Paw prints pave path to campus

Sarah Lohman
Daily Egyptian

Although big paw prints have shown up on several Carbondale streets, a giant Saluki isn’t responsible for them — but the real cause is under wraps.

Saluki Pride committee chairman George Sheffer said the prints — which began popping up July 15 — are a collaboration of several groups.

People ranging from SIU President Glenn Poshard to Illinois Department Of Transportation assistant secretary David Phelps have cooperated with the committee to make the project a reality.

The group is a part of the Carbondale Chamber of Commerce and is dedicated to help retain and recruit students to SIUC.

The paw prints trail from Giant Saluki Central to Giant City road to Grand Avenue and Mill Street, and up and down Lincoln Drive on SIUC’s campus.

But Sheffer said the project isn’t finished and details behind it won’t be unveiled until some time in late August. He said more prints can be expected, but was tight-lipped about their purpose. Mayor Brad Cole didn’t have much to say either, except that he thought the prints were eye-catching.

See PAWS, Page 10

Departments to teach telephone etiquette

Jakina Hill
Daily Egyptian

Student workers recently learned what the song “Mony Moony” has to do with answering the telephone.

Departments have been instructed by the Center for Workforce Learning and Development to have student workers undergo telephone etiquette training in preparation for the return of students in the fall.

The manual offers suggestions that include which songs to play to help energize the listener or measure his or her accomplishments.

When training for the telephone etiquette program began, a manual for trainers to follow did not exist. In turn, Mary Anne Osborne, a senior professional of human resources for the center, stepped up and created the telephone etiquette handbook.

Osborne teaches the labor and employee relations, workforce learning and development courses, including the course “Telephone Etiquette: Customer Service Begins Here.”

See PHONE, Page 10

Fraternity makes nature accessible

David Lopez
Daily Egyptian

For parents of children with disabilities who have always wanted to partake the bounding experience of fishing, a new addition to the Touch of Nature accessible fishing dock on the Nature Center Pond located in the heart of SIUC’s outdoor recreation center. The dock, which features a wheelchair-accessible fishing dock on the Nature Center Pond located in the

See BUILD, Page 5
**Liquor proposal gets second chance**

The Carbondale City Council is set to vote tonight in a special meeting on whether to give sale control of liquor licenses to the mayor.

Mayor Brad Cole proposed the change in June and the City Council tabled the issue at its regular meeting July 1. At the meeting Cole said he would consider calling a special meeting to deal with the issue.

The Council now serves as the Local Liquor Control Commission, but it would forfeit that role if the resolution passes.

Cole has touted the change as a way to streamline the process of distributing liquor licenses and enforcing the liquor code, but many in the community have voiced concerns about government accountability and transparency.

If the resolution passes, liquor license applications would go first to the Liquor Advisory Board and then to the mayor. The mayor appoints all seven members of the advisory board with the consent of the Council.

The proposal also includes a 3:00 p.m. cut-off for sales, but due to state law that raise would not take effect until the next mayoral term begins in 2011.

The meeting will be held at 7 p.m. at City Hall.

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**News Briefs**

**Blagojevich signs FutureGen incentive bill**

FARMERVILLE, Ill. — Governor Rod Blagojevich has signed a package of economic incentives meant to bring the cutting-edge, coal-powered plant known as FutureGen to Illinois.

The $1.5 billion project will minimize air pollution by burning emissions under- ground. During a stop in Farmerville, Blagojevich touted Illinois’ efforts to be a national leader in clean coal technology. He says in Illinois everything is on the table when it comes to how it belongs in Illinois.

Dealers are considering sites in Mattoon and Tuscobia, as well as in Texas. A decision is expected in November.

The state is offering $52 million worth of incentives to FutureGen developers. The package also protects the project from liability due to accidents.

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**University of Illinois sets Global Campus tuition**

CHICAGO (AP) — University of Illinois trustees set tuition rates for the first degrees to be offered by the new Global Campus. Trustees also loosened the online university more than $6 million.

The new virtual campus is expected to open in January. The first degrees are expected to be a bachelor of science in nursing and a master’s of education.

Trustees set in-state tuition for the nursing program at more than $10,000. That’s 50 percent more than the tuition for a traditional nursing degree at Illinois. In-state tuition for a master’s degree will be almost $14,000. That is about 20 percent less than its traditional counterpart.

The Global Campus will have to start paying back the loan in 2007.

