Asian students take in America

Sean McGahan
DAILY EGYPTIAN

After years of obsessing over rhythm and blues tales of life in America, an aspiring rapper from Myanmar is experiencing the culture through his eyes instead of his headphones.

Maung Yannon Aung, 18, from Yangon, Myanmar, said he has been rapping since the age of 12 in the style of his musical idols Jay-Z and Dr. Dre. Aung is one of 19 students from Southeast Asia visiting SIUC this summer in a federally sponsored lesson in United States culture and politics.

Unlike many of the students who are studying political science and business, Aung hopes to use the experience to help him further his career as an audio engineer and producer. But political and economic factors in Myanmar, formerly known as Burma, have made the career difficult, he said.

Myanmar, a nation of roughly 47 million, is under a strict military dictatorship with the majority of its high-ranking political positions held by military officials.

None of the students in the program from Myanmar were willing to talk about specifics of the situation in the country, but Aung did give insight on the struggle of a musician trying to put out his personal voice.

He said many of his songs have double-meanings to represent things he would not be allowed to speak about, such as consumers’ inability to obtain popular electronic and hip-hop music.

In one song, he uses the personification of a ghost to represent the CDs he has trouble purchasing.

“We can’t talk directly because of our political situation. We have to talk in an indirect way,” he said. “In that song, I just say, ‘Oh baby, please come to my house.’ Even so, he said he cannot release the music publicly.

Aung is one of four of the 19 students in the program who come from Myanmar. Other students hail from Vietnam and Cambodia as the program sponsored by the U.S. Department of State.

Aung is visiting SIUC for five weeks along with 19 other students in a program sponsored by the U.S. Department of State.
Thursdays

in Phoo Aung, 20, Phoo Aung said she would pursue a business management career in Singapore after her trip. She said she was surprised to find out how much Americans knew about their own country. “I thought all Americans would wear very clothes and they would be very liberal, but that wasn’t so,” said Phoo Aung. “We were hoping American people be more informed about their country than we are in our country. They’re more informed than we have freedom of speech, but it’s not that much different,” Phoo Aung said.

Many concerns of citizens in both countries seem to be similar, she said. “I think all American people would wear very clothes and they would be very liberal, but that wasn’t so,” said Phoo Aung. “We were hoping American people be more informed about their country than we are in our country. They’re more informed than we have freedom of speech, but it’s not that much different,” Phoo Aung said.

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As people consume corn at record rates, recent increases in corn prices have consumers and farmers worried about empty pockets.

Citizens nationwide consumed more than 10 million bushels of corn in 2007, according to the USDA Feed Grains Database. On average, each citizen used more than five pounds of corn products every day.

Recent increases in corn production costs have driven the price of corn to a record high of more than $7 a bushel. Those affected have cited several factors, including the weakened value of the dollar, speculations made by investors, the high price of fuel and recent floods in the Midwest.

As corn prices rise, so do corn production costs, said Mike Lofton, a full-time farm equipment dealer, part-time farmer and Agriculture Economic SIU graduate from Cobden. Fertilizer is almost three times as expensive as in years past, he said. With the current situation, Lofton said he is unsure about the industry as well as the economy. “It’s a gamble,” he said.

Jarrett Nehring, director of field operations at University Farms, said the increase is also felt by the university. While the 250 acres of corn farmed at SIUC each year is primarily used to feed the university-owned cattle and swine, Nehring said the increase in production costs are affecting operations. Like others, Nehring also blames the high costs on transportation and energy costs. “Any food commodity, you’ve got to get it from point A to point B. The fuel prices and transportation is what’s hurting the most,” Nehring said.

Midwest farmers remain uneasy

Justin Lange

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— Jarrett Nehring

director of field operations at University Farms

System-Wide Internal Search

VICE PRESIDENT FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS
SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

President Poulson is initiating a search internal to the Southern Illinois University system for the position of Vice President for Academic Affairs to succeed Dr. John Haller, who resigned December 31. The Vice President for Academic Affairs reports directly to the President, the chief executive officer for the University.

The Vice President functions as the chief academic officer of the University, providing leadership to the campus academic Vice Chancellor, consultation to campus Chancellor, and support to the President on all academic matters. He or she is the University’s spokesperson and representative in discussing academic programs with the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE). The Vice President also staffs the Academic Matters Committee of the SIU Board of Trustees. For more detailed job announcement, please visit this web site: http://www.siu.edu/vaaff/.

