — and gave incentive for other companies to follow suit in order to protect oil interests.

This is not how America should work. This is not, by any stretch of the imagination, capitalism. And regardless of political affiliation, we can all agree that a rapidly applicable alternative to fossil fuel is necessary for the survival of our planet.

The changes we need so badly will not arrive unless we begin to change this avaricious way of doing business, unless, in the words of Ayn Rand, businessmen and politicians realize that wealth should not be the product of maintaining the status quo, but in “one’s capacity to think.”

And that’s something we have, for quite some time now, stopped doing.

Wolfie is a senior studying English education.

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
“How do you put $16,000 beside somebody’s safety?”

Todd Sigler
SIUC police chief

on the new Speed Monitor Trailer placed in random locations throughout campus.
Childhood bliss

Whenever I am surrounded by children still wholly dependent upon their parents, and see that in the blink of an eye a strong hug is all it takes to make their worries vanish, I can’t help but remember the perks of childhood. I often find that while current life dilemmas and predicaments glare at me and bring me to a state of anxiety, I cannot help but reflect upon the fact there was a time in my life when a hug from my mom or an encouraging word from my dad could relieve all my burdens. No matter what the problem was, it was solved through their love.

The times have changed. It is not that my parents don’t love me, or that they are no longer offering encouragement. I have slowly realized the older I get, the more I hate it. I am not sure if I’ve worked in southern Illinois, or guest column. Views expressed in columns and letters to the editor are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect those of the Daily Egyptian.

**LETTER TO THE EDITOR**

**Service industry income**

**Dear Editor:**

“Tipping is not only a city in China! I cannot recall how many times I have wanted to say that to people in my life. I am a 26 year-old senior studying healthcare management at SIUC. I have waited tables and bartended for more than 10 years now, and I’ve worked in southern Illinois, Chicago and other places. The more I serve, the more I hate it. I am not sure if the general public specifically in southern Illinois, is aware of how servers and bartenders get paid, but we are not hourly paid employees. The server minimum wage is much lower than the $7.50 per hour other people receive for food service jobs. After taxes were taken out of my last paycheck, I earned a whopping $2.35 per hour.

Our income depends on the people we serve and what they leave for a tip after the service that we provide them. Fifteen percent is the bare minimum! Of course, as a server myself, I tip anywhere from 25 to 40 percent, depending on the level of service I receive.

Twenty percent of the “entire bill” is considered adequate for a fair tip. The entire bill is the total amount of food and/or alcohol after taxes. Also, if you receive some sort of discount or use a coupon, the tip should be computed before that discount. Try to keep these things in mind the next time you are out to dinner. The person filling your beverage and bringing you your meal is trying to earn a living and needs your gratitude to do so!

Caleb Nehring

Senior studying healthcare management
If the tag is up, the price is down.

Kroger Cheese 3 for $5
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Kroger Sandwich Buns 1 for .88
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hold, and there hasn’t been another penny in capital renewal funding released since then,” Hines said.

The University receives $1.6 million annually from the state specifically for deferred maintenance. Brad Dillard, associate director of facilities, said those funds could only chip away at the backlogged maintenance.

Recent air conditioning problems in several of the buildings had nothing to do with deferred maintenance problems, Dillard said.

While the Agriculture Building’s C-wing and Facer Halls A and B-wings have the worst roof conditions, Hines said the roofs on Wham, Rhen and Lawson Halls are more than 25 years old and could begin leaking uncontrollably at any time.

Facer’s C-wing roof was replaced before the funding was pulled about six years ago.

“It would be more efficient on some of the buildings, like the Communications Building, Life Science II, the Agriculture Building and Neckers to do complete renovations instead of slow, steady maintenance, but we don’t have access to that kind of funding,” Dillard said.

An internal group of Physical Plant employees chooses where the state funding goes and meets with each college’s dean several times a year to ensure each building’s needs are addressed.

Dillard said a large part of the funding goes towards maintenance that may never be visible to students.

Portions of the deferred maintenance fund go toward sidewalk repairs that might be safety hazards and fire alarms, as well as asbestos abatement in SIUC’s steam tunnels. About $50,000 is set aside to repair sidewalks and $150,000 of the funding was set aside specifically to test and repair aging fire alarm systems on campus.

“Unfortunately, our environment isn’t static,” Dillard said. “We can have a perfect game plan now, and literally a month from now something will change, causing us to have to shift things around.”

