The Daily Egyptian, October 12, 2006

Daily Egyptian Staff
Fire set in former junior high

Man arrested in connection with incident

Brandon Augsburg  
DAILY EGYPTIAN

A Crystal Lake man was arrested early Wednesday morning after a Carbondale police officer spotted a fire burning in one of the classrooms of the old Lincoln Junior High building.

Officers found Kevin D. Pempek, 28, of Crystal Lake at the building, located at 501 S. Washington St., around 3:45 a.m., and he was arrested after a short investigation.

Pempek was charged with two felonies — criminal damage to government property and arson of person/real/property — and one misdemeanor — criminal trespassing. He was transported to the Jackson County Jail in Murphysboro where he remains. A Nov. 2 preliminary hearing is scheduled.

The Carbondale Fire Department responded to the scene and extinguished the fire.

The Carbondale Police Chief John Michalek said the fire was most likely started using books, paper or furniture already in the building.

Fire Location

Fall in the air in southern Illinois. A chill in the weather, changing colors on the trees and preparations for the coming winter are all signs of the season. Daily Egyptian photographers captured some scenes of fall around Carbondale, see page 8.

Police investigating 3 sexual assaults reported in Schneider

Alicia Wade  
DAILY EGYPTIAN

The SIUC police department has issued a campus safety alert after three sexual assaults were reported in Schneider Hall on Saturday.

The first incident occurred between 1:45 and 2:30 a.m. According to a police report, an 18-year-old female student was allegedly sexually assaulted. Two male students have been identified as suspects, according to the police report, and the investigation continues.

No further details were available.

An unrelated incident occurred between 3:20 and 4 a.m. According to the campus safety alert, two 18-year-old female students were allegedly sexually assaulted in Schneider Hall when they heard a noise in the hallway. The victim reportedly said she thought it may have been friends and opened the door. She told police she saw three males standing in the hallway, closed the door and returned to her room. The two suspects then opened the door, entered the room, sexually assaulted both women and left.

The first suspect, who goes by the name “Jay,” is described in the police report as a black male, 5-feet-10-inches tall, with black,

See INVESTIGATION, Page 13

USG looking to recoup lost money

Wayne Utterback  
DAILY EGYPTIAN

Undergraduate Student Government is looking at the options it may have to take back money the Graduate and Professional Student Council has in reserve.

The reserves, which total around $109,000, have been considered a result of misappropriation based on population and not based on average credit hours. An audit by the SIU president’s office discovered the error and corrected it, resulting in $30,000 being stripped from GPSC.

Democrats White, a senator representing the College of Liberal Arts, said student groups have been asking about getting money back from what Graduate and Professional Student Council has in reserve.

“Research is being done to see how far back this goes,” White said. “We’re going to request money from GPSC. We think that USG asked for the money back. We said it was one of the concerns he had with GPSC, so if anything can be done to recoup lost funds. Sermersheim said it was fair to look into the excess funds GPSC has if it was done so in a fair manner.

Ed Ford, vice president of administrative affairs for GPSC, said he was not surprised that USG asked for the money back. He said it was one of the concerns he had with GPSC, so it was done so in a fair manner.

Ford said, “We don’t know what’s going to happen.”

Senators also voted to continue supporting the university’s definition of plagiarism, which is “representing the work of another as one’s own work.”

Matthew Puziotti, representing the College of Liberal Arts, was one of the senators who co-wrote the bill and said passing the resolution would be favorable for the university.

See USG, Page 13

Friday hearing set for student in pork prank

Brandon Weisenberger  
DAILY EGYPTIAN

The student accused of putting a cooked pig’s head on the hood of Chancellor Walter Wendler’s car is due to appear before Student Judicial Affairs.

Garth Kiser, a 28-year-old senior from Murphysboro, faces disorderly conduct and harassment charges, along with the possibility of suspension or expulsion, after the May 11 incident.