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**CPS teacher evaluation system needs reform**

CHICAGO (AP) — The heads of the Chicago Public Schools (CPS) teachers’ union are flamed and should be overhaul to better reflect performance, a new report says.

The report by the New York-based The New Teacher Project is based on employee and hiring data gathered over four years ending in 2006. With 623 schools, CPS is the country’s third-largest school system.

“This system doesn’t have any teeth and is not useful,” said Tim Daly, president of The New Teacher Project.

Schools chief Anne Duncan agreed.

“The teacher evaluation system here is absolutely broken,” Duncan said. “It needs a dramatic overhaul.”

The New Teacher Project’s study found that very few teachers – even those at the worst-performing schools – received “unsatisfactory” ratings, the lowest available. About 93 percent of teachers were rated either “satisfactory” or “excellent,” the top two rankings.

Meanwhile, 56 percent of CPS principals admitted inflating a teacher’s rating at least once. Many blamed an ineffective evaluation form, while others said a union contract provided them a way to lower a rating.

The report suggests student academic achievement should be used to measure teacher performance.

Chicago Teachers Union President Marilyn Stewart said in a statement that a joint committee of the union and the district is “rethinking” the evaluation form.

Reform efforts are already under way, officials said, pointing to a pilot program that offers salary bonuses to teachers and others that are linked to student performance.

Winfrey’s comment called ‘fiercely bad manners’

DALLAS AP — The editor and publisher of James Frey’s disputed memoir, “A Million Little Pieces,” heard her last word yet on Oprah Winfrey’s nationally televised railing of the author.

The book was a best-seller after Winfrey chose it for her book club in fall 2005. Frey later acknowledged that the memoir contained many fictitious episodes, and Winfrey, who initially defended the author, denounced him in person on her TV show.

The dust-up — as the popular talk show host has called it — is over. At a session of a nonfiction writers’ conference in Dallas on Saturday, the author Winfrey of “fiercely bad manners” and said she would have done nothing differently in how she handled Frey’s manuscript.

“I’m afraid I’m apologetic for the whole thing. And the only person who should be apologetic is Oprah Winfrey,” Talbott said, according to The Dallas Morning News.

As for Frey’s use of fictitious elements in his ostensibly factual account of addiction and recovery, Talbott said “when someone starts out and says, ‘I have been an alcoholic, I have lied, I have cheated’...You do not think this is going to be the New Testament.”

A judge approved a tentative settlement in May, calling for the publishing company Random House and Frey to refund $12.5 million to those who bought his book before its appearance on Winfrey’s Chicago-based show.

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**CALENDAR**

**Division of Continuing Education**

Individualized learning program offers extended testing hours for:
- July 25 – July 27 and July 30 – Aug. 3
- The last available time to schedule is 5:30 p.m.
- To schedule testing please call 536-7751.

Submit calendar items to the Daily Egyptian, Communications 147, at least two days before event, or call 536-3311, ext. 266.
As the final violent gags between cat and mouse play out, Homer Simpson (voiced by Dan Castellaneta) stands up and shouts about the movie is and why would anyone give up to get a pass in that category when it finally makes the jump to the silver screen. Some of the included laughs in the film are still scathing commentaries, as in one scene in the Simpson’s church where Grandpa Simpson has a holy vision and begins rolling in the aisles warning Springfield of impending doom. Acting quickly, Homer turns to a copy of the Bible, flips through the pages frantically and shouts, “This book doesn’t have any a**holes!”

The film doesn’t fall into the trap of betraying every joke in its trailer. In fact the best material and surprises are saved for the big screen.

But “The Simpsons Movie” isn’t all laughs. In fact for the most part a familial message is spread, as Homer’s son Bart loses faith in his dad after so many failures and looks to neighbor Ned Flanders for a father figure. Homer’s flaws also leave wife Marge wondering whether her marriage is worth all of her troubles. His overfed son (Andy Milonakis) stands up and shouts about charges against Lohan.

Lots of laughs from cartoon family

Bogey on the 18th hole

The crew immediately infects the country club with its good-natured immaturity and hard-partying ways. The crew is not so much ‘street’ as it is entirely and unashamedly uninhibited. The enormous Faison Love acts to distract people from their golfing, tacks people off of horses in the middle of a polo match and makes googly eyes at Cummings’ ex-cruising-fad, wife while chugging a very large shot. He doesn’t have anything to do with the plot, but gets nearly as much screen time as does the eye-candy Big Boi.