While Dillard attributed the years without funds to the tight economy and lack of funds statewide, he believes the problem is being addressed by university administration, and funding will be allotted to SIUC in the future.

“If you talk to our counterparts at Illinois State or Northern or Western, they have some of the same issues,” Dillard said. “You go up there and they’ve got buckets and you know, misery loves company. We know we’re not alone.”

He said anyone who notices a problem, such as collapsed ceiling tile or water leaking on the floor, should notify the Facilities Operations Center.

“We tend to be able to pull rabbits out of a hat,” Dillard said. “We haven’t had to close any buildings or classrooms down. We’ve become very adept at smoke and mirrors.”

Brandy Oxford can be reached at 536-3311 ext. 259 or boxford@siude.com.

———

Stephen Rickel — Daily Egyptian

Broken windows in the Communications Building have been replaced with plywood in an effort to keep the elements out.

We can have a perfect game plan now, and literally a month from now something will change, causing us to have to shift things around.

—Brad Dillard
associate director of facilities
New Orleans making strides, but full recovery a long ways off

Jack Douglas Jr.
McClatchy-Tribune

NEW ORLEANS — As they waited for an evacuation bus to ride out of this wrecked city two years ago, four close neighbors — three elderly, one mentally challenged — vowed to one day return to the home they love, a place serenely named Peace Lake Towers, which had been battered and flooded by Hurricane Katrina.

“May 1, Memorial Day passed as she sat in the hot sun, several days after the Aug. 29, 2005 storm, with out a chair where she and her friends, Margaret Beckham, Barbara Clark and Ulysee Robinson, would land.

“All they knew, Robinson said then, was that “we’ll be together” ... through it all.”

Of the four friends, only Clark, 49, a grocery-store bagger, has returned to New Orleans.

For the other three, the thought of returning only brings back memories of a harrowing time when they struggled through the chaos of Katrina.

“I don’t want to go back to New Orleans to live. It was too scary for me,” Day said. “I never want to go through that again. I don’t want to risk my life there,” she said.

Experts say she has a reason for concern.

The Brookings Institution, in a comprehensive analysis of the state of affairs in the New Orleans area, found that available medical care is lagging behind, and that available medical care in the city's rebuilding effort.

“Flood Protection

A comprehensive analysis of the state of affairs in the New Orleans area, found that available medical care is lagging behind, and that available medical care in the city's rebuilding effort.

The Corps of Engineers has predicted that work will not be completed until at least 2010, with an even smaller percentage of students returning, and even fewer who can return to New Orleans public schools, "with an even smaller percentage of students returning, and even fewer who can return to New Orleans public schools," the report said.

Here’s a look at some of the key indicators in the city’s rebuilding effort.

Flood Protection

It has been predicted that it will cost between $2 billion and $4 billion to rebuild New Orleans’ flood protection system to a “minimal” 100-year level, with better floodgates, pumps and walls.

To actually guard against the most dangerous “Category 5” hurricanes will cost “much, much more,” said a panel of experts, called “Teams Louisiana,” that was assembled by Louisiana State University.

In June 2006, Congress allocated $3.1 billion to the “New Orleans area struggles with...” that was assembled by Louisiana State University.

In June 2006, Congress allocated $3.1 billion to the “New Orleans area struggles with...” that was assembled by Louisiana State University.

St. Bernard Parish, among the hardest hit by Katrina, still does not have a single hospital in operation.

The Justice System

“Crime remains unchecked in the city...” the report said. The reasons are “multi-faceted, not just limited to the level of policing,” but one “critical aspect” is that officers continue to work in areas that remain damaged from Katrina.

Police headquarters, two sub-stations, and other enforcement, recruiting, special operations and the juvenile division continue to work out of FEMA trailers.

Crucial evidence in criminal prosecution cases is also kept in trailers, unprotected in “the event of a significant wind event,” and the city’s all-important crime lab is “only partially functional.”

Such conditions, which include little space to interrogate suspects in crimes and intimidate witnesses, raise the question: the quality of “police officers in a city where they are badly needed.

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Dr. Chaudhry has moved her general practice from Shreveport, where she served the community for 3 years, to a new location in Carbondale.

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As biodefense research booms, reward is weighed against risk

Pete Alfano
MCCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS

FORT WORTH, Texas — Ellen Vitetta is a chair at the Cancer Immunobiology Center at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas. Her research centers on ricin, a potentially lethal toxin that paradoxically may have benefits as a vaccine to fight cancer.

