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March 2011

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Track and Field stars head to Texas, nationals



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Daily Egyptian

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Volume 96, Issue 119, 12 pages

Rising gas prices could stunt economic growth

LEAH STOVER
Daily Egyptian

As gas prices continue to rise, many are concerned with what could happen next.

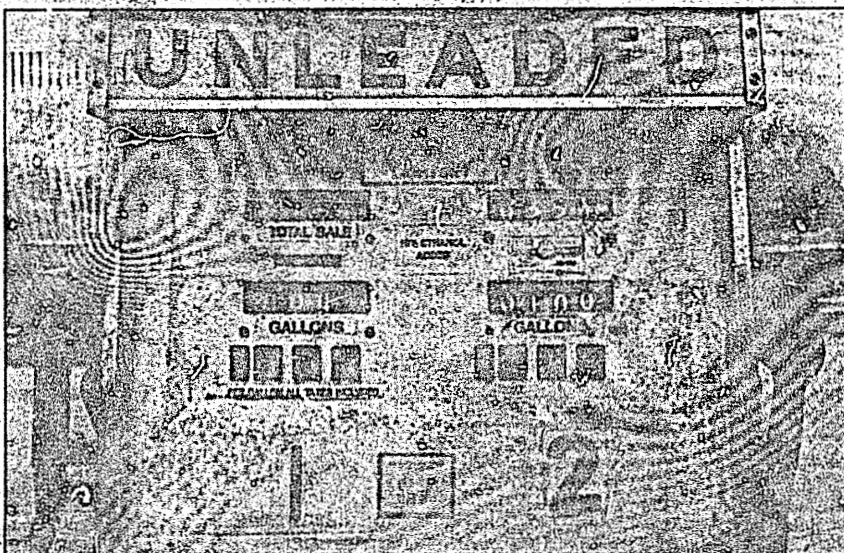
Thomas Mitchell, associate professor of economics, said the rise affects not only those who pay at the pump but also corporations who use any form of transportation.

"If you buy things online, you're going to pay more," he said. "Everything has to move and costs will go up."

Mitchell said most foods are transported from other areas this time of the year, and food costs are likely to rise because of the rising gas prices.

But that could be just the start of the ripple effect, he said. Mitchell said it is possible for the increase in prices to slow down the nation's slowly recovering economy, though it's difficult to tell how strongly it will be affected. People will need to make changes if prices continue to skyrocket, he said.

Joyci Dean, a junior from Sparta studying elementary education, said she has an hour commute three times a week and has already had to readjust her budget. If prices continue to rise, she said she may have to consider moving to an area that



An unleaded pump lists the price for a gallon of gas as \$3.49 Wednesday at the Fast Stop gas station in Cobden. Rising gas prices are projected to affect the overall growth of the U.S. economy. EDYTA BLASZCZYK DAILY EGYPTIAN

is more urban because she won't be able to afford commuting.

Mitchell said people similar to Dean who live in rural areas will be more affected than those who live in cities. Although mass transportation companies will have to pay higher fuel costs, he said they will

not pass those expenses on to their consumers immediately. But he said those in urban areas will eventually be hit if prices continue to rise.

Mitchell said a great concern is the effect gas prices will have on jobs.

"Think about a job at McDonald's. All that food has to be trucked

in," Mitchell said. "If McDonald's has higher transportation costs, then that affects their wages, and prices will go up, as well. Just like any other company, they will have to sustain those costs."

Hannah Stretcher, a junior from Kankakee studying history, said she

tries to avoid the gas pump.

"Sometimes I drive to the grocery store, but now I think twice about it and choose to walk or bike instead," she said.

Please see GAS | 4

Graduate assistants must keep status-quo contract

JULIE SWENSON
Daily Egyptian

Graduate Assistants United President Jim Podseva said the administration abruptly ended mediation with the group on Tuesday.

"They told us that they were no longer interested in negotiating with us," he said. "They ended negotiations, not us."

"I don't think this is really about making the university a better place; I think this was about the administration establishing who had power in a relationship."

Podseva said the group has been negotiating a new contract for more than a year and asked for a multi-year contract, a fee freeze, prescription

drug benefits, a stipend increase and a reduction in the \$1,000 health care deductible. GAU took the stipend increase off the table, he said, and the

administration still wouldn't budge.

"The administration didn't make any offers; they flatly rejected everything," he said. "I seriously doubt

they were interested in negotiating to begin with. I don't think this is really about making the university a better place; I think this was about the administration establishing who had power in a relationship." Chancellor Rita Cheng did not return calls seeking comment by press time.

Please see GRADUATE | 4

Borrowing only short-term fix, leaves long-term problem

BRANDON COLEMAN
Daily Egyptian

Even if it wanted to, the university hasn't borrowed money to cover operations because the budget problem would still exist, Chancellor Rita Cheng said.