Qualifications Required: A successful candidate will have received tenure at the rank of Professor within the University. Preferred: Administrative experience at a campus or central level within a complex university which offers a range of programs through the doctorate; familiarity with current national dialogues on education issues; and, some acquaintance with academic policymaking at the State level.

For fullest consideration, nominations or applications should be received by August 1, 2008. Responsibilities will begin in October 2008. The salary is competitive. Submit a cover letter, resume, and list of at least four references (electronic submission is encouraged) to:

Dr. James Stokey
Senior Vice President for Financial and Administrative Affairs
Mail Code 8888
Southern Illinois University
1400 Douglas Drive
Carbondale, IL 62901

dstokey@siu.edu
Fax: 618-536-1044

Please visit our web site at:

http://www.siu.edu

SIU is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity employer that strives to enhance its ability to develop a diverse faculty and staff and to increase its potential to serve a diverse student population. All applications are welcomed and encouraged and will receive consideration.

www.siu.edu

2007 U.S. consumption of corn per capita

In 2007 the average U.S. citizen consumed more than 5 pounds of corn products each day

2007 U.S. consumption of corn per capita

Feed and residual use: 3.15 lbs.
Ethanol: 1.53 lbs.
High fructose corn syrup: 0.26 lbs.
Glucose & dextrose: 0.12 lbs.
Sorghum: 0.14 lbs.
Cereals & other products: 0.10 lbs.
Alcoholic beverages: 0.07 lbs.
Total: 5.36 lbs.

Sources: USDA Feed Grains Database

Pablo Tobon – Daily Egyptian

Midwest farmers remain uneasy

Justin Lange

As people consume corn at record rates, recent increases in corn prices have consumers and farmers worried about empty pockets.

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Justin Lange can be reached at 536-3311 ext. 258 or jlange@siu.edu

Corr production costs rise steadily

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Tom Rosenthal, swine manager at University Farms, said the recent increase in corn prices have also made an impact on other farm operations. Rosenthal said 70 percent of the cost of raising swine comes directly from feed costs. “We’ve cut our herd almost in half due to the price of corn,” Rosenthal said. “It’s harder for the little guy.”

But as the cost of crop production has risen considerably in recent years, the sale of farm equipment remains steady, said Bugs Iman, assistant parts manager for Vergennes Equipment. The farm supply store, located just north of Vergennes, sells everything from combines to riding lawn mowers.

Justin Lange can be reached at 536-3311 ext. 258 or jlange@siu.edu
Inflation watch: Consumer prices jump in June

2005, when prices jumped 1.3 percent, mostly because Hurricane Katrina shut down oil refineries and energy prices spiked.

Consumer prices are up 5 percent over the last 12 months, the fastest one-year change since 1991.

As prices rose last month, take-home pay took a hit. Adjusting for inflation, weekly wages fell 0.9 percent in June, the third straight monthly decline and the biggest drop in almost four years.

The report also notes that prices that exclude energy and food to measure other costs, rose by 0.3 percent in June, the fastest rise in almost 10 years, and almost 5 percent more expensive, the biggest rise since the summer of 2001.

The report illustrates just how quickly prices are rising — not that the economic squeeze is anything new to most Americans.

Since May, for instance, elementary school reading specialist from Springfield, Ill., said she had created a weekly household budget to hold down expenses and the family was cutting back on trips and restaurant meals to save.

“This summer, I feel like I’m pinching pennies,” she said. “It’s a good thing we’ve really had to change our budget,” she said. “We’re just watching our money so much more closely than before.”

Police pose to nab errant drivers

Don Babwin
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHICAGO — So why did officer Grace Delgado try to cross a bustling street?

That’s the puzzle behind a recent accident: Delgado, whose bright pink baseball hat had bloused her especially tough-to-miss “Get out of my way.”

Delgado’s help, police stopped 78 vehicles, in just three hours as she issued tickets to nab errant drivers.

People, they don’t care,” said Delgado, whose bright pink baseball hat had bloused her especially tough-to-miss “Get out of my way.”

The whole mentality is “Get out of my way.”

Traffic to make motorists pay more

In Chicago, this year joined a growing number of big cities and small towns that are sending out officers into traffic to make motorists pay more attention to pedestrians.

“We’re beginning to see a healthy discussion about the law and it’s about the consequences,” Delgado said.

Nearly 4,500 pedestrians were killed and 61,000 more injured in 2003, according to the most recent statistics compiled by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. In Chicago alone, 65 pedestrians have died annually in recent years.