As the movie rolls along, the viewer is treated to numerous MTV-style dance party montages, a pair of hard ‘little people’ assassins with a high-powered explosive device and a sappy love story that never really goes anywhere. The crew adores the ‘pimp cups’ in the trophy case, teaches Milošue to do booties and eventually sucks the panoramic Cummings and takes over the club. On the whole, the movie is a forgettable and only mildly offensive summer monstrosity.

Changes of pace are to be expected — but in a movie like this it hardly seems pertinent. The movie looks like a battle between black and white, but in reality it’s a battle between dumb and dumber. Race is the last thing to worry about in this sort of battle.

The film really boils down to the question, “What happens if a bunch of uncontrolled idiots are given more money than is at all reason- able?”

In both cases, audience members are likely to feel nauseated, but the latter sequences may cause some serious audience fears of consequences.
Afghan official asks Taliban for 2 more days of talks for kidnapped

South Koreans

WASHINGTON

Specter advises against perjury probe until explanation

WASHINGTON

Wildfire flares up in national forest

WASHINGTON — A nearly month-old wildfire that had appeared to be standing still full up over the weekend, has burned 180,000 acres and was causing an evacuation order for a dozen homes, authorities said.

Warm and extremely dry conditions allowed the blaze to spread through old, heavy trees in the Los Padres National Forest on its way to the coast.

The blaze had consumed about 33,000 acres by Wednesday, and authorities said it had 70 percent contained Sunday.

An air attack plan is expected to be ready in the next few days for the nearby Peachtree Community, about 12 homes and 40 miles north of the blaze.

Smoke drifted over Santa Barbara more than 40 miles away and was reported in Bakersfield some 80 miles east, officials said.


talks with the Israeli and Palestinian leaders and former British Prime Minister Tony Blair is settling in at the weekend in the United international Medevac. Abas was quoted Thursday by the official daily Maan — and the comments were later confirmed by his aide — that Bush and Rice told him to bring a final peace deal within a year. The Americans are determined to extend a deadline agreement during President Bush’s current term, Abas was quoted as saying, "I lived with my own ears from the president himself and from Secretary of State Rice.”

India’s opposition party demands prime minister’s resignation

Hirako Tabuchi

TOKYO — Fresh off a spectacular election win, Japan’s opposition on Monday demanded that Prime Minister Naoto Kan step down now, saying Japan’s junior coalition partner of their his humiliating loss in last month, Abe told reporter, "I am certain I can ignore that is absolutely baffling, act- ing chief Naoto Kan said in was preceded by the news of half of party leader Ichiro Ozawa, who was recovering from a wound. "The prime minister gives us a man- date," Kan said. "We will see in lower house elections which party they want to.”

Another opposition party leader, Yukio Hatoyama, said the Democratic Party of Japan would oppose extend- ing Japan’s national rail.” Japanese naval vessels have fueled coalition wars in the Indian Ocean since 2003, the current missions expected to expand. "We have always been fundamenta- lly opposed to sending,” Hatoyama said. "The upper house elections have shown the country agrees, and so we will be expected to keep that line.”

The Indian navy has provided fuel for the planned operation of their ships, which are expected to increase in India in 2013. The current mission expected to expand. "We have always been fundamenta- lly opposed to sending,” Hatoyama said. "The upper house elections have shown the country agrees, and so we will be expected to keep that line.”

The Indian navy has provided fuel for the planned operation of their ships, which are expected to increase in India in 2013.
A total of 22 volunteers, most of them from the Georgia Tech and Washington State chapters of the fraternity, raised a total of $75,000 to fund the tour and purchase the building materials.

Bruce Francis, the superintendent of grounds at Touch of Nature, said he has worked with the Pi Kappa's before. During the 2005 and 2006 spring breaks, the fraternity re-roofed a dozen cabins in the park.

Francis said the fraternity is about more than just beautifying the park. "Camp Little Giant is one of the few places where disabled kids can go out and experience nature like you or me," Francis said.

Camp Little Giants was founded in 1951 by former SIU President Delyte W. Morris. At the time, the camp was the first therapeutic recreation camp for children with disabilities in the country.

Brian Schenck, a senior from Georgia Tech and a Build America volunteer, is one of the few volunteers who returned for a second year. "I hope they get a lot of use out of this," Schenck said.

Aside from donating its time to building the new dock, the fraternity brothers also mentored and played with the children staying at the camp, which caters to children with disabilities.

Mike Roche, a senior from Georgia Tech and another returning volunteer, said he appreciated the chance to do something for the children. "Our favorite thing to do with the kids was sing camp songs," Roche said. "I've probably learned 30 camp songs in the past two years."