"Borrowing would only help our cash-flow problem on a temporary basis," Cheng said. "It would not resolve our structural budget deficit ... or the university's financial problem."

Cheng said the university didn't borrow any money for fiscal year 2011 before the borrowing bill signed by Gov. Pat Quinn in 2010 expired Aug. 31.

She said money borrowed to cover state appropriations would have to be paid back immediately once the university received state money.

SIU President Glenn Poshard said the SIU system borrows money when it has to fund the construction of buildings.

"Borrowing would only help our cash-flow problem on a temporary basis."

"We have to have a revenue stream to support that borrowing," he said.

Poshard said tuition, specific fees and grant money could be used to back borrowed money while capital money — money used for long-term assessment improvements — and

operations money have separate accounts in the budget. SIU has not borrowed any money for operation expenses in FY11, he said.

SIUC began the fiscal year with a \$13 million deficit because of a drop in enrollment and loss of federal stimulus money, Cheng

said. She said the university has a \$5.7 million shortfall, which it plans to make up with unpaid closure days and use of \$3.1 million in hiring freeze savings from fiscal years 2010 and 2011.

SIUC's state appropriation for FY10 was more than \$120 million, but in FY11 the amount dropped to about \$113.5 million — slightly more than the FY06 budget.

Please see BORROWING | 4

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

Mission Statement

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

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Corrections

In the Thursday edition of the DAILY EGYPTIAN, the caption for the front page photo should have said, "... and Samantha Cooke pose for a portrait Wednesday in the Communications Building." The DAILY EGYPTIAN regrets the error.

In the Thursday issue of the DAILY EGYPTIAN, junior diver Justin Ruszkowski's name was misspelled in the story, "SIU diver stands alone in NCAA Diving Zone." The DAILY EGYPTIAN regrets this error.

Upcoming Calendar Events

Trigger Point Therapy
6:30 - 8 p.m. March 29
100 W. Main St., Carbondale
• A safe and natural solution to relieving stress-related problems including headaches, pain, fatigue, insomnia and digestive problems.
• Food and drinks will be served.
• Call 529-0921 to reserve a seat.

Dialoguing Dissertations: An Event for Female Scholars
5-7 p.m. March 22 in the Old Main Restaurant, second floor Student Center
• Limited seating; RSVP is required. Respond no later than Friday.
• Call 453-5714 for more information.

The Bare Bones II Workshop
6 p.m. March 24 at the Student Center Video Lounge
• Information for applying to SIUC Graduate School
• Sponsored by the Underserved Fellowship Office of the Graduate School
• Call 453-4353 for more information.

Spectacular Wintertime Birding in Florida
7 p.m. Monday at the Carbondale Township Hall, 217 E. Main St.
• A presentation by John and Martha Schwegman about birding in Florida
• Free event, all are welcome
• Presented by the Shawnee Audubon chapter
• For more information, contact Terri at 521-1030 or e-mail terri@shawnee-audubon.org.

Southern Illinois Blues Bonanza
8 p.m. March 18 at Hangar 9
• Presented by the Southern Illinois Blues Society
• \$5 for blues society members and \$7 for general public
• For more information, go to www.siblues.com or call Will Stephens at 534-1308.

Sustainable Living Film Series
5:30 p.m. today and other select Fridays March through October at Longbranch Coffeehouse
• Free educational film series on sustainable living
• For more information, contact Mark Fletcher at markfletcher@gmail.com.

Howard 95th

Keeping you in the loop of Chicago events every Tuesday.

Cricket Club aims to give sport campus exposure

RYAN VOYLES
Daily Egyptian

Manoj Mohanty said the SIUC Cricket Club is about more than the game.

The group, formed last fall, hopes to bring students together to participate in one of the most popular sports in the world, said Mohanty, a professor in mining and mineral resources engineering and faculty adviser for the group. He said the group has around 30 members, most of whom are from India where cricket is the most popular sport.

Mohanty said he hopes to draw more interest from international students from countries where the sport is popular, including Australia, South Africa and Pakistan. He said information about the group has been spread mostly by word-of-mouth so far, but he said an e-mail would soon be sent to all international students to see who would be interested.

"We really want to internationalize it here (and) get students who are from countries who play in the Cricket World Cup," Mohanty said.

The idea, Mohanty said, is to start having tournaments between the different students representing their country. After these tournaments, he said he hopes to have one team representing all the countries



STEVE BERZYNSKI | DAILY EGYPTIAN

Madhusudhana Haveri, a graduate student in electrical and computer engineering from India, plays cricket Wednesday at the Recreation Center. Cricket is one of many club sports offered by SIUC

and is open to all students to join. "There was no club for cricket here, so we got one organized," said Millind Bisen, a doctoral student in chemistry from India and a member of the club.

and playing in tournaments across the country.