The SIUC authorities accused Kiser of placing the head on Wendler’s Crown Victoria, which was parked in the chancellor’s spot near Anthony Hall. Kiser is also accused of taping a poster board with the words “Wendler, stop pigging out on tuition $$!!” to the car and sending a mass e-mail that
Board of Trustees meeting at SIUC

A presentation on designs for a core curriculum building in the long-range plan Saluki Way will be heard by the assistant professors of architecture Michael Brady and Craig Anz. The presentation, along with associate professors Thomas Calhoun, SIUC architecture students have worked up plans for the building, which is intended to be the primary building for the core curriculum during the next decade. A criminal sexual assault occurred between 3:20 and 4:00 a.m. Saturday at Schneider Hall. There are no suspects at this time.

A theft of lost or misplaced property occurred between 1:30 and 1:50 p.m. on Monday at Lot 52. A vehicle was reported damaged. There are no suspects at this time.

A theft of a motor vehicle occurred between 10:30 p.m. on Monday and 2:30 p.m. on Tuesday at the Agriculture Building. There are no suspects at this time.

A theft of a motor vehicle occurred between 1:30 and 3:30 p.m. on Saturday at Lot 15. An SIUC parking decal was reported stolen. There are no suspects at this time.

Criminal damage to property occurred between 3:20 and 4:00 a.m. Saturday at Schneider Hall. There are no suspects at this time.

Criminal damage to property occurred between 10:30 p.m. on Monday and 2:30 p.m. on Tuesday at the Agriculture Building. A backpack was reported stolen. There are no suspects at this time.

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Jesse Ruiz: Race should not impede learning opportunities

By Sean McGahan

Jesse Ruiz said he is determined to give all students in the state of Illinois, regardless of race, a chance at a high-quality education.

Ruiz, chairman of the Illinois State Board of Education, spoke on Latinos’ contributions to America’s future at the Student Center Auditorium on Wednesday night as a part of Latino Heritage Month, which runs from Sept. 15 to Oct. 15.

“Tin Mexican American. Every time I look in the mirror, I can’t forget that, and I don’t want to forget that,” Ruiz said.

Gov. Rod Blagojevich appointed the Chicago-born attorney to the top of the education board in 2004.

“As chairman, he oversees the education of every student in Illinois from preschool to 12th grade and administers an $8.4 billion state education board in 2004. Ruiz said his parents, who came to the United States as migrant workers in the early 1940s, helped inspire him to do it for others as well,” Ruiz said.

Ruiz has helped to implement several changes in the Illinois education system, including starting universal preschool programs and handing out harsher punishments for schools that break the law by refusing to educate children of illegal immigrants.

Ruiz said his parents, who came to the United States as migrant workers in the early 1940s, helped inspire him to make these changes.

“It’s a very wonderful country. They believed in it, and that kind of made me believe in it as well and also want to help our efforts by, I can’t pay them back, but I can show them I respect what they did and that I will try to do it for others as well,” Ruiz said.

Jose Rodriguez, a senior from Chicago studying communication design, said he found Ruiz’s words very educational.

“I think it’s a lot harder to go up to higher education and get a better education if you don’t have role models. He did inspire me. I have to be here in college for myself but I should also help my people in my community,” Rodriguez said.

Coordinator for diversity and equity Carmen Suarez said she invited Ruiz in hopes of inspiring not only Latino students, but also all individuals who came to hear him speak.

“Here is a fellow citizen. Here is someone who helps direct the direction, at least for now, of our state and maybe someday of our nation. This is a fellow American that we all ought to be proud of,” Suarez said.

Sean McGahan can be reached at sean_mcgahan@dailyegyptian.com.
Yankees pitcher killed in New York plane crash

President George W. Bush walks from a news conference in the Rose Garden of the White House in Washington. Bush on Wednesday urged "serious repercussions" for North Korea's apparent nuclear test but said the United States remained committed to diplomacy and had no intention of attacking.

Los Angeles

**LOS ANGELES** (AP) — The charge of treason was used for the first time in the United States' war on terrorism Wednesday, filed against a California man who appeared in propaganda videos for al-Qaida.

A law enforcement official in Washington said Lidle — an avid sports talk radio for saying the team is "overrated," then turned red as part of a chemical reaction, she said. 

The high schoolers attend classes, perform errands for lawmakers.

In recent days, his staff will have to explain to the investigators why they did not act sooner, he said.

Larry Margasak  THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — House officials who directly supervise weekend operation questions Wednesday by ethics committee investigators probing Hastert's conduct.