The catch-and-release pond is not open to the public, and anyone wishing to fish there must be a registered guest or in enrolled in Camp Little Giants.

David Lopez can be reached at 536-3311 ext. 263 or dave.lopez@siude.com.

Grant said the city is required to remove all graffiti, but some of it is actually very well done. "There are some really good artists out there too," he said. "I just wish they could find legitimate jobs."

Jose Guajardo, a graduate student from Texas studying art, said his hometown of San Antonio found a way to keep its graffiti problem under control while also encouraging the art form. "They got all these muralists, artists and graffiti people, and they all worked together to integrate their art work into six different murals throughout the city," said Guajardo, a self-proclaimed muralist.

The result, he said, was a decrease in the spray paint vandalism in the city and the production of six murals that represented the cultures of the city's neighborhoods.

Guajardo said giving artists a place to paint does seem to have a positive effect, but he said he still sees no end to unwanted graffiti. "I think it's just a way for youth to reach out, in a manner of speaking," he said. "As soon as a kid learns what a spray can does, he wants to go deface something."

If there is an intended message to the graffiti at Saluki Central, Lipe said it is lost on her. "It just looks like letters or shapes," she said. "It kind of reminds me of the stuff I see on the trains going through town."

Joe Crawford can be reached at 536-3311 ext. 273 or jcrawford@siude.com.
Theorist displays a disturbing truth

AARON WOLF

A few months ago I stumbled upon a man who, at first, I considered to be a lunatic.

His name is David Icke, a former British soccer player and sportscaster. He is now a guru of sorts that gives lectures, sports a Looney Tune but a kind, middle-aged family man searching for, and at times finding, something we’re all looking for: the truth.

With that said, and as an important disclaimer, I do not believe President Bush or Queen Elizabeth II to be lizards trying to take over the world. And while watching the previously mentioned BBC program, I realize that is not what Mr. Icke would have us think. In fact, during an infamous TV interview with Terry Wogan in 1991, he said, “I am asking no one in this theater, no one watching this program, no one on this planet to believe a word of it.”

He meant he would have us judge as much or as little of what he says as true because it is our basic human right to do so. And the inconvenient truth is that David Icke has adopted a more ethical and honest approach to presenting information than our own president has.

After all, during the period of his presidency, has George W. Bush said he is not asking anyone to believe him? This is, admittedly, a belabored and over elaborate comparison; the motive being that I hold a rather morbid fascination with reptilian for that Icke’s is craziness enough to initiate a nuclear holocaust or a dictator in the United Kingdom.

When was the last time Americans listened to President Bush speak and thought, “there’s a guy who knows what he’s talking about?”

The simple fact that the latter is just as laughable as the former is incredibly disturbing.

And hasn’t this been the elephant in the room that we have either been too apathetic or too scared to speak about? The idea that we are under constant threat (of which the levels are color coded!) by legions of cave-dwelling terrorists, or that an “axis of evil” is crazy enough to initiate a nuclear holocaust or a dictator we recently toppled and executed because he had so many weapons of mass destruction he used a few of them as law enforcers, is equally ridiculous.

And we are supposed to follow this president et al. without question?

All of the sudden, David Icke doesn’t sound so crazy, lizards and all.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Health should be the reason for smoking ban

Dear Editor,

Although I am pleased to see that a Carbondale bar has taken the initiative to go non-smoking before it’s required, I am disappointed to see that it was clearly only for the sake of saving money and not because they truly see the harm in a smoke-filled bar and want to make a difference.

The smoking ban has not been implemented because the smoke haze boggles other people’s minds. It has been implemented because the smoke haze KILLS people. Dan Jones even likened the smoke haze to a nagging girlfriend you learn to ignore after a while. I don’t think I have to ask the 3,000 people who die annually of lung cancer caused by second hand smoke if they’ve learned to ignore it.

And whenever I get into this debate with a smoker, I hear the inevitable “If you don’t like the smoke, then why do you go to the bar?” So let me just apologize for mistaking these smoking establishments for alcohol establishments.

The only argument I have found to have merit is that an individual opening a bar should have the right to choose if they want their bar to allow smoking or not. However, letting the government regulate where we smoke allows for it to stay legal. Just ask the marijuana users that would love to be able to smoke (legally) in their cars, houses, tobacco shops, and hotels rooms if they would be willing to make that trade.

Smokers: Please do us all a favor and stop trying to defend your lethal addiction with second-rate arguments.