Arjun Subramanya, a masters student in electrical engineering

from India and president-in-charge of the group, said the club provides a good opportunity for international students to play one of their favorite

games away from home.

"I just wanted to play cricket — I really miss cricket, like a lot," he said. "Like a lot of Indian students, I love

the game and wanted another opportunity to play it again."

Subramanya said he decided to file a petition to organize a specific cricket group after playing the sport with some friends in the Recreation Center.

Rahul Poladi, a graduate student in electrical and computer engineering from India, said the group has the opportunity to create awareness in southern Illinois.

"We have a real chance to help introduce this game here to SIUC," he said. "It will be good to get some exposure out there."

Mohanty said the club would benefit not only those who play the sport but also those who are interested in it but are unfamiliar with the rules. He said he knows cricket is not well-known in America, but he hopes the existence of a club team gives the sport more fans across the campus.

"Once people start seeing the game, they'll start growing interested in it and the popularity will grow," Mohanty said. "Hopefully by this point next year we'll be able to field a very good team."

Those interested in the group can contact Mohanty at mmohanty@siu.edu or Subramanya at arjunsub@siu.edu.

Ryan Voyles can be reached at rvoyles@dailyegyptian.com or 536-3311 ext. 258.

SoCal retiree recoups \$160,000 after lottery scam

CHRISTINA HOAG
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — The phone caller had fantastic news — the 87-year-old widower had won \$3.3 million in the Canadian sweepstakes, but there was a hitch to claiming the prize — taxes had to be paid upfront.

There was another hitch — it was all bogus.

The retired Los Angeles engineer, whose identity was not released, didn't find that out until long after he had mailed \$160,000 in checks last

year to a Quebec address and was waiting patiently for his winnings.

"It's a very common scam, usually targeting elderly senior citizens," said Claude Arnold, special agent in charge of Immigration and Customs Enforcement's Homeland Security Investigations unit, which investigates transnational crime. "Oftentimes, they're all too willing to send the money."

The case involving the Los Angeles senior citizen was unusual in that he recovered his money, which represented most of his life savings.

Most victims aren't so lucky, said Arnold, who returned the checks to the retiree on Wednesday.

These telemarketing swindles, which are often based in Canada and Jamaica, are so widespread that ICE has had a special unit dubbed Project Colt working on them since 1998, from both U.S. and overseas offices.

This recent scam started unfolding last April, when two women purporting to be from the Internal Revenue Service and the U.S. Department of Justice phoned the

octogenarian, saying he had won the lottery in Canada, according to an ICE statement.

It didn't come completely out of the blue — he had played the Canadian sweepstakes and won small amounts before.

The women continued calling, a couple times a week, building a rapport with him. They even had a man phone him with news of a prize, but then told their victim that they found out the other caller was a swindler in a ruse to make him believe they were on his side.

They pressed him to send cash to pay the taxes so he could claim his lottery money. He refused to mail cash, instead sending three cashier's and bank checks.

Meanwhile, across the country, a Rockville, Md., woman who had sent cash to the callers was getting suspicious. She complained to Montgomery County Sheriff's Department, who notified the U.S. Postal Service.

The alert went out to Project Colt members: ICE, Canada Post and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

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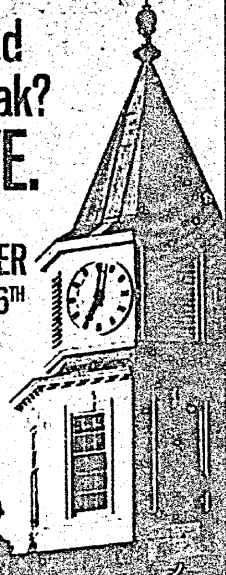
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The Board of Trustees, Kaskaskia College, Community College District #501 is seeking proposals for providing consulting services to Illinois businesses for international trade assistance.

Those interested in receiving a copy of the Request for Proposal should contact the Kaskaskia College Purchasing Office, 27210 College Road, Centralia, IL 62801, (618)545-3137. Requests may also be emailed to keppurchasing@kaskaskia.edu.

The Kaskaskia College Purchasing Office, located in Room AD 104-110, first floor, Administration Building must receive all proposals no later than 2:00 p.m., CST, Friday, April 1, 2011. Proposals must be in a sealed envelope and clearly marked "REP No. 11-003-Consulting Services For International Trade". Proposals received after the stated time and date will not be accepted and will be returned unopened. The sealed proposals will be publicly opened immediately after the submission deadline in the Kaskaskia College Administrative Conference Room, Room AD-227, second floor, Administration Building, at the College Campus.