In a statement, Hastert's office said the speaker's staff first learned about Foley's inappropriate messages to pages.

The page made news Thursday, October 12, 2006
Money for Meth fight

| State Line Area Narcotics Team (SLANT) Task Force | Lake County MTD | "John Dunbar  The Associated Press"
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AT&T-BellSouth merger plan

John Dunbar The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Justice Department on Wednesday approved the $78.5 billion deal to merge AT&T and BellSouth, creating the nation’s largest telecommunications company.

The decision cheers consumer advocates and company executives but outlaws consumer advocates and company executives but outlaws

Brandon Augsburg Daily Egyptian

Justice Department approves AT&T-BellSouth merger plan

Deb Riechmann The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The federal deficit fell to a four-year low in the budget year that just ended, a result President Bush pointed to Wednesday in claiming Republicans are better stewards of the economy than are Democrats.

Federal deficit falls to lowest level in four years

No matter what your major is this week.  YOU CLEARLY HAVE ECONOMICS COVERED.

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Federal deficit falls to lowest level in four years

Brandon Augsburg can be reached at 536-3311 ext. 262 or brandon.augsburg@dailyegyptian.com.

Brandon Augsburg

Drug enforcement groups across the state will receive $5.3 million in federal grants to fight methamphetamine and other drugs this year.

The Southern Illinois Enforcement Group, which polices Jackson, Williamson and Union counties, will receive a $342,496 grant. Rob Fischer, the director of SIEG, said the extra funding helps the group keep a satisfactory number of agents on duty.

"These funds are vital for our effort," he said. "Without them, we’re looking at reducing our workforce and overworking our agents."

He said the grant essentially buys four agents for the group, making up 40 percent of SIEG’s workforce.

He said the federal government doles out grants every year as part of the Edward Byrne Memorial State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance Program, which is part of the federal Anti-Drug Abuse Act. He said the grant is used primarily to fight meth use, but the agents also deal with cocaine, crack, cocaine and cannabis.

"Those agents that are employed deal with meth but also other drugs," Fischer said.

Gov. Rod Blagojevich also announced the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority will use $50,000 of the grant to create the Clandestine Laboratory Reporting Information System. CLARIS will be a Web site and online database that will allow all law enforcement agencies in Illinois to report meth lab seizures.

The reports will then be sent to the El Paso Intelligence Center, the federal government’s meth data clearinghouse.

Cristin Monti-Evans, spokeswoman for the state’s criminal justice information agency, said the new system would allow for all meth-related data to be tracked, whereas in the past only partial data was compiled. EPIC requires a membership fee through regional data compilers that did not allow smaller law enforcement agencies to submit their data.

"The reason it’s so important is because by getting all the data and all the law enforcement agencies having access, they can get us the data to really measure the meth problem," she said.

Monti-Evans said tracking meth data helps agencies when applying for federal grant money. She said the agency hopes meth numbers are not high, but if they are, the agency must know so they can get the proper funding to battle the problem.

CLARIS should be operational early next year.

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OK, graduate students, you’ve cut the calories, now trim the fat.

Last year, Graduate and Professional Student Council had more than $100,000 in its roll-over fund. A lot of things come to mind for how that $100,000 of student activity fee money could be used. Namely, graduate students’ professional development and activities.

When a summer-time audit found that $30,000 had been misappropriated to the graduate students for the past several years, the hand-wringing began.

Since then, several ideas have been bounced around about what the council could stand to lose. Shockingly, those ideas included first cutting, then eliminating, money given to support graduate student groups and eventually phasing out reimbursements for conferences that graduate students attend.

Even though the council consists of graduate students, perhaps we need to remind its leaders that those who attend graduate school must, and should, attend conferences and seminars to further their education. They also represent the university when they travel to present their research.

Jean Porter, vice president of Black Graduate Students Association and a first-year member on the council, said the hefty sum in the rollover account began about five years ago. She said the council had decided to protest the student activity fee raise and to show the administration that the increase was unnecessary.

If this is true, that sure was some protest, huh? Were there really no graduate students who needed funding for conferences? Were there no student groups who wanted to sponsor a speaker? The best way to protest was to horde the money?