The number of deaths has dropped, but there is concern that those numbers could climb again as more people hit the streets, and the elderly population skyrockets.

“We’ve heard of a healthy desire of older folks to remain active and go out for their daily walks,” said Doug Hecox, spokesman for the Federal Highway Administration.

“That, along with more cars ... is a major driving factor,” said Hecox.

Some communities already are seeing more walkways because of the slow jogger movement.

“The way gas prices are, people are trying to get more exercise,” said Delgado.

“Because we see a healthy desire of older folks to remain active and go out for their daily walks,” said Doug Hecox, spokesman for the Federal Highway Administration.

“With more people out there, we’re beginning to see a healthy discussion about the law and it’s about the consequences,” Delgado said.

Delgado said she didn’t see Delgado — and he wouldn’t bother for fear of her. “There’s no sign out there,” he said. “(I do) have to stop.”

Officers gave motorists a brief lecture about the law, then sent disabled drivers on their way. But police understand that the only thing more effective than a lecture from a police officer is a lecture and a ticket.

“If there’s really no threat of getting a ticket for it, you’re not going to really pay attention,” said officer Chuck Trendle, who was working with Delgado.

In Essex County, N.J., authorities begin an educational road show this week, said Paul Lordiquet, spokesman for the prosecutor’s office. “But that doesn’t stop every motorist in the world, it doesn’t stop.”

The threat of a ticket seemed to work in Bellingham, Wash. After the city started a police-decoy program a month ago, a police officer who is only 28 years old, said she had crested a weekly household budget to hold down expenses and the family was cutting back on trips and restaurant meals to save.

“He’s out of my way,” said Marsha Marvel, a 2007 West Point graduate who arrived in Iraq about a week ago.

Soldiers who have experienced combat know that it is especially young soldiers on their first tour who most want to get on the battlefield. They say it is hard to communicate the horrors of war to those who haven’t actually experienced it.

“Those kids are just being young,” said Sgt. Christopher Janis, who is only 21 but is on his third tour in Iraq. “They say they want to help the middle East, they do it, and then they won’t do it anymore.”

That soldiers are looking else-where for a battle is a testament to how much Iraq has changed from a year ago, when violence was at its height. Now it’s the lowest in four years, thanks to the U.S. troop surge, the turns for former Sunni insurgents against al-Qaida in Iraq, and Iraqi government crackdowns on Shiite militias.

At least 29 U.S. soldiers died in Iraq last month, and there were 19 deaths in May — the lowest monthly toll for American troops since the war began in March 2003. By comparison, in Afghanistan, 28 Americans died in June and 17 in May, but there are four times as many U.S. troops in Iraq.

American military deaths in Iraq are less than in previous wars, in a trend that could take center stage during Sen. Barack Obama’s planned visit to Baghdad and the debate over whether America is, in fact, shifting back to Afghanistan.

At least eight soldier deaths had been reported for July by the military as of Wednesday — four in combat, two not connected to fighting and the recovery of remains of two soldiers missing since last year. The daily average of 0.50 deaths so far is significantly below any month in the war. The lowest for a full month was 0.47 deaths in May, and the next lowest was 0.71 in February 2004.

US soldiers in Iraq yearn to be in Afghanistan

Sebastian Abbot
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BAGHDAD — Spc. Grover Gebhart has spent nine months at a small post on a Sunni-Shiite fault line in western Baghdad. But the 21-year-old soldier on his first tour in Iraq feels he’s missing the real war — in Afghanistan, where his brother is fighting the Taliban.

With violence in Iraq at its lowest level in four years and the war in Afghanistan under way, the young soldiers are beginning to see that it’s not always about being in the thick of it, but being in the right place.

“A real war is what I’ve heard here,” said 22nd Lt. Karl Kuechenmeister, a 2007 West Point graduate who arrived in Iraq about a week ago.

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FEAR AND LOATHING IN CARBONDALE

Rooting for the old ball game

ANDY FRUTH
afurther@du.edu

As a baseball enthusiast, I have always looked forward to Major League Baseball’s Midsummer Classic, the All-Star Game. I remember games when I was younger where Cardinal shortstop Ozzie Smith would lead the National League team out on the field with his trademark flip and then later turn double plays with rival Cubs second baseman Ryne Sandburg — something that did not happen very often.

What I like about the All-Star Game is that for one day of the season, you find yourself in position where it is not just about your team, but about the best players in the league. As a Cardinals fan, the All-Star Game is the only time I root for any player from the Chicago Cubs. For that one night we are all on the same team.

There were many good stories to come out of this year’s All-Star festivities, hosted by the New York Yankees during their final season at historic Yankee Stadium.

The All-Star Game is the only time I root for any player from the Chicago Cubs.

How about Josh Hamilton’s performance in the first round of the home run derby? Even better was the fact that Hamilton’s homer was his former American Legion coach, 71-year-old Clayton Council who threw 50-plus pitches during Hamilton’s 28-home run bombardment of the Yankee Stadium bleachers in the opening round of the derby. Even though he did not win the home run competition, Hamilton overcame an even greater battle in life — overcoming a serious drug addiction to work his way back into baseball. He is back onto a better path.

The game itself proved to be quite historic as many records were set in the last All-Star Game to be played in "The House that Ruth Built." According to ESPN, the 290-minute game was the longest All-Star Game in history. It featured the most pitchers to appear in an All-Star Game (23) and the combined teams had the most strikeouts (34) ever thrown in a mid-season classic. The game also had the most players ever to appear on a lineup card (63) and of those players who reached safety, 28 were left stranded on base. This set a record for the most players to do so in an All-Star Game.

For the most part, the game was a pitching and defensive clinic. Plays at the plate, amazing catches in the outfield and pickoffs to first base—the game had everything. On the pitching side, the question seemed to be, "Can you hit my fastball?" Pitchers were coming in, throwing in the upper 90’s and other than a few mistakes, the hitters appeared foolish on most of them.

The only problem was by the later innings, both teams were out of pitchers and position players. The All-Star Game should be played as if something is on the line, not managed like a Little League game everywhere. The National League will finally be able to end their 12-year losing streak to the dreaded American League.

Fresh is graduate student in curriculum and instruction.
Gas stations become a target for ‘misdirected anger’

Jenn Lofton  DAILY EGYPTIAN

As prices rise at the gas pump, crime has become a more popular way to fill the tank.

An increasing amount of consumers who pull up to the pump, pretend they are going to pay and instead drive off with gallons of stolen gas has station employees and police keeping their eyes on fuel nozzles across the nation. The thefts have caused many stations to change their policies for how consumers pay.

Harrisburg Police Department Chief Bob Smith said these thefts do not usually happen during late operating hours. Most actually occur in broad daylight.

Reports of theft in Harrisburg, a city 35 miles east of Carbondale with a median price of $3.23 per gallon, will likely see a higher result when the gas prices rise, according to WSBT TV.

Smith said theft of $20 to $30 worth of gas is a price the retailers have to pay, even when the police are able to identify and catch suspects. Smith said someone was apprehended Tuesday after trying to leave a Harrisburg station without paying for gas.

The police do not have the manpower to constantly patrol gas stations, but do work to catch the criminals using surveillance video from the stations, Smith said.

NACS spokesman Jeff Lenard said these criminals do not realize their misdirected anger for high gas prices is not proving a point. It is causing them to take out their frustrations on the least responsible party and not the actual oil companies, he said.

Lenard said the association could not predict if there will be a drastic change in figures for 2008, but thinks some locations will get hit harder than others.

“Thief will certainly increase this year for those stations that don’t require a prepay system,” Lenard said.

Most large cities have mandated a prepay service at their stations, which requires customers to pay with a credit card or pay the cashier inside before they are able to get gas.

Lenard said there are still some smaller cities and towns that have not caught on to the system, and as a result will likely see a higher rate of theft.

At the Westown Shell station in Carbondale, employee Jacob Miller said since they have installed new surveillance equipment last year and require customers to prepay, there have only been a few thefts.

Miller said in previous years the station did see a moderate theft rate, but after resolving the problem the station has become a crime-free environment and safe for the clerks that work there, especially those on night shifts.

In South Bend, Ind., Wednesday, a woman was arrested and charged with two felonies for theft and battery for striking a BP station attendant after trying to leave the station without paying for $30 of gas, according to WSBT TV.

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Jenn Lofton can be reached at 536-3114 ext. 273 or jlofton@sisu.edu.
Today's Birthday 07-17-08 This year your partnerships will remain even more important. That doesn't mean they'll be easy, though. You have to deal with differences of opinion and all that. It will be interesting, though, and occasionally exciting. Expect a wild ride.

Aries (March 21-April 19) — Today is a 5 — To gain one thing you have to turn your back on another. Keep your objective in mind and this becomes less of a problem. It starts to look more like a dilemma.

Taurus (April 20-May 20) — Today is an 8 — You won't get far if you don't take care of details along the way. A little thing, like changing the oil in your car, can make a big difference. Take necessary precautions.

Gemini (May 21-June 21) — Today is a 5 — Slow and easy does it. Stay even under pressure. Think faster than you act. You can provide for your family in a very important way. The key is to stay in balance.

Cancer (June 22-July 22) — Today is an 8 — A person who doesn't agree with you is posing some tough questions. Give the matter some serious thought. It never hurts to understand another point of view, even a silly one.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) — Today is a 5 — The customer is hard to please, but you do a good job. Try not to let your temper. That would only make matters worse. Make it easy on yourself.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — Today is an 8 — It would be nice to try to understand every dispute in the world. One that's going nowhere for example, is better left alone. Go and do something else.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) — Today is a 6 — It's not likely you can be two places at the same time, physically. You can do it telephonically or electronically. Use whatever tricks you have.

Sagittarius (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — Today is an 8 — Be gameful with a person who just wants to contra- dict everything you say. If he can perhaps a huge if.5. Ask appropriately, win the argument.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — Today is a 5 — It looks pretty tough, but you can win at this game.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) — Today is a 5 — Take it one step at a time. And, check before you do the job to make sure it's still required. Anticipate changes, and take them in stride. Most of all, don't let them see you sweat.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) — Today is an 8 — The fact that you get a little bit of a person you may have to cut something out of something— something— something—else. Go with what's more important. Shift things around. Take control.
Ten Year Itch

Not too old but not too new

Avoid summer boredom with a little ‘90s fun

Amber Fijolek

Heartthrobs in the ‘90s never looked so good. A decade later, the teenage faces of Jonathan Taylor Thomas, Devin Sawa and Scott Bairstow in the 1997 film “Wild America” still tinkle hearts and steal breaths.

Apart from serving as eye candy the three play brothers on a quest to film the dangers of the great outdoors. The young documentarians are real, full of wit, drama and mischief, and as much fun to watch as spending time with three of your trouble-seeking siblings.

The film is an adventure piece, and what better summer adventure than a wilderness expedition? The brothers spend borrowed money on a camera for the ultimate trip across rugged America in hopes of making names for themselves in their small midwestern town.

As they set off on their journey, it is clear the boys are amateurs — too housebroken and naive to survive in the backwoods of the scenic, untamed territories of the west. The crew battles out-of-their-league dilemmas with some of Mother Nature’s most frightening creatures.

Although at the boys’ young and inexperienced ages, the events are unfortunate, the hazardous happenings make for quite the visual documentation of what it is like to be alone in the wild.

It has spent barely 10 years on the shelf, but this is certainly a top-shelf pick. The bona fide portrayal of brotherly love (not sparing moments of pranks and enmity) brings back childhood memories in its hour and 40 minutes of fun. Audiences feel the excitement of what it is like discovering the undomesticated world and joy of a journey to hometown hero-dom.

The movie never has a dull moment and can appeal to many, as it is neither sappy, macho, childish or complex. Expect a smile, warmed heart and ultimate satisfaction (even upon repeat viewings) from a film that needs to be revisited.

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When I first read about this I could not believe this actually was an issue. I have never known professional athletes to be a part of gangs or anything associated with that. Organizations should not even consider signing an athlete if he or she has relations to a gang. They are professionals and must represent that organization and that city they play in. I would have no tolerance for that athlete and release them right away.

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You are telling me the “Dirty Bird” or “Touchdown Salute” could be gang signs in disguise? I just do not believe this is as big an issue as the NFL is making it out. Most players just spike the ball when they score and gotten some camera time and the effect would have been just the same in about half the time.

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cheesy. I half-expect Back to belt out his own version of “There She Is, Miss America,” only Buck’s rendition would be entitled “There He Is, Rollie Fingers.”

Do not get me wrong, I thoroughly enjoy the derby and the old timers game, and it would not really be the Midsummer Classic without all of that. But there comes a point when good taste becomes bad, and when the hoopla around the game begins to drown it out.

Major League Baseball crossed that line Tuesday.

There was so much emphasis about baseball’s history and lore because the game was the last in that line of the “House that Ruth Built,” commissioner Bud Selig and the rest of the league executives last their way. It is no secret baseball is far removed from its glory days and the greats introduced at the game represent that era. So, it is no surprise Selig and his comrades would cling to that mystique, especially at such a historic stadium.

But the only way for baseball to get past the “Juiced Era” and move to the next stage is to embrace the future. The past should be remembered and honored, but the future of baseball is, well, in the future.

Just as Yankee Stadium — America’s Roman Coliseum — is in its final throes and set to be demolished after the season in exchange for a brand new billion-dollar stadium, the greats of baseball seasons past should quietly fade into the distance of memory. And Selig should let them.

It is one thing to get the “greatest collection of baseball’s all-stars ever assembled” onto the field before such a hyped-up game, but it is overkill to introduce every single one of them. Maybe just announcing the Yankee legends at each position would have worked better. After all, the rest of the greats could have just waved and gotten some camera time and the effect would have been just the same in about half the time.

Selig tried to balance remembering and looking forward at the All-Star Game, but he really only succeeded in thrusting the legends in front of this year’s all-stars. It is sad that the deserving players on the 2008 roster were usurped by the introductions and deprecated in the face of all the history surrounding the game.

Selig, you are in my doghouse for allowing this to happen — but you are not the only one to blame.

Brandon Augsburg
Pummeled by pageantry

Brandon Augsburg
DAILY EGYPTIAN

Some people just love the pomp and circumstance surrounding Major League Baseball’s All-Star Game and no one can really blame them. The pageantry is part of what makes the event so great.

There is the Home Run Derby, the Futures Game, and the Legends Game, where baseball icons play a game of softball alongside movie and pop culture stars. There are myriad other events put on by the individual host cities and organizations as well.

And somewhere among the festivities lies the game itself. A game that is supposed to mean something — and one that gathers the best players that baseball has to offer. It is supposed to showcase what baseball could be, and what it was when baseball was still America’s pastime.

And perhaps the players could have put on a better performance during Tuesday’s epic 15-inning clash had they not been lulled to sleep during the final bit of ceremony — the equally epic player introductions.

Fox’s game coverage began at 7 p.m., and of course I tuned in at about 7:03 p.m. Then I waited to see baseball until just before 8 p.m.

Fox commentator Joe Buck announced 18 2008 All-Stars, both managers and almost 50 Hall of Fame players, who were assembled at their respective positions. After each position was announced there was a long pause where made-for-TV instrumentals were blared over the loud speakers at Yankee Stadium. I guess that was supposed to give everyone watching the opportunity to comprehend the “magnitude” of the moment, but it was really just

TORRES Roundtree: It’s pretty good.
DE: So, was that part of what sold you on coming to SIU?
TR: I didn’t really expect that. It sure is a nice break, though, from the cafeteria food.
DE: You lived in San Diego for a while?
TR: I was born in St. Louis, but I moved to California when I was about four months old, so I was basically raised in California. I just wanted to move around and see new places.

DE: So, what was it like being a freshman in high school and people asking you what college you were going to go to?
TR: It was kind of funny. I had a lot of people asking me if I was going to Duke like my brother, but I wasn’t about just going to the high major school. For me it was the coaching. It was nice, though, in high school being good at basketball made me not like the other freshmen. I was treated more like an upperclassmen right away.
DE: You and the other three freshmen coming in have been pretty hyped up. How has it been with everyone knowing your name and you have not even stepped foot on the court yet?
TR: It’s been all right. Hopefully we live up to the hype. We’re all pretty laid back so we don’t really get too caught up in all the hype.
DE: How has the transition been for you going from high school to college with the three others?
TR: It’s been a pretty good transition. All four of us are actually pretty similar so we fit well together.
DE: You guys play a lot of video games and I hear [fellow freshman] Kevin Dillard is the best of the bunch?
TR: Yeah, he is pretty good. If he gets the hang of a game, he’s really good.
DE: How about you?
TR: I’m not pushy. I’ll beat him a couple of times.
DE: What is your impression of coach Lowery?
TR: He’s a nice guy right now, but I’m sure once we get into fall practices he’ll change and really push as hard.
DE: What did you think about SIU basketball last year?
TR: They under-achieved, obviously, but with us four coming in we should be able to pick that up. They need some kids who can score and help out, and I think we can really do that for them.
DE: So, what type of hobbies do you have?
TR: I actually used to surf when I lived back out in San Diego and skateboarded. I haven’t for a while now because of basketball and moving back to the Midwest, but I used to go out on the ocean and ride some waves. They weren’t the big ones but I still got out there.

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