Kaskaskia College, Community College District #501, reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals.

GAS
 CONTINUED FROM 1

Stretcher said she's lucky to have bought her plane ticket for spring break early. Stretcher will fly to Ecuador for the week and said the price of her plane ticket has risen \$300 from the time she bought it.

Mitchell said airline companies took an immediate hit because of the rise. He said students who have already bought plane or

GRADUATE
 CONTINUED FROM 1

Graduate Assistants United President Jim Podersva said the administration abruptly ended mediation with the group Tuesday.

"They told us that they were no longer interested in negotiating with us," he said. "They ended negotiations, not us."

Podersva said the group has been negotiating a new contract for more than a year and asked for a multi-year contract, a fee freeze, prescription drug benefits, a stipend increase and a reduction in the \$1,000 health care deductible. GAU took the stipend increase off the table, he said, and the

BORROWING
 CONTINUED FROM 1

Poshard said Standard and Poor's or Moody's are two credit-rating houses that usually work with the SIU system to help find the best borrowing rate.

"Generally we can get decent borrowing rates depending upon the stability of our funds," he said.

Poshard said Standard and Poor's and Moody's determine a debtor's likelihood of paying off borrowed money when they set bond ratings to establish an interest rate. The more a government body looks as if it might default on a loan, the higher the interest, he said.

Poshard said SIU's interest

NOAKI SCHWARTZ
 Associated Press

REDONDO BEACH, Calif. — Thousands of slimy, reeking sardines gurgled to the surface of an increasingly murky Southern California marina on Thursday as crews kept scooping and vacuuming tons of fish that perished in a huge, unexplained die-off.

Volunteers and city workers scrambled for a third day to remove the bloated fish that bobbed to the surface of King Harbor.

It could take about a week to clean up the mess.

"The virtue is we can get them

train tickets for spring break will be less affected by the immediate rise than those who drive.

Mitchell said he personally will have to make adjustments if rises continue. He said he would consider driving to school with his wife or taking fewer vacations throughout the year. Mitchell said the rise of food costs will affect his family the most.

Stretcher said she isn't too worried about the rise in prices and will continue riding her bike and

administration still wouldn't budge.

"The administration didn't make any offers they flatly rejected everything," he said. "I seriously doubt they were interested in negotiating to begin with. I don't think this is really about making the university a better place. I think this was about the administration establishing who had power in a relationship."

Podersva said an average SIUC graduate assistant makes about \$13,000 a year on a stipend, from which a fee increase cuts a significant amount of money. Each semester, graduate students pay about a month's salary in fees, which equates to a two-month pay cut out of a nine-month workload, he said.

payback rate hovered at 2 percent before the state recession struck, when the university's bond rating, or likelihood of payback, was good.

Cheng said the university started its state appropriation request by submitting its FY12 budget to the Illinois Board of Higher Education. She said the budget, which will mirror the FY11 budget, is currently under review by the state legislature.

The borrowing bill would have allowed state universities to pay up to 75 percent of the amount of state appropriations not yet received, but borrowed money would have to be paid back within a year.

William Winter, budget director for SIU-Edwardsville, said he

using other forms of transportation. She said it's difficult for those in southern Illinois to not be affected because there aren't many alternatives to driving.

"I hate driving and one of those reasons is gas prices," she said. "I would move somewhere with better bike lanes and areas for pedestrians to walk. We don't have that here."

Leah Stover can be reached at lstover@dailyegyptian.com or 536-3311 ext. 266.

Graduate assistants have no family coverage or prescription drug benefits in terms of health care and insurance, and they have to wait a year for coverage if they have a pre-existing condition, Podersva said.

"We have graduate assistants who have to choose between medicine and food, and the administration seems to be OK with that," he said.

Podersva said since an agreement wasn't reached, the GAU was given a one-year contract, which was the administration's last-chance offer.

Julie Swenson can be reached at jswenson@dailyegyptian.com or 536-3311 ext. 254.

doesn't recall the Edwardsville campus ever needing to borrow money to account for not yet received state money. He said he credited the campus' continued rise in enrollment since 2005 for lack of a need to borrow.

Poshard said the university has made cuts to the SIU system, some of which include freezing salaries and leaving about 200 positions unfilled.

"We've done everything we could to save as much money as we could because of the cut from the state appropriations," Poshard said.

Brandon Coleman can be reached at bcoleman@dailyegyptian.com or 536-3311 ext. 259.

Dead sardines still clogging Calif. marina


look brackish with tiny bubbles, scales and scum floating on the surface with the decomposing fish.

Volunteers and city workers netted fish and picked them by hand from the marina rocks. Keenan said several techniques were being used, including vacuuming the bottom.

