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Daily Egyptian Staff

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Fans bring Sweet Sixteen to Student Center

Satellite connects fans to Syracuse, N.Y. for game

Samantha Edmondson
Daily Egyptian

Die-hard Saluki fans do not need to scramble up leftover spring break money to travel with the Dawg Pound at the Sweet Sixteen tournament in Syracuse, N.Y. — they can be part of the crowd via satellite.

SIUC is having a Saluki Watch party at 6 p.m. Friday in the Student Center ballrooms, allowing students to watch the game, view moments from the season and show their spirit through a CBS satellite uplink.

Saluki fans of all ages are welcome to bark, yip and howl as the Saluki men's basketball team takes on Connecticut with the comforts of their living room. The game will start at 6:38 p.m. on two large-screen televisions set up in the ballrooms. Free popcorn and soda will be available to the crowd.

During the team warm-up and commercials, a commemorative video made by members of WSJU will be shown, highlighting important game moments and the players' comments at the pep rally Tuesday night in the SIU Arena. Mike

Reis' radio clips from the Saluki season coverage through 95.1 FM will also be aired during commercial breaks.

With free admission at the door, fans will also receive a numbered ticket for random giveaway drawings during commercials and downtime. Also, winners will be announced during halftime



DAILY EGYPTIAN PHOTO — ALEX HAGLUND

Hysterical SIUC fans cheer on the Salukis at the United Center in Chicago during Sunday's game against the Georgia Bulldogs. Those that will not have the chance to travel to New York for the Salukis' game against UConn will have a chance to cheer for their team from the Student Center Ballrooms on Friday evening. CBS will have a live satellite feed hooked up from Carbondale to Syracuse.

See FANS, page 6

Dreary day brings fair turnout

Jackson County turnout not quite par, but OK

Arin Thompson
Daily Egyptian

Election day was dreary.

The sky was filled with gray, pendulous clouds that refused to stop crying, but in the end, voters did leave the dry comforts of their homes to punch the ballots.

Larry Reinhardt, Jackson County Clerk, said Tuesday that turnout was average for a primary, which is usually low.

"We're predicting 6,000, maybe a little higher, maybe 6,500," Reinhardt said.

When the ballots were finally tallied and the computer had cranked out all the numbers, Jackson County had perked up a little and surpassed Reinhardt's first impression.

The expected turnout was up by more than 1,000 votes, bringing the grand total of ballots cast to 7,531.

The 4,656 Democrat ballots cast in Jackson County aided in Rod Blagojevich's win over Paul Vallas, helping him snag downstate support.

The Republican ballot tally came to around 2,744 total cast; their support for governor, on the other side of the fence with Jim Ryan.

Ryan took the Republican position for governor and will face-off with Blagojevich in the general election. Democrat Lisa Madigan and Joseph Birkert will also go head to head for the position of attorney general.

"It looks to be average, the weather probably didn't affect turnout a tremendous

amount," Reinhardt said.

In Jackson County there are 34,400 registered voters, and about 18 percent of them graced the polls Tuesday.

John Jackson, political science professor at SIUC, said it's certainly true and typical of American politics that fewer people vote in the primary elections.

Turnout for the presidential election and general elections tend to be in the 50 percent range, which is better but still too good, Jackson said. Meanwhile, turnout for primaries tend to linger in the 20 to 30 percent range.

Turnout was up from the 2000 presidential primary, when about 5,000 residents cast votes in that election. Turnout was down from 1998, when about 9,000 voters decided to cast a vote for Glenn Poshard when he ran for governor.

"It's not evident to the American people or the voters of Jackson County that this narrows down the candidates for two important positions, governor and attorney general," Jackson said.

Jackson said that lower turnout for the primary versus the general election may be attributed to a failure to make its importance clear in civil education.

Other than the dismal weather, the fact that polls were open on a work day may have also been a factor in turnout, Jackson said.

"I don't see how people could be unaware of what went on, the media was everywhere. Either people don't pay attention or they don't think that it's important enough to go vote, and that's unfortunate," Jackson said.

Reporter Arin Thompson can be reached at athompson@dailyegyptian.com.

Saluki Advantage program brings students together

University hopes to expand program

Ginny Skalski
Daily Egyptian

Janet Ogden never had to worry about who would walk with her to class during the first semester of her freshman year. She knew she could ask just about anybody on her floor in Steagall Hall in the fall, one of the 21 residence hall floors in the University's Saluki Advantage program that caters to first-semester freshmen and transfer students.

Ogden, an undecided freshman from St. Charles, joined the Human Experience floor in Steagall Hall in the fall, one of the 21 residence hall floors in the University's Saluki Advantage program that caters to first-semester freshmen and transfer students.

Students in the program sign up, at no additional fee, to live on the same floor as other students interested in similar academic programs. The students are then enrolled in the same classes, introducing them to study partners and new friends.

Residents on Ogden's floor are primarily freshmen who are undecided about their major and want to learn more about human behavior. After spending a majority of her time with the students on her floor, Ogden received a first-hand lesson in human behavior.

Ogden and about 20 other students from her floor were enrolled in the same health, speech, psychology and new student seminar classes during the fall. The identical class schedule pro-

vided Ogden with an automatic support system of friends and study buddies.

The University plans to create three to four Saluki Advantage floors a year, according to Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management Larry Dietz. Although the University does not want to reserve all of the residence hall floors for special interests, Dietz said there is still room to implement several more.

"The goal would be not to have every floor as a student interest floor but to have a healthy mix," Dietz said.

The program not only builds a support system for the students involved, but it also helps the University in its retention efforts, according to Dietz.

"When you combine intellectual and social and create a community with both, it strengthens the students' bond with the University and thus their likelihood of succeeding here," Dietz said.

Now that Sara Drummet, an undecided freshman from Prophetstown, is in her second semester at the University, she's glad she signed up for the Saluki Advantage program. She was initially nervous about starting college and going to her first few classes, but said having other students accompany her and go through the college experience with her eased her nerves.

"It helped me a lot because I knew what to expect," Drummet said. "It's a lot easier to get things done now than it would have been if I had had classes with random people."

See HOUSING, page 5

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Belquis Ahmadi
Program Associate
Human Rights Law Group, Washington D.C.

HUMAN RIGHTS IN AFGHANISTAN: A FIRST HAND ACCOUNT

Thursday, March 21, 2002
7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
University Museum Auditorium
(North end of Fanar, next to gift shop)

Ms. Ahmadi will give an eyewitness account of Afghanistan before, during, and after the Taliban. She will address the role of Afghan women in national reconstruction and present her perspective of terrorism and prospects for peace

Sponsored by:
International Programs and Services
Public Policy Institute
American Association of University Women - Carbondale

This event is a u-card approved event and is also open to the public.

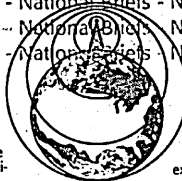
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U.S. offers Arafat high-level meeting

JERUSALEM - A U.S. envoy plans talks today with Israeli and Palestinian security chiefs on a truce plan that could get Yasser Arafat back in the good graces of the White House and out of Israeli-imposed confinement. U.S. Vice President Dick Cheney, ending a 24-hour visit to Israel, said on Tuesday he would be "ready to meet with Chairman Arafat in the period ahead" if he implemented and enforced the ceasefire blueprint drawn up by U.S. CIA Director George Tenet.

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, speaking at a joint news conference with Cheney, said he would allow Arafat to attend an Arab League summit in Beirut next week after a truce, but cautioned he might not let him return if it did not hold. Their comments amounted to an attempt to offer Arafat clear rewards for helping end the worst Israeli-Palestinian violence in decades, including his highest level meeting with U.S. officials since George W. Bush became president in January 2001.

Palestinian officials hailed Cheney's conditional offer to meet Arafat but blasted Sharon's terms for his travels. In a statement late Tuesday, the Palestinian cabinet reaffirmed what it said was Arafat's commitment to ending the bloodshed. Bush, who has hosted Sharon four times at the White House in what many Palestinians see as proof of pro-Israeli bias, has consistently accused Arafat of failing to do enough to crack down on militants behind attacks on Israelis. The Palestinian Authority has said its security forces have been hampered by the blockades Israel has damped around Palestinian towns and villages during the nearly 18-month-old uprising against Israeli occupation.



HP merger vote 'too close to call'

Supporters of Hewlett-Packard's plan to buy Compaq are cautiously claiming victory in a shareholder vote on the merger, HP's chief executive Carly Fiorina says preliminary results suggest a "slim but sufficient" majority of HP shareholders back the merger.

But HP board member Walter Hewlett, the chief campaigner against the merger, insists the outcome of the ballot remains too close to call.

Fiorina states: "We believe that with this endorsement from our shareholders, HP has an historic opportunity to lead in a rapidly evolving industry."

But she concedes that her views, which are based on an estimate of shareholder proxies by HP's own proxy solicitor, do not represent an official tally. The official outcome of the vote will not be known for a few weeks, and observers maintain the ballot will be decided by the narrowest of margins - possibly as small as one or two percentage points.

Hewlett, who has waged a high-profile proxy campaign against the merger proposal for the last five months, is refusing to admit defeat. He claims the results of the vote are "too close to call" and says he's optimistic that shareholders have rejected the deal. Hewlett, who wishes to remain on the HP board even if the shareholders approve the merger plan, says: "It is simply impossible to determine the outcome of the vote at this time."

from worldnews.com



Partly Cloudy
high of 51
low of 18



Mostly Sunny
high of 44
low of 27



Partly Cloudy
high of 51
low of 35

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Tommy pleads for fair trial

JAKARTA - The favored son of Indonesia's ousted dictator Suharto has pleaded for a fair trial after appearing in court charged with ordering the assassination of a Supreme Court judge. Businessman and racing car enthusiast Hutomo "Tommy" Mandala Putra, 39, was escorted to Jakarta Central District Court by scores of heavily armed police amid a media throng. The case is being closely watched in Indonesia as a measure of whether the former first family still sits above the law, nearly three years after Suharto's 32-year regime ended in May 1998.

Tommy is the least popular among the Indonesian people of Suharto's children because he is seen as spoilt after benefiting from a string of monopolies granted by his father. Prosecutors alleged that Tommy ordered the daylight shooting of Supreme Court Judge Syafuluddin Kartasasmita, one of three who sentenced him to 18 months prison for corruption. A conviction of guilty could carry the death sentence. According to the prosecution, Tommy and his lawyer Eliza Syaifi visited Kartasasmita at his home asking him the reason for his conviction.

Kartasasmita told Tommy the sentence was due to intervention from the presidential palace and advised him to seek a pardon from then-president Abdurrahman Wahid. The former president refused to pardon Tommy, who then disappeared and was only caught by police last November after a year on the run. Tommy was also



charged today with fleeing justice by escaping detention in late 2000 after the sentence was handed down. He was also charged with illegal possession of weapons.

Citibank to offer Chinese services

China has taken a step toward opening its tightly controlled banking industry by allowing an overseas lender to offer foreign-currency services to Chinese customers. Chinese regulators have approved New York-based Citibank to become the first foreign-owned bank to provide foreign-currency accounts and loans to Chinese citizens and companies, the bank said Tuesday.

Foreign-owned and even partly foreign-owned banks had been limited to providing foreign currency services to non-Chinese citizens and foreign companies. Earlier this month, Xiamen International Bank became the first partly foreign-owned bank allowed to conduct local foreign currency business. Foreign banks are still barred from currency conversion or offering loans and accounts denominated in China's currency, the yuan.

As part of its entry into the World Trade Organization, China has promised to drop these restrictions within five years. China has also promised to open the entire country to foreign banks. Overseas lenders are now restricted to two coastal cities, Shanghai and Shenzhen.

from worldnews.com

Calendar

TODAY

Skydiving Club meeting
6 p.m. Student Center Activity Rooms C and D.

Gamma Beta Phi meeting
6 p.m. Student Center Ohio Room

Environmental Center meeting
7 p.m. Interfaith Center

SIU Sailing Club meeting
8 p.m. Student Center Ohio Room

Campus Shawnee Greens meeting
5:30 p.m. Interfaith Center

Only public events affiliated with SIU are printed in the Daily Egyptian Calendar. The editors reserve the right not to print any submitted item. RSVP and departmental events will be printed in the Daily Egyptian Online Calendar at www.dailyegyptian.com.

Calendar item deadline is two publication days before the event. The item must include time, date, place, admission and sponsor of the event and the name and phone of the person submitting the item.

Items should be delivered to Communications Building, Room 1247, or faxed to 455-8244. No calendar information will be taken over the phone.

Police Blotter

NO ITEMS TO REPORT

Corrections

Tuesday's article, "Bicyclist struck in Communications Bldg. parking lot," should have stated that Davis was riding properly with traffic. The Daily Egyptian regrets the error.

Readers who spot an error in a news article should contact the Daily Egyptian Accuracy Desk at 536-3311 ext. 252.

The DAILY EGYPTIAN, the student-run newspaper of SIUC, is committed to being a trusted source of news, information, commentary and public discourse, while helping readers understand the issues affecting their lives.

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Preliminary trail plans spark concerns

Ben Botkin
Daily Egyptian

The words on a sign posted along Illinois Route 13 between Carbondale and Murphysboro echoes the sentiments of some worried Southern Illinois property owners.

"Attention — No Greenways bike trail in our back yard. We won't sell," says the sign, posted by property owner Steve Maurer, who owns a little more than 26 acres located near the highway. Maurer posted his sign to show his objections to preliminary plans for a proposed recreational trail route, which he says will cut through the middle of his property within 100 feet of his house.

The recreational trail is being planned by a task force working with the SIU Office of Economic and Regional Development, which was subcontracted to conduct planning. The SIU department will not construct the trail or make property acquisitions, said Loren Easter, the task force's greenways and trails coordinator.

The Office of Economic and Regional Development had an open house for comments and questions about the trail Monday at the Dunn-Richmond Economic Development Center. Property owners were able to write suggestions for changes on maps at the meeting, but some residents remain concerned about the trail's preliminary path.

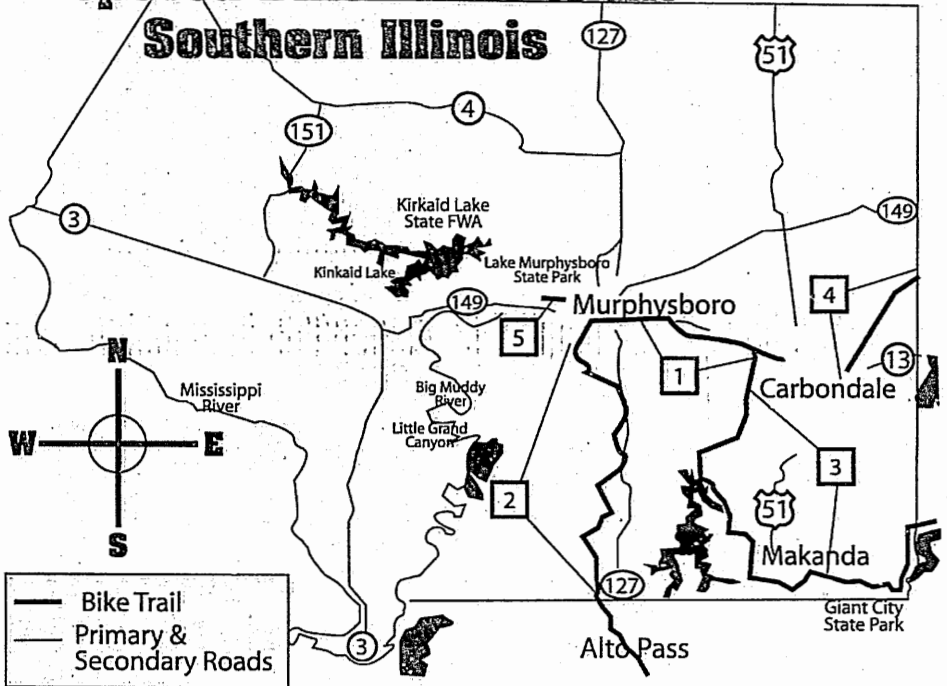
Current plans include more than 40 miles of trail around Carbondale, Murphysboro and various scenic locations throughout Jackson County. The plans were made with funds from a grant furnished by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources.

Easter stressed that the task force wants to avoid building the trail through private property and desires to encourage property owners to willingly sell their land.

"If we see there's a structure in the way, we automatically look for another option," Easter said. "This is a community project and takes the community's approval."

If the trail continues to run through private property after the additional planning, civic

Proposed Bike Trails to Hit



The proposed bike trails were decided by the Task Force Plan here in Southern Illinois. The trail will span 43 miles if it does go through as planned. The preliminary map is scheduled to be finished with final plan sometime in July after discussions with private landowners and other farming communities. The trail is not only a way to get around southern Illinois but will provide a scenic route around the area. Bikers can look forward to an 8-10 foot minimum trail surface with 1-2 foot shoulders. The surface will either be paved or fine aggregate.



DAILY EGYPTIAN PHOTO — ALEX HAGLUND

Landowner Steve Maurer does not want newly proposed bike trail to go through his backyard. He is protesting the idea by displaying this sign on Route 13 between Carbondale and Murphysboro.

organizations such as townships and park districts will decide whether or not to have legal battles with private property owners, Easter said.

The task force is taking comments and suggestions until the end of April, and then it will make any alterations deemed necessary, he said.

Although the trail's planners are open to suggestions and feedback from property owners, Maurer remains worried about the future of his property.

"It goes right through our back yard," said Maurer, who has lived on his property for four years. "It doesn't belong to somebody else. It belongs to us. It's not for sale."

"We're not against the bike trail. The problem

is that it's our property. I feel like I have certain rights."

Maurer said he likes his current whereabouts because of the private location, which he feels he would lose with the trail running through his property.

"We live in the country and we like it that way," he said. "It's not that we're against bicycle trails. We'd just like to be left alone."

Mike Morber, who lives near Murphysboro, said the trail's preliminary location would run along his driveway and take away from his home's peaceful atmosphere.

"We moved to the country for privacy, not bike trails through our yard," he said.

Landowners are not the only opponents to the trail. Thirteen-year-old Tyler Gearhart

said he is concerned about the trail because the proposed location in the yard of his Pomona home might pose a danger to his dog.

"I'm kind of opposed to it because the route runs right through my front yard," he said. "If it was on government-owned land, I would feel differently about it."

Regardless of whether the property owners will be accommodated or forced to sell, they plan to stay involved for as long as necessary.

"I'm going to fight until the bitter end," Maurer said. "That's just the way I feel about it."

Reporter Ben Botkin can be reached at bbotkin@dailyegyptian.com

VOLUNTEER

Project Hope Humane Society in Metropolis, IL needs volunteers to walk dogs, play with cats, do laundry, dishes, etc. Call our no-kill shelter for more info (618) 524-8939.



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False information spurs early reaction

RSO allocations not finalized

Jane Huh
Daily Egyptian

The public gallery at Undergraduate Student Government meetings are usually empty but at the last meeting before spring break, it was crowded with panicked members representing three Registered Student Organizations.

Members of the Black Affairs Council and representatives for the Minority Aviation Council and SPC-TV attended the meeting after getting a hold of information that indicated how much every RSO would receive next year. Some organizations had no money in its allocated amount column.

The unofficial document listing all RSOs with funding requests with an allocated amount column made those groups think the numbers were final in USG's spring allocation process.

Mary Wallace, finance committee chair, does not know how the incomplete document that caused an uncharacteristic ruckus leaked, but wanted to set the record straight.

"We were not making any recommendations [at the meeting]. We haven't finished the process yet. Our work in progress got printed out and someone sent it to these RSOs," Wallace said.

Meanwhile, the committee continues to work on dollar amounts and Wallace said some numbers have changed "dramatically" from the original funding draft. Next week, the committee will make their allocation recommendations to the senate. Then, at the next meeting, USG will vote on those recommendations. The finalized allocations will be definite by July 1.

This spring, RSOs requesting allocations were required to provide detailed proof of an event or activity's cost in order to receive funding. On Tuesday, several organizations submitted their final proofs to the committee, including the Minority Aviation Council. Because of those late submissions, Wallace said the committee is not ready to make any recommendations to the senate.

Even so, Kevin Buford, Black

Affairs Council president, says the "show proof" requirement is a problem. He is concerned that the new requirement undermines the council, which serves as an umbrella group for about 30 black organizations on campus.

"No matter what we do we have to report to them, it's ludicrous," Buford said. "Who's checking USG? What's the purpose of being an umbrella organization?"

Wallace and other committee members are firm supporters of the requirement. They said it ensures fair funding and gives each group accountability for their planned events.

"I'm kinda discouraged [by the RSOs confusion] because the finance committee has worked really hard. The whole point of [new guidelines] is to give RSOs an active voice in the process," Wallace said.

"In the past, the student activity fee money has been allocated without accountability. This is a way to ensure that the students' money is not getting wasted."

Other RSOs, however, have no complaints about the added requirement. The Skydiving Club sent proofs for new equipment and expects to receive enough funding for next year.

"We're pleased with USG. Basically, we showed proof for how much [new equipment] costs. I think it's a good idea to show proof," said Molly Crow, an undeclared freshman from Milford.

This year, USG will maintain a \$100,000 general funding account for next year. This account allows RSOs to request more money during the year for non-annual events and activities. The general funding account is separate from the spring allocations.

Last year, the finance committee held \$20,000 to \$25,000 for this year's account.

"We're trying to stay fair to everyone across the board. There's always a complaint with the way it works with the funding process," said committee member Aaron Webb. "We're just trying to be up front about everything as far as we can. We're not trying to hide anything, by no means."

Reporter Jane Huh can be reached at
jhuh@dailyegyptian.com



DAILY EGYPTIAN PHOTO - DEREK ANDERSON

Todd Smith takes his turn at karaoke with his own rendition of "I Will Survive" at the Student Center Bowling & Billiards during the Match Party for the SIU Family Practice Center residency program. The Match Party announced five first-year residents to enter into the program next year.

First-year medical residents match SIU Family Practice Center program

Party celebrates induction of new medical recruitments

Samantha Edmondson
Daily Egyptian

Darlene Lutchka was attempting a strike during a game of bowling when she made a larger match.

Lutchka heard her name announced as one of five first-year medical residents accepted into the SIUC Family Practice Center's residency program during the center's "Match Party" Wednesday afternoon at the Student Center Bowling and Billiards.

Sixty faculty, staff and medical residents from the SIU Family Practice Center celebrated the announcement of the next five residents who were selected for the program at the party yesterday.

Lutchka's husband is a first-year resident with the center and was awaiting the names of the next recruits at the party. Lutchka was able

to hear her acceptance a day earlier than the rest of her fellow first-year residents.

"I got to meet everyone I am working with," Lutchka said. "They all seem very approachable; it's refreshing."

Along with Lutchka, Clarissa Phelick, Andrew Riffe, Linda Hostelick and Ramaihan Rau were also accepted into the program. The center faculty found out the names through the National Resident Matching Program website at 1 p.m. Wednesday.

In the process of obtaining their medical doctorate, the medical students who have selected family practice as their specialty will apply for different residency programs through family practice centers of their choice, said Kris Null, residency coordinator for the SIU Family Practice Center. During their three years of residency, they learn the skills needed to start their own certified family practice.

Students submit which residency program they would like to go to through the National Residency Matching Program. This system takes those choices and matches them with the SIU Family Practice Center's top

list of students they want to enter into their program.

But the selection process is more than a game of love connection. The entire center faculty and staff is involved in the process of selecting and interviewing possible candidates for the program.

Null said some of the faculty go to certain places such as Springfield, and try to recruit medical students from the local school. As a result, a majority of the residents are from the SIU School of Medicine, but residents do come from other schools nationwide.

"Once some students get their foot in the door, then they talk among themselves and say how good the program is," Null said.

The Match Party not only celebrates the announcement of the first-year residents, but it is also a way for the SIU Family Practice Center to thank its faculty, staff and residents for their hard work in the recruitment process of the doctors.

The center, in collaboration with the Student Center bowling alley, awarded free bowling coupons for

See PARTY, page 12

Afghani woman to speak at forum

Ahmadi will speak about experience in Afghanistan

Ivan Thomas
Daily Egyptian

SIUC will experience the world of Afghanistan through the perspective of a woman who has witnessed the trials and tribulations of her country before, during and after the Taliban when she speaks at a forum Thursday.

Belquis Ahmadi is an Afghan woman who is the co-founder of the Afghan Women's Network and co-editor of the Afghan Mosaic. She has been involved in women's rights in Afghanistan since 1990, and is currently working in the Women's Rights Advocacy Program of the Law Group in Washington, D.C., as a program associate.

Ahmadi will speak at 7 p.m. Thursday in the University Museum Auditorium about her country's government, the affects of being under Taliban control, the Afghan women's role in the rehabilitation of Afghanistan, her views on terror-

ism and hopes for peace.

The forum is sponsored by International Programs and Services, the Public Policy Institute and the Carbondale chapter of the American Association of University Women.

Naseem Ahmed, coordinator for Women in International Development at SIUC and International Affairs director of the American Association of University Women, said Ahmadi works on several projects with the Department of State. When Ahmed expressed interest in women's rights, she was directed to Ahmadi.

Ahmadi finds Ahmadi interesting, and looks forward to hearing her share experiences.

"She is the voice from the field," Ahmed said. "I hope she can talk about more contemporary issues and what are the prospects for the country returning to stability."

Ahmadi said she diligently tried to bring a first-hand account of the Afghanistan crisis to campus. She received a grant to work with other women around the world, and although she has not had the chance to work with Ahmadi, she hopes for the opportunity.

Jared Dorn, director of International Programs

and Services, said Ahmed put a lot of effort into contacting Ahmadi, and he thinks there will be a great turnout. He expects people to have a better grasp of what Afghanistan is really like after the forum.

"I think that if we go back to before Sept. 11, 2001, you can honestly say that most people did not pay attention to Afghanistan, the society and the issues related to women," Dorn said. "Since then, everyone has been focusing on it."

Ahmadi's intent is to expose students to the realities of Afghanistan and give them a better view of what the society and culture is like without the presence of the Taliban. Because the center has been in the international spotlight since the terrorist attacks, students might be drawn to the event.

"I think the students will be interested because of all the media attention that Afghanistan has gotten," Dorn said. "And they will come away having a better understanding, and will be able to raise questions due to their first-hand experience."

Reporter Ivan Thomas can be reached at
ithomas@dailyegyptian.com

NEWS BRIEFS

CARBONDALE

Cab driver robbed after ride

A Carbondale cab driver was robbed of cash by two men Tuesday evening after giving them a ride to Park Street.

Marvin F. Cross, of Murphysboro, reported he was robbed at 11:10 p.m. after picking up the men at West Teleservices Corp., 2311 S. Illinois Ave., and taking them to 611 E. Park St. Cross told police that when he took out his money to make change, the men grabbed the money and fled southwest on foot.

The first suspect is described as a black male, 5-foot-11, 180 pounds, with short black hair and a mustache. He was wearing a red and white jacket and dark blue baggy pants.

The second suspect is described as a black male, 4-foot-11, 190 pounds, wearing a baseball cap, dark jacket and dark baggy jeans.

International students may change constitution

Presidents of various international campus groups vote to discuss bill and constitution

Ivan Thomas
Daily Egyptian

Members of the International Student Council met in the basement of the Student Center Tuesday night to ponder the possibilities of a change in the way elections are carried out in the council.

Saidou Hangadumbo, president of the council, wants to pass a bill so all members can vote for the executive members, not just the presidents of the individual international organizations. He also wants the executive committee to communicate with

all of its members and notify them in advance about the election, which he believes should take place at a general assembly open to every ISC member.

"I want to bring ISC closer to its members," Hangadumbo said. "Many times they don't even know who is elected to office, and I don't think that is fair."

Presidents of the various international organizations that make up the council gathered around a large table to discuss the bill, which contains possible amendments to the ISC constitution and by-laws.

Representatives of several groups were present, including the African Student Council, Asian Students and Friends, Latin American Student Association Linguistics and other groups representing Bangladeshis, Indians, Japanese, Arabic, Sudanese, Kenyan, Thai and

Malaysian students.

Many of the executive committee members asked questions and raised concerns about guidelines and different aspects of ISC and the election process.

Hangadumbo said there are two main objectives in determining how the bill will work. First they must find out what they think is justifiable in the bill, and they also have to know how to implement it once a decision has been made.

Even though the main focus of the meeting was to discuss the bill and the constitution, concern about council guidelines was raised several times throughout the session. Many members felt that without the presence of the guidelines at the meeting, it was impossible for them to make a decision.

"The decisions we make here will affect the future generations of ISC,

so I think we need to discuss the guidelines before we continue," said Wan Kamal, president of the Malaysian Students Association. "If we make a mistake, then they will look back and blame us for the problems."

Another fear of some executive members was that if all members of ISC were given the opportunity to vote, then only certain groups like the Chinese, Indian and Japanese organizations would win the elections because of their large advantage in student population.

Argus Tong, vice president of Internal Affairs for ISC, thought the intentions of the bill were good, but said it will take a while before they can be considered.

"I thought the bill to pass all international students to be involved was a good idea, but we have to think about it carefully," Tong said. "I think

that in the long term it would work, but it would not in the short term because we have to do a lot of work such as checking to see that all students are enrolled in classes."

Because the members didn't all have a copy of the council guidelines, ISC has decided that it must have another meeting to discuss them. There are many mixed feelings concerning the bill, and the committee wants to make sure that the right moves are carried out.

Hangadumbo intends to give everyone the opportunity to vote for the representatives, and he will have to wait for a later date to attempt to convince his council to approve of it.

"They only want presidents to vote so one group will dominate," he said. "It's a right for anyone to vote."

Reporter Ivan Thomas can be reached at ithomas@dailyegyptian.com

HOUSING

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The camaraderie built among the students on Ogden's floor was obvious from the first day of the group's University 101 class, according to Michelle Kahler, who taught the course. Last fall was the first time she taught a Saluki Advantage class, and she could instantly see how close the students were.

"They were a tight group," Kahler said. "They really had a strong rapport pretty much from the first day."

"It made them really comfortable with each other, very much like a family."

Kahler said the Saluki Advantage class was a lot more dynamic than her other classes and she did not have to spend as much time helping the students establish relationships with each other because they were already a miniature community.

"They came to know each other real fast and were around each other more often and I think that came into play quite a bit," Kahler said.

The exposure to students with similar interests helped Ogden find her niche at SIUC much more quickly. She said the support she received from her classmates helped her earn better grades, and she has become good friends with several people on her floor that were in the program with her.

"Our whole floor is really close now because of it," Ogden said.

Reporter Ginny Skalski can be reached at gskalski@dailyegyptian.com



Civil Rights: L. Douglas Wilder, former Governor of Virginia, visits with Laura Gladney (far right) after his lecture, "Civil Rights in America: One Lawyer's Perspective," at the Lesar Law Auditorium on Wednesday evening. Wilder is the first elected black governor in the U.S. and currently leads efforts to establish a slave museum in Virginia.

DAILY EGYPTIAN PHOTO - RONDA YEAGER

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Disabled student awarded for academics

SIUC student to be honored for excellence at banquet in April

Brian Peach
Daily Egyptian

Being legally blind from birth has not stopped Curtis Rentfro from achieving academic success his entire life.

Rentfro, a freshman in herpetology from Royalton, recently added another award to his accolades. He received a \$1,000 Art & Sammye Aikman Scholarship after meeting all the criteria and being voted the most deserving.

Kathleen Plesko, director of Disabled Student Services, picked Rentfro with the help of her staff because he has above a 3.0 grade point average, has been a long-time resident of the Southern Illinois region and was determined by the State Rehabilitation Agency to have a disability.

"There were a handful of other people who met all of those standards and we had a unanimous agreement on Curtis," Plesko said. "We didn't have anybody else who had obtained that level of perfection educationally. He was definitely one of the highest GPAs on my caseload of undergraduate duates."

Rentfro was valedictorian of both his junior high and high school with a 5.0 GPA. He had never received a B in a class until his first semester at SIUC. He was not upset though, because he expected college to be more difficult.

"Adjustment was hard coming in, but I knew it would be," he said, adding that his high school graduating class consisted of 27 students, a noticeable adjustment to the thousands of classmates he has now.

Like other students with disabilities, Rentfro receives additional help from DSS when it comes to tasks most students take for granted, such as test taking. DSS enlarges his text and reads questions for Rentfro so he isn't at a disadvantage.

"I let [professors] know about my disability, and keep communication open with them," Rentfro said. "If I have any problems with the class, we work something out."

Plesko said DSS has been impressed with him and that his standards are high in the goals he sets for himself. She added that he "operates almost independently" and needs little help from DSS aside from test taking.

"He has this extraordinary level of commitment and work ethic, things that diminish his disability to where it's almost not in the picture," Plesko said.

Aside from the \$1,000 and plaque that will be bestowed upon him at an April 9 banquet, Rentfro has also been awarded nearly \$2,500 in merit scholarships from the state and some businesses.

The Art & Sammye Aikman Scholarship is given annually by the Educational Council of 100, which was started in the 1940s and provides services to counties in Southern Illinois.

"It consists of outstanding community leaders in the southern 33 counties of Illinois," said Art Aikman, a professor emeritus in the School of Education and past executive director of the educational council. "It was instrumental in



DAILY EGYPTIAN PHOTO - PATRICK FIZ

Curtis Rentfro a freshman in herpetology from Royalton was awarded the Art and Sammye Aikman Scholarship, which is annually by the Educational Council of 100. Rentfro was chosen by Kathleen Plesko of Disabled Student Services because of his 3.0 grade point average.

starting education in this part of the country, and provides many services in the field of education that enhances education in [Southern Illinois]."

Aikman said the group awards its scholarship to two students at SIUC each year. One student is selected by DSS and the other comes out of the School of Education, and is usually given to a "non-traditional" student, such as those that are older or a military veteran.

Rentfro's experience at SIUC has been satisfying so far, and he says he fits in well at SIU. He does not use an aid in going to his classes, and he said he has to walk everywhere because his schedule has him trekking across campus like everyone else.

"You probably wouldn't even notice that I was legally blind," Rentfro said. "I could walk right past you."

Reporter Brian Peach can be reached at bpeach@dailyegyptian.com

- Is it too late to apply for Fall 2002?
- How do I pay for Graduate School?
- Are my grades good enough?

The answer to all these questions and much more can be found at the Bare Bones of Graduate Education seminar:

Thursday, March 21, 2002

6:00 P.M.

Student Center Video Lounge
(4th floor)

Join the ranks of the successful!

Should you need further information prior to the meeting time, please feel free to contact:
Minority Fellowship Office 453-4353

Auto clubs make wheels feel good

Mark Lambird
Daily Egyptian

Everyone needs a check-up from time to time, and the same goes for cars.

The Automotive Technology Club is having its annual car care clinic Saturday at the Murdale True Value parking lot, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., where cars can receive a free check-up. The event is open to the public and has no cost but donations will be accepted.

In case of rain, the event will be postponed until April 6 at the same location and at the same time.

The car inspections completed at the clinic will range from outside inspection of the car to checking things under the hood and the vehicles emissions.

Dan Corey, a senior in automotive technology from Edwards and member

of the club, said there will be three stations and that it will take people 15 to 20 minutes to complete the check-up.

"The clinic will let people know if there is something wrong with their car that might need some attention," Corey said.

The students will check car belts, top off fluids and look for leaks under the car.

Corey said the event is used to raise money for the club's annual trip to Detroit.

"Because 80 percent of our graduates go to Detroit to work, it's a good trip," Corey said. "It gives us a chance to see the city and meet people in some of the companies we will be working for."

Jack Greer, chairman of the automotive program, said the trip is an eye-opener for his students.

"Most of the students are familiar with the dealership side of the industry

but aren't aware of all the support that comes from Detroit," Greer said. "They also get to see where they may work in the future."

He said many times students will go to the Motor City for a second interview and be offered a position, the trip gives them a chance to see the city firsthand.

The trip, taken in November, is about five days long and includes mostly juniors and seniors.

The event is made possible through the work of the students and donations from the community.

Corey said that numerous businesses around the community have donated oil, transmission fluid, as well as other things needed in the event.

Reporter Mark Lambird can be reached at mlambird@dailyegyptian.com

FANS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

of the game for decked out Saluki supporters who participated in the Saluki spirit-wear contest.

Co-sponsor Silkworth Inc. will also pass out maroon and white pompoms to the first 500 people at the door. Other sponsors for the Saluki Watch party include SIUC Office of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management, Intercollegiate Athletics, the Student Center, Saluki Booster Club,

University Bookstore, Undergraduate Student Government, SIU Alumni Association, Pepsi and Public Affairs.

Beth Lingren, assistant director for Student Development, said they have allotted room for about 1,000 people, but said there is overflow setup in other areas of the Student Center, such as another television in the Gallery Lounge. She said the party will be on a first come, first serve basis, but she hopes this event will allow the fans an opportunity to show their support.

"There is a lot of school pride at

this institution, but we don't have a lot of places to show it," Lingren said. "This will give them a chance to show the positive things at the University."

Tasha London, a graduate student in social work from Chicago, said there should be a celebration for the team whether they win the Sweet Sixteen game or not.

"It gives SIU a positive name, and people recognize that," London said.

Reporter Samantha Edmondson can be reached at sedmondson@dailyegyptian.com



A stroll through The Four Seasons with a twist



Daniel Heifetz and The Classical Band to perform Vivaldi's *The Four Seasons* at Shryock

William Alonso
Daily Egyptian

Daniel Heifetz has been working on the cusp of the classical music world, breaking from tradition, embracing the unorthodox and sometimes flirting with the radical, since the beginning of his career.

In 1971 Heifetz, an internationally acclaimed violinist, walked into Attica prison in New York City to perform classical music for a prison population consisting mainly of blacks and Latinos.

"There was real hostility when I entered the place with my pianist. I said, 'Fellas, I want to play some soul music. Not black soul music, not Spanish-American soul music, but Jewish soul music,'" Heifetz said. "A big guy in the front row shouted out 'What the hell do the Jews know about soul music?' I said 'Let me tell you something about myself. I am Jewish, my mother was born in Germany and all her relatives went to the gas chambers under Hitler. The music of one persecuted minority can be related to by all others.'"

To this the prisoner responded with "Right on brother."

"I proceeded to play this classical piece based on Jewish melodies. When I finished, these guys were crying," Heifetz said.

As part of Shryock Auditorium's Symphony Series, Heifetz and The Classical Band will bring his interpretation of Vivaldi's *The Four Seasons* to the University. The performance is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. Saturday, March 23.

Heifetz has been featured on several prominent television and radio programs. He has captured first prize at the Merriweather-Post competition in Washington D.C., and the International Tchaikovsky Competition in Moscow.

Heifetz said his approach to the Vivaldi concert creates an entirely new concert experience for the audience. The result is a atmosphere that is informal, interactive and a departure from the stodgy rigors of traditional classical concerts.

"I go through what is going on inside the piece. [Vivaldi] was a real wild kind of guy and was trying to see how far he could stretch the boundaries between music and Shakespearean drama," Heifetz said. "The way we play the piece and do these examples is really off the wall. It



Daniel Heifetz and The Classical Band will perform at Shryock Auditorium.

PHOTO PROVIDED

really sounds crazy rather than the pretty way people usually hear it."

According to Heifetz, the response has been dynamite. And he's not just plucking his own violin strings.

Across the country, mainstream publications have been raving about the performance and Heifetz's violin prowess. Tom Godell, associate director of broadcasting at WSIU, has been privy to the unique sounds of the performance.

Before each of the Symphony Series events, WSIU broadcasts an hour-long preview of the performance. Godell said he has heard nothing else like Heifetz' unique interpretation of the piece.

"Each one of the four seasons was written in conjunction with a poem that talks about the particular goings-on of that season. There are depictions of all of these things in the music described in detail in the poems," Godell said. "You really have a vivid picture of what is happening in the music at every point. There is no other performer I know of that does that."

Vivaldi wrote sonnets for each of the seasons. They work similar to stage directions in a play, altering not only the performers, but also the audience to what the sounds in the music represent.

"For an audience that may not be familiar with the piece or those who

want to learn more about this very familiar piece this is a great approach," Godell said. "His interpretation is really radical. He strives to make every point very clear when he plays. He tells you all of these things, but believe me when he does it you'll remember."

For the most part, the poems have remained obscure to the population. Heifetz said most performers leave the poems out of their performance entirely, which doesn't paint an accurate picture of the piece.

"It is just an amazing experience. We don't go for pretty. We don't make everything sound nice. Basically it is doing exactly what the composer asked," Heifetz said. "If it is dog, the violinist is scratching the instrument to make it sound like a dog. It is a really different approach to making it come alive."

Heifetz's interpretation, in a sense, is breathing new life into the piece. With a waning interest in classical music across the country and many big city orchestras feeling the pinch, young blood is precisely what is needed.

Providing symphonic performances that do just that is precisely what Judy O'Conner and the staff at Shryock Auditorium strive to accomplish.

Through the Symphony Series they try to bring more culture and musical diversity to the community.

O'Conner said they are trying to

pair up classical music with a hook to bring in younger audiences who might not be accustomed

to classical music.

"We tried to do varied performances. Part of it is our mission to the community that we offer a variety of programs," O'Conner said. "All over the country symphonies are having trouble. Conversely, we are doing fairly well here."

O'Conner said this is because the Symphony Series is fairly new, only in its second year, and the manner in which the staff presents classical music. She said college-age audiences aren't just that familiar with the names and music of classical artists.

"A lot of people don't know those names or understand the music, just a select few," O'Conner said. "And that audience in fact is dying off. Without young people coming into [the symphonies] it will die away."

Since the first run of the Symphony Series, the number of performances has increased from four shows to six. Ticket sales have been hearty, and securing performers such as Heifetz and The Classical Band help make

See STROLL, page 9



PHOTO PROVIDED

Heifetz has been playing violin for over three decades.

Vivaldi's *The Four Seasons* as performed by Daniel Heifetz and The Classical Band will start at 7:30 p.m. Saturday. Tickets are \$18 for adults and \$13 for children 15 and under.



Oscar: the great American circus

There's something about Oscar time that brings out the best of America. Maybe it's just the simple celebration of film — arguably the art form of our time. Maybe it's the spirit of excess and indulgence that makes Hollywood the great Candyland of the world.

Or perhaps it's just the simple things that make the Academy Awards so entertaining. Will Russell Crowe go for a repeat this year? Can the Academy actually give best picture props to a fantasy film? What will Jennifer Lopez show up wearing this time?

The opinions on these questions are as diverse and intense as the public who gladly consumes the spectacle on a yearly basis. This year, though, Oscar comes as almost a guilty pleasure.

After all, was it not just six months ago that the icons of society lamented that America could never be the same again? Didn't America declare with the tears of a dozen TV anchormen that the age of frivolity and meaningless stimulation had come to an end?

Perhaps so. But if nothing else, America has a talent for turning the other cheek and getting back to its business. This is not out of disrespect for the thousands of lives that were lost on Sept. 11 and the servicemen who have died since — it just happens to be our way of life.

The search for Osama has been again replaced in the public mind by the search for Academy voting patterns and movie release schedules. Celebrity boxing and Briney's dramatic love life.

Maybe America just needs to write notes to itself so it can better remember these things, like Guy Pearce in last year's "Memento." God knows, the Academy could have benefited from the same method.

After all, how could they forget about great movies like "Memento" when it came time to pass out best picture nods?



Geoffrey Ritter

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What happened to "The Royal Tenenbaums?" Did any of the voters even bother to watch "Black Hawk Down?"

They probably did. But in true American fashion, the Oscars all come down to politics in the end. That's why we're going to see Russell Crowe and "A Beautiful Mind", likely sweep the awards. Will Robert Altman get a best director trophy? You betcha. And does Nicole Kidman — America's new sweetheart — have a chance of winning for "Moulin Rouge?" Maybe, but she'll have to beat out Judi Dench, who can seemingly win an Oscar without having really appeared in a movie.

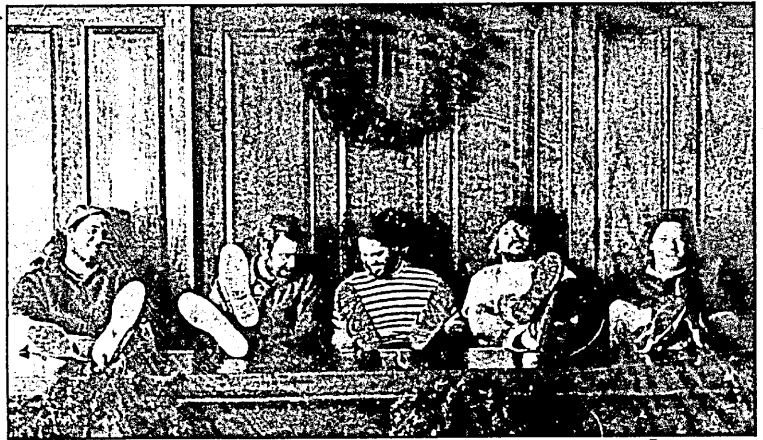
It all makes for great water cooler fodder, and we all know how much we love our pointless debates. But does this year's Oscar furor represent Americans reverting back to their former celebrity-obsessed selves?

Not really. This is our way of life, and damn all the cynics — it's a good life when the best picture legitimacy of "The Lord of the Rings" can become a nationally discussed issue.

By no means should we get so involved that we forget we have soldiers dying overseas, but there is no danger of that really happening. The average American is much more balanced than the media would lead us to believe.

And besides, if those souls from Sep. 11 were still with us today, I bet some of them would be wondering about what J. Lo will be wearing, too.

Geoffrey Ritter can be reached at
gritter@dailyegyptian.com



Big Wu and Strangefolk will be playing at the Copper Dragon next week.

PHOTO PROVIDED

Short, sweet and to the point

Bands to bring their own brand of jamming to the Copper Dragon

Geoffrey Ritter
Daily Egyptian

You could call them the Cliff's Notes version of a jam band.

God knows, the post-Phish market could use something of the sort. After all, look at what this peculiar genre has evolved into — a celebration of 42-minute songs that, regardless of time and place, just keep on going.

And going. And going.

There's no accounting for taste, of course. But you have to give some credit to the Big Wu and Strangefolk, two bands from almost opposite ends of the country who have managed to turn the jamming tradition into something a little more digestible to the layman listener.

Accessibility may be another of their revolutions; the bands' double billing Wednesday night at the Copper Dragon comes as part of a month-long U.S. tour — called the Far and Wide Tour — that promises to deliver four hours of music at each stop for no more than \$18.50 a ticket. Not a bad deal.

But who exactly are these guys, and how are they bringing jamming

down to a single-serving level? One need look no further than Strangefolk's 2001 album "Open Road," or the Big Wu's live album from the same year — two discs that illustrate high levels of musical proficiency, but also a certain sense of restraint. There's some drawn-out tunes, to be sure, some long jams that demonstrate both sharp songwriting and strong improvisational skills, but never does the music border on excess.

These are tight songs. And that's just what the musicians were hoping for.

"These two bands sound great together," said Big Wu bassist Andy Miller. "I really feel that Big Wu plus Strangefolk equals three. There's no reason for people not to go."

Strangefolk began its journey toward national acclaim as an acoustic duo in 1991 in the state of Vermont, steadily building a reputation for flowing grassroots songs and eventually adding bass and drums during the same year. Eventually releasing four well-received albums, the band diligently built its fan base by performing as many as 200 gigs a year.

In fall 2000 the band upped its act even further by replacing a member with singer/guitarist Luke Patchen Montgomery and adding keyboardist Don Scott into the fray. The group's five current members — Montgomery, Scott, guitarist Jon Trafion, bassist Erik Glockler and drummer Luke Smith — received

the pleasure of being named one of the top 10 jam bands of all time by Entertainment Weekly that same fall.

Right below Strangefolk on that list sits the Big Wu, who has been touted in the media of its home state as "the first Minnesota group that really could be the next Phish." Made up of Chris Castino on vocals and guitar, guitarist Jason Fladager, Miller, keyboardist Al Oikari and percussionist Terry VanDeWalker, the Big Wu describes itself on its website as "a rock 'n' roll band bit by a loon." Releasing its first album in 1997, the band has since followed up with a live album and its most recent, "Folktales," released last year.

When the two bands are together, members say it makes for an unforgettable night of jamming. But they never allow the music to step down into an endless series of guitar solos and drum breaks, instead choosing to entertain their listeners with well-crafted songs that stray at all the right points. It's a rare art in this day and age, and one that has arguably given both bands their national followings.

Reporter Geoffrey Ritter can be reached at
gritter@dailyegyptian.com



The Big Wu and Strangefolk will play at the Copper Dragon on Wednesday at 10 P.M. Tickets are \$12 in advance or \$14 at the door, and they can be purchased at Plinch Penny Pub.

PULSE BRIEFS

Fairport Convention coming to Copper Dragon

Looking for a more traditional band to come through on the local bar scene? Look no further than Fairport Convention, who will headline at the Copper Dragon on April 4 at 8 p.m. The band, which is legendary on England's folk-rock circuit, plays in Carbondale as part of its 35th anniversary tour. A musical force ever since its formation, the band originated the genre of setting traditional lyrics to modern rock music. Tickets are \$20 and are available at Finch Penny Pub and Plaza Records.

Nickelback tickets go on sale

Get ready to step in line! Tickets for the appearance of the Canadian supergroup Nickelback will go on sale this Saturday at 10 a.m. at the SIU Arena. As usual, tickets will be sold via the wristband system, and wristbands will be available today and Friday from 7 a.m. until 8 p.m. They can be picked up at the Arena's south box office, with ticket prices set at \$22, or \$18 for SIUC students.

Nickelback appears at SIUC as part of MTV's 16-date Campus Invasion Tour. Along with the lead act,

the tour will also include performances by Default — whose album "The Fallout" has spent almost two months at the top of Billboard's independent albums chart — hard rockers Injcted and the UK band Starsailor. In addition, the tour will feature a live DJ and an interactive music performance area.

Nickelback, who last year released its second album — the triple-platinum "Silver Side Up" — is currently riding high on the success of its No. 1 single "How You Remind Me" and its follow-up, "Too Bad."

Black Eyed Peas to headline Spring Thing on April 20

Legendary acts such as George Clinton, Digital Underground and Buddy Guy have rocked the Spring Thing stage for the past three years. But the Student Programming Council wants a new face for its annual musical bash.

Black Eyed Peas, a contemporary hip-hop group from Los Angeles, is scheduled to headline the Spring Thing on the afternoon of April 20 in the SIU Arena parking lot. SPC is still in negotiation for opening bands.

Based out of Los Angeles in the early '90s, Black Eyed Peas collaborates the members' culturally

diverse backgrounds into a hip-hop, R&B, soul and Latin original style of music. The band has elicited its unique sound on the Warped Tour, several charity concerts such as Rock the Vote and an extensive performance schedule this year landing them in Carbondale.

'Our Town' coming to our town

Thomton Wilder's classic play on small-town Americana, "Our Town," will be the show that concludes the Stage Co.'s 20th Anniversary season. With tickets going on sale next Friday, the show will open on April 5, and will run on Friday, Saturday and Sunday for three consecutive weekends. Tickets will be \$8 for the Friday and Saturday performances and \$6 for the Sunday matinee. For more information, contact Bonnie Brackett at 529-7446.

Get ready for more Beatlemania!

Can't get enough of the Fab Four? The SIU Arena has the ticket for you, then. "The Cast of Beatlemania," a tribute band that has toured internationally since 1986, will step into town on April 12 at 7:30 p.m. for a multimedia performance that

promises to capture the essence of the Beatles' heyday.

Opening with the famous 1964 telecast on the Ed Sullivan Show, the band, dressed in the colorful costumes of the Sgt. Pepper era, performs hits that dovetail the band's rise to its status as the major musical influence of the 1960s. Tickets for the show are \$20 and are available at the Arena's box office. The performance is sponsored by the Southern Illinois Professional Firefighters Association.

The Byrds to appear on WSIU

WSIU Public Broadcasting will play host on Saturday, March 30 at 4 p.m. to the legendary '60s band the Byrds, now known as the Byrds Celebration. The band, who coined such hits as "Mr. Tambourine Man" and "Turn, Turn, Turn," will appear in front of a live studio audience under the direction of Doug Smart, an assistant professor in radio television.

The Byrds Celebration was formed in 1994 in accordance with the wishes of the late Michael Clarke, who was one of the band's original members. Tickets for the show are free and are available in advance by calling 453-6178. Seating is limited.

STROLL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

classical music more palatable to a younger audience.

This is not Heifetz's first time visiting the University. He played at Shryock more than 20 years ago when he was cutting his teeth in places like Attica and SIU.

He said he can still remember the look of the prison room he performed in 31 years ago — the wires jutting out from the walls where prisoners had ripped clocks from their surfaces during riots. Heifetz said he has learned many things that he has carried with him since that early performance.

"It taught me the biggest lesson at the beginning of my career. That you don't need any education, you don't need any sophistication to get the power and the message of classical music; if the music is delivered on a basic level of guts and human experience with enthusiasm. It just goes right to anyone's heart."

Reporter William Alonso can be reached at walonso@dailyeypian.com

Weird News

By Mike Pingree

BUT DARLING, CAN'T WE TALK ABOUT THIS?

A man told police in Bangkok he was on his way to be married when he was hit over the head and robbed of the \$1,775 dowry he was going to use to pay the wedding bills.

But the guy didn't have a mark on him. Under questioning, he admitted that he faked the robbery because he had spent the money.

His bride-to-be called off the marriage.

THE BEST TRIM I EVER HAD

If you're ever in Hot Springs, Ark., and in need of a haircut, you can always...

Through the looking glass

go to the topless barber shop and have the job done by a lady naked from the waist up.

Alas, undercover cops report that the ladies were offering more than just a trim, to wit, "Physical contact and (other) activities."

WHAT WILL I DO NOW, JUDGE? READ?

A New York judge sentenced a credit card thief to 10 months without television "to create a condition of silent introspection."

The defendant's lawyers branded it "cruel and unusual punishment" and appealed.

NOW HE'S THE CERAMIC BOWL PURIFIER

To keep employees happy, British com-

panies in financial difficulties have been giving the workers fancy job titles instead of more money.

A receptionist was renamed "Head of Verbal Telecommunications" and a window washer became "Optical Illuminator Enhancer."

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Resident Evil rates just above being a zombie

Codell Rodriguez
Daily Egyptian

"Resident Evil" is a movie that had a lot to prove.

The movie, which is based on a popular video game series, stars Milla Jovovich ("The Fifth Element") as a secret agent with no memory who accompanies a group of special agents from the evil Umbrella Corporation into a situation that rivals a dinner party with the cast of "Cocoon."

First, the producers of this film actually had George Romero as the writer and director of the film. Then they fired him. That's right, the man behind "Night of the Living Dead," the movie that defined the art of walking-dead-films, was actually canned by a group of guys that want to make a nice scary movie about zombies. The replacement was Paul Anderson, who is the deviant mind behind films such as "Event Horizon" and "Soldier."

Then the film has to overcome the universal trend of every video game-to-movie transformation: it mustn't suck. It seems every single video game that's made into a movie turns out to have the viewing pleasure of a day in the life of a librarian. From "Super Mario Bros." to "Street Fighter," these movies seem to have the quality of a made-for-TVBS action flick. The only movie that came close to being tolerable was "Mortal Kombat," which was also directed by Paul Anderson. However, in the end, it still couldn't please many people besides fans of the game.

So does "Resident Evil" succeed? By the skin of its teeth. It's not a great film by any means, and it probably will not be one of the top five movies of the year, especially with "Attack of the Clones" and "Spiderman" being released in 2002.

The reason "Resident Evil" is better than the other translations is

because it has the ability to rely on plot, characters and action rather than just the popularity of the game. However, the name probably isn't hurting.

"Resident Evil" does not feature any of the characters from the game but actually acts as a sort of prequel to the storyline. This was actually a good move because it keeps the fanboys happy and doesn't exclude the people who do not what is going on.

The story begins when a very naughty person breaks a container holding the deadly T-virus, a chemical used in genetic experiments. The poo really hits the fan when the computer that runs the underground laboratories known as "The Hive," goes apey and deals with the problem rather harshly. Not to reveal too much of the plot, but one thing leads to another and a special forces unit ends up being chased by a bunch of zombies and skinless dogs.

The chase is part of the reason this movie does not need the game as

a crutch. It is full of cheap scares from beginning to end, some of them being silly shocks, like the lights turning on or a goofball team member sneaking up behind another as a joke. This is one way the film is very faithful to the game. Until the credits roll, viewers are not safe from the possibility that something is going to jump out at them.

The lack of any of the characters from the games may upset some of the fanboys, but a couple quick shots of a naked Milla Jovovich should shut them up. As for average moviegoers, they may not leave the theater feeling better about themselves as intellectuals, but they may be laughing about the person next them spitting out a mouthful of popcorn.



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Ice Age (PG) Digital
4:10 5:30 6:30 7:45 8:45 9:45
John Q (PG-13)
4:00 7:00 9:50
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4:50 7:15 9:30
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Ian McKellen's changing faces and changing roles

Glenn Lovell
Knight Ridder Newspapers

At 62, Ian McKellen — who has trod the boards as Hamlet, Richard III and the embittered Salieri in "Amadeus" (for which he won a 1981 Tony) — finds himself the idol of J.R.R. Tolkien enthusiasts of all ages. The veteran British actor has been nominated for an Oscar for his performance as the good wizard Gandalf in "The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring."

"I knew it was going to be a huge hit right away," says the actor, recalling his first New York screening. "Within 15 minutes I forgot I was in the film, and the people around me who hadn't read the books were crying."

McKellen found mid-life movie stardom after a distinguished career with England's National and Royal Shakespeare companies. He was nominated for a best-actor Oscar in 1998 for playing the anguished James Whale in "Gods and Monsters." We caught up with the actor, who was knighted in 1991 and maintains his own website (www.mckellen.com), at a friend's home in Los Angeles. He's stateside for pre-Oscar interviews and talks with director Bryan Singer about "X-Men 2," which begins shooting in Vancouver in May.

Q. Sir Ian, you may be the first knight with his own Web site.

A. You may be right. The site was suggested to me four years ago to publicize a show I was doing. I thought, "This will be a good chance to put down everything I've got in the cellar; my comments on the last 40 years." It saves me the chore of having to write an autobiography. In January, there were 12 million people who looked at the site, mainly because of "Lord of the Rings," of course.

Q. You didn't make your screen debut until age 29, and stardom came 30 years later.

A. The one big element that no actor can deny is their career is luck, chance. Whilst my contemporaries — Albert Finney, Tom Courtenay and Alan Bates — were regularly appearing in movies and having great success, that just didn't happen for me.

Not having been to drama school, I felt I had an awful lot to learn as a stage actor. And then great theater parts started coming my way, with long-term contracts. It wasn't until quite recently, when I did the movie of "Richard III," that things began to change.

Q. Around then you appeared as Death in Arnold Schwarzenegger's "Last Action Hero."

A. I took any part I could get. I did walk-ons, tiny parts. Friends thought I was crazy. But over that period I began to treat the camera as a friend rather than as an intruder. The film of "Richard III" was my calling card in the grown-up film industry, and I began to get offered really good parts. So now, rather late in the day, I'm in the happy situation that those peers of mine were in 30 years ago.

Q. Gandalf must have been a nice change. You've specialized in villains — from Iago to Rasputin.

A. Yes, that's true. It's not often that you get to play a good man because writers are more interested in human frailty. Goodness can be rather boring — "the devil has the best tunes." I suppose best sums it up. You don't find any Shakespeare hero who is totally good. Usually they're guys who have gone off the rails. But Gandalf — though he has self-doubt and realizes he would be corrupted by the ring — is firmly on the rails.

Q. Was there one Tolkien passage in particular that provided the key to your characterization?



PHOTO PROVIDED BY NEW LINE CINEMA

A. I saw Gandalf as a scholar, a man of the countryside ... and yet a loner on a mission. You'll see that increasingly strongly in the next two films, "The Two Towers" and "Return of the King." The fun of the first film is in Gandalf measuring up to situations: persuading Bilbo to give up the ring or handing over responsibility to Frodo, or riding off to face Saruman, his old friend who's gone wrong.

Q. You've been called the new Obi-Wan Kenobi.

A. I don't see the connection frankly between Gandalf and that part. If anything George Lucas couldn't have imagined "Star Wars" if he hadn't read Tolkien. I think we rather pre-date "Star Wars."

Q. Do you find it ironic that after so much stage work you've found acclaim in digital-effects fantasies?

A. Oh, I don't look at them that way at all. I think the success of "Lord of the Rings" is that it isn't fantasy. The story-

telling that director Peter Jackson has adopted is to make you think you are actually there and that this was at one time a real world.

Q. You spent a year in New Zealand shooting the entire trilogy. That's a huge chunk of time.

A. I am 62. A year doesn't feel very long for me. Elijah Wood might tell you differently, but he celebrated his 18th birthday during the filming. Once we got going, it felt like one film, one long film. I was never entirely certain whether we were filming the third film or second. It didn't really matter. It was one long story.

Q. What do you think your chances are for an Oscar?

A. No idea. It's certainly not a rejection of your work if your name is not called out. I arrive at the awards as a foreigner, an outsider, who, briefly, is allowed to be an insider. I'll participate in the fun of the Oscars.

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WEBER

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

getting as far into this tournament as we can."

Kowalczyk has stated SIU will do everything within reason to keep Weber, who he said has done wonders for the Saluki program and is also a treat to work alongside.

"He's a great coach, but also from an administrative standpoint, he's just a jewel to work with, and you don't get that all the time," Kowalczyk said.

The Saluki players have all heard the speculation that Weber could be snatched away by a powerhouse program, but are maintaining hope that their coach will stick around.

Sophomore forward Brad Korn noted that Weber has already had opportunities to move on — Saint Louis and Southwest Missouri State were both interested in Weber a few years back — and is optimistic that Weber will continue to strengthen the Saluki program.

"I think coach has made a commitment to us and the program," Korn said. "It's his decision, and he's got to do what's right for him and his family, but I think he's focused on the games and what we need to do. At the same time, it's there and you can't deny it."

SIU guard Kent Williams said he will support Weber in whatever he decides, and recognizes that the decision could be

a difficult one.

"When that matter comes up, when the season's over if something like that happens, it's his business," Williams said.

"For him, it's a job. For us, we're players. He's got to do whatever he can do for his family."

But if sentimentality is a major factor in the decision, Williams thinks Weber may be back for at least another season.

"Me and Jermaine [Dearman] will be seniors next year, and we were his first recruiting class that he got to recruit all year-round," Williams said.

"I think he would like to stick around to see us graduate and see us end our careers here. I think that means a lot to him, because I know what kind of a person he is and I know things like that mean more to him that wins and losses."

For now, Weber and the Salukis are soaking in the excitement of the NCAA tournament. But once the offseason arrives, the Weber soap opera will be more difficult to brush aside.

Call it the price of success.

"I don't think there's any more of a sense of urgency, but perhaps slightly more anxiety," Kowalczyk said. "We want to succeed, but on the other hand, it does come at a price."

The Salukis just hope they don't have to pay up quite yet.

Kent Williams guard, SIU

Reporter Jay Schwab can be reached at jschwab@dailyegyptian.com

PARTY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

people who got a strike. To demonstrate the teamwork of the staff, the center matched up different members to sing a random karaoke song.

Penny Tippy, director of the residency program at the SIU Family Practice Center, said the program started in 1974 and gives training for rural family medical practice. She said about 70 percent of the program's graduates continue practicing in a rural community, and 60 percent stay within 90 miles of the SIU Family Practice Center.

Nall said some of the residents receive scholarships from other locations, leaving them to transfer to an Indian Reservation for practice after residency or to an Air Force Base medical program. But most of the physicians return to practice in Southern Illinois or another rural setting.

Even though the residents are under the supervision of a practicing physician, they see patients on their own.

Quincy Scott, a family physician at the SIU Family Practice Center, served his residency through the University's program from 1990 to 1993. He said it is a difficult transition from student to real physician. The amount of time first-year residents have to work is the most difficult part of the change. The residents are on call about every fifth night of the week and are required to be conscious of problems and evaluations.

"We have a team community," Scott said. "If someone has a question the group is there to answer it, they are cohesive."

Lutchka says the transition from student lifestyle into an actual doctor practice is a lot of work, but it has its benefits.

"There is more autonomy with patient care and there is a lot of work," Lutchka said. "But I am finally getting paid."

Reporter Samantha Edmondson can be reached at sedmondson@dailyegyptian.com

CUSICK

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 20

speculate and coaches coach and players play.

And it's the same thing every year. When the NCAA tournament brackets come out everybody from so-called sports experts to valium-popping housewives pencil in their predictions.

Some years I'd put my money on the housewife's pick.

For example, a guy I worked with while interning at The Kansas City Star this past summer e-mailed me the other day and said not one person in their department pool had SIU getting past the first round. This was the sports department for crying out loud. Still, not one person. Not in Big XII country.

I didn't hesitate to advance SIU into the Sweet Sixteen when I filled out my bracket. I don't want to sound like too much of a homer either, because it really didn't have anything to do with school pride. I thought it was the logical choice. I'll admit I have them losing to UConn Friday night. (Hey, what can I say, I hope they prove me wrong).

I wouldn't imagine too many people tabbed SIU as an Elite Eight pick or anything beyond that, but you would still think a few people outside of the area would have heard a thing or two that would warrant an upset pick here or there.

Maybe something like, you know, those Salukis down in Southern Illinois can flat-out play some ball.

Reporter Corey Cusick can be reached at cusick@dailyegyptian.com

66 Me and Jermaine [Dearman] will be seniors next year, and we were his first recruiting class that he got to recruit all year-round. I think he would like to stick around to see us graduate and see us end our careers here. I think that means a lot to him, because I know what kind of a person he is and I know things like that mean more to him that wins and losses."

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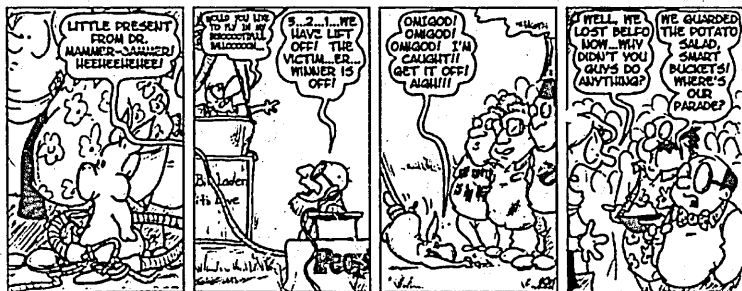
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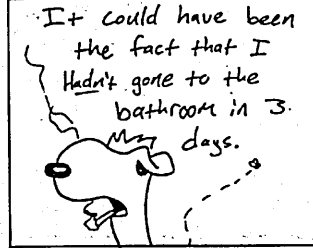
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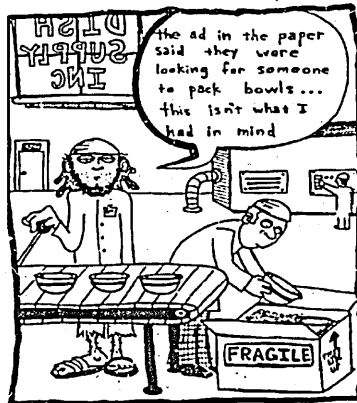
No Dogs Allowed!



By **Nick Day**



Let's Save Decatur by **Seth Dewhirst**



Daily Horoscopes

By **Linda C. Black**

Today's Birthday (March 21) - You can learn by doing, or by reading books. This year, you'll get to do both, and you'll be good at it. This education is also making you look better. It could be making your home more attractive, too. Get a building project going? If not, get started! To get the advantage, check the day's rating: 10 is the easiest day, 0 the most challenging.

Aries (March 21-April 19) - Today is an 8 - Feel the surge of adrenaline? That's the sun coming into your sign. You're naturally smart, but now you're even better than usual at solving puzzles. You make it look easy.

Taurus (April 20-May 20) - Today is a 6 - Today's kind of tough, but tomorrow will be better. If you continue to hold out for what you want, you should be able to get it. Holler if you get stepped on. Otherwise, the other person won't know.

Gemini (May 21-June 21) - Today is an 8 - Your reach has been extended. You're able to get to something that previously was denied you. See why you're talking to never give up?

Cancer (June 22-July 22) - Today is a 5 - You're pretty good at arranging things to come out the way you want. This is one of those occasions when it will take a lot of phone calls. Set a high goal so that if you fall short, you're still OK.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) - Today is a 9 - You and your friends will be hard to contain. Your enthusiasm is boiling over. You're not making a mess or disrupting things; you're inspiring creativity. Make promises you don't know how you'll keep.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) - Today is a 5 - Do the best you can to please an impatient older person. You can help this person relax. Your attention and concern will do it whether or not you can fulfill the request.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) - Today is a 9 - A very attractive person is trying to get your attention, possibly with outrageous behavior. You can easily outwit this person, and make him or her behave properly. The question is, do you really wanna do that?

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) - Today is a 7 - Your willingness to take on tough assignments is admirable. Even better, it gives you a distinct advantage. People know you can produce results, and they depend on you.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) - Today is an 8 - You could lose the argument if you're not careful. Do you have a trick you can pull out of your sleeve to divert attention? A good joke might work.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) - Today is a 6 - A household project is turning out to be more work than you expected, but you'll be proud when it's done. It'll be worth the extra cost, too.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) - Today is an 8 - Love is in the air! You won't need a special position when your sweetheart is anywhere around. Don't have a true love yet? Get out and mingle.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) - Today is a 6 - The coming phase could be very prosperous for you. There'll be no shortage of opportunities. It's up to you to let people know what you can do, and that you're available. Advertised!

JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Mike Argrin

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

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RUFOR

ALBEFF

DRAPEA

How much? Just what's on the meter

WHAT THE HONEST CABBIE CHARGED HIS PASSENGERS.

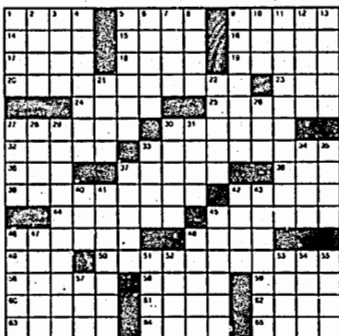
Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here: A

Yesterday's Jumbles: AZURE HOVEL HINDER DEADLY
Answer: The apprentice thought the carpenter was this - HEAVY-HANDED

Crossword

- ACROSS**
- 1 Price
 - 5 Puts two and two together
 - 9 Trod the boards
 - 14 Make eyes at
 - 15 Russian range
 - 16 National Accelerator Laboratory honorore
 - 17 Exam type
 - 18 In majesty
 - 19 Tiny mark
 - 20 Money
 - 23 Society-page word
 - 24 Nuts's partner
 - 25 Choral parts
 - 27 Badmouth
 - 30 Christmas thief
 - 32 Martini garnish
 - 33 Hones one's skills
 - 36 Gun the engine
 - 37 John or Bonnie
 - 38 Mighty tree
 - 39 Wearable souvenirs
 - 42 Tropical vines
 - 44 Turn-of-LSJ
 - 45 Deadly African pest
 - 46 New Orleans pros
 - 48 Prevaricator
 - 49 Exclamation in Don
 - 50 Mirror images
 - 56 Mary Tyler or Mananna
 - 58 Symbol of Wales
 - 59 Filly-filly
 - 60 Pout
 - 61 Yeats's country
 - 62 18-wheeler
 - 63 Machu Picchu locale
 - 64 Part of P.A.
 - 65 Horse's gait



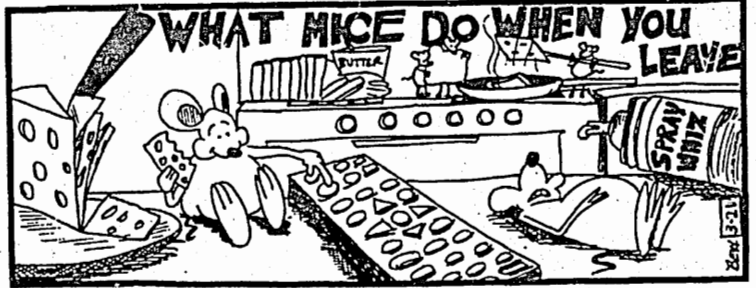
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Solutions

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| 7 Mild explosive | 10 Animation unit | 11 Belted rainwear | 12 TV host | 13 Leaves | 21 Mezzanine | 22 Expel a tenant | 26 Here, in Paris | 27 Sash or Walker | 28 Out of the wind | 29 Means of earning a living | 30 Southern breakfast item | 31 Charlie Brown's exclamation | 33 Legal or medic | 34 Jug handles | 35 Terrier type | 37 Washer cycle | 40 Intrusion of the faithful | 41 Feelings of detestation | 42 Would-be ally's hurdle | 43 Spookiest | 45 Speeding citation | 46 Brazilian dance | 47 Potential 38A | 48 Lascivious looks | 51 Dog's bane | 52 Oahu garlands | 53 Done with | 54 Captain of the Nautilus | 55 Irritated state | 57 Fish eggs |
|------------------|-------------------|--------------------|------------|-----------|--------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|--------------|----------------------|--------------------|------------------|---------------------|---------------|------------------|--------------|----------------------------|--------------------|--------------|

No Apparent Reason

by Brian Eliot Holloway



Girls and Sports

by Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein



Doonesbury

by Garry Trudeau



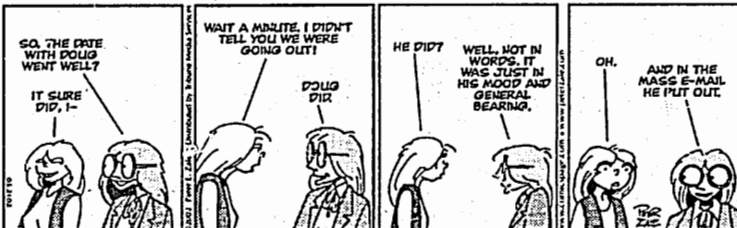
Mixed Media

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Helen, Sweetheart of the Internet

by Peter Zale



Jeff MacNelly's Shoe

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SIU Golfers start season strong

Michael Brenner
Daily Egyptian

The sun began baking the SIU men's golf team at Tuesday's tournament in New Orleans, burning their skin, but warming up their clubs.

The Salukis shot a two-round score of 610 at the New Orleans Sportscore of Methodist Hospital Classic, placing them fourth in their first tournament of the spring.

Senior Brad Dunker led the Saluki charge, shooting a 150 (74, 76) and finishing 10th individually. Although it was his third top-10 finish of the season, he feels he could have done better.

"The first round I played really well, and I probably gave back three strokes," Dunker said. "The second round I started off terribly and was six over par through the first five holes. I finished in the top 10, but it should have been a lot better."

Mike Smith fired a 78 in the first round before recovering with an impressive 75 to finish with a score of 153, good enough for 23rd place.

"I couldn't get anything to fall the first day," Smith said. "Then the second day, they started to fall a little late, but at least they fell."

Grant Goltz (76, 80), Josh Wheeler, (76, 80) and Tim Hoss (81, 75) all shot a 156 to top off an extraordinary team effort.

Tennessee State captured the title with a total core of 601, while Bethune-Cookman (602) and Louisiana Tech (607) rounded out the top three.

Although they did not win the tournament, some Saluki players considered the team's performance a near victory.

"I'm not disappointed at all with our team finish," Smith said. "We really could have won the tournament, but we finished fourth and that's a good starting point for us."

Dunker disagreed, saying he didn't consider fourth place a victory and felt the team could have done much better. He is not content with anything other than first.

"We underachieved as a team, again," Dunker said. "Guys were bogeying the last few holes. I myself was throwing away strokes."

Despite those things, head coach Leroy Newton felt good with the team's finish and thought the few mistakes the team committed will be corrected soon.

"I'm pretty pleased with the beginning of the year, because a lot of those schools were from the South, and they've been playing a lot longer than we were," Newton said. "We made some mental mistakes with errant tee shots, but little things like that will be worked out as we begin to play competitively this spring."

The Salukis hope the momentum from New Orleans will follow them to Richmond, Ky., where they will compete in the Eastern Kentucky Spring Intercollegiate Tournament this weekend.

The contest will give the Salukis another shot at Tennessee State, as well as Belmont and Eastern Illinois, who finished fifth and eighth, respectively, in New Orleans.

With their first tournament in nearly five months out of the way and the rust shaken off of their clubs, the Salukis are ready to take the next step and take a shot at winning a tournament.

"The kids did a good job and had a good trip," Newton said. "Now we're ready to get a little better."

Reporter Michael Brenner can be reached at mbrenner@dailyegyptian.com

KOWZAN

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 20

shown any signs of slacking off and has impressed coaches and teammates with his positive work ethic.

The biggest factor in Kowzan being such a hard worker is the competition that he faces every day in the outfield. With six people vying for three positions, Kowzan knows that at anytime he can lose his starting slot.

"Every day, I try to improve, I try to get better," Kowzan said, "because I know if I don't and if I slack off, anyone that's not playing can easily take my spot and not miss a beat."

It's this work ethic that may eventually help Kowzan reach his ultimate goal of playing professionally. However, he knows that he needs to work on a lot of things before he can ever reach the same level as his idol.

"It's always been a dream of mine to be drafted and play professional baseball," Kowzan said. "But there are certain aspects that I've got to improve a lot before I can even think about getting drafted."

Reporter Todd Merchant can be reached at tmerchant@dailyegyptian.com



DAILY EGYPTIAN PHOTO - PATRICK FILEZ
Ross Kowzan, who plays left field, was recently named MVC Player of the Week. Kowzan, who replaced Justin Maurath in the field, has made an impact on the plate batting .510 last month.

The baseball team opens its MVC season this weekend against Bradley in a four-game series at Abe Martin Field. The first game is Friday at 2 p.m.

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Stanek looks to slap MVC in face

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Jeff Stanek is a senior first baseman on the SIU baseball team. He is a four-year starter and currently is one of the team leaders in hitting and has helped propel the Salukis to an 11-4

start. He recently took some time off to speak with Jens Deju of the DAILY EGYPTIAN.

DAILY EGYPTIAN: How would you describe yourself as a player?

Jeff Stanek: Someone that works hard in the weight room and on the field, spends extra time doing work and basically just loves to compete and likes to win.

DE: How would you sum up your four years here?

JS: I'd have to say it started off real well and then had a little trouble in between, got injured in between. Hopefully I'll end it with a bang ... go out with a good season.

DE: How would you describe yourself off the field?

JS: I'm pretty social, have a pretty good social life. I like to hang out with the guys on the team, I have friends and we go out and have a

good time.

DE: Do you try to model yourself after any other players?

JS: Cal Ripken is always an inspiration to a lot of baseball players because of how hard he works to be in the game every day. I'd say he's a pretty good inspiration.

DE: What's more exciting, the World Series or the College World Series?

JS: I'd say the College World Series because it's just; the atmosphere with all the students and stuff is just a lot better. In any college sport, it seems like all the college major championships are a lot more exciting, a lot more fun to watch.

DE: What do you think has been the key to the team's quick start this year?

JS: Dedication in everything. Dedication in the weight room, wanting to be here, wanting to do extra work, wanting to win.

DE: What have been the differences between this year and last year?

JS: Depth. The depth we have this year, the amount of pitchers we have, the amount of extra position players ... not only do we have good starters, we have good reserves who can come

in and do the job.

DE: How much motivation did being picked second to last in the MVC give you guys?

JS: Without a doubt, it gave us probably the most motivation. You kind of expected it with the year we had last year, but just with everything we had coming back and some of the guys who were ineligible last year coming back, it's kind of like a slap in the face. It's real motivating. We want to really show them what we're made of, what we're worth.

DE: What was the key to the eight-game winning streak you guys had earlier this season?

JS: Playing solid defense, hitting and pitching. We had pretty much all three going for us. Some games pitching was there, some games hitting was there. We just kind of picked each other up.

DE: What do you think of the fact you guys already have 11 wins when you only had 19 last season?

JS: It's nice, but we're kind of disappointed that we let a couple slip away, so we feel we could have a couple more. We're pleased with how many wins we have now, but we kind of want to shoot for more. Play

every game to win. Expect to win.

DE: Favorite actor?

JS: I'll say Robert DeNiro.

DE: Favorite movie?

JS: "Casino."

DE: Favorite TV show?

JS: "Seinfeld."

DE: Favorite musician?

JS: I'll say Led Zeppelin.

DE: Favorite local restaurant?

JS: Mary Lou's.

Reporter Jens Deju can be reached at jdeju@dailyegyptian.com



hometown: Grand Park
year: senior, height: 6'3"
position: first baseman
throws: left, hits: right
average: .352, homeruns: 2
RBIs: 9, hits: 19
runs scored: 13

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Bruce Weber a man in demand

Saluki coach could be pursued by basketball bluebloods after season

Jay Schwab
Daily Egyptian

Building a consistent winner in college basketball isn't easy. Building a consistent winner at a program like SIU is close to impossible, and the reason why could be demonstrated sooner than Saluki fans would like.

Whenever a program in one of the non-power conferences experiences success, it's a pretty good bet that the team's coach is going to be hotly pursued by the big name schools. And with the Salukis improbably sitting in the Sweet Sixteen, SIU head coach Bruce Weber will be a prime example.

Speculation has already run rampant among Saluki fans and in the media about whether Weber — in his fourth season coaching the Salukis — will be in Carbondale for a fifth.

Weber said publicly earlier this week that he plans on returning to SIU next season, though he stopped short of guaranteeing it. He said that he and his family are happy in Carbondale, and indicated that it would have to be a program that has a winning tradition in an area that he liked to even consider leaving.

While Weber has a reputation for loyalty — he was an assistant at Purdue for 18 years — it's become an established pattern for successful coaches of the so-called "mid-major" programs to move on to more prestigious locales after building their resumes for a few years. Although Weber is making a healthy base salary of \$200,000, not including other perks and incentive clauses, SIU won't be able to compete financially if a school from one of the monster conferences steps in and offers Weber megabucks.

For now, Weber is intent on preparing the Salukis for their Friday showdown with Connecticut. But the rumor mill has little patience for such formalities, and SIU Athletic Director Paul Kowalczyk has already had to ponder the possibility that his prized coach might be aggressively courted at season's end.

"If Bruce aspires to another level, he's obviously earned it," Kowalczyk said. "I don't know who's interested and who isn't at this point, but I know that Bruce is concentrating on

What is your prediction for SIU's game against UConn? The DAILY EGYPTIAN is interested in your take. Email us at editor@siu.edu with your final score prediction and a brief explanation of your reasoning. We will print a sampling in Friday's paper. Be sure to include your name, year in school, hometown, and major if you're a student, or just your name and hometown if you're not.



DAILY EGYPTIAN PHOTO — ALEX HAGLUND

With the time winding down against Georgia this past Sunday, Saluki head coach Bruce Weber barks plays at his team from across the court. Since the Salukis' sudden success, rumors of Weber being lured away from Carbondale to a big name school at the end of this season have grown out of the woodwork.

See WEBER, page 12



Corey Cusick

cuscick@dailyegyptian.com

Who you calling Cinderella?

Cinderella Salukis? Hardly. Overlooked Salukis? Bingo. Throughout the country Salukimania is becoming more contagious than a yawn in that boring morning class of yours. People are starting to figure out just what in the world a Saluki is. The national media are roaming campus. And when someone speaks of Jermaine Dearman, they no longer call him that guy who looks like Ludacris.

Meanwhile, any half-knowledgeable basketball follower from the area has to sit back and wonder, "Where've you been all season?"

I mean it's not every day that legendary coach Bob Knight is more in awe of a Saluki team than the Salukis are in awe of Bob Knight.

Talk all you want about being a "mid-major." You can toss that talk in the trash. While we're at it, throw out all the RPI mumbo-jumbo that the computer eggheads who've never picked up a basketball stockpile.

Here's an idea. Watch a team. If they're good, they're good. No questions asked. No doubt about it: You shouldn't have to crunch numbers as a measuring stick.

Other than one off week in mid-February, this year's Salukis have proven time and time again that they can flat-out play some ball. Fellow Valley member Creighton demonstrated that as well.

Still, prior to this week, the national media would have rather hyped one of your run-of-the-mill fifth and sixth place teams from power conferences before a legitimate team from a less-notorized league.

At times it gets downright disrespectful. It definitely happens too often. Then again, that's why the media sit and

See CUSICK, page 12

When opportunity knocks, a diamond dawg will answer

Saluki newcomer mimics idol, takes advantage of opportunity to start for SIU

Todd Merchant
Daily Egyptian

On June 1, 1925, New York Yankees first baseman Wally Pipp was forced to leave a game due to an injury. He was replaced by a fresh-faced rookie named Lou Gehrig.

Gehrig would not relinquish his spot for the next 2,130 games, while Pipp drifted off into obscurity and trivia lore.

If anyone can relate to Pipp's unfortunate story, it may be Justin Maurath, a left fielder on the SIU baseball team. Maurath, a standout for the Salukis a season ago, was sidelined by an injury before this season. In his stead came Ross Kowzan, a junior college transfer and Du Quoin native.

Maurath has returned to the lineup in a limited designated hitter role, however, it does not appear he will be starting in left field anytime soon because Kowzan has come out of nowhere to

become one the brightest stars on the SIU squad.

Much of Kowzan's success can be attributed to the way he has always tried to mimic his idol, Gehrig. He has looked up to the Hall of Famer his entire life and even wore the No. 4 jersey before coming to SIU as an homage to Gehrig.

"Just what he stood for, as a human and as a ball player, just how he played the game," Kowzan said of Gehrig. "He was a great guy and I try to pattern myself after him because of the kind of person he was."

While Kowzan has a long way to go to reach the status of Gehrig, he is definitely beginning to resemble the Iron Horse at the plate this year.

Kowzan has been throttling pitchers consistently for the past month, racking up a .510 batting average, which leads the Missouri Valley Conference. He is also among the league leaders in hits.

Last week, Kowzan was named the MVC Player of the Week after his performance against Eastern Michigan. In three games with the Eagles, he went 5-for-8 with a double and a triple. He also scored three runs and knocked in five more.

Saluki head coach Dan Callahan has been

singing nothing but praises in regard to Kowzan all season. He thought his star left fielder deserved recognition well before last week.

The one thing that Callahan thinks personifies Kowzan's character the most is the way he takes a pitch. Callahan said that a lot of players seem nervous not swinging at a ball, but Kowzan always exudes confidence at the plate.

Callahan said he has never seen anyone as meticulous in nature as Kowzan and that he always has a gameplan in mind.

"He knows exactly what he wants to do in every situation he's in," Callahan said.

Kowzan has not always been so focused. In high school he would just go to the plate and start swinging and, although that approach helped him earn all-state honors his senior year, he knew he would have to make a change in college.

"Moving up a level to college ball, you've got to have a gameplan every time you go up there," Kowzan said. "The pitching's so good and the defense is so good that you've got to know what you're gonna do with the ball."

Kowzan noted the biggest difference between junior college ball and Division I baseball is the consistency of the pitchers, saying that everyone he

"Every day, I try to improve, I try to get better because I know if I don't and if I slack off, anyone that's not playing can easily take my spot and not miss a beat."

Ross Kowzan
junior, SIU baseball

goes up against is talented, a reason they are at this level.

Playing at Southeastern Illinois College in Harrisburg, Kowzan earned all-Great Rivers Athletic Conference honors, but Callahan's first impression of him was one of disappointment.

Callahan said he did not feel Kowzan played with enough hustle. However, he thought he had potential, and when a spot in the outfield opened up for the Salukis, Kowzan's name was the first one that popped into Callahan's mind.

Since coming to SIU, Kowzan has never

See KOWZAN, page 18