While we can appreciate fiscal responsibility, $100,000 in unspent money should be used to balance the $30,000 loss. Don’t make the students suffer because the money was taken away.

The budget shows that these two expenditures result in much of the council’s money, but cut a salary, shred the office needs; two expenditures result in much unnecessary.

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Seeing Maroon

When I walked onto the field Saturday afternoon at McAndrew Stadium, I expected to see a larger crowd than usual, but I did not expect to see the bleachers on both sides of the field completely blanketed in maroon and white. This was my first Homecoming at SIUC, and I have to say, I got a bit anxious when I saw a crowd of more than 13,000.

I couldn’t wait for the game to begin, even though I am not usually too enthused about sports. I had been to the Homecoming parade and tailgating earlier in the day. This must have somehow managed to awaken the sports fan within me because by the time I made my way onto the field, I found myself desperately longing to see the Salukis ravage their opponents.

After the Salukis first touchdown, the SIU fans at McAndrew Stadium unleashed a tremendous roar that made the hair on my neck and arms stand straight up and probably set off car alarms in the parking lot. In fact, every time the Salukis did something good, the crowd’s response was deafening.

Throughout the game, I could see the fans and players feeding off each other’s energy. Watching the fans react to the players and the players react to the fans was the highlight of the game for me. I think that this interaction between the players and the fans is what will make the Homecoming game stand out among a season of great games.

This photo never made its way onto the sports page, nor did it accompany someone’s story, but it does a nice job of summing up my experience at the Homecoming game. In the photo, senior defensive ends Micah King and Lorenzo Wims and freshman linebacker Chauncey Mason, from left, look into a crowd of cheering fans.
Falling into the SEASON

The colors and activities that come with the fall season are too numerous to capture in one frame. Here at the DAILY EGYPTIAN, fall has many meanings for us as photographers. We just wish these things could happen all year:

“Hoodies, bonfires and hayrides.”
Melissa Barra

“Playing football and eating a lot of soup and chili.”
Lane Christianse

“The piles of leaves on the side of the road.”
Brett Nadal

“That extra effort to stay warm . . .”
DuVale Rile

“Brisk days and pumpkin spice lattes at Starbucks.”
Keli Billingsley

“Cooler weather and the pretty trees everywhere.”
Jake Lockard
Get it.
At Extern 2007.
A week long, real life job experience, in your chosen career field.
Here.
Information Sessions
Student Center, Ohio Room
at 5:30 pm
Thursday, October 19th
Tuesday, October 24th


tow, a new room was created for children 6 weeks to 23 months old, whereas in the past, children from 6 weeks to 23 months old were in the same room, she said.

The four rooms separate the children by age, therefore allowing them to participate in age appropriate activities, she said. The facility cares for children ranging from 6 weeks to 4 years old, along with a few 5-year-olds who will start kindergarten next fall, Johnson said.

Unlike most childcare facilities, the center has two large playgrounds, which separate the older kids from the younger ones. And on rainy or cold days, children still get to exercise, thanks to a large gymnasium inside of the center, Johnson said.

Stacey Massie said she has been bringing her son, Chance, to the center for two weeks and is extremely satisfied with the service. She said she chose the center after the suggestion of friends, who also take their children there.

"When we visited, it was open, and the kids were all playing," she said. "It seemed happy, and we like the workers here." Johnson said the center has made many positive changes in the last two years, including remodeling.

"My goal is to get all of Carbondale aware of what a great facility this is," she said. "It seems happy, and we like the workers here." City Manager Jeff Doherty attributes the increase in enrollment to the improvements of the center, along with other things.

"We had done significant remodeling at the facility, and it's just become an attractive daycare center for parents to have their kids at," he said. "I think a lot of it is word of mouth."

In addition to increased enrollment and the extra room, Johnson formed a parent group of parents whose children attend the center, she said. Johnson and the center for two weeks help to arrange donate activities for the children and collects donations for the center.

"The most recent was a scholastic book fair that was held Monday," she said. "Neil Young of Murphysboro has been bringing his 10-month-old daughter to the center for seven months and said the center is fantastic."

"Neil said his daughter is different than most children at the center because she wears cloth diapers and is a vegan."