"Depending on where the fish are, we have to use a different technique," Keenan said. "There's not a catch-all method — no pun intended."

The cleanup came after the enormous school of sardines apparently suffocated in the harbor, possibly while seeking shelter from a predator or simply becoming lost near a breakwater.

Get heard



DE
 Daily Egyptian

with voices

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Voices

Friday, March 11, 2011 • 5

www.dailyegyptian.com

Are Wis. public employees overpaid?

ANDREW G. BIGGS
JASON RICHWINE
McClatchy Tribune

Amid the rage over Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker's proposals to shrink government worker compensation, one question predominates: Are these workers overpaid? If so, it makes sense for them to accept less, rather than force taxpayers to give up more.

We're told, of course, that they're not. In recent weeks, left-leaning think tanks have tried to portray public employees, including government workers, as underpaid. A recent report from the Economic Policy Institute concluded that Wisconsin public employees are undercompensated by about 5 percent compared to private workers with similar skills and personal characteristics.

When counting the full value of benefits and job security, however, public employment in Wisconsin is a very good deal indeed.

As in most states, Wisconsin

Retired Milwaukee teachers receive full health coverage at almost no cost to themselves, a benefit that actuarial reports conclude is worth around an extra 17 percent of pay.

state and local workers make less in wages but more in benefits than comparable private workers. According to our analysis of the Current Population Survey, Wisconsin public workers have earned about 5 percent less in wages over the past five years than private workers in large firms — after controlling for age, education and many other earnings-related characteristics. (The penalty would disappear almost entirely if we compared public workers to employees of all private firms, not just the largest ones.)

Do generous benefits outweigh this wage penalty? The EPI report acknowledges that public-sector benefits are more generous than in private firms — equal to around 27 percent of total compensation for Wisconsin public workers, versus 19 percent to 23 percent for private

employees. This already makes total pay nearly even for public- and private-sector employees.

But the EPI study underestimates public-sector pension benefits, omits retiree health benefits, and doesn't count the value of public-sector job security.

Wisconsin public employers fund their defined-benefit plans by calculating the contributions today which, compounded at an assumed 7.8 percent interest rate, will be sufficient to pay promised benefits at retirement. Since public-pension benefits are guaranteed by Wisconsin law, even if investment returns fall short, this means that public employees receive a riskless 7.8 percent return on their employer's pension contributions.

Private-sector employees with 401(k) plans, by contrast, can earn

only around a 4 percent guaranteed return by holding U.S. Treasury securities. Adjusting for this difference adds around 4 percent to total Wisconsin public-employee compensation.

Another overlooked benefit that most state and local employees receive is retiree health coverage. Even the simple right to buy into the employees' plan, which is what most Wisconsin public retirees receive, is a good deal compared to the cost of a 60-year-old purchasing coverage in the individual market.

Other public employees receive an even better deal. Retired Milwaukee teachers receive full health coverage at almost no cost to themselves, a benefit that actuarial reports conclude is worth around an extra 17 percent of pay. While the value of retiree health benefits varies among Wisconsin public employees, almost all receive a better deal than the private sector, where retiree health coverage is both rare and stingy by comparison.

Finally, public-sector workers

enjoy significantly greater job security than private-sector workers. The Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that nationwide, state and local employees are fired or laid off at less than one-third the rate in the private sector. How much is this job security worth? A lot. A worker who loses his job spends an average of almost 20 weeks unemployed, during which time he must subsist on unemployment benefits.

We can put a number on this. Assuming that Wisconsin workers would have the same probability of being discharged, and the same duration of unemployment as private workers, their extra job security is equivalent to about a 9 percent pay increase.

In short, the total job package for Wisconsin public employees — salaries, benefits and job security — is roughly 10 percent higher than what is paid to similar private workers, and in certain cases far more. Government workers should bear that in mind as they press their demands.

All labor has a stake in Wisconsin standoff

HARLEY SHAIKEN
McClatchy Tribune

Autoworkers sat down to win collective bargaining rights during a cold Flint, Mich., winter in February 1937. For the last few weeks, 14 Wisconsin state senators have been sitting in motel rooms somewhere in Illinois to preserve those rights for public workers. In both cases, thousands of supporters braved the cold in solidarity.

Flint was a watershed moment; Wisconsin could clearly become one. What are the stakes?

Despite the fact that the unions have agreed to all his financial demands, Gov. Scott Walker clearly would like to demolish collective bargaining and flatten public-sector unions. If this strategy succeeds, all workers — union and non-union alike — could pay a heavy price. Three reasons stand out.

First, collective bargaining isn't the problem; it is part of the solution. It was designed to bring labor and management together to resolve their differences.

Well, you might say, that's fine

theoretically, but what about costly benefits and work rules? New York's Mayor Michael Bloomberg put it simply: "If contract terms or labor laws from years past no longer make sense, we the people should renegotiate, or legislate, changes, not abolish rights."