This work interested the federal government for different reasons.

In the aftermath of the anthrax attacks in October 2001, bioterrorism was seen as more than just an idle threat. The drumbeat for increased spending for biodefense as part of the war on terror resulted in passage of Project BioShield in 2004, which appropriated $6 billion over 10 years for research.

“If I had put in for a federal grant for ricin vaccine pre 9/11, it would have come back in a garbage pail,” Vitetta said.

But because ricin is a potential bioweapon, UT Southwestern received a federal grant to continue its research — with a dual purpose.

While she is somewhat dismayed that her work has been co-opted in the name of national security, Vitetta is hopeful that in the long run a ricin vaccine will help win the battle on cancer, not just the war on terror.

“We’ll use the money to learn as much as we can,” she said, “and be poised to use vaccines (in a way) that are more useful to the American public.”

Biological and chemical warfare may be as old as conflict itself, but before anthrax-laced letters infected 22 people, resulting in five deaths, research on ricin, Q-fever, Tularemia, Avian flu and emerging drug-resistant forms of tuberculosis. Others work with more garden-variety organisms.

“Everyone and their cousins are trying to get into it because it’s where the money is and it’s necessary,” said Ronald Blanck, former president of the University of North Texas Health Science Center in Fort Worth, who previously served as the U.S. Army Surgeon General and commander of the Army’s medical branch during a 32-year military career.

He says that even though the focus is on biodefense, the expanded research will eventually benefit public health.

“The work being done is beginning to leverage against threats from naturally occurring diseases like Avian flu. A lot of the infrastructure for biological weapons research is also preparing us to deal with things like a flu epidemic.”

But not everyone is on board with the burgeoning growth of bio-defense.

“There is grumbling in the scientific community among researchers who feel they have been ‘drafted’ into working on national defense. And watchdog organizations say the number of facilities conducting research has proliferated with the burgeoning growth of bio-defense research, up from a handful just a decade ago,” Edward Hammond, director of the Sunshine Project in Austin, Texas, says.

“Ultimately we don’t need 400 universities, laboratories alone are involved in bio-defense research, up from a handful just a decade ago,” Hammond said.

“Government oversight is not stringent enough, that laboratory security is suspect and that accidents sometimes go unre- ported, or worse, are covered up.”

“We’ll use the money to learn as much as we can, and be poised to use vaccines (in a way) that are more useful to the American public.”

Ellen Vitetta (Cancer Immunobiologist)

Save the game.
And come back to it later.

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SIGN UP TODAY FOR FACULTY/STAFF & STUDENT MIXED FALL LEAGUES

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For more information see Bill or Paul at Bowling & Billiards or call 453-2803

Save the game.
And come back to it later.
City manager Jeff Doherty said the city is currently taking proposals to select a designer for the new facil-
ity. Doherty said he hopes to have a designer selected by early 2008.

"Depending on how all that goes, I would expect design work to start in the spring," he said.

Doherty said he expected con-
struction to begin in the summer 2009, with a completion date slated for the end of 2010.

Ledbetter said electricity poses a problem because rooms in the cur-
rent station were not wired for the amount of equipment the police use. There has been reconfigura-
tion, Ledbetter said, but the development of new technology has amplified the need for better wiring.

Ledbetter said the Police Department has grown to the point that modern technology is crucial in their operation.

"We did not envision, when I first started here, that there would be a computer in every room," Ledbetter said.

"This building was never con-
structed to accommodate those kinds of things."

Another problem the police face is the accessibility of the upper floors of the station. Without an elevator, persons with certain disabilities can't get to the offices of several people, including Ledbetter and the crime victims advocate.

Carbondale's location near the New Madrid seismic zones puts the city at a great risk in case of an earthquake.

"This building is constructed of concrete blocks, and the potential of this building being damaged in an earthquake is very high," Ledbetter said.

"And that would certainly inhibit our ability to serve the community, because we wouldn't have a police department to operate out of."
Greetings SIUC, from the Undergraduate Admissions Family!

Did you know that these Undergraduate Admission Coordinators travel to high schools, community colleges, and college fairs all over the state of Illinois?

Bob Quane  Malinda Martinez  Rey Daiz  Demetres Jones  Maxine Lane
Matt Taitt  Holly Krake  Ryan Moore  Tedgie Hennel  Jeff McGoy

Meet the rest of the Undergraduate Admissions family.

Undergraduate Admissions also hosts on campus open houses and receptions, off-campus receptions, campus tours, individual campus visits and group campus visits. We call potential students and host online chats, provide in-house admission counseling, process new applications, collect student information, and reach out to potential new students through advertising, emails, and mailings. Combined, the traveling Admission Coordinators and the in-house Undergraduate Admissions staff make up the Undergraduate Admissions family!

Undergraduate Admissions In-House Staff:
James Carl - Interim Director, Katharine Suski - Associate Director, Pam Wilkins, Tim Estes, Marjorie Ahearn, Amanda Sutton, Rachel Richey, Ellen Kirsch, Liz Duncan, Janna Gharbawi, Kris Schachel, Chad Hoosier, Mike Cubley, Jeff Stout, Lynn Moorman, Bob Lee, Bernice Pratker, Toni Flagg, Brenda Watkins, Pam Gilley, Steve Jackson, Jody Fred, John Butson, Bill Kayne, Jodi Boese, Abbey Bueza and Megan Robin-Abbott

Southern Illinois University Carbondale
An article or advertisement text is not visible in the image provided.
New Silverchair unique
— but not good unique

Eugene Clark
DAILY EGYPTIAN
Silverchair
Young Modern
Release Date: August 21, 2007
Record Label: Eleven Records
www.chairpage.com

The biggest problem with the new Silverchair album "Young Modern" is that it's easy to forget that a CD is playing. Perhaps the reason for this is that the album doesn't use any catchy intros to draw listeners into the music, instead each track comes straight at you with generic vocals and a sound that may be unique, but unique is not always a good thing.

The songs "Reflections of a Sound" and "All Across the World" sound more like show tunes for an upcoming Broadway show than modern rock and roll. Both of these songs seem out of place on the album and drag on for way too long.

While it's hard to compare the new album with any band past or present, the fluctuating vocals and the use of piano and other instruments on "Young Modern Station" and "Reflections of a Sound" give the album some similarities with an unf RELATED CLEANED UP.

Daniel John's vocals in the new album are its only saving grace. They are a bit more powerful and he has definitely shown he has a decent singing voice that can go to all tempos and vary along with the bass line and drum beat of each song. The lyrical content of the new album have to be the biggest disappoint- ment, though. Obviously the progression of the band has taken them from frivolous songs from their high school days to a more deep symbolic path. However, many of the words, such as when John says, "In the sun we are found to be reflections of a sound," rhyme well and fit in with the music but can't possibly be decried as meaning anything other than words thrown on a page.

It is hard to believe the same band that produced hit songs like "Tomorrow" or "Freak" came out with this album. Granted, the trio has obviously grown up since the long haired flannel shirt days of their first album "Fing Stomp" but a more subtle change would have been a better path.

In the five years since Silverchair has come out with an album, it is safe to say their musical approach has taken a full 180. Unfortunately, with their new approach, it almost seems like they are trying too hard to gain accep- tionance in the artistic genius ranks of Bono or Elvis John and should have just been content with being alternative rock stars in the same ranks of a Candlebox or Collective Soul.

Eugene Clark can be reached at eclark@siude.com or at 536-3311 ext. 275.

Audra Ord
DAILY EGYPTIAN
Aiden
"Conviction"
Release date: August 21, 2007
Record Label: Victory Records
www.aiden.org

"Conviction," the fourth album from punk-rock/gothic band Aiden, should be convicted for a lack of originality.

The opening chords of "Conviction" offer initial promise for the album, but hope is soon dispelled as vocalist Wil Francis comes in, singing mediocre lyrics in an equally mediocre and whiny voice. Slow ballads are obviously not the singer's forte. Who would have said, "It's all good
down there," there is never a high point from which to go down!

The rest of the album is as bad as the beginning, with a few exceptions like "Teenage Queen" and "Moment," a track with an almost My Chemical Romance sound.

"Conviction" is generic, giving listeners the same sound they hear from every other punk-rock band on the market. Redundancy is also found within the album itself — every song is too similar to the one preceding it, with all of them seem-ingly possessing the same keyboard chords and riffs.

Also, perceptive listeners will find the word "kiss" has an annoying way of finding its way into every song, whether it is relative to the theme of the track or not.

Perhaps the only relief from the endless barrage of sub-par, chorded keyboard strains is "Teenage Queen," the best-known song from the album. This track offers the band a chance to be reflected from the band and is about the only place on the record where it can be heard. Listeners looking for the punk-rock sound the band claims to possess should keep looking. The album, as painful as it is to listen to the first time, only worsens with each subsequent play. Avoid your self the time and a few bucks and avoid it altogether.

Audra Ord can be reached at aord@siude.com or at 536-3311 ext. 275.

Collaboration saves Kweli
Talib Kweli "Eardrum"
Release date: Aug. 21, 2007
Record Label: Loud Records
www.sothe.org

Ever hear the term "busting back- wards"? You know, when an artist starts out great, and the next thing you know it's like rip on phonics, and the lyrical skills seem to be fading as the artist is supposed to be progressing. It seems Talib Kweli was doing a bit of this with the release of his fourth solo album "Eardrum."

While it can't be denied that Kweli's flow has been consistent, this album lacks true genius. That is, popular songs that everybody is going to like even if they aren't into "commons" rapping rap.

What this 20-track album does have is collabora- tions. More than half the songs on "Eardrum" are col- laborations, and the closest song to a gem is "Country Cousins" featuring UGK and budding singer Raheem DeVaughn. On this song, Kweli adopts a speed flow that matches the subject of the song and uses UGK per- fectly.

"Growing up in Brooklyn I thought that everybody talked this way," said Kweli. "This track has good lyrics that open the song with a nice beat pushing listeners in the right direction. The chorus is a bit weak, but Kweli's flow, with a title such as "Holy Moly."

Of course "Holy Moly" is not one of the collaborated songs, but who would want to have a title like that attached to anything they put out?

The notion of pushing the envelope is great and works in favor of this album. Songs such as "Soon The New Day," featuring Nekisia Jones, and "The Nature," featuring Justin Timberlake, are pleasant surprises but still not as exciting as once you hear them.

What saves him, sadly but truly, is the fact that his ability goes beyond this latest effort, as demonstrated years ago on his only real hit single "Get By." While it's not a bad album, collabora- tions are definitely what keep this effort afloat. The "conscious rapper" is aware that he needed assistance to put out an album worth copying.

Jakina Hill can be reached at jhill@siude.com.

Pulse Picks:

Alicia Wade
1. "Unglamorous" by Lori McKenna
2. "Lifeline" by Ben Harper & the Innocent Criminals

Eugene Clark
1. "An Ocean Between Us" by As I Lay Dying
2. "Mindcrime at the Moore" by Queensryche

Jakina Hill
1. "KALA" by MIA
2. "Underground Kings" by UGK

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Pulse Picks: By the Pulse team

Some recent releases you should consider putting on your iPod

Amanda" by Caribou
2. "Unglamorous" by Lori McKenna

Audra Ord
1. "Andorra" by Caribou
2. "Lifeline" by Ben Harper & the Innocent Criminals

Eugene Clark
1. "An Ocean Between Us" by As I Lay Dying
2. "Mindcrime at the Moore" by Queensryche

Jakina Hill
1. "KALA" by MIA
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1. "KALA" by MIA
2. "Underground Kings" by UGK
Defending champion Sharapova routs 1st opponent at U.S. Open

Howard Fendrich
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK — The lady in red shaded a backward cap, prompting Maria Sharapova’s oppo- nent to leap in the air and pump her fist and shout as though she’d won the match — or, indeed, the U.S. Open championship itself.

“I won one game, I’m happy,” Vinci said. “6-love, 6-love No. 6-love, 6-1 OK.”

A few minutes and one hour of serve later, Sharapova’s 50-minute day was done, and she was into the second round at the tourna- ment where she produced her second Grand Slam title a year ago.

“There’s no way to get rid of the memories when I walk on the court and feel the vibe,” the second-seeded Russian said. “60 crystals on her red dress sparkling in the Arthur Ashe Stadium lights. ‘Every corner I turn here, I get goose bumps.’

Andy Roddick might very well have similar sentiments as he walks around the USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center here after all, win the 2003 U.S. Open for his only major title, and he won his first-round match Tuesday night, follow- ing Sharapova on court and beating two-time Grand Slam champion Novak Djokovic 7-6 (6), 6-3, 6-3.

It was the 30-year-old Ginolfina’s first match as a pro, and Roddick hugged him at the net afterward. “I look at her and think of one of the funniest guys on tour,” Roddick said.

Sharapova, meanwhile, compiled 15 winners before Vinci hit her first and finished with a 30-3 edge in that category during the 6-0, 6-1 vic- tory. It was part of a mini-parade of past champions in first-round action, including three victories, for Martina Hingis, Stefanie von Zuffenhausen and Lleyton Hewitt.

Sharapova’s been on the wrong end of some tours this year, including a 6-3, 7-5 defeat last month against Serena Williams in the Australian Open final and against Venus Williams in Wimbeldon’s fourth round. And Sharapova, whose breakthrough came with the 2004 Wimbeldon title at age 17, has been dealing with shoulder problems much of 2007.

No signs of that Tuesday, although she did double-fault twice on match point in the final game. Otherwise, aside the biggest problem Sharapova had was when she missed a sip of water during a changeover and spilled her outfit into the court.

Even Vinci took note of the upstart, saying: “It’s difficult to play against her. Strong player. Nice girl. She has a nice dress.”

“It’s red this year, like the Big Apple, in honor of the city,” Sharapova told the crowd, before gathering her patent leather racket bag and black wheelie bag and heading to the locker room.

“Put on a nice outfit, and some makeup, and you’re the bomb,” Sharapova noted later.

Sharapova’s good feelings from her U.S. Open title are still fresh, but it’s been a decade since Hingis won the tournament. This year, Hingis took a stroll around the new workout room and sim- ply had to smile while scanning the enlarged pho- tos decorating the walls.

There among the posters of previous cham- pions, Sharapova has one of Hingis, clenching her 1997 silver trophy, a different plan, a different person.

“I’m like, ‘OK, I look really young. Short haircut, all that. It’s been 10 years. She’s had to walk a lot more and get more involved, and she’s like, ‘I’m just a different person now.’

Hingis was willing to reminisce a bit after beating Mathilde Johansson of France 6-0, 6-0. Others winning Tuesday included a man many con- sider a likely future Grand Slam champion, 19-year-old Rafael Nadal, who has a nice dress.

“Like, ‘I want to be like her. She has a nice dress.’

It’s red this year, like the Big Apple, in honor of the city,” Sharapova said.
Lance Briggs has been charged with a misdemeanor after crashing his $350,000 Lamborghini and leaving the scene Monday morning. Is Briggs the second coming of Tank Johnson or just a victim of circumstance?

“I couldn’t care less about what Briggs did on the field, what Tank did on his Guarantee, what Pacman did in a strip club, what Vick did in his backyard, or what any of the hundreds of other law-defying grizzly stars have done off the field of play. It can’t wait until September when NFL headlines will actually move football.”

“His not another Tank Johnson — not by a long shot. But Briggs0 should become the answer to the trivia question, “What professional athlete has crashed the most expensive vehicle and then left the scene of the one-car accident?””

“The three-game series is the first meeting this season between the two teams to battle with Brewers. The first-place Cubs scored 5-3 on Tuesday night, scoring the go-ahead run in the 11th with the go-ahead batter Cliff Floyd in the lead-off position. The Cubs took first game of the series in battle with Brewers with a three-run drive into the upper deck in the seventh and scored both runners and tie the game by an average margin of 50.2 points.

Two former Saluki football players were cut from their respective teams before Tuesday’s deadline for NFL teams to shorten their rosters to 75 players. The Kansas City Star reported the Kansas City Chief released former Saluki wide receiver Brent Little. The Post-Bulletin in Minnesota reported former wide receiver Darrelle Revis was cut from his team, the Denver Broncos, on Tuesday.

Following are this week’s stories:

**Cubs take first game in battle with Brewers**

**Cubs take first game in battle with Brewers**

Rick Gano

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHICAGO — Jacque Jones hit a game-tying two-run double in the seventh and scored the go-ahead run on an error by reliever Scott Linebrink as the Chicago Cubs rallied to beat the Milwaukee Brewers 5-3 on Tuesday night.

The first-place Cubs scored four runs in the seventh to increase their lead over the Brewers in the NL Central to 2 1/2 games. St. Louis started play Tuesday night two games back.

The three-game series is the final meeting this season between the Brewers, who spent 125 days in first this season, and the Cubs, who have been tied for first in sole possession of the lead since Aug. 17.

The slumping Brewers lost for the 11th time in 14 games. And this was a tough one to take. Milwaukee starter Jeff Suppan, winless in 12 starts since June 22, was staked to a 3-0 lead and was still ahead 3-1 headed into the bottom of the seventh.

But he was removed after hitting leadoff batter Cliff Floyd with a pitch. Mark DeRosa greeted Linebrink by beating out an infield single to short.

Jones then drove a pitch into the alley in right-center field to score both runners and tie the game. After an intentional walk to Darnell Ward and Alfonso Soriano, Ryan Theriot hit a high bouncer back to the mound. Linebrink jumped for the ball, but it went into and out of his glove for an error as Jones raced home with the go-ahead run.

Derek Lee followed with an RBI single to left finish Linebrink by an average margin of 50.2 points.

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

Quincy looking for experience

Scott Mieszala
D-E Staff Writer

While the Quincy Hawks are huge underdogs heading into their boot against the SIU football team, the Hawks are hoping the Salukis could overlook their first opponent of the 2007 season.

The Salukis opened their season Thursday against Quincy with a 6-0 kick-off. Head coach Bill Terlisner said the Hawks are treating the game as an indicator of their progress thus far.

"You pretty much know we're a big underdog in this game," Quincy head coach Bill Terlisner said. "We're looking to come out, have some success and use this as a measuring stick to see how we'll do when we get in our conference."

Terlisner said the Hawks benefit from the experience of playing a tougher opponent than they'd normally face. SIU is paying Quincy to play for a division, much like NCAA Division I for Northern Illinois will pay the Salukis for their Sept. 8 matchup.

Defensively, Terlisner said he's hoping to contain SIU's running game and force the Salukis to commit to an air attack.

With the ball, he said the Hawks should look to spread the ball out and utilize misdirection and screen plays to take advantage of SIU's aggressiveness.

Saluki defensive coordinator Tracy Clary said the SIU defense will face its biggest challenge should Quincy spread the field as promised.

"They're going to make you tackle some guys in space, rather than try to bunch it up on you," Clary said. "So that's our biggest concern, is how well we'll tackle once they get us out in space."

If Quincy were to upset SIU, Terlisner said, it would be a big deal.

"We have nothing to lose, but to gain valuable experience and maybe get lucky," he said.

A quick look at the scouting report reveals the Hawks tend to use their quarterback significantly in their running game. Last season, Quincy quarterback Matt Wehrle recorded 110 rushing attempts and led the Hawks in rushing touchdowns.

Wehrle, then a senior, has since graduated, leaving the starting duties to junior quarterback Craig Moore, who weighs in at 235 pounds.

"Moore is a big, athletic quarterback. We expect him to run a lot," Terlisner said. "Athletically, we're real excited about, but he has no real experience with us, so Thursday night will be his first true test."

The Hawks should also split main carries between two running backs: senior Larry Patterson and junior Corey Williams.

SWIMMING & DIVING

Swimmers jump back in for another successful season

Megan Kramer
D-E Staff Writer

While the SIU swimming and diving team returns top swimmers on both the men's and women's teams, Rick Walker won't be relying on any single swimmer.

Walker, the head swimming and diving coach, can't afford to depend on a single person — he essentially uses the "There is no I in team" philosophy.

"I don't focus on individuals," Walker said. "As a team we aren't going to win with an individual."

Both the men's and women's Saluki squad, who are fresh off a fourth place showing in the 2007 Sun Belt Conference and a Missouri Valley Conference championship, are in enviable positions — both teams return conference Swimmer-of-the-Year swimmers.

Senior Julie Ju, the MVC Swimmer of the Year, should again lead the Salukis in the water. But while she embraces the accolades, Ju realizes the team effort needed as they should rally behind SBC Swimmer-of-the-Year Antonio Santoro.

"They know on the first official practice they're mine. I own them then."

"I was kind of tired after practicing so hard for conference," said Ju. "I didn't feel perfect."

Ju said she feels her 100-meter breaststroke is almost good enough to qualify her for the NCAA meet, but with a few changes in technique, it could be even better.

Walker said underclassmen could look to Ju as a guide and inspiration to what they can mold themselves after in the pool.

"That would be the direction you would want to go," Walker said.

Many members of the swimming and diving team take this week to adjust their bodies back to the pool after not swimming since the end of last season. This can help them eliminate pain and soreness from the first week of practice.

"Walker also credits what he calls "the bottom of the squad" for success as a team.

Senior Isabel M. Santoro. and junior Kelly Drees should be two key factors from the "bottom" that could help the Salukis in important meets.

Meanwhile, on the other side of the pool, Walker said the men should only move up in the Sunbelt's conference standings as they should rally behind SBC Swimmer-of-the-Year Antonio Santoro.