"The people here have treated her very well," he said. "I would definitely recommend this place to anyone and everyone."

Liz Choate can be reached at 536-3312 ext. 258 or liz_choate@delyegyptian.com.

Liz Choate
DAILY EGYPTIAN

Enrollment increases at Eurma C. Hayes Center

In her two years as director of the Eurma C. Hayes Child Care Center, Liz Johnson has seen the center's enrollment increase, started a parent group and added an additional room to the facility. The center has 49 children enrolled, which is 13 more than it had at this time last year, and with the addition of a fourth room, enrollment may increase again, Johnson said.

The new room was created for children 6 weeks to 32 months old, whereas in the past, children from 6 weeks to 23 months old were in the same room, she said.

The four rooms separate the children by age, therefore allowing them to participate in age appropriate activities, she said. The facility cares for children ranging from 6 weeks to 4 years old, along with a few 5-year-olds who will start kindergarten next fall, Johnson said.

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U.N. Security Council agrees on the need for sanctions against Iran

VIENNA, Austria — The five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council agreed Tuesday to start working on U.N. sanctions against Iran next week but failed to bridge differences on how harsh the penalties should be.

They told The Associated Press that while the U.S. called for broad sanctions to punish Iran's efforts to develop a nuclear program, Russian and Chinese representatives at a top-level Vienna meeting favored less severe measures.

The diplomats and government officials demanded anonymity in exchange for discussing the confidential meeting of the five Security Council countries and Russia, which co-chairs the committee.

They said the United Nations is sending signals to Iran that the world wants to punish the country for its defiance in pursuing its nuclear program, but without resorting to too severe measures.

"We've changed, and people need to understand at the facility, and it's just absolutely fantastic," she said. "I think a lot of it is word of mouth."

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Police arrested a suspected arsonist after responding to a fire at the old Lincoln Junior High building, located at 501 S. Washington St, early Wednesday morning.

City Manager Jeff Dalherty previously said the city wanted to demolish the vacant building and had no plans of revamping the existing structure. In October 2005, a committee from the Carbondale Preservation Commission recommended the building be demolished but asked the city to somehow commemorate the site’s historical significance if a new police department is built there. The site has been home to numerous educational facilities, including SIUC’s first campus in the 1860s.

No funding for a new building has been allocated, and definite construction or demolition plans have not been determined.

Brandon Augsburg can be reached at 536-3311 ext. 262 or brandon_augsburg@dailyegyptian.com.

INVESTIGATION
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Another sexual assault was reported Sept. 8 in Mae Smith. SIUC freshman Rodney Lamont Freeman Jr. was arrested shortly after the incident and has been charged with criminal sexual assault. According to court documents, Freeman allegedly assaulted a female victim.

Freeman is scheduled to appear in Jackson County Court on Nov. 21 for a jury pre-trial.

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Saluki volleyball needs win tonight to stay in MVC tournament running

Brian Feldt

The Saluki volleyball team has played more than half of its season and is on the outside looking in.

The Salukis (8-10, 4-4 MVC) will play a rare weekday match against MVC rival University of Evansville (10-9, 4-4 MVC) on the road tonight.

The Salukis have lost five of their last seven matches and need a win if they want to stay in the heat for their first Missouri Valley Conference Tournament appearance since 2002.

SIU sits in seventh place after a poor homecoming weekend, one spot shy of sixth place — the cut line for teams making the postseason.

“This is a big match,” head coach Brenda Winkeler said. “It’s a match that we need to win if we want to stay in contention to go to the tournament.”

The Salukis will try to end the three-game losing skid, which dates back to Sept. 30.

A win for SIU would force a tie for fifth or sixth place with the Purple Aces, depending on the outcome of the Illinois State and Bradley game.

It would be huge to move into fifth place,” Winkeler said.

Evansville enters tonight’s meeting as losers of three of its last four matches, being swept by both Missouri State and Wichita State.

Winkeler said SIU and Evansville are evenly matched in terms of how the MVC is panning out but thinks SIU’s powerful outside positions could overcome the home court advantage Evansville has.

“IT’s pretty much going to come down to ball control again,” she said.

Senior outside hitter Sarah Treadway leads the Aces in kills and is the go-to buddy who happens to play the same position in SIU’s junior quarterback Nick Hill.

Drone and Hill have known each other since grade school, and Johnson said, “They both kind of have a wind-twisting trail to get where they are now. It’s a pretty good storyline, I think, to this game.”

The two quarterbacks met when they first attended college. Hill played basketball at Western Kentucky, when they first attended college.

Neither Drone nor Hill played football for state football championships, their teams never clashed on the field.

For state football championships, their teams never clashed on the field.

The two quarterbacks met when they were young, back when Hill would visit his mother’s family in Mt. Carmel. Hill played baseball for the Indians.

And when Drone lines up, he can look across the sidelines and see a good buddy who happens to play the same hardwood in high school and played in the same stadium as seniors competing for state football championships, their teams never clashed on the field.

Drone led Mt. Carmel to the Class 3A title game — a game his team lost — just after Hills Class 3A Du Quoin Indians fell in their 2002 championship game.

Now they have a chance to test each other in pads. But for Drone, the showdown is secondary.

“I don’t think it matters,” Drone said. “We’re both going to come out and play our games. I don’t think we’re going to be worried about each other’s offense. We’re just going to be worried about executing and doing what we have to do.”

Jordan Wilson contributed to this report.

Erika Bartruff

Monica Laird sets the ball

SIU’s junior middle hitter Johnna Anderson had 11 kills and 20 assists in the Salukis’ loss at the hands of Bradley University on Saturday.

Anderson, who leads the team in kills this season, has had a tough stretch — three losses in four games — but is not letting her confidence waver.

“I’m just going to keep on doing my job, and hope it comes back,” Anderson said.

Anderson had 10 kills and 18 assists in Friday’s loss to Missouri State.

She leads the team in kills and is second in assists.

Anderson was named the MVC’s offensive player of the week three weeks ago and has been named the MVC’s player of the week twice this season.

The Salukis lost 3-0.

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**Saluki Insider**

NFL rookies Matt Leinart (Arizona Cardinal), Vince Young (Tennessee Titans) and Reggie Bush (New Orleans Saints) are all officially NFL starters for their respective teams. At the three most popular rookies this year, which one do you think will have the biggest season and why?

**JORDAN WILSON**

I think Leinart will have the best season because he has a very hard time warming up to his team. Also, he gains his head and unless one can adjust to that, Young will be scary good!

**BRIAN FELD**

“Vince Young. He’s only started two games, so it might take a while for him to get his groove back. But once he does, he can be the best out there.”

“Bush could have the biggest season of all. His ability to catch and return kicks and punts makes him ready-made for a huge season for pardage totals. The guy has a little Barry Sanders in him when it comes to making guys miss, though nobody is Barry.”

**SALUKI BANTER**

The Saluki men’s tennis team needs a strong performance at this weekend’s Marquette Invitational to prepare for the ITA fall regionals. The Salukis will take on Marquette University and the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay at the tournament.

Head coach Dan Nelson said Marquette will be the best team at the tournament.

Nelson said he has worked on two things this week to get his team ready for the indoor tournament.

He said the team has tried to improve doubles play and its conditioning.

Freshmen Lucas Waked and Kael Nilson are looking to improve in their second college matchups.

**PRACTICE**

**CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16**

NCAA rules limit his contact with his team, and his four players could work out at the same time.

All that changes Friday.

“We’re all very excited about it — getting to coach them,” Lowery said. “Obviously they hate conditioning, and they don’t want to do that, but we have to make them do it. We’ll rather be coaching them than running them,” he said.

That’s a sentiment shared by coaches and players alike.

“IT’s a relief,” senior guard Jamaal Tatum said. “Everybody’s excited that conditioning is over and not looking forward to doing it next year.”

Aside from putting away the dismal days in the weight room and on the track, the beginning of practice marks the start of excitement and anticipation for the upcoming season.

“You’ve got to see if everyone’s going to bring it,” Falker said. “If everyone’s going to bring it for just the first day. Or if they can bring it (the first) week, first month.”

Jorden Wilson can be reached at 536-3312 ext. 256 or jorden_wilson@dailyegyptian.com

**FOOTBALL SCHEDULE**

(Home games listed in bold)

Oct. 14 Illinois State 2:30 p.m.
Oct. 21 Western Kentucky 5 p.m.
Oct. 28 Missouri State 1:30 p.m.
Nov. 4 Youngstown State noon
Nov. 11 Northern Iowa 3 p.m.
Nov. 18 Southern Utah 3 p.m.

**VOLLEYBALL SCHEDULE**

(Home games listed in bold)

Oct. 12 Evansville 7 p.m.
Oct. 20 Illinois State 7 p.m.
Oct. 21 Indiana State 6 p.m.
Oct. 27 Northern Iowa 7 p.m.
Oct. 28 Bradley 7 p.m.
Nov. 3 Valparaiso 7 p.m.
Nov. 4 Missouri State 7 p.m.
Nov. 10 Northern Iowa 7 p.m.
Nov. 17 Coegehton 7 p.m.
Nov. 18 Drake 7 p.m.
Dec. 2 MVC Tournament TBA
Nov. 25 MVC Tournament TBA

**STATS OF THE WEEK**

**SUU FOOTBALL**

**Breaking Salukis**

The Salukis kicked off the straight games — two in the Gateway Football Conference — with a loss to Missouri State on Nov. 4. The Salukis are 3-3 overall after a 23-14 loss to Indiana State who now have 192 consecutive carries without a fumble.

**Men’s tennis prepares for Marquette**

**Matt Hartwig**

The Chicago White Sox will start week- end home games at 7:11 p.m. under a sponsorship deal combined with the convenience store chain known for Chicago White Sox will start week- end and players alike.

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Freshmen Lucas Waked and Kael Nilson are looking to improve in their second college matchups.

Waked was the only player on the team with a victory last year, at the Middle Tennessee State University Fall Invitational.

Waked said the team has been working doubles-time all week to prepare for the tournament.

“We’ve been practicing indoors and have been playing a lot of dou- bles matches to get better at that,” Waked said.

In their second go-around, the freshmen should have better results.

Nelson said the team heads into this tournament more relaxed.

“The freshmen have less pressure on them, but expectations are higher for this tournament,” Nelson said.

The Salukis won’t need the fresh-
Jordan Wilson

There was a time when Randall Falker couldn’t sleep the night before SIU’s first basketball practice of the season. He would be antsy and nervous about the year ahead.

But when the Salukis have their first official practice of the season Friday night, the junior forward said he would be sleeping well.

Falker — along with the majority of SIU’s men’s basketball team — is no longer a novice.

Falker’s new demeanor exemplifies this year’s Salukis — a group of players who have already gotten their feet wet and are ready to move on past last year’s jitters. The 2005-2006 Salukis entered the season as an inexperienced team. Even though they ended the year with a Missouri Valley Conference Tournament championship and their fifth straight berth to the NCAA Tournament, they left with a 22-11 mark.

That record is one the Salukis hope to improve on, starting with their season-opening practice Friday.

The Salukis began exhibition play at home Nov. 2 against Quincy before their regular-season opener against Washington (Mo.), which will be played Nov. 10 in Carbondale.

Even though practice starts Friday, the Salukis have been hard at work for weeks. Since early September, they have gone through tough days packed full of individual workouts, conditioning and weight training.

“Individuals, weights and conditioning makes for a long day, along with school,” sophomore forward Tony Boyle said. “I’m happy it’s over. I’m ready to get practice going.”

Head coach Louie Lacey, entering his third season as the Salukis’ front-man, said he is excited for the opportunity to do what his job description describes — to actually coach.

See PRACTICE, Page 15

Staying in the running: Saluki volleyball plays an unusual weekday game against Evansville tonight, see page 14

Jordan Wilson

The updated list of the Walter Payton Award watch list was released Wednesday with four players being replaced on the list. Arkee Whitlock, though, has a stranglehold on his spot and is still in the running to win the award.

Matt Dougherty, the executive director for Division I-AA football at the Gateway Football Conference’s top-ranked passer Luke Drone poses a serious threat to the undefeated Salukis

Luke Drone, ISU’s quarterback, is the Gateway Football Conference’s top passer.

D.W. Norris

Illinois State quarterback Luke Drone is the man. Those are not Drone’s words or his head coach Denver Johnson’s — those words come straight from SIU head coach Jerry Kill.

“He’s the key to Illinois State is Luke Drone,” Kill said. “That’s the guy, that’s the guy.”

Illinois State (4-1, 1-0 Gateway) hosts the Salukis (5-0, 0-0) at the No. 5 team in Division I-AA. SIU enters the contest ranked seventh. Both coaches have called Saturday’s game the biggest in the state, and its result will most likely be felt on a national level.

“I’ve been taken aback sometimes, frankly, by some of the attention that it’s getting on a national scale, but that’s what we’re still hoping for,” Johnson said.

The winner of the 2:30 p.m. game will have an early advantage in the conference standings.

Statistically, Drone looks impressive.

“LIke the Gateway in completions (219) and yards per game, with 226.4. His 10 touchdowns also lead the conference, and Drone has thrown every pass in Illinois State’s 506th campaign. His top two targets — wide receivers Lauren Robinson and Pierre Jackson — both average 82 yards a game for an offense that produces nearly 30 points a game.

Drone has targets on the outside, even with Robinson — last season’s Gateway offensive player of the year — banged up with an ankle injury. Kill said the Salukis, who catch Drone’s passes does not matter — he makes his receivers better, not worse.

See SHOWDOWN, Page 14

DAILY EGYPTIAN

Whitlock faces stiff competition on Payton Award watch list

The heightened attention isn’t something that should have an adverse effect on Whitlock.

“Right now, I’m more focused on team goals — trying to win,” Whitlock said. “Playing under the national spotlight isn’t new to the Salukis program. In 2004 and 2005, former quarterback Joel Sambursky was on the Payton watch list.

The heightened attention isn’t something that should have an adverse effect on Whitlock.

“Left head coach Jerry Kill said Whitlock is at his best when under pressure. With SIU in the thick of its tough Gateway schedule, that may bode well for the Salukis.

“He prepares well and plays hard and plays good in the big games,” Kill said. “The bigger the game, the better he plays. I think (awards) are great for him, great for the program.”

Jordan Wilson can be reached at jordan_wilson@dailyegyptian.com.

Jamaal Tatum and Tony Young laugh at photos taken of them during Media Day on Wednesday in the Arena.

Nick Hill makes a pass during the SIU vs. Indiana State University game Sept. 30 at McAndrew Stadium.

Staying in the running: Saluki volleyball plays an unusual weekday game against Evansville tonight, see page 14

DAILY EGYPTIAN

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Matt Dougherty, the executive director for Division I-AA football at

How Arkee stacks up

Here’s a look at the top competition for the Walter Payton Award, which is given to the best player in Division I-AA football.

Name Year Pos. School Yards Total touchdowns

Jordyn Johnson Jr. QB San Diego 1,654 total 21

Josh Johnson Jr. QB San Diego 1,654 total 21

Tyler Thigpen Sr. QB Coastal Carolina 1,988 total 17

Tyrone Freeman Jr. RB Furman 514 rushing 16

Clifton Dawson Sr. RB Harvard 542 rushing 11

Arkee Whitlock Sr. RB Southern Illinois 696 rushing 9

The Salukis Network, said Whitlock’s candidacy was never in question.

Dougherty said Whitlock’s numbers, coupled with the Salukis’ 5-0 mark, make Whitlock a “top-five guy.”

“Right now, he’s certainly one of the top contenders,” Dougherty said. Whitlock, SIU’s senior running back, has plenty of other eager players vying for the top award in I-AA football.

Tyler Thigpen, a senior quarterback from Coastal Carolina who was added to the list Wednesday, has racked up 1,668 passing yards and 14 touchdowns. Jerome Felton, a junior fullback from Furman, has totaled 16 touchdowns on 514 yards.

The Payton Award goes to the top player in I-AA and is similar to the Heisman Trophy. The list goes to three players in each of the first 13 weeks and six going into the final cut.

In 2004 and 2005, former quarterback Joel Sambursky was on the Payton watch list.

The heightened attention isn’t something that should have an adverse effect on Whitlock.

“They’re not going to do anything to hurt you,” Whitlock said. “The bigger the game, the better he plays. I think (awards) are great for him, great for the program.”

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