Underlying the anti-union assault is the unstated assumption that an employer is never biased, unfair or just plain wrong. What unions add is the perspective of workers and the balance that's vital to a healthy, productive workplace.

The standards set in the public sector, over half of all union members are employed there today, influence workplaces throughout the economy.

Some argue, however, that an inherent conflict exists between unions bargaining with people they helped elect. Strangely, these same critics ignore the fact that corporations already do just that, making deals with people they just helped elect. Throttling unions doesn't level the playing field; it simply provides exclusive access for business interests.

Overall, some states with col-

lective bargaining are doing well right now, and some states without it are sinking. Montana Gov. Brian Schweitzer and unions collaborated on change, some of it painful, to benefit the state. In California, Gov. Jerry Brown is working with unions to climb out of the fiscal quagmire, not seeking to pulverize them.

In the private sector, the Ford Motor Co. and the United Auto Workers have transformed a sputtering company into a global leader. Last year, Ford became the second most profitable automaker in the world, trailing only highly unionized Volkswagen.

Second, the ability to form a union is fundamental in any democratic society. President Ronald Reagan applauded this right in Poland 30 years ago, praising unions for providing "the right to work and reap the fruits of one's labor, the right to assemble, the right to strike, and the right to freedom of expression."

If it's good enough for Poland, it ought to be good enough for us. The First Amendment provides rights to free speech and assembly in the community. Unions bring

If this strategy succeeds, all workers — union and non-union alike — could pay a heavy price.

those rights to the workplace through collective bargaining.

As important, unions add balance in the electoral arena. They represent their members, to be sure, but they also speak for the middle class and the disadvantaged. Do we think the minimum wage or the 40-hour week simply dropped out of thin air?

Throttling public-sector unions silences labor's voice. When Indiana Gov. Mitch Daniels jettisoned state collective bargaining six years ago, state union membership plummeted by 90 percent. Today, in the wake of the U.S. Supreme Court's Citizens United decision, corporations can shower unlimited contributions on the causes and candidates of their choice. If politics were a pinball machine, the tilt lights would be blinking.

Finally, unions provide dignity for those who work Gov. Walker insists that civil service protections will still be available for state workers. There is no substitute,

however, for elected representatives speaking for all workers as well as ensuring the rights of any individual.

The Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. journeyed to Memphis, Tenn., in his last days to march with city sanitation workers for recognition of their union and their collective bargaining rights. The workers wore buttons that said, "I Am a Man," and for King the struggle was for a moral right as well as economic justice.

Lisa Haberling, 35, a Wisconsin nurse's aide, told the Detroit Free Press that "these people are my snowplow drivers, city workers and my neighbors," adding, "These are the jobs that my children might want some day."

Unions are far from perfect, but then again so is democracy. Lisa Haberling's words remind us that unions and collective bargaining are vital for a public sector that serves the public and the democratic values we cherish.

Submissions

Letters and guest columns must be submitted with author's contact information, preferably via e-mail. Phone numbers are required to verify authorship, but will not be published. Letters are limited to 300 words and columns to 500 words. Students must include year and major. Faculty must include rank and department. Others include hometown. Submissions should be sent to voices@siue.edu.

Notice

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6 • Friday, March 11, 2011

www.dailycyprus.com

“Fellow citizens, we cannot escape history.”

PAT QUINN
Illinois governor on signing a death-penalty ban into law on Wednesday, making Illinois the 16th state to end capital punishment

“In 30 minutes, 18 state senators undid 50 years of civil rights in Wisconsin.”

MARK MILLER
leader of the Democratic minority in the state senate, after Republican senators moved to push through the disputed bill on union bargaining on Wednesday without any Democrats present

Giffords hopes to attend husband's shuttle launch

RAMIT PLUSHNICK-MASTI
Associated Press

HOUSTON — Rep. Gabrielle Giffords has shown so much progress in her recovery from a bullet wound to the head that friends and family are making plans for her to attend the launch of her husband's space shuttle mission next month in Florida, a person close to the family told The Associated Press on Thursday.

The person spoke on condition of anonymity because the family and doctors have not yet publicized the decision. A news conference was scheduled for Friday morning at the Houston hospital where Giffords is undergoing rehabilitation.

Giffords was shot in the head Jan. 8 at a political event outside a grocery store in an attack that killed six people and wounded 12 others.

Family and friends of Giffords have expressed optimism in

recent weeks that she will be able to attend the launch of her astronaut husband, Mark Kelly. The topic has also been of great speculation in the media and the general public amid hope that she would be able to beat the odds from her horrific injury and see her husband rocket into space.

