

Southern Illinois University Carbondale

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Tuesday, March 16, 2010

State audit: SIU fiscal year 2009 loan report 'inadequate'

SIU did not have adequate controls over loan reporting, made duplicate reimbursements for travel vouchers and misstated \$468,000 in an operation report in fiscal year 2009, according to a report from the Illinois Office of the Auditor General.

SIUC did not report changes in the enrollment status of 25 out of 33 students in the time frame required by the

federal government, and two were not reported at all, according to the report. The university is required to report enrollment changes to the National Student Clearinghouse for federal student loan programs, it stated.

Also, out of 26,052 travel expenditures, 10 of 25 requests tested were duplicate requests processed and paid more than once — five of which were

paid back before the audit, the report showed.

The remain: five, totaling \$1,439, were paid back after the audit or are forthcoming, the report said. Total potential duplicate reimbursements amounted to \$2,036.

Please see AUDIT | 2

Textbook rep: Students want to save

RYAN VOYLES
Daily Egyptian

As SIUC considers plans to rent textbooks to students, universities officials across the country said their own rental programs have been a huge success.

Larry Dietz, vice chancellor for student affairs at SIUC, said in an interview with the DAILY EGYPTIAN Feb. 17, the school is looking into beginning a textbook rental program this fall when it negotiates a contract with the Follett Higher Education Group, the university's current textbook provider.

Elio DiStasio, director of public and campus relations with Follett, said the company began a pilot of a textbook rental last fall with seven different schools.

"We launched this pilot last fall to test the feasibility of textbook rental," he said. "What we've learned is students are ready to begin saving money by renting."

The seven schools were California State University, Northridge; California State University, Sacramento; Grand Rapids Community College; the University of North Florida; the University of North Texas; the University of Buffalo; and the University of Texas at Arlington.

Jim Reinhart, executive director of the university enterprises at California State University, Sacramento, said the response at his university has exceeded expectations since the rental program was implemented in fall 2009.

"We've listened to our students and we've heard nothing but praise since we started it," he said. "Our students have been saving money and reaping the benefits of the program."

Reinhart said he expected students save between 45 and 55 percent by renting textbooks over purchasing them.

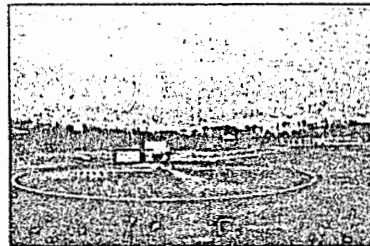
If implemented at SIUC, the program would cover the University Bookstore.

One of the main concerns Dietz said he had about renting textbooks was renting books at a research university, which he said calls for books to be consistently updated with new information. He said students could get stuck in long rental terms, leaving them with out-of-date books for classes.

DiStasio said his group leaves the terms of rental and prices to its universities, with professors and administrators deciding how long the rental period will last.

Please see RENTAL | 2

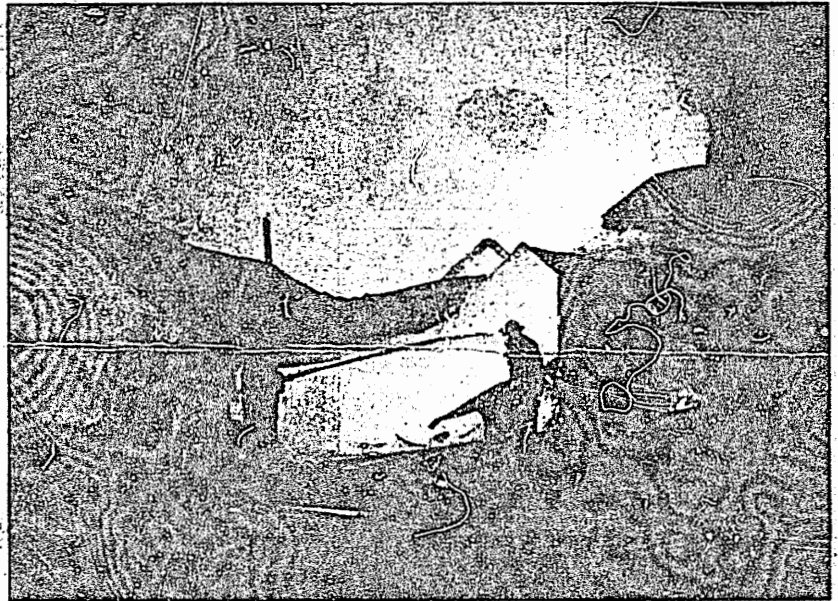
A BRIGHT IDEA



ISAAC SMITH | DAILY EGYPTIAN

Wastewater is filtered at the Wastewater Treatment Plant Monday in Murphysboro. Carbondale recently changed its municipal power provider from AmerenCIPS to MidAmerican Energy based on Ameren's anticipated rate increase this May. Murphysboro would need more information before considering a switch, said Sandra Ripley, city administrative assistant. For the full story, PLEASE SEE PAGE 3.

Business not extinguished by blaze



ISAAC SMITH | DAILY EGYPTIAN

Firefighters work to extinguish a fire Feb. 23 at Keen's Trucking and Auto Service in Murphysboro. Business owner Mike Keen said he has had the shop on 3765 Watt Hill Road for five years. Despite the fire destroying

the building, Keen said he has continued to conduct business. Construction of the new shop began Saturday and should be finished in about a month, he said. "The shop is going to be bigger this time," Keen said.

Ag dean officially enters interim shuffle

RYAN VOYLES
Daily Egyptian

After months of waiting, Todd Winters is back to where he has been all along.

Winters, who was the associate dean of the college, was officially named the interim dean of the Agricultural Sciences March 9 by interim Provost Don Rice, filling the vacancy left by the retirement of Gary Minlish in December.

Winters, who has been serving as the interim dean since Minlish's retirement, said his experience set him apart for the position.

"The biggest thing was I was the associate dean — I've been doing the job for the last couple of months, so that was big," he said. "I had the experience. I've gone up through the faculty ranks, department chairs."

Winters was among three candidates running for the position. He was chosen over David Shoup and Karen Midden, both professors in the forestry department.

Winters, who had served as the associate dean of the college since 2007, said Minlish helped prepare him for the responsibilities of a dean.

"Dean Minlish was a wonderful mentor," Winters said. "He let me do a lot of the reports and things you do as the dean. He pretty much shared everything that was going on in the college. I knew about the farms, the budget, everything

66 *want to do what's best for the college. As I've told everybody, if I'm not the best person, then I will gladly step aside.*

— Todd Winters
interim dean of Agricultural Science

he knew about, I knew."

Shoup said the biggest concern for the incoming dean is handling the budget.

"(Budget) is the critical issue right now, for all colleges," he said. "We haven't had any real solutions to the state's budget problems. Everybody has been putting them off since at least the last eight, 10 years."

"We need to find a way to pay the bills and the way to make those is to make cuts. Unfortunately, those cuts usually come out of faculty."

Winters said he is prepared to make any necessary cuts.

"It's part of the job," he said. "If I can't do that, then I probably shouldn't be in this position."

Winters said one of his goals as interim dean would be the continued growth in the college's enrollment, which he said has risen since he became associate dean.

"We've been up 21 percent in enrollment the last three years," he said. "There is no college on campus that even matches that. I still want to be in the plus this semester. I'm shooting for 1,000 enrolled in the college by the year 2011."

The college enrolled 955 students in fall

2009, according to university records.

Winters said he also wants to focus on the budget and to continue to push for the construction of a new agriculture building. The current building has been in use since 1955.

Rice has approved an internal search for a new interim associate dean, Winters said. He said he has been taking the responsibilities of both the dean and associate dean since January.

Winters may not want to get too comfortable with the position just yet.

Rice said a national search for a permanent dean of the college would begin in August. He said he would welcome Winters as a candidate if he chooses to apply.

Winters said he has not made a decision on if he will apply in the national search.

"I'm interested in the job, but I'll make the decision for sure when it comes up," he said. "I want to do what's best for the college. As I've told everybody, 'If I'm not the best person, then I will gladly step aside.'"

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Daily Egyptian

RENTAL
 CONTINUED FROM 1

"(Rental period) is custom based on the campus," he said. "If the faculty member adopts it for the course, the rental term will encompass what they want it to."

DiStoala said the group covers around 25 percent of all textbooks, with a main focus on core curriculum courses.

SIUC would not be the lone school in the state to implement a textbook rental program.

Eastern Illinois University and the University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana each have its own textbook rental program, while SIUC sister

school, SIU-Edwardsville, has been renting textbooks since 1965.

DiStoala said the response he has heard from all the universities has been outstanding.

"We surveyed more than 1,500 students at the seven universities," he said. "Upwards of 98 percent of people said they would want to rent with us again."

Randy Johnson, manager of 710 Bookstore, said 710 is also looking into some form of textbook rental, but it would not be the answer for everything.

"It's not as cut and dry as it appears, but we do understand the appeal of it," he said. "In most cases, if students did the math, they would

figure they are not financially better off renting, but it's hard to overcome. They don't normally do the math."

DiStoala said not only would the program help students, but the university as well.

"Our survey showed that students are more likely to go and get books at the university bookstores if the rent-a-textbook option is available," he said. "Now universities can have an advantage over Internet purchasing. Students don't have to worry about shipping and handling charges or selling books back."

Ryan Voyles can be reached at rvoyles@dailyegyptian.com or 536-3111 ext. 259.

AUDIT
 CONTINUED FROM 1

The report also showed that the Financial Aid Office at SIUC-Edwardsville misstated an amount on the Fiscal Operation Report

and Application to Participate by \$468,000. The amount recorded by the university was \$52,006, opposed to the actual \$520,006, according to the report.

"The discrepancy was due to a clerical error when an additional

zero was not added to make it the intended amount," it stated.

The report said state university officials accepted recommendations to improve controls over loan reporting and all other suggestions.

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About Us

The DAILY EGYPTIAN is published by the students of Southern Illinois University Carbondale 50 weeks a year, with an average daily circulation of 20,000. Fall and spring semester editions run Monday through Friday; Summer editions run Tuesday through Thursday. All intercession editions will run on Wednesdays. Spring break and Thanksgiving editions are distributed on Mondays of the pertaining weeks. Free copies are distributed in the Carbondale, Murphysboro and Carterville communities. The DAILY EGYPTIAN online publication can be found at www.dailyegyptian.com.

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.

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Upcoming Calendar Events

- C4 Juried Art Exhibition**
 March 30 to April 3 in the Surplus Gallery at the Glove Factory; admission is free
 - Submissions: \$15 per piece of art, limit of three pieces
 - C4 is hosting a Carbondale student and community art exhibition where cash prizes are given out!
 - Sponsored by the School of Art and Design, Critical Forum
- Helping Hands for Haiti**
 - 7 p.m. Wednesday at Golden Corral, Houlihan's and Southern Que BBQ
 - 10 percent of your meal tab will be donated via Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc. to CARE where 100 percent will go toward the Haiti earthquake relief efforts.
- Women and Leadership In Muslim World**
 - 7 p.m. today at the University Museum Auditorium
 - Free and open to public
 - Research, activities and impact of Carbondale AAUW branch project and accomplishments of Muslim Women
 - For more info please call (618) 454-5774

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Tuition waiver cuts fail to pass

JEFF ENGELHARDT
Daily Egyptian

University administrators want state legislators to solve the financial crisis, but Chancellor Sam Goldman said he is glad they did not do it through cuts to a tuition waiver.

A bill proposing the elimination of a 50 percent discount on tuition for children of employees who have worked at public universities for at least seven years failed to make it pass committee, said Dave Winters, sponsor of the bill.

Winters, R-Rockford, proposed the bill in December and said it was one of the potential ways the state could start chipping away at the \$13 billion deficit. He said it would have saved roughly \$6 million.

"We have to make some tough decisions and we're going to have to say no to some people," Winters said. "I'm disappointed no one in the Higher Education Committee was willing to take it up."

Goldman said he understands legislators are looking to save where they can, but the bill would not be worth the damage universities would incur for the "nickels and dimes" the state would save.

He said tuition discounts could be a big part

“We have to make some tough decisions and we’re going to have to say no to some people.”

— Dave Winters
R-Rockford, bill sponsor

of attracting faculty to universities. He said he has seen professors take jobs for less money at institutions that offer free tuition for their children.

"In my mind, (the waiver) is part of the salary equation and is often important for young families when they consider moving to a university," Goldman said. "They were asking one small, select group of people to help pay more of the state bill and I don't think that would work."

University spokesman Rod Sievers said 266 students are on the waiver at SIUC, which is a total of \$385,207 in savings.

Sandra Hostetler, a computer information specialist at SIUC, said she is glad her son will be included on that list when he starts at the university in the summer.

Hostetler, who has been at the university for 30 years, said she contacted her representative, Mike Bost, after hearing about the potential cut to the program. She said he was opposed to bill in the beginning and was helpful in defeating the proposal.

"(The waiver) is one of the best benefits about working here and we always assumed our son would come here because of it," she said. "It was reassuring to hear (Bost) say he was going to do what he could to stop the bill."

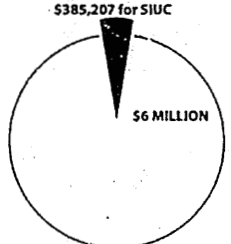
Bost, R-Murphysboro, said he was not planning on stopping at the defeat of House Bill 4706.

Bost said he also opposes legislation calling for the removal of the General Assembly scholarships. Members of the General Assembly are allowed to give up to four people scholarships for higher education each year.

Winters said the elimination of the General Assembly scholarships would save about \$12 million, but Bost said it would hurt universities by taking away potential students.

"It might be that a student would not have gone to that university without the waiver," Bost said. "They still pay student fees, they still live on campus and are in the community so they still bring money in."

Bost said while the scholarships will proba-



Source: University spokesman Rod Sievers, Rep. Dave Winters Public Tablet | DAILY EGYPTIAN

bly not be eliminated, an amendment could be added that puts restrictions in place to prevent favoritism.

Goldman said legislators are headed down the wrong road when it comes to making cuts in tuition waivers that allow students more access to higher education.

"These small cuts will not solve the financial crisis; they are looking in the wrong direction," Goldman said. "It would only do more harm to universities."

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Illinois cities: Bright idea to switch power companies

NICK JOHNSON
Daily Egyptian

Carbondale isn't alone in its decision to switch power sources, as officials from other Illinois municipalities said they've been benefiting from open-market power contracts since deregulation of the state's power industry in 2007.

The City Council voted unanimously at its March 2 meeting to begin power supply talks with MidAmerican Energy Company.

The Illinois Commerce Commission will decide in May whether to grant Ameren. Carbondale's former power supplier, a rate increase of \$226 million statewide. The company will also adjust hourly power costs, which would have affected major facilities in Carbondale, such as the southeast water treatment plant, the biggest power consumer in the city, City Manager

Mt. Vernon, Charleston save thousands

“We’ve actually seen a significant reduction in power costs over the last year and a half.”

— Scott Smith
Charleston City Manager

Allen Gill said.

The city plans to use MidAmerican Energy Company, one of the nation's largest private power companies, as a "broker" to get the best possible rate on generated power, Gill said at the March 2 meeting. AmerenCIPS will still distribute power, he said.

Centralia has been a MidAmerican customer since 2006, and City Manager Grant Kleinhenz said it has saved between \$50,000 and \$60,000 annually on power.

"In today's economy for municipalities, we have to keep look-

ing for efficiencies," Kleinhenz said. "Fifty or 60 (thousand dollars) a year makes a difference of being able to pay somebody's salary and benefits, or (for) a couple of police cars."

Mt. Vernon switched from AmerenCIPS to MidAmerican a little more than a year ago and has saved more than \$25,000 per year on power, City Manager Ron Neibert said.

Neibert said Ameren's possible rate hike, as well as Gov. Pat Quinn's recent proposal to decrease the amount of tax dollars given to city governments, is pushing municipalities to strike deals

with other power companies.

"(There's) a very big burden on municipalities," Neibert said. "Certainly ways to cut costs are going to be a big part of their operations."

Charleston, home to Eastern Illinois University, has been buying power on the open market since 2007, when it switched from AmerenCIPS to Integrys Energy, City Manager Scott Smith said.

At the time of deregulation, Charleston was faced with a \$250,000 increase in the price of power, Smith said.

By switching to Integrys, Smith said the city knocked off about \$170,000 from the increase.

Charleston has since switched power suppliers again and now buys from Ameren Energy Marketing, an Ameren entity separate from Ame-

renCIPS, for its open-market power needs, Smith said.

"It's worked out for us budget wise and we're very happy," he said. "We've actually seen a significant reduction in power costs over the last year and a half."

Sandra Ripley, city administrative assistant for Murphysboro, said power companies have approached Carbondale's western neighbor with offers, but the city doesn't have enough information to make a deal in the near future.

Marion Mayor Robert Butler said his city also hasn't gathered enough information to consider switching power suppliers.

Carbondale could save up to 18 percent on its energy supply bill with its switch to MidAmerican, Gill said.

Nick Johnson can be reached at njohnson@dailyegyptian.com or 536-3311 ext. 263.

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MIDDLE EAST

AFGHANISTAN
Afghan government held peace talks with Taliban No. 2
KABUL — The Afghan government was holding secret talks with the Taliban's No. 2 when he was captured in Pakistan, and the arrest infuriated President Hamid Karzai, according to one of Karzai's advisers.

MEXICO
Drug gang blamed for killings of three with ties to U.S. consulate
CIUDAD JUAREZ — Suspected drug gangsters chased down and opened fire on two white SUVs carrying families of U.S. consular employees from a children's party, killing three adults and injuring two children, officials said Monday.

WASHINGTON
Pentagon investigating report of private spy operation
WASHINGTON — A Defense Department official is under investigation for allegedly hiring private contractors to gather intelligence on suspected insurgents in Afghanistan and Pakistan, a U.S. official said Monday.

Senate unveils plan aimed at averting future financial crises

KEVIN G. HALL
 The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Eighteen months after Wall Street's brush with apocalypse, the Senate on Monday began to rewrite the nation's financial regulatory rules with the introduction of a sweeping bill designed to fix the causes of the deep economic crisis.

"The stakes are far too high ... for us to fail in this effort," Sen. Christopher Dodd, D-Conn., the chairman of the Senate Banking Committee, said when introducing the Financial Stability Act of 2010.

By Dodd's calculation, the Senate has no more than 70 working days before midterm elections this November to pass an overhaul and then narrow its differences with a bill the House of Representatives passed in December.

"We don't have many days left to actually get the job done, so we have some urgency," he said, adding that he tried but failed to strike a compromise with Republicans, who he said still had much input into the legislation.

Dodd's legislation — 1,336 pages in the online version — would create new consumer protections, grant first-ever authority to dissolve large firms that the government deems a threat to the financial system, and impose rules so that taxpayer money won't be used again to bail out big, troubled institutions.

Rep. Barney Frank, D-Mass., the chairman of the House Financial Services Committee, welcomed Dodd's version.

"There are some differences between the House-passed bill and Senator Dodd's version, but they are more alike than they are different."

There are some differences between the House-passed bill and Senator Dodd's version, but they are more alike than they are different. I believe that we will be able to work constructively together to meet the public need for a tough, comprehensive bill.

— Barney Frank
 chairman of the House Financial Services Committee

ent. I believe that we will be able to work constructively together to meet the public need for a tough, comprehensive bill," Frank said.

President Barack Obama also praised Dodd's bill, although he suggested that it's only a beginning.

"This proposal provides a strong foundation to build a safer financial system," Obama said in a statement. "It creates a new consumer financial protection agency to set and enforce clear rules of the road and establishes stronger supervision for the largest financial firms under the Federal Reserve."

Dodd's bill would create a Consumer Financial Protection Agency, as in the House version, but his proposal would house it within the Federal Reserve rather than create a stand-alone agency. This agency would write rules to govern a host of consumer credit products, ranging from mortgages and payday loans to credit cards.

Significantly, this independent agency, whose leader would be selected by the president and confirmed by the Senate, would also get enforcement powers. Republicans, banks and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce oppose that.

The new agency's rules would set a floor for consumer protection, so states could adopt tougher measures.

"This would disrupt the uniform and efficient operation of the

banking system, increase the cost of compliance, and potentially confuse consumers and businesses with a hodgepodge of rules and regulations," said Richard Hunt, the president of the Consumer Bankers Association, in a statement. Rather than streamlining banking regulation, consumers banking across state lines would be subject to different laws in different jurisdictions.

The idea for a consumer panel grew out of the writings of Elizabeth Warren, a Harvard University bankruptcy law professor who now heads a special Congressional Oversight Panel to oversee how taxpayers' bailout dollars are spent.

Warren and other consumer advocates objected to some parts of Dodd's approach, such as letting banks with assets of less than \$10 billion escape regulation by the new panel, and giving some veto power to financial regulators over the consumer unit. However, Warren praised Dodd's bill overall.

"Despite the banks' ferocious lobbying for business as usual, Chairman Dodd took an important step today by advancing new laws to prevent the next crisis. We're now heading toward a series of votes in which the choice will be clear: families or banks," Warren said in a statement.

Gail Hillebrand, a director of Consumers Union, the publisher of

Financial overhaul bills

How the House and Senate bills to overhaul regulation of the financial sector compare:

	House bill	Senate bill
Consumer protection panel	Would create a stand-alone Consumer Financial Protection Agency to regulate credit cards, mortgages, payday loans	Would be independent but within Federal Reserve; would write rules on credit cards, mortgages
Conflict of interest	Regulators could stop large banks from trading on behalf of customers and themselves	Would limit banks trading on behalf of customers and themselves
End to too big to fail bailouts	Fund would collect \$150 billion from largest banks to dissolve a troubled big bank	Would limit large, financial companies; unwind failing firms using \$50 billion fund collected from banks
Systemic risk	Regulators would empower Federal Reserve; could break up large companies; would oversee entire financial system	Nine-member Financial Stability Oversight Panel led by the Treasury Dept.; could break up large companies; would oversee entire financial system

Source: McClatchy Washington Bureau, U.S. Senate
 Graphic: Judy Traub

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Consumer Reports magazine, said tougher language is still needed.

"We need a government watchdog with real authority to protect consumers. Lawmakers should strengthen the Dodd proposal by making sure that the banking regulators who failed to prevent our current financial crisis can't stand in the way of needed consumer protection," she said.

The Senate bill differs from the House version in how it would guard against risks to the broader financial system. The House bill would grant broad new powers to the Federal Reserve to police the entire financial system for risks.

Dodd's bill calls instead for a nine-member Financial Stability Oversight Council, to be chaired by the Treasury Department with other members drawn from other

financial regulators, to watch out for risks. It would make recommendations to the Fed for strict rules to prevent banks from growing so large that their failure would pose a risk to the financial system. The September 2008 collapse of Lehman Brothers and subsequent rescue of insurer American International Group heightened attention to this concept of financial firms being "too big to fail."

Dodd's bill would broaden the Fed's powers over large banks, with assets greater than \$50 billion, and would allow it to regulate big non-bank institutions such as AIG.

Before the newly empowered Fed would be permitted to break apart a financial institution it deemed "too big to fail," two-thirds of the nine-member oversight panel would have to approve.

Woman, son missing after van found on Washington beach

The Associated Press

OLYMPIA, Wash. — A woman heading to her stepfather's house was "beyond lost" when she and her 8-year-old son took one wrong turn after another through the backroads of Thurston County and onto a private Puget Sound beach, authorities said Monday.

The minivan driven by Shantina Smiley, 29, was found partially submerged Sunday with its doors open. A wallet containing Smiley driver's license, some cash and credit cards were found in the van, but neither she nor her son was anywhere in sight.

"Apparently she got stuck and abandoned the car," said Lt. Chris Mealy of the county sheriff's office. There was no indication that a crime took place inside the 2005 Dodge Caravan, he added.

Detectives have traced Smiley's path from her home in Silverdale to the far reaches of Thurston County, more than 50 miles north of her stepfather's house in Castle Rock in Cowlitz County and far from any road that would have led her there.

Mealy said Smiley had called her fiancé Saturday night in northwest Olympia to update him on her lo-

cation because she had left her cell phone at home. An employee at an east Olympia diner where she bought a corn dog told investigators she left without her purchase and then tripped and fell walking back to her van, but Mealy said the fall was not serious.

The elderly couple who lived nearby said they let Smiley use their phone to call her grandfather, gave her son a piece of pizza, and then directed her back to the freeway. She wasn't heard from again.

"The homeowners said she acted nervous because she was lost," Mealy said. She was not injured but

spoke of an accident, which investigators believe may have been a reference to falling down at the diner.

Mealy said that as she left the home, Smiley made another series of driving errors that eventually led her to a hard-to-find dirt path and driving onto the beach.

"It gets dark up there. It gets really, really dark," Mealy said. "I was there Sunday afternoon. I had trouble finding that trail in the daylight."

Friends and family described Smiley as a responsible, mature, rational woman. She has no history of substance abuse, Mealy said.

Her fiancé, Robb Simmons, and Smiley's stepfather began searching for Smiley and her son, Azriel Carver, after she didn't arrive at their planned meeting spot Saturday. Azriel is a second-grader at Vinland Elementary in the North Kitsap School District, according to school principal Charley McCabe.

"I have no idea of why she would have ended up down that road," Simmons wrote on his Web site.

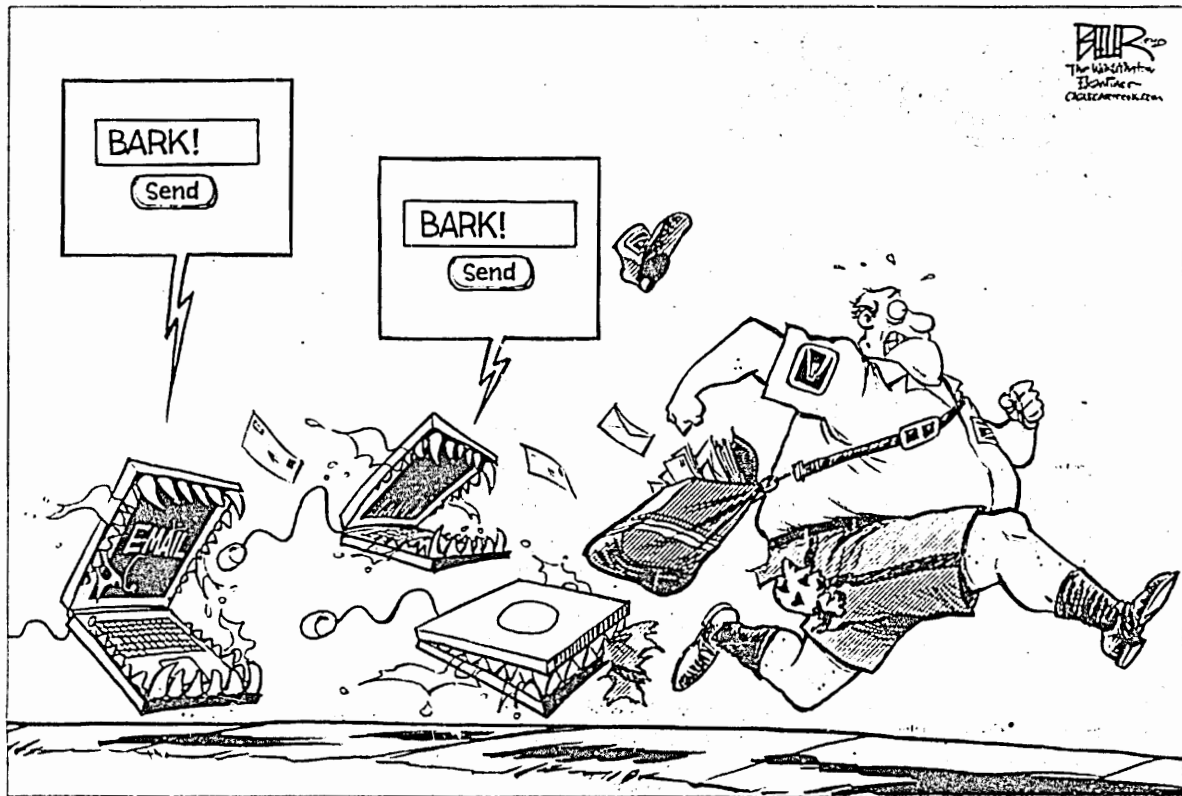
Mealy said Smiley has "no friends or relatives or lovers or boyfriends in Olympia or Thurston County."

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EDITORIAL CARTOON



GUEST COLUMN

Obama's 'unfriendly' push to help schools race to the top

LYNNE K. VARNER
McClatchy Tribune

Want to know how well President Barack Obama is doing on education reform? Check out who's angry with him.

The president infuriated teachers nationwide by endorsing a Rhode Island school board's recent firing of the entire staff at a poor-performing school. When a school fails its students year after year, Obama explained, at some point there must be accountability.

Good point.

Yet Rhode Island promises to become a litmus test as education unions reconsider their support for Obama, and by association, for Democrats.

This is a classic tempest in a teapot.

Yes, the teachers unions and their 4 million members worked hard to get Obama elected. So

they thought they owned him? Instead, they and the rest of us are seeing firsthand the president's independence and relentless push to make good on promised reforms.

I detected a similar steely resolve in the voice of Education Secretary Arne Duncan during a recent reporters' conference call about the \$4.35 billion Race to the Top competitive grants. Out of 41 states that applied for the grants, 16 are finalists and only one state — Colorado — is in the West.

I asked Duncan whether the administration's unyielding emphasis on large and systemic changes fed Washington's contention that it didn't stand a chance.

Duncan was unrepentant. States face a steep challenge trying to push sizable reforms through nervous legislatures. But at least half of the federal pot of money would be reserved for a second round, Duncan noted. State law-

The Obama administration may be making some enemies, but it deserves credit for using money, lots of it, to win friends in schools struggling with poverty and other challenges that interfere with academics.

makers: Put your game face on.

A tall order considering the Obama administration has embraced charter schools and this state equates them with something on the order of satanic rituals. Still, lawmakers here are trying. The state House passed an education-reform bill that includes stronger-than-expected language on evaluating principals and teachers. The Senate is going wobbly and the two sides must reach an agreement before the legislation can make it to the governor's desk.

Even with all the back and forth, changing law will be a piece of cake compared with changing the entrenched hearts and minds in education. Opposition to educa-

tion reform remains in some quarters a staple of state politics.

The Obama administration may be making some enemies, but it deserves credit for using money, lots of it, to win friends in schools struggling with poverty and other challenges that interfere with academics. A \$3.5 billion federal fund sends additional aid to schools ranked in the lowest 5 percent in terms of student achievement.

The feds are using the carrot-and-stick approach to force not just a conversation, but action, on improving schools. The perennially underfunded educational system is promised a lifesaving fiscal shot in the arm, but the money is earmarked for dismantling the status quo.

The conversation promises to turn sharper and more uncomfortable. The education secretary was in Selma, Ala., last week to mark the 45th anniversary of "Bloody Sunday," a day state troopers responded to peaceful civil-rights protesters by using billy clubs and tear gas.

Rather than the staid mantra of education as opportunity, Duncan sent a shot across the bow, noting a lapse on the part of the previous administration in ensuring equal opportunities in the classrooms.

Regular reviews are promised to ensure students have equal access to college-prep and advanced curriculum as well as STEM — science, technology, engineering and mathematics — programs. Count on the administration to pick up a few more enemies. The right ones.

Varnier is a columnist for The Seattle Times.

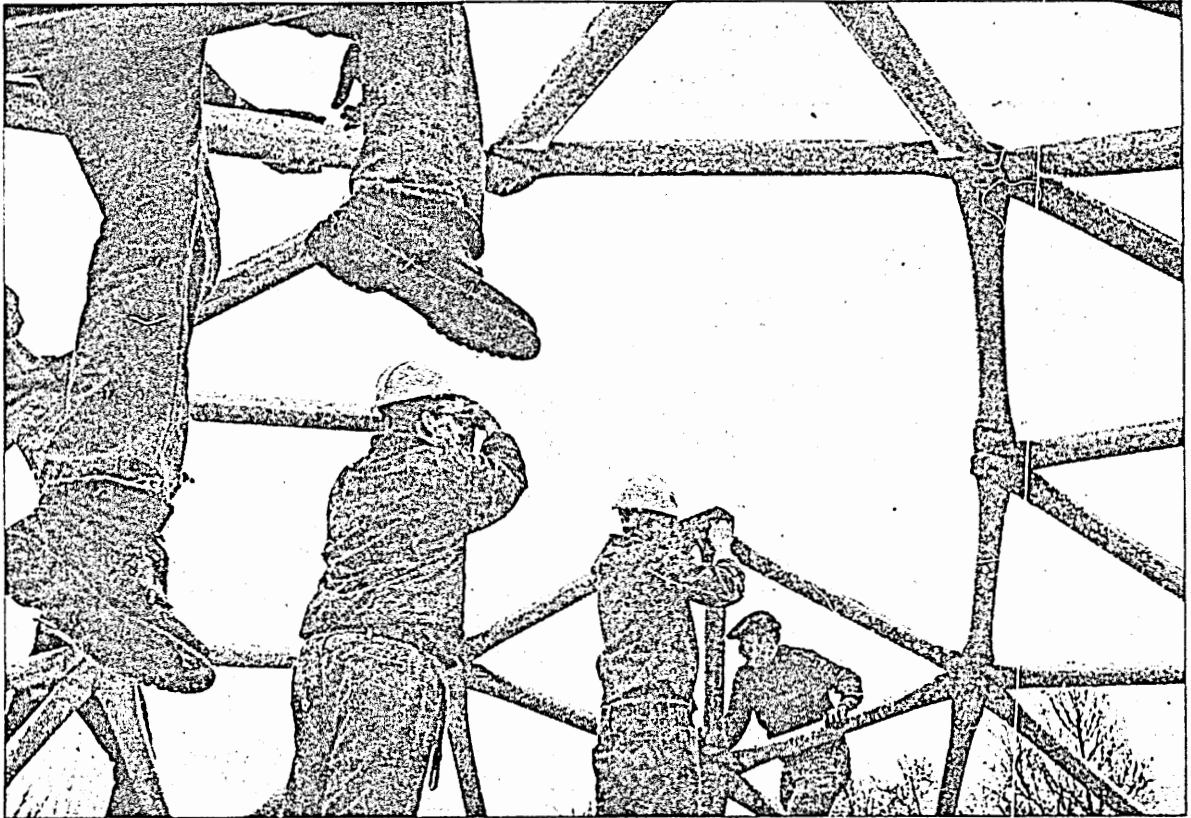
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THREE-HOUR DOME HOME



ISAAC SMITH | DAILY EGYPTIAN

Visiting architecture lecturer Thad Hackman, far right, works with architecture students to assemble a Bucky Dome Monday in front of Quigley Hall. The impromptu event was held to draw attention to the nationwide celebration of the 50th anniversary of the building of the R. Buckminster and Anne Hewlett Fuller Dome Home, according to a press release. Fuller's self-designed home at

the corner of Forest and Cherry Streets is currently awaiting a full restoration. Jon Davey, a professor of architecture, said that in light of Haiti's recent disaster, the geodesic dome's more structured design based on minimal materials would be a cost effective reconstruction strategy. A dome can take only three hours to build and could easily withstand an earthquake, Davey said.

Illinoisan gets 2½ years for stalking ESPN reporter

LINDA DEUTSCH
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — An Illinois insurance executive who secretly shot nude videos of ESPN reporter Erin Andrews was sentenced Monday to 2½ years in prison after giving a tearful apology that was harshly rebuked by

his victim.

Michael David Barrett pleaded guilty in December to interstate stalking after prosecutors accused him of following the reporter to at least three cities and shooting the videos through hotel peepholes.

Barrett, 48, of suburban Chicago, agreed to a 27-month prison sentence after pleading guilty but

it was up to the judge to decide how long he would actually serve.

Andrews urged the judge at the hearing for a harsher sentence and said she fears for her life every time she enters a hotel.

"You violated me and you violated all women," Andrews told Barrett. "You are a sexual predator, a sexual deviant and they

should lock you up."

After the sentencing, she said, "Thirty months isn't enough."

Barrett admitted renting hotel rooms next to Andrews three times and shooting two videos of her while she was naked. He was accused of posting the videos online and trying to sell them to Los Angeles-based celebrity gossip

site TMZ last year.

U.I. District Judge Manuel Real said he gave Barrett the maximum sentence under the law.

"The victim, Andrews, will be suffering with this problem for the rest of her life," Real said. "There is no life sentence that can be imposed upon him, except his own guilt."

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- 718 S. Forest 3
- 605 W. Freeman 3
- 507 S. Hays 2
- 509 1/2 S. Hays
- 208 W. Hospital #1
- 703 S. Illinois
- 101,102,201,202,203
- 612 S. Logan
- 400 W. Oak 3
- 410 W. Oak 1-5
- 202 N. Poplar 3
- 301 N. Springer 1, 2, 4
- 414 W. Sycamore E
- 404 1/2 S. University
- 406 S. University 1, 2, 4
- 606 1/2 S. University
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- 703 W. Walnut 1,2
- 400 S. Washington A,B

Two Bedroom

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- 609 N Allyn
- 616 N Allyn
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- 508 S Ash 1
- 514 S Ash 1-5
- 502 S Beveridge 2
- 507 S Beveridge 5
- 509 S Beveridge 1, 2, 4
- 512 S Beveridge 1-3, 5-7*
- 513 S Beveridge 2-3, 5
- 514 S Beveridge 1, 3-7
- 515 S Beveridge 1-4
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- 507 W. College 3-6
- 509 W. College 1, 2, 4, 5
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- 115 S. Forest
- 120 S. Forest
- 706 S. Forest
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- 402 E. Hester 2,3*
- 408 E. Hester 1, 3, 5, 7
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- 407 E. Mill
- 411 E. Mill
- 400 W. Oak 1
- 400 W. Oak 3
- 402 W. Oak E & W
- 501 W. Oak
- 507 W. Oak
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- 502 S. Beveridge 1
- 503 S. Beveridge
- 506 S. Beveridge
- 507 S. Beveridge 5
- 509 S. Beveridge 1, 2, 4,

- 513 S. Beveridge 2-3, 5
- 515 S Beveridge 1-4
- 510 N. Carico
- 604 N. Carico
- 205 W. Cherry
- 209 W. Cherry
- 309 W. Cherry
- 405 W. Cherry
- 501 W. Cherry
- 405 W. Cherry Court
- 407 W. Cherry Court
- 409 W. Cherry Court
- 300 E. College*
- 303 W. College
- 309 W. College 2-4
- 312 W. College 3
- 400 W. College 3-5
- 401 W. College 2-4
- 407 W. College 1,3,4
- 409 W. College 1-3,5
- 501 W. College 1, 3*
- 503 W. College 1
- 507 W. College 3
- 509 W. College 1, 2
- 710 W. College 2-3
- 807 W. College
- 809 W. College
- 810 W. College
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- 104 S. Forest
- 113 S. Forest
- 115 S. Forest
- 120 S. Forest
- 603 S. Forest
- 706 S. Forest
- 605 W. Freeman 1
- 607 W. Freeman
- 500 S. Hays
- 503 S. Hays
- 511 S. Hays
- 208 W. Hospital 2
- 401 S. James
- 815 N. James
- 407 E. Mill
- 409 E. Mill
- 411 E. Mill
- 417 W. Monroe
- 400 W. Oak 1, 2
- 402 W. Oak E, W
- 501 W. Oak
- 505 N. Oakland
- 511 N. Oakland
- 202 N. Poplar 1
- 506 S. Poplar 3-7
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- 519 S. Rawlings 2-5
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- 409 S. Beveridge
- 502 S. Beveridge A
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- 506 S. Beveridge
- 209 W. Cherry
- 309 W. Cherry
- 405 W. Cherry
- 300 E. College*
- 312 W. College 3
- 401 W. College 1-4
- 807 W. College
- 809 W. College
- 305 E. Crestview
- 104 S. Forest
- 511 S. Forest
- 603 S. Forest
- 500 S. Hays
- 505 S. Hays
- 208 W. Hospital 2
- 506 S. Poplar 3-7
- 519 S. Rawlings 1,6
- 404 W. Walnut
- 820 W. Walnut 1
- 6299 Murphysboro Rd.

Five Bedroom

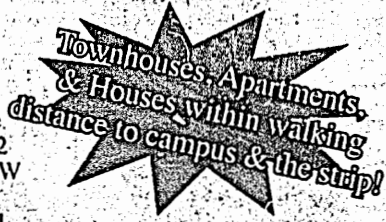
- 300 E. College*
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- 501 S. University

Six Bedroom

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Features

8 • Tuesday, March 16, 2010

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Quote of the Day

“We’re a pop band from the North Pole.”

Benny Anderson
co-founder of ABBA, explaining why he never expected the Swedish pop group to be inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame

‘Final Fantasy XIII’ solid entry in a long running series

DEREK ROBBINS
Daily Egyptian

“Final Fantasy XIII”
Console: PS3, Xbox 360
ESRB Rating: T (13+)
Published by: Square Enix
Developed by: Square Enix
★★★★☆

After about five years of development, “Final Fantasy XIII” has finally been released in North America.

It has not arrived without its share of controversy.

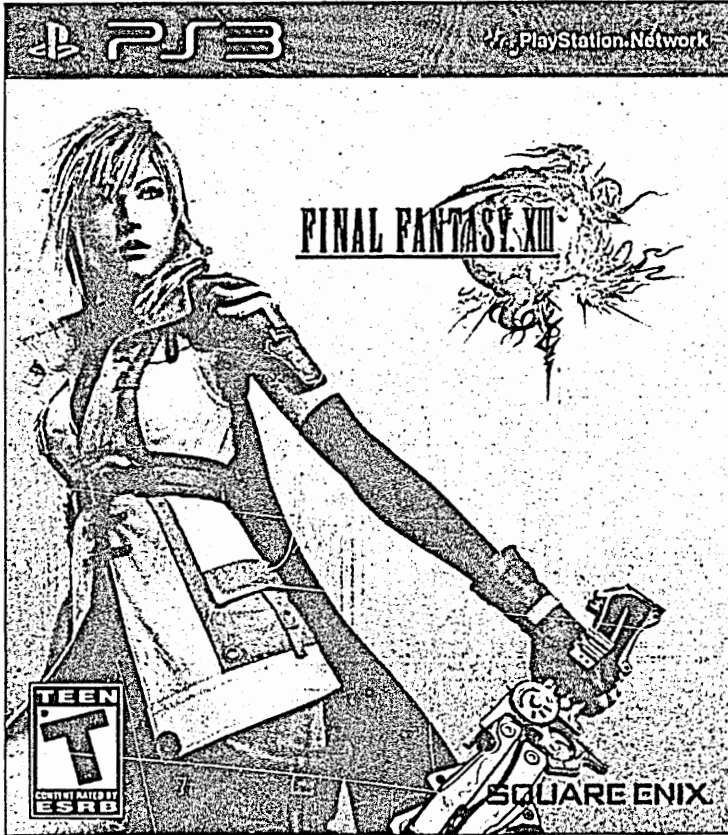
“FF XIII” is radically different than any “Final Fantasy” released before it. There are no towns, there are no minigames and there are no side quests. “FF XIII” is one giant, linear adventure that has trimmed down all the fat and leaves the player with pure game.

The franchise was built around these standards that were cut out and as a result, long-time fans of the franchise may feel betrayed. If players look past the game being untraditional, they are in for an interesting ride.

The player takes control of a group of six characters from a place known as Cocoon. Cocoon is a place where humans live to protect themselves from monsters from the land below, known as Pulse. As a result of the fear of monsters, all citizens of Cocoon fear Pulse.

The characters lives are altered when a being from Pulse, known as a Pulse fal'Cie (pronounced “Fool See”) enters Cocoon. This being infects five of the six characters, turning them into Pulse LCie (pronounced “La See”). Pulse LCie are considered by the inhabitants of Cocoon to be deadly and, as a result, their own homeland wants them dead. A sixth character joins the party later, and similarly, she is also a Pulse LCie.

While it may seem a little hard to follow, “FF XIII’s” plot is entertaining



PROVIDED PHOTO

once the lingo is deciphered. A convincing cast of characters moves the plot forward and makes the player interested in their rich world. While some of the characters start off a little rough — in particular Hope, a boy

who lost his mother — the rich characterization makes all of the characters relatable and likable.

The game play has also seen an overhaul. Instead of using the entire party, the player only has direct con-

trol over one character. Through this character, the player is able to issue commands for the whole party. While it may seem like a hands-off approach, the battle system moves along thanks to the paradigm system.

With the paradigm system, each character has a specific job or task. The game has classes such as healers, offensive magic users and characters who use brute force as well as others. Using the paradigm system, the player can switch the job of all of his or her characters to fit a situation. Early in the game it seems tedious, but in the later chapters it is vital. During some of the final boss fights, the player will be changing job classes often.

The combat requires a solid amount of strategy and remains strong throughout the long journey. “FF XIII” has the strongest combat in the entire series. Given that the series has been around since 1987, this is no small feat.

For the most part, the game is fairly straightforward. Through the first 10 chapters most paths are totally linear, occasionally offering the player a chance to wander off to get a treasure chest surrounded by powerful monsters. It feels restricting and may put off some gamers who are more used to the wide-open worlds of a traditional “Final Fantasy.”

When the game opens up in Chapter 11, “FF XIII” hits its stride. The player is put into a wide open field and is given the option to explore, as well as go through several side missions. While Chapter 11 is truly excellent, it takes about 20 hours to get there, which is entirely too long to get to such an awesome segment.

“Final Fantasy XIII” is a quality game with a very solid story, but the various game play decisions may put off some gamers. “FF XIII” is a love it or hate it title. If looking for something different, look here. Otherwise, it may be time to go back to dreaming of “Final Fantasy VII.”

Derek Robbins can be reached at drobbs@dailyegyptian.com or 536-3311 ext. 273.

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Saluki Insider

The NBA released the new power rankings this week, with the Cleveland Cavaliers moving back into first place with their win against the Boston Celtics. Who do you think is the hottest team in the NBA right now?



STILE T. SMITH
smithtd@dailyegyptian.com

Despite getting slaughtered by New York in its last game, Dallas has been the best team in the NBA during the course of March. The team had won 13 consecutive games before being topped by the Knicks, and it appears as though the deal to bring Caron Butler to Dallas has made it a title contender.

For once I can talk about my Milwaukee Bucks with pride. There is no doubt they are the hottest team after winning 12 of their last 13 games, including six in a row. Consecutive wins against Cleveland, Boston and Utah have brought the Bucks closer to establishing themselves as the undisputed fifth-best team in the East.



JEFF ENGELHARDT
jengelhardt@dailyegyptian.com

Oklahoma City's Kevin Durant is the next superstar to be put up there with the Kobes and LeBrons of the league. Durant has led the Thunder to a 41-24 record, far exceeding anyone's expectations for the young team. They sure are fun to root for, but I don't think they are quite where they need to be in order to go all the way.



TIMOTHY HEHN
thehn@dailyegyptian.com

TRACK

CONTINUED FROM 12

"We had a young team, and it was nice to have them go in there and compete at the level they competed at without fear, which is good at a national champion-

ship," head coach Connie Price-Smith said. "We have a lot to look forward to in the future."

The indoor championships mark the end of the indoor season, and the beginning of the outdoor season. The Salukis get this weekend off and return to com-

petition March 26-27, when they host the SIU Spring Classic, the only home meet of the outdoor season.

Timothy Hehn can be reached at thehn@dailyegyptian.com or 536-3311 ext. 282.

UConn, Stanford, Tennessee and Nebraska top seeds

DOUG FEINBERG
The Associated Press

Connecticut's path to another perfect season could include a renewal of the most heated rivalry in women's college basketball.

The undefeated Huskies earned the No. 1 overall seed in the NCAA women's basketball tournament Monday night and will open against Southern in Norfolk, Va.

Geno Aurienma's Huskies have won an NCAA record 72 straight games, but none of them have come against Pat Summitt's Lady Vols. The two pre-eminent teams in the sport broke off their annual matchup in 2007 in a testy split.

The two teams could meet in the national semifinals in San Antonio if both come through their regions.

"I'm not surprised that they

would line us up with Connecticut if we both come out," said Summitt, whose team earned a record 20th No. 1 seed. "They want to see that matchup. We're a long way from thinking about that matchup."

Aurienma isn't focusing on that game — yet.

"I would venture to say that after that game is over, if we are fortunate enough to win it, I think there will be a lot of coaches and players on our team that will be smiling a little bit," Aurienma said.

Ten teams have entered the NCAA tournament unbeaten; only five have emerged victorious. UConn and Aurienma have done it three times, including last season.

Stanford and Nebraska earned the other No. 1 seeds.

The Cardinal, the last team to beat Connecticut, earned their

first No. 1 seed since 1998. Tennessee earned the No. 1 seed a year after getting bounced from the tournament in the first round. And Nebraska has its first No. 1 seed in school history after winning its first 30 games this season. The Cornhuskers lost their only game of the season in the Big 12 tournament semifinals.

"We evaluated Nebraska's resume, and even though they lost in the Big 12 tournament we felt that it was important to keep them on that first line," NCAA selection committee chair Jane Meyer said.

The Huskies (33-0), too, have run through their opponents this season, winning by an average of 35 points. In search of its seventh national championship, UConn is looking to become the fifth team to win consecutive titles. Tennessee last did it in 2007 and 2008.

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NBA: Who is the NBA's hottest team?

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PAGE 11

TRACK & FIELD

McCall breaks Valley, school records

Dawgs fetch five All-American honors in four events

TIMOTHY HEHN
Daily Egyptian

Sophomore thrower Jeneva McCall capped her outstanding indoor field season by entering the SIU record books, breaking the Missouri Valley Conference record with her toss of 56-07.25 in the shot put.

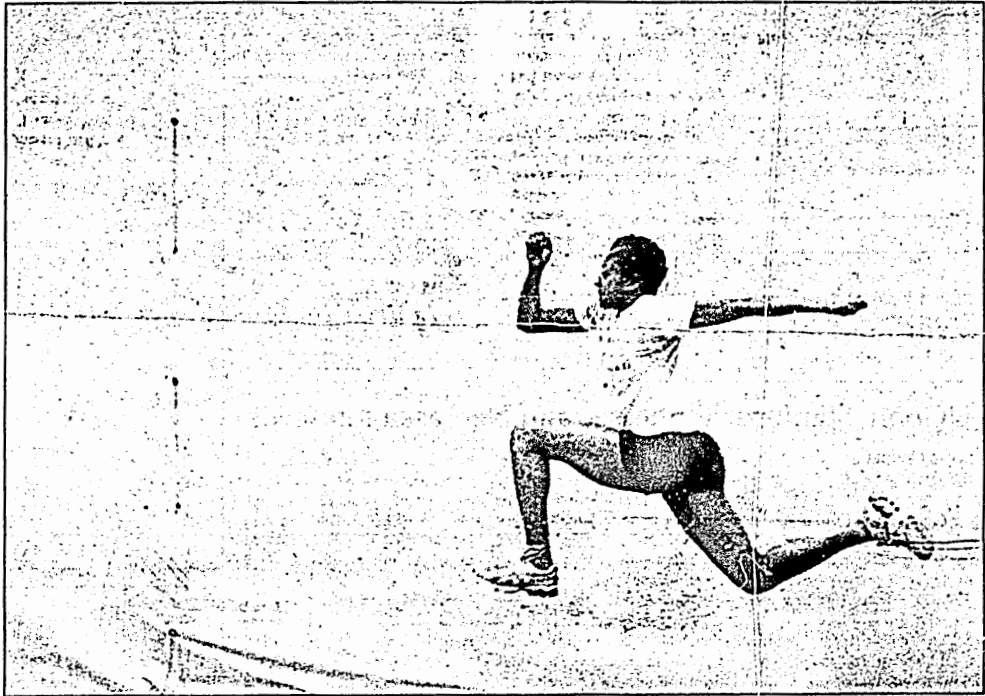
McCall's third-place finish in the event earned her All-American honors at the 2010 NCAA Track and Field Indoor Championships, held Friday and Saturday in Fayetteville, Ark.

"I threw the shot as hard as I could on the first throw — on the second, I worked on my technique," McCall said. "So on the third throw, I put the two together."

McCall, recently named the US Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association's Midwest Field Athlete of the Year, took fourth place in the women's weight throw on a toss of 67-10.96, while senior Sasha Leeth's throw of 64-04.04 grabbed a ninth-place finish for the Salukis, joining both women All-American honors in the women's weight throw competition.

However, Leeth and McCall made up only half of the four Salukis to return home as All-Americans, as sophomores J.C. Lambert and Malaikah Love achieved the same honors in the men's weight throw and women's indoor pentathlon, respectively.

Love's 3,916 points in the women's indoor pentathlon — an event consisting of the 60 meter dash, long jump, high jump, shot put and 800



Pentathlete Malaikah Love strides down the runway while practicing triple jump during a track practice Jan. 28 at the Recreation Center. Love was one of six Salukis who attended

the 2010 NCAA Track and Field Indoor Championships Friday and Saturday. Love won All-American honors in the pentathlon, where she placed 11th.

GENNA ORD | DAILY EGYPTIAN

meter run — earned her an 11th-place finish overall, while Lambert's toss of 65-09.50 in the men's weight throw earned him a 14th-place finish.

"I wanted to make the finals, but I messed up the finish," Lambert said. "I was just happy to go and compete, but next year I would like to finish in the top five or six."

All-American is a title given to those who finish in the top eight overall, or the top eight finishers

among U.S. citizens, hence why Leeth, Love and Lambert all received such honors despite finishing ninth, 11th and 14th, respectively.

Juniors Gwen Berry and Rickard Roach competed in the weight throw, with the latter taking 15th place on a throw of 59-01.84 and Berry fouling out.

Berry would later finish 14th in the shot put with a toss of 52-03.25 on day two of the national meet.

However, neither Berry nor Roach received All-American honors.

Throws coach John Smith said he thinks the temperature change from day one to day two of Arkansas' indoor track may have been a factor in Berry and Roach's performance.

Smith said Berry and Roach, who both use three turns on their throws, had trouble adjusting to the temperature drop of roughly 25 degrees, as it made each throwers rotation's

slower due to the stickiness of the ring.

While taking home All-American honors is not new for SIU, getting at least one All-American in each of the events competed in is, and marks the first time in indoor school history in which the Salukis have accomplished such a feat.

Please see TRACK | 11

Salukis fail to live up to pre-season expectations



The 2009-10 season was the most disappointing year for the SIU men's basketball team in recent memory.

Yes, it finished with a worse overall record (13-18) in 2008-09, but that was expected to be a rough season. Aside from point guard Bryan Mullins, the team was losing the core that took it to the NIT the year before and helped it to the Sweet 16 of the 2007 NCAA Tournament.

The 2008-09 season was supposed to bring hope for the team,

It introduced fans to one of the best recruiting classes in recent memory with the likes of Ryan Hare, Justin Bocot, Anthony Booker, Torres Roundtree, Nick Evans and 2008 Illinois Mr. Basketball Kevin Dillard.

But by the halfway point of this season, Nick Evans quit the team and was the third member of that class, including Hare and Roundtree, to part ways with the program.

The team got off to a good start this season, but its 9-2 record was no better than the 5-6 start SIU started with in 2008-09. While the Salukis were busy beating up on teams such

as the University of Tennessee Martin and Southeast Missouri this season, they were hanging tough with teams such as Duke and UCLA the season before.

The 13-18 record from last season may look worse than the 15-15 mark the team put up this season, but if you look at the team's Missouri Valley Conference record, it tells another story.

Last season, the Salukis finished 8-10 in the MVC, securing the No. 5 seed in the MVC Tournament and avoiding the Thursday play-in game.

They still lost in their first game against Bradley, but that was not

nearly as embarrassing as finishing 6-12 in the conference this season, securing ninth place in a 10-team league and bowing out in the Thursday game to Drake.

The 2009-10 squad was expected to be the "Return to Greatness" as the team's slogan suggested. The much heralded class was a year older and much more experienced, and the team was bringing in Tony Freeman, a sharpshooting transfer guard from Iowa.

But the team never could click, going 3-9 in Missouri Valley Conference games decided by five points or less, and turning that 9-2 start into a 13-15 finish and an exit

from the MVC Tournament in the Thursday play-in round.

Anyone who watched this team would be blind not to see all the individual talent on the squad, but for some reason the sum did not add up to the whole.

Maybe the team just wasn't ready yet. Maybe it just ran into bad luck. Or maybe it just wasn't as good as the preseason No. 4 pick it received in the conference.

We'll just have to wait till next year to see.

Sale T. Smith can be reached at smith@dailyegyptian.com or 536-3311 ext. 256.