Nichole Fisher
junior studying political science

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Summer Special! No enrollment fee, and you'll improve your efficiency.

Linda C. Black

Today's Birthday: focus more attention on future security this year. Set up your portfolio to prosper and advance naturally. Yes, you can.

Get to the advantages, check the day's rating: 10 is the easiest day, 0 the most challenging.

Arise (March 22-April 20) — Today is an 8 — A lot of your work now is behind the scenes. By not to attract attention. Solve a difficult puzzle so you won't have to deal with it later.

Sears (April 20-May 20) — Today is a 7 — Catch up on the latest gossip while hanging out with your friends. You've been out of the loop for a while, and there have been developments.

Comet (May 21-June 21) — Today is a 9 — Don't let anybody else do your thinking for you. They don't really care about your interests as much as you do. 

Cancer (June 22-July 22) — Today is a 7 — Set aside some time for yourself in the company of friends. You've had a mental workout over the past few days. Take a break and relax. Get a change of scene.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) — Today is an 8 — Stock up on bonds, logistics, debts and other people's money can help you achieve control. How you do that is up to you. More study is recommended. 

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sep. 22) — Today is a 6 — A critic can help you achieve your goals, or don't get your feelings hurt. Make a few basic modifications, and you'll improve your efficiency.

Libra (Sep. 23-Oct. 22) — Today is an 8 — You're in the mood to tackle a big job, and get it done. Increase the pressure you've got stashed away for the future.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) — Today is an 8 — Use somebody else's imagination to solve your problem. This is not cheating. If you acknowledge them, and pay them well.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) — Today is a 6 — It always helps if you really know what you're talking about. This means extra effort. Yes, you do have to do the homework.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — Today is a 9 — You're better able to understand technical subjects now. Is there a new computer program you'd like to master? You're also good at being things during this phase.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) — Today is an 8 — Amazingly, after making a few requested modifications, the money starts pouring in. Hold onto as much of it as you can. Don't assume this doesn't last.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) — Today is a 7 — With practice, you can communcate on many different levels. You can understand what the animals say, for example, no cutting off to you. By now, you'll see.

By Wayne Robert Williams

The price of the project will be revealed with the purpose, Sheffer said. He’s not sure if driving will cause the prints to be repainted or not.

“This is a new campaign and it will be something we’ll have to monitor when they’re refreshed,” Sheffer said. “They’re centrally located so that most tire tracks will not be driving over them.”

While the prints showed up without causing much commotion, IDOT and the city of Carbondale were involved in the project. The prints don’t violate the city’s graffiti ordinance because the “owners” of the roads painted them.

University spokesman Rod Sievers said SIUC was not instrumental in painting the prints.

Sheffer said he won’t say where the prints are supposed to lead, but that now is a good time to administer the training.

The telephone etiquette handbook was created completely by Osborne, and has been available online since spring 2006.

Osborne said the manual covers sensitivity to customer service and how to deal with difficult callers and screening calls, among other things.

The manual also includes tips on clearing one’s mind before one answers the phone and to prepare his or her phone voice by smiling before he or she speaks, take a deep breath before answering the phone, assume a speaking voice, and control speed, tone and volume.

Sending a consistent message to SIUC customers was a concern Osborne had when creating the handbook.

“When you’ve called one phone, you’ve called them all,” Osborne said.

“Treviño said he thinks the telephone etiquette handbook is just an additional tool to help in the area of customer service.”

Veranice Williams, a student worker at Physical Plant Building Services, said she didn’t have to read the manual when she first started working there almost a year ago.

Williams said she was instructed to read the manual within the last week or so, but said it didn’t really change the way she did her job.

“It was basically common sense, common courtesy,” Williams said.

Jakina Hill can be reached at 536-3311 ext. 249 or jhill@siude.com.

Sarah Lehman can be reached at 536-3311 ext. 254 or slehman@siude.com.

Read about how the big schools won’t play our sports teams. But we can still beat them. Show your Saluki spirit by making siude.com your home page. Help us beat their web sites.

“WILL PLAY YOUR TEAM”
~VIEWED 6156 TIMES
BASEBALL CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

Callahan said the overall nature of the baseball program at SIU is to get athletes to compete at the collegiate level as soon as they enter campus.

“We have a great record of playing freshmen,” Callahan said. “Every one we sign has the ability to contribute immediately.”

While the last season was nothing to complain about from a victory standpoint, Callahan said with the combination of good pitchers and experience, the team has a good chance at finishing better than last season.

Junior catcher Mark Kelly said with all the players returning and the talent of the team, there is no reason why they shouldn’t go to the NCAA regional this season and compete for a ring.

Kelly said the main objective for this season is to avoid slumps during the regular season and in the tournament.

“Just stay focused and definitely concentrate on coming to the park everyday and doing your job,” Kelly said.

Kelly said when the team is competing against powerhouse teams like Wichita State and Creighton, the Salukis have to go into the weekend with a positive spirit.

“Respect your opponent but at the same time don’t be afraid of them,” Kelly said. “There is no one who is more talented than us.”

Eugene Clark can be reached at 536-3311 ext. 269 or eclark@siude.com.
Miners’ third baseman Chris Hall is from New Jersey but stays with a host family in southern Illinois. Most players on the team stay with local families because they can’t afford to live on their own with the amount they are paid to play ball.

Low salaries force most Southern Illinois Miners players to live with host families

Alejandro Gonzalez
Daily Egyptian

Rick Hill has been immersed in a new culture since two baseball players moved in with him.

Hill said he is a host parent of Southern Illinois Miner shortstop Bryant Perdomo, who is from Venezuela, and former Miner pitcher Danny Almonte, who is from the Dominican Republic.

Being in the Frontier League, most players don’t live on their own—they live with host families. “I’ll walk in the house and they get music on the computer full-blast, and they’re both talking Spanish,” Hill said, “I feel like I’m in Mexico or somewhere.”

The league gives undrafted athletes a chance to still compete to make it into the Major Leagues one day. However, Miners Account Executive Sean Patrick said the average salary for players in the Frontier League is $600 a month.

Due to a salary that is well below the poverty level, Miners players are given the opportunity to live with host a family. Almost every player on the Miners has a host family, Patrick said.

Although the players and host families are exposed to new cultures and lifestyles, most of them get along with each other.

Third baseman Chris Hall said he has lived with his host family for three months. He has lived with two other host families in the past.

Hall said although there’s always a chance personalities will clash, he has never had a problem with any of his host parents.

See MINERS, Page 11

A winning attitude

Eugene Clark
Daily Egyptian

The SIU baseball team is confident about its ability to compete better next season in both regular season and tournament play.

After finishing last season with a record of 34-22 (13-11 in Missouri Valley Conference play), the Salukis were eliminated from the MVC tournament after losing to both Creighton University and Wichita State University.

Head coach Dan Callahan said after graduating seven seniors, the team can look forward to getting around eight new players to the team, four of which will be freshmen.

Callahan said Cody Adams has the potential to really blossom in 2008, coming off a team-high 13 victories in 2007.

“If he becomes a little more consist-tent in his ability to locate, he’s gonna be that much better,” Callahan said. “He has a chance to be pretty special next year I think.”

Junior pitcher Cody Adams said overall the team should come out stronger this year as compared to last season in the bullpen and in the lineup.

Adams said he would like to avoid falling into a slump at the end of the season like he did last season when he finished 11-5, but was 4-5 for the last half of the season.

Adams said staying focused and keeping his concentration strong will help his pitching.

“Coach Dixon has a bunch of mental situations that he puts us through and they help a lot. I think if I take those more seriously this year it can make a lot of difference,” Adams said.

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Bonds: cheered, not jeered

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As Barry Bonds prepares to break the all-time home run record set by Hank Aaron, fans can’t help but see Bonds and the prospect of him breaking the mythical record in a negative light.

This is a shame because Bonds is, without a doubt, one of the greatest ball player of our generation.

Unfortunately, Bonds is cast as a media-dodging, steroids-using jerk that has no respect for the game or the history of our sport. This is so sacrosanctly honored by conservative baseball fans.

But the Giants slugger, who is not exactly a fan-favorite outside of his AT&T Park safe haven, deserves more respect than he gets.

He is one of the greatest athletes that we will ever see and that should be recognized.

Many fans link Bonds to steroids and say he has tainted the game. Well, in his defense, there is no proof that he has used.

Is it likely Bonds has used steroids? Yes. But why should we jump on him for something that has not been proven?

When Mark McGwire was in the process of breaking the single season home run record in 1998, no one raised an eyebrow. McGwire certainly had visual clues of a juicer—he just never tested positive.

The difference with McGwire, though, was that fans applauded him for his pursuit of history. Bonds was given the benefit of the doubt for the same pursuit a few years later. He was labeled a cheater and his record wasn’t deemed as legit.