While doctors have said attending the launch is the goal, they have tempered the optimism with important medical considerations about the congresswoman's health.

Dr. Gerard Francisco, the head of the team of doctors overseeing Giffords' rehabilitation, said last month that a decision would be based on the progress of her recovery, how independent her movement is, and whether she could handle the commotion of traveling.

TIRR Memorial Hermann, the rehabilitation center where she is being treated, and her doctors declined to confirm Thursday

whether she would attend the launch. C.J. Karamargin, a spokesman for Giffords in Arizona, said getting her to Cape Canaveral was still the goal as she continues to recover in the time from now until the launch next month.

“The plan has always been the congresswoman to attend. If that is possible, it will happen,” he said.

Kelly will be the commander of Endeavour when it launches in April, and his identical twin brother Scott is the current leader of the International Space Station crew. Mark Kelly has been training for the mission and said earlier he hoped his wife would be able to see him off.

Details of Giffords' progress have been leaked to the media through friends and family, but the hospital has been tight-lipped about her condition. The news conference on Friday will be the first official update from the hospital since Jan. 26, when Giffords was moved from

a Houston intensive care unit to the nearby rehabilitation center.

Friends and family have described Giffords as making steady progress, showing emotion on various occasions, singing “American Pie” with her stepdaughters as part of music therapy and pushing a shopping cart down the hospital corridors as she regains her walking abilities.

Rabbi David Lyon, senior rabbi at Congregation Beth Israel in Houston, visits Giffords three times a week and says her speech has improved.

“There are words that are becoming clearer and opportunities to communicate are increasing,” Lyon told The Associated Press.

Giffords was shot in the left hemisphere of her brain, which controls communication. There has been concern that she could have problems with speech, and it remains unclear what, if any, impediments remain and what could be permanent.

Lyon declined to share information from the conversations he has had with Giffords, but confirmed that she is often surrounded by family and friends. He said her room is decorated with pictures that are important to her, including images of friends and scenes from home.

“She's a part of a life and that's an important part of anyone's healing,” Lyon said.

The suspect, 22-year-old Jared Loughner, has pleaded not guilty in federal court. Authorities described him as a mentally unstable college dropout who became obsessed with carrying out violence against Giffords. He appeared in court this week in Tucson at a hearing attended by at least three survivors of the attack.

Associated Press Writer Jacques Billeaud contributed to this report from Phoenix.

LIBYA

Gadhafi forces pound Libyan rebels with shelling and force them into a frantic retreat

RAS LANOUF — With fierce barrages of tank and artillery fire, Moammar Gadhafi's loyalists threw rebels into a frantic retreat from a strategic oil port Thursday in a counter-offensive that reversed the opposition's advance toward the capital of Tripoli and now threatens its positions in the east.

The rout came as the U.S. director of national intelligence stressed that Gadhafi's military was stronger than it has been described and said that in the longer term the regime will prevail.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

Shouting, tears as Capitol Hill terrorism hearing becomes debate over language and religion

WASHINGTON — Congress pushed deep into a raw and emotional debate Thursday over American Muslims who have committed terrorist attacks in the name of religion, in a hearing punctuated by tearful testimony, angry recriminations and political theater.

Republican Rep. Peter King declared U.S. Muslims are doing too little to help fight terror in America. Democrats warned of inflaming anti-Muslim sentiment and emerging al-Qaida.

NEW YORK

Stocks swoon on poor economic news, swings in oil prices; Dow has worst day since August

NEW YORK — Weak economic news from China, the U.S. and Spain combined with a slump in oil companies sent stocks sharply lower Thursday. The Dow Jones Industrial average had its biggest one-day drop since August.

Investors were jarred when China reported a surprise trade deficit. China's exports fell in February as businesses closed for the week-long Lunar New Year holiday, but imports of higher-priced oil and other goods jumped, widening the country's deficit to \$7.3 billion.

SOMALIA

A pirate says an attempt to free a Danish family from Somali pirates has failed

MOGADISHU — An attempt by Somali security forces to free a Danish family from a pirate gang on Thursday turned deadly after the would-be rescuers walked into an ambush, a pirate and a security official said.

Pirate Eile Husein told The Associated Press that armed forces from Somalia's semi-autonomous northern region of Puntland tried to surround the village of Hal Anool and free the family but were beaten back before they were in position. He said some government forces were killed and others were captured but did not give exact figures.

Panel: Child welfare system failed dead Florida girl

KELLI KENNEDY
Associated Press

MIAMI — A panel investigating the death of a 10-year-old Florida girl whose body was found in the back of her adoptive father's truck said a lack of common sense and communication among child welfare officials played a role in the tragedy.

“A child has died, and a child didn't need to die,” said panelist David Lawrence, a former Miami Herald publisher. “We could have done a hell of a lot better than we did.”

The three-person panel recommended that the state Department of Children and Families immediately review the qualifications of case managers, child protective investigators and psychologists contracting with the state, warning in the 14-page report “there is no substitute for critical thinking.” The panel also suggested that the state establish a more concise and immediate information-sharing system and review its state abuse hotline procedures.

The investigation revealed that child welfare officials repeatedly missed signs that the girl, Nubia

Docter, and her twin brother Victor were being abused by their adoptive parents.

Nubia's partially decomposed body was found in the back of her father's pickup truck along a busy interstate on Valentine's Day. Victor was found in the front seat, soaked in toxic chemicals, and is now recovering from serious burns. Their adoptive parents, Jorge and Carmen Barahona were being charged with first-degree murder in Nubia's death.

A child protective investigator visited the home on Feb. 10, one day before Nubia's death, after the state received a call to its abuse hotline that the twins were being bound and locked in a bathroom. She never saw the twins, but marked on a safety questionnaire they weren't likely “in immediate danger or serious harm,” even though she didn't know where they were. She spent four days looking for the twins but never called police.

Many of the panel's recommendations match the findings of other commissions in Florida foster-child deaths in recent years. Case workers didn't talk to teachers and medical professionals. Critical information was missing from case files. Abuse

“A child has died, and a child didn't need to die. We could have done a hell of a lot better than we did.”

allegations were treated with little sense of urgency. In short — no one was ultimately responsible for Nubia and Victor.

Jim Sewell served on the panel that investigated the girl's death. He also chaired a team that investigated the death of 7-year-old foster child Gabriel Myers, who hung himself while on a powerful combination of psychiatric medications in 2009.

“It's like deja vu all over again. Some of the same things in Gabriel's case, where there was systemic failure, failed Nubia,” Sewell said. “I think mediocrity in responding to needs of the children is the bane of child welfare. We've seen too frequently people just get the job done and that's not enough when it comes to children.”

The panel recommended a single, concise place where relevant information is consistently updated so case workers, judges, doctors and school officials can

access it. Currently, case files are unwieldy mounds of documents with missing data.

“We know there were pieces of information that if ever brought together and listened to gave us a very good chance of ... a stunningly different outcome in this case,” said Lawrence, a child advocate. “We think there is a fundamental problem of failure to listen, failure of common sense. We've seen numerous issues where the child was not the first priority.”

Nubia's teacher and principal testified before a judge in 2007 that the child stole food and was afraid of her adoptive mother, Carmen Barahona. One teacher said Nubia alleged that Carmen hit her. But that information never made it to a psychologist, who recommended in 2008 that the Barahonas be allowed to adopt the twins. A judge later approved the adoption.

Nubia also told a psychologist she had considered suicide and feared something terrible was going to happen to her, but little was done.

Records show the case manager didn't even talk to the twins in a majority of visits while they were foster children in the Barahonas' home over four years, nor did the caseworker consistently visit them every 30 days.

The Barahonas were repeatedly told the twins badly needed dental care, but child welfare officials never did anything about it. In 2004, a nurse had warned that Nubia was missing important doctors' appointments and questioned whether the Barahonas were appropriate foster parents.

“Much of the documentation was incomplete or inadequate and it was difficult for this panel as well as staff concerned with quality assurance to reconstruct what actually occurred, who was or should have been involved and the results of any action taken,” according to the report.

The panel also recommended that DCF review its state abuse hotline procedures. The hotline call regarding the twins, for example, was flagged to be followed up within 24 hours instead of immediately.

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- 507 S. Hays 1
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2 BDRM, 708 W Freeman 91 Village Dr

3 BDRM HOUSE: 201 S. Glenview Also renting 1,2,3,5&6 BDRM for May/August 2011

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1 BDRM: 403 W Freeman, 905 E Park, 6830 W Old Hwy 13

2 BDRM: 805 & 905 E Park, 404 W Mill, 955-1023 Autumn Pl

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MDBORO 1 BDRM, carpet, air, no pets, \$310/mo, call 967-9202 or 687-4577.

Townhouses NEWER, 3 BDRM, 308 W College, energy eff, c/a, w/d, new carpet, private yard, fire, offstreet parking, no pets, 549-4008.

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2-3 BDRM, NICE QUIET area, c/a, w/d, dr, no dogs, quiet people only, avail now, 618-549-0081.

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4 BDRMS, walk to SIU, lg yard, for Aug, central heat & a/c, no pets, call 924-1965.

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1 COMPTON RENTALS 2 BDRM: 424 W. Ripdon 1102 N. Carico 1315 S. Wall St

3 BDRM, M'Boro, 1199 Mt. Joy Rd 4bdrm, 1305 S. Wall St www.comptