Admissions may consider freshmen with looser criteria

The new criteria will adopt an automatic-admitment component for applicants with ACT scores at or above 23 or with high school GPA at or above 3.0 on a 4.0 scale, according to the agenda attachment for the proposal.

Lisa Beth DiLalla, chair of the Undergraduate Education Policy Committee for the senate, said the features make it so that students who are obviously eligible for admission are admitted more quickly.

"It is a very good thing for us because the sooner they find out they are accepted, the more likely they are to be interested in attending," she said. "The students like to know quickly whether they have gotten in somewhere, and getting in early may cause them to just go ahead and accept." Nicklow said the traditional benchmark is to emphasize class rank instead of essays, letters of recommendation and GPA. He said the approach would look beyond class rank and ACT scores and focus on GPA, letters of recommendation, course pattern, a student essay and high school attendance records. This approach is necessary to get a feel for the student's level of commitment, Nicklow said. Allen Karnes, a professor in accountancy and faculty senator, said the approach looks at the person as a whole rather than in parts.

"Maybe (students) are not good standardized test takers, but they still do well in school," he said. "It allows us to identify those kids." Karnes said class rank won't be looked at in the admissions process because it is not a good predictor of student success, and many high schools no longer rank students. These standards are more in line with peer universities' standards, he said. The application date is a stronger predictor of success because more competitive academic students tend to apply early, Nicklow said. The proposal also approves a preferred application date of Dec. 1 and a final application deadline of May 1. He said there is no deadline.

Proposed revisions to admissions criteria

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Components students must have:</th>
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<tr>
<td>• ACT score of 23 or higher</td>
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<td>• GPA of 3.0 or higher</td>
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<td>If they don't have those, they look at:</td>
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<td>• letters of recommendation</td>
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<td>• student essay</td>
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<tr>
<td>• records of absences in high school</td>
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<tr>
<td>• GPA</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

The university might revise the current admissions criteria as a result of a proposal passed through the Faculty Senate. The proposal from enrollment management to revise the current admissions criteria was passed the Faculty Senate. Usbeth Dilalla, chair of the Allan Karnes, who will give it to the Board of Trustees for review, because the sooner they find out they are accepted, the more likely they are to be interested in attending, she said. The students like to know quickly whether they have gotten in somewhere, and getting in early may cause them to just go ahead and accept, Nicklow said. Allen Karnes, a professor in accountancy and faculty senator, said the approach looks at the person as a whole rather than in parts. Maybe (students) are not good standardized test takers, but they still do well in school, he said. It allows us to identify those kids, Karnes said class rank won't be looked at in the admissions process because it is not a good predictor of student success, and many high schools no longer rank students. These standards are more in line with peer universities' standards, he said. The application date is a stronger predictor of success because more competitive academic students tend to apply early, Nicklow said. The proposal also approves a preferred application date of Dec. 1 and a final application deadline of May 1. He said there is no deadline.

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SARAH SCHNEIDER Daily Egyptian

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Police data prompts bars to limit underage drinking

KAYLA KEARNS
Daily Egyptian

Second quarter reports from the Carbondale Police Department show city bars are increasing their efforts to prevent underage consumption.

According to the department's year-to-date summary of bar arrests, there were 144 arrests at Pinch Penny Pub, 25 at Stix Bar & Billiards, 22 at Sidetracks and 20 at Calihan's Cali's. 

Previously, all of the arrests at Pinch Penny Pub were related to illegal age, according to the report. At the Feb. 3 Liquor Advisory Board meeting, board chair Mark Robinson proposed bringing the bar management to the next meeting to discuss the high number of arrests.

James Karjaban, general manager of Pinch Penny Pub, declined to comment and asked reporters to leave the bar Wednesday.

In the 2008-2009 liquor license year, Stix Bar & Billiards had a higher number of arrests than Pinch Penny Pub while under the management of Gary Knob. Stix had 170 arrests to Pinch's 68 for the license year. Knob managed Stix, Cali's and Calihan's that year, he said.

"The (police) specifically focused on us. They told us they were going to. The entire time we were open, there were three undercover police officers within the building," Knob said.

Gary Robinson, manager of Pinch Penny Pub, said Carbondale requires at least half of the staff go through a training process called Training for Intervention Procedures that shows servers how to recognize when people have been served or are too young. He said in a university town, with many underage students, it's common to see minors try to get served.

Bryan Woodruff, general manager at Sidetracks, said his bar staff is TIPS trained, and the owners have stressed the importance of thorough license checking, especially with bartenders and deermen.

"Our crowd is generally within 20 to mid-30s (age) range, so we don't deal with (crowds) directly like Stix and Pinch Woodruff said. "They get drunk so it's going to be a lot more difficult for them to catch everybody." Robby Del, owner of Cali's, Calihan's and Stix Bar & Billiards, said underage consumption has been a problem in the past at his establishments.

The Carbondale Liquor Control Commission voted in December 2008 to fine Knob for failing to deter illegal activities that took place in the parking lot outside Cali's, formerly Southern Illinois Nightclub. July 13, former Assistant City Attorney Jamison Reynolds said Knob's staff allowed a large crowd to gather outside the bar which led to charges of marijuana possession, public drinking and fighting.

This year, Del said his bars had more security kid stayed on top of carding and stamping everyone. Staff at Cali's also use an ID scanner at the front door, he said.

"We turn in more fake (IDs) than anyone in southern Illinois, nor even in Carbondale," Del said. This year we took 20 IDs from kids who were using fake IDs at Rock Flats in one day."

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www.dailyEgyptian.com
Brandon Coleman
Daily Egyptian

An international student who wants to study at SIUC will receive prerequisite papers from for a student visa in as little as five days, but students may still find it difficult to get the visa, or get the Center for English as a Second Language said.

SIUC has 1,199 international students on campus, approximately 9.5 percent more than it had in spring 2010, said John Nicklow, vice chancellor and provost of enrollment management. Each student needs two to three of those students have issues attaining a non-immigrant student visa, said Leah McKeown, CEEIL international coordinator and advisor.

Potential international students receive conditional admission based on scores from the Test of English as a Foreign Language and whether they are an undergraduate or graduate student, said Laura Chromack, international student advisor for CEEIL. Once an international student has his or her academic records verified and has confirmed he or she can pay for classes, he or she is given an I-20, a student and exchange visitor program document. If that is required to obtain a student visa, said Carla Coppi, director of international students and scholars.

But before they are granted a student visa, the students are interviewed by U.S. Embassy officials to ensure that their post-secondary education plans include returning to their home country to start a career. Coppi said. The visa-granting process could be delayed depending on how students answer these questions, she said.

Coppi said that's why interviews for a student visa must be conducted two or three months in advance; one week or several months could pass before an international student hears from the embassy again.

"The visa interview is sometimes no more than three to five minutes long," Coppi said. "If you answer any of those questions in a way that they don't want to hear, they can deny you." Coppi said students could still be denied a visa after waiting the long months to meet with embassy officials again.

Of the university's accepted international students, Chromack said 250 take at least one class at the CEEIL, but many others aren't required to take English proficiency classes. Nicklow said 502 international students are in master's programs, 423 are PhD candidates, 327 are in undergraduate studies and two are law students. He said the increase in international students is a product of feeder programs such as CEEIL and SIUC working with sister universities worldwide.

Other programs for international student applicants deal with record verification, Coppi said. Depending on their nationality, some students will receive an original transcript from the embassy again.

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Brandon Coleman can be reached at balcolm@daily-ecyptian.com or 536-3211 ext. 259.
Poetry and writing teach students English

JULIE SWENSON
Daily Egyptian

A pilot program for the Center of English as a Second Language helps students learn English while exploring their imagination in writing.

Patrick Randolph and Andrew Bynom, two teachers at the CESL, taught a four-week creative writing class for students learning English that culminated in a poetry and short story reading Wednesday in the Pezer Hall Museum Auditorium.

Students who performed poetry; read a student-written poem, a poem written by a teacher or poetry from a famous writer such as E. E. Cummings. Other students read short, fictional stories they wrote.

Randolph said the class was made up of 32 students from Taiwan, Japan and Korea. Sixteen students were in the poetry class and 16 in the short story class. A group of students from Feng Chie University in Taiwan accounted for a large part of the group, he said.

CESL functions as a program that students enroll in to learn English well enough to attend SIUC. Bynom said. He said students write academic papers and are frequently tested to determine their progress. Cheryl Ernst, a CESL teacher, said she started as a private language school in 1964 and became part of SIUC in 1967.

Randolph said the idea came about after he talked to the linguistics department about the importance of learning creative writing in order to learn academic writing. He said teaching creative writing, even in an academic writing class, helps students think about English in a different way by teaching syntax, grammar, speaking, listening and writing skills.

"If they do creative writing, they’ll become full students," Randolph said. "If you’re just doing kind of dry, academic, formulaic writing, you’re not really developing, but if you’re doing academic and creative writing, you’ll be more developed as a student and as a person."

Bynom said he usually teaches an academic writing class and an analytical writing class, which help students learn English; but not in the same way creative writing does. Students reviewed their drafts after 10 times, he said, showing a refreshing desire and persistence to learn.

"They were willing to embrace the challenge right from the beginning," he said. "I gave them a set of prompts, but really, the ideas and the discipline to rewrite – came from the students. My input was minimal."

Ayaka Nakajima, a CESL student from Osaka, Japan, said she had taken some English classes in high school and Japanese creative writing in Japan but never an English creative writing and poetry class.

"It’s kind of difficult … but it’s also good practice to use my English. I can use my imagination, background or my past experiences for creative writing, so it’s good for me," she said.

"If you’re just doing kind of dry, academic, formulaic writing, you’re not really developing," Randolph said. "If you’re doing academic and creative writing, you’ll be more developed as a student and as a person."

She said she took a writing class last semester at SIUC, but it was very different from writing poetry and being able to talk about her feelings. Her poem, "Anxiety and Expectation," is about seeing her boyfriend at the airport after being separated from him for nine months while she is at school, she said.

"Yoku" Yu Chi Lo, a CESL student from Taichung, Taiwan, said the program and the performance were fun.

"I’m very happy to have enjoyed it because it improved my English," Lo said. "I like that I can improve my English by writing short poems and how I am feeling."

She wrote "Red Envelope" about her grandmother who passed away, she said. In East Asia, red envelopes with money inside are given to friends and family at special occasions, weddings and New Year’s celebrations.

"I miss her so much," Lo said. "I still miss her a lot when New Year’s comes, every time I get a red envelope."

Plans for the program include offering it as a longer class taught over the eight-week CESL semester, depending on the success of the pilot, Bynom and Randolph said.

Julie Swenson can be reached at jswenson@dailyEgyptian.com or 536-3311 ext. 254.
Roman Catholics embrace technology

TARA KULASH
Sophomore studying journalism

Missed your confessional this week? There’s an app for that.

Rev. Thomas G. Wehnandy and Rev. Daniel Schneider teamed up to create an application for mobile devices that tallies up your sins for you. Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades of Indiana conferred an imprimatur, a license to publish, upon the program. Imprimatur for the church is usually given by the Roman Catholic Church and this is the first app known to receive one.

"Confessions: A Roman Catholic App" gives users a chance to examine their conscience based on age, sex and vocation. I actually bought the program, just so I could give a fair review of it.

The opening page asks you to create a password because, as we all know, confessions are secret. Under the examination page is a list of the Ten Commandments. When you select a commandment, a page opens with a list of relevant sins. For example, "Do I not give God time every day in prayer?" If you've committed the sin, you're supposed to check the box next to it. After completing the examination process, the user selects the "Confession" tab with instructions on how to begin the confession, such as "It has been X days since my last confession." The next page has all of your sins listed, followed by an apologetic prayer for them. Finally, there are instructions on how to respond to what the priest will say to you. When he says, "Give thanks to the Lord for He is good," you must respond, "For His mercy endures forever."

Supposedly, the app is not meant to replace confession. "Confessants are directed to use it as an aid in their visit with priests," Rev. Wehnandy and Rev. Schneider said they hope it will increase the amount of Catholics who take part in the sacrament. I don't think that's what it will be used for, though. Catholics will use this as an opportunity to be lazy and make their "confessions" on a program. In my opinion, it is a waste of time and resources. It only works if you have a smartphone or tablet. Does this mean only wealthier people deserve forgiveness? It reminds me of the indulgences given out by the Catholic Church in the 1100s. Wealthy citizens could give money to the church in exchange for the forgiveness of their sins. We recognize now how wrong that was, so why not recognize how wrong this software is? I'm going to keep checking in on my phone and hoping I can be more forgiven than just saying it in my own words? The program makes the process even less sincere.

Another problem with the app is that only people with a smartphone or iPad can use it. Does this mean only wealthy people deserve forgiveness? It reminds me of the indulgences given out by the Catholic Church in the 1100s. Wealthy citizens could give money to the church in exchange for the forgiveness of their sins. We recognize now how wrong that was, so why not recognize how wrong this software is? I'm going to keep checking in on my phone and hoping I can be more forgiven than just saying it in my own words? The program makes the process even less sincere.

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<tr>
<th>One-Bedroom</th>
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The band explores layering rhythms, contrasting loud and soft, and creating different moods and melodies within a single track.

Into another one like ocean waves, and with lyrics such as "Take me over, take me out, to the jungle through the night, in paradise," the band effortlessly transports listeners to a tropical, melodic utopia.

The album's closer, "Sun God," is a 15-minute techno-psychodelic-trip. The band explores layering rhythms, contrasting loud and soft, and creating different moods and melodies within a single track.

What makes "Zonoscope" such a great record is that Cut Copy put emphasis on making an album — not a collection of singles. Fellow 00s revitalists MGMT experienced pop success with their first album and switched gears on swirling melodics and attempt to create an epic, huge-sounding record. The missteps here are minor and all-in-all, "Zonoscope" is the band's strongest and most mature material to date.

Brendan Smith can be reached at bsmith@dailyeagle.com or 536-3311 ext. 203.
Final album reflects on The Streets’ career

BRENDAN SMITH
Daily Egyptian

The Streets
Computer and Blues

The Streets' fifth and final album, "Computer & Blues," has a literal title and an anthemic presentation where musician Mike Skinner looks back on his somewhat rocky entertainment career. The music spanned the United Kingdom, built a buzz with its 2002 debut album, "Original Pirate Material," He pushed the grime and UK garage genres into new territories by exploring unique instrumentation and rhythms about everyday British life.


For an artist who put such a high amount of self-reflective narratives and stoic storytelling into his music, "Computer & Blues" plays like an upbeat requiem for The Streets. The electronic beats and feelings of digital disconnection from Radiohead's "OK Computer" merge with the thematically wordplay of Kanye West's "606s & heartbreak," only with chery undernotes.

The album's lead single, "Going Through Hell," slaps: Skinner's British Beatle Boy rhyming pattern stopt an '60s heavy metal guitar riff and is a clear standout from the album's dense material.

"Solider," Skinner makes a political statement while riding pulsating drum loops and high hats. Robert Harvey of The Music, provides the trendy jazzed hook and heavy chorus. Harvey appears on three of the album's tracks. Maker songs such as "Pumped by People" and "Slip On A Street" combine positive and eerie melodies with The Streets' soul-bearing lyrics. As a rapper, Skinner is not the greatest. His rhymes and slightly offbeat delivery is an acquired taste to say the least. But even here, on his last record, his fury isn't quite as intense as in his previous work. Skinner's musicianship, however, is unparalleled in the realm of hip-hop. Every sound on the album is his own, and he truly embodies the idea of a one-man band.

Quirily, "Computer & Blues" is quirky. It is multifaceted, emotive, soulful, and self-admiring. The album closes a decade of sounds from one of music's most unique modern artists.

Brendan Smith can be reached at bsmit@dailylegyptian.com or 536-3311 ext. 263.

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Daily Egyptian
RYAN VOYLES
DAILY EGYPTIAN •

Evan Coulson and his wife, Gabby, are determined to build themselves a house.

Even if the house is the size of a dorm room.

Evan Coulson, a graduate student in recreation from Oregon, is in the process of constructing a house with roughly 120 square feet of floor space on top of a 20-foot trailer bed for himself and his wife to live in. The couple, who started the project in September, hopes to finish it and be able to live in the house by mid-spring.

"It's just the idea of being surrounded by something very real," he said. "It's becoming more rare and rare to experience that."

The house is being built at Camp Ondessonk in Oregon, where Coulson works as director of camping services and lives in the provided camp housing while he completes the tiny home. He said since the house is placed on a trailer, it would be registered as a recreational vehicle and could be parked at a campground or even a friend's house.

But for now, Gabby Coulson who first pushed for the idea, that the couple, who has been together for 16 years, consider building a tiny house:

"We have always been into small spaces. Gabby had this idea that we were her family was limited."

"I am excited to start building our own "real" home in the city of our own." They plan to move into the house as soon as possible.

"I think it's important to have a place to call home, even if it's small," Coulson said.

"We are looking forward to having our own space to call "home.""

"I am excited to have something that is truly ours." They plan to move into the house as soon as possible.

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THE Daily Commuter Puzzles by Jacquelline E. Mathews

ACROSS
1 Hooting bird
4 Go by, at time
8 Western U.S. lake
13 Female horse
14 Peruvian Indian
15 Sports article
16 Article
17 Male deer
18 "Ode on a
Grecian Urn" poet John —
19 Revive
22 Go bad
24 Move slightly
26 Deadly snakes
28 Provide with
the means
32 Fence
34 Bed's bit
35 Sounding
suit
40 Bank safe
41 Pathway
42 Flexible
43 Hotel
44 Greek letters
45 Have In mind
47 Featherbrain
49 "Bye, Pierre"
56 Tenement bldg. unit
57 Pleat
61 Felony
64 Spruce or fir,
57 Pleat
68 — board; nail
69 Tamiya chair
70 Up to the
time of, for start

DOWN
1 Made of a
cereal grain
2 Not to worry
3 Tree-dwelling
primate
4 Zodiac sign
5 One opposed
6 "Best fit"
7 Long stories
8 Give shelter to
9 "You what
you eat"
10 Stethoscope
detection
11 Mount
12 Two opposite
13 Deep view
14 Bodies of water
15 Robbery
16 Fairy tale
17 Make
18 Inclinations
20 Noise
23 Actress Turner
25 Out, at edge
27 Asian desert
28 Subject to
tobacco
29 Finished
30 Too
31 VCR tape
32 Tree trunk
36 In a pleasant
37 Tiny case of
38 Nest
39 To change
40 Capital of

Horoscopes
By Nancy Black and Stephanie Clement

**The Daily Commuter Puzzle**

**by Jacquelline E. Mathews**

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39 To change
40 Capital of

**JUMBLE**

Unscramble these four jumbles, one letter each square, to form four ordinary words.

**KAQUE**

**IGSEE**

**YULIBS**

**INNEAC**

**THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME**

by Mike Argirell and Jeff Khurk

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise animal suggested by the above cartoon.
Q: Guitar phenom Randy Rhoads’ classical training and influence is evident on which of the following songs? Crazy On You, Crazy Horse, Crazy Train, Stone Cold Crazy.

Randy Glasbergen

Tired of being pushed around his whole life, the Brave Little Caper finally rebelled.

Think your cartoons are funny enough to be on this comic page? Well, here’s your chance!

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Mule Pack
May the Force be with you
Wake coach says kidney donation a ‘no-brainer’

Paul Newberry
Associated Press

Atlanta — There they sat, side by side, the football coach and his freshman outside linebacker, adorning a matching black-and-gold warm-up suit.

Thankfully, the tribute wasn’t their only match.

Even though his right side was still tender and sore, Kevin Jordan hadn’t felt this good since last February, when a mysterious illness began sapping his strength and eventually caused his kidneys to shut down.

To his right was Wake Forest coach Tom Walter, who has always considered his players to be like family. No one will ever doubt the sincerity of those words.

Not after he gave up one of his healthy kidneys so the 19-year-old Jordan would have a shot at a normal, healthy life.

“I’m just really thankful,” the teenager said at a news conference Wednesday, two days after the coach’s kidney was transplanted at the Emory University Hospital. “This is so good, it gets. I don’t know how to say it.

Walter had volunteered to be tested after he learned of Jordan’s illness, which forced Jordan to look up to a dialysis machine for nine hours each night. As it became more likely Walter’s kidney might be needed, the Wake Forest football office worked with the NCAA to make sure there were no violations of the extra-bona-fide rule.

Not that Walter would have let the threat of punishment stop him.

“I talked over with our athletic director (Gene Hermann) and he probably said it best when he said we were answering to a higher calling on this one,” Walter said.

Jordan’s mother and brother weren’t comfortable for a transplant, and his father wasn’t even eligible because he has high blood pressure. Walter, it turned out, was a match. When he got the news last month, he never worried on his decision to give up a part of himself so Jordan would have a chance at a long, healthy life.

“I didn’t waste Kevin to wait one more day if I could help it,” Walter said.

Without a living donor willing to donate a kidney, Jordan likely would have waited for three to five years for one to become available. That certainly would have almost certainly have ruined his dreams of reaching the major leagues.

Now everything is back in play.

“Relieved was always there for us,” Jordan said. “As soon as my body agrees with me and I’m allowed to start playing, I’m going to start playing again.”

Dr. Allan Kirk, who took part in the 3-hour transplant operation — said there’s no reason Jordan can’t be like any other player. He has to wait about eight weeks before he can start twirling a bat, but assuming the kidney performs well and there’s no sign of rejection, he can expect to be playing by next season.

“Should live a life that is normal in activity, normal in length,” Kirk said.

“His abilities should be back to what it is and all. Even reaching over the wall, he should be able to do that.”

Jordan felt anything but normal last February when he began suffering from kidney symptoms. He would eventually lose 30 pounds of his sturdy, 230-pound frame, but he played on at Northridge High School in Columbus, Ga., the pro scouts wondering quietly what was wrong.

“He wasn’t as strong as he had been. He wasn’t as fast.”

Doctors in his hometown couldn’t pinpoint the problem. Finally, Jordan’s parents took him to Atlanta, where he learned in June — shortly after his high school was eliminated from the state playoffs and before he left for Wake Forest — that he had ANCA vasculitis, a type of autoimmune swelling disorder caused by antibodies in his blood.

When those antibodies show up into the kidneys, they can cause blood and protein to leak into the urine, leading to a shutdown. That’s what happened to Jordan.

He trained at Wake Forest and went to classes during the fall semester. Baseball was out, though he would show up to take batting practice and dog days when he felt well enough.

Walter agreed in August to be tested, unsure if he would be needed. Jordan’s dad said at the time, “I don’t want to risk his life to get a shot, but I want Jordan to play baseball.”

Then there were Jordan’s parents, deciding with having a healthy son depend on a machine to keep him alive.

“Just to see someone who had never been sick a day in his life get to the point where he doesn’t have any energy at all,” said Jennifer Christian. Kevin’s mother.

“See, they’re a match,” Christian said.

In so many ways.

Suit filed in Dallas over Super Bowl seat problems

Danny Robbins
Schuyler Dixon
Associated Press

Dallas — Football fans have filed a lawsuit accusing the NFL, the Dallas Cowboys and team owner Jerry Jones of deceiving hundreds of people who bought Super Bowl tickets and had no seats, or got seats they felt were inadequate.

The federal lawsuit filed Tuesday in Dallas alleges breach of contract, fraud and deceptive sales practices.

It was filed two days after fans were prevented from having seats at Sunday’s game between the Green Bay Packers and the Pittsburgh Steelers at Cowboys Stadium because of a problem with temporary seats.

One of the plaintiffs is a Cowboys season-ticket holder who said some of Jones’ biggest spending fans were promised access to Super Bowl tickets and ended up with obstructed views on metal folding chairs.

"Unfortunately, not all of the ticket-holders to Super Bowl XLIV got what they bargained for or what was promised to them," the lawsuit asserts.

Spokesmen for the Cowboys and the NFL had no comment.

The NFL had assisted hours before the game that about 1,250 temporary seats were damaged, unsold, and the league scrambled to find new seats for about 850 people.

The remaining 400 were forced to watch the game on TV monitors or from standing-room-only areas.

The lawsuit alleges that tickets for Cowboys fans who paid $100,000 per seat just for the right to buy season tickets were never told that their Super Bowl seats would be temporarily obstructed.

The lawsuit says the team has offered no compensation for "illegitimate seats."
Spahic trades Bosnian slopes for Carbondale courts

TENNIS

SPAHIC TRADES BOSSNIAN SLOPES FOR CARBONDALE COURTS

TREY BRAUNNECKER
DAILY EGYPTIAN

Sophomore Orhan Spahic started playing tennis at the age of 6 in his hometown of Sarajevo, Bosnia, but it was not his first sport.

"It's tradition back home that when you're born, friends of your parents bring you presents," Spahic said. "So, I got a skis when I was born, and I started skiing around the same time I started walking."

After Bosnia held the 1994 Winter Olympics, skiing became one of the primary sports in Spahic's home country before the Bosnian War, which started in 1992. The war led to the collapse of the country's infrastructure, but it also led him to pick up a racket.

Spahic said because of the war's effect on Bosnia, he could only lead to the collapse of the country's infrastructure, but it also led him to pick up a racket.

Spahic's home may be nearly 6,000 miles away from Carbondale, but the distance didn't stop SIU tennis coach Dan Nelson from finding and recruiting the Bosnian native.

"It actually found Orhan on YouTube," Nelson said. "Here was this 6-foot-6 guy with quick feet, a great serve, and a great serve, and I contacted him through YouTube, talked back and forth with his coach, and it worked out!"

"Spahic's dad didn't leave halfway around the globe to Illinois for fun but instead for the opportunities SIU could offer for his tennis career."

He said he had other offers from colleges to play tennis, but his Bosnian coaches recommended he go to SIUC along with the opportunities for scholarships.

"This actually found Orhan on YouTube," Nelson said. "Here was this 6-foot-6 guy with quick feet, a great serve, and a great serve, and I contacted him through YouTube, talked back and forth with his coach, and it worked out!"

Although the rules of the game are the same in Bosnia as in the United States, Spahic said there is a difference in the way the courts feel because of the use of hard courts in America instead of clay courts.

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SOFTBALL

SIU to showcase freshmen in Houston

AUSTIN FLYNN
Daily Egyptian

The SIU softball team will finally get the chance to see its four new freshmen play Friday through Sunday when it starts the 2011 season in Houston.

The Hilton Plaza Invitational marks the start of the softball season, which will be the first test for the new players, including first baseman Taylor Graham, second baseman Jayna Spyrey, catcher Allie Vadalondonou and utility player Kady Ashby.

"I think everyone’s going to contribute," coach Kerri Blaylock said. "I think the freshmen have come in and practiced really well. They really don’t look like freshmen right now."

The new players come in after the team lost three players last season.

Blaylock said she has high hopes for not only the new players, but also the upperclassmen who will need to perform like last season.

Senior shortstop Haley Gorman, who had a .341 batting average last season, said she is mostly concerned with how the team will play together early in the season.

"I’m more worried about how we do as a team and not just myself," Gorman said.

Senior catcher Cristina Trapani said she looks to stay confident at the plate and be a leader on the field.

"I think we’ll have a good season... We’re all just ready to go, ready to start playing games," she said.

Blaylock said the team’s pitching staff is looking good, and the team has been hitting the ball well.

After all the positive speculation, Trapani said the Salukis are ready to hit the field and test their skills against other teams.

SIU will play the Ohio Bobcats and the Michigan Wolverines Friday and the Houston Cougars and the Stephen F. Austin Ladyjacks Saturday. The Salukis will close the tournament out by playing Michigan again Sunday.

Of those teams, Blaylock said Michigan might provide the toughest competition in the tournament, and SIU’s pitching will have to be strong for the team to stay competitive.

"We need to pitch well, and if we do I think we’ll have a shot," Blaylock said. "They’re very good." Trapani said the players are excited to start the season and are confident in heading into their first tournament.

The Salukis won their conference last year and have been projected to finish first again this year with Illinois State in the Missouri Valley Conference preseason poll.

Gorman said she thinks the team can replicate and even surpass last year’s success.

"I think we are going to have a very good team," she said. "We’ve been practicing well, and there’s high expectations." The Salukis will open the tournament against Ohio at 11 a.m. Friday in Houston.

Senior catcher Cristina Trapani prepares to take a swing while freshman catcher Allie Vadalondonou looks on her swing Wednesday—during batting practice at Sports Blatz. In the 2010 season, Trapani appeared in 47 games, started in 36 and hit eight home runs. The Salukis play their first five games of the season this weekend.

JESS VERNES
Daily Egyptian

BASEBALL

Salukis add Strain as new hitting, infield coach

JUSTIN KABBES
Daily Egyptian

The SIU baseball team will have a new pair of eyes to analyze its bats with Wednesday’s hire of Ryan Strain to fill Ken Hendon’s previous position.

Hendon, the interim head coach, was the hitting coach for 21 years and was promoted to head coach following the death of 16-year Saluki coach Dan Callahan in November.

Strain will fill Hendon’s old position and coach infield defense this season.

Strain moved to Carbondale from the University of Northern Colorado, where he was also a hitting and infield coach. Strain’s history in baseball goes back to his father, Joe, who played for the San Francisco Giants in 1959 and 1960 and the Chicago Cubs in 1981.

Henderson said he hired Strain because of his history with baseball, and because the two of them have similar hitting philosophies. Henderson said there are many different views about hitting, but he is glad he found someone who agrees with his style.

"We just wanted a guy that was on the same page as us," Henderson said. "We did our homework, and it’s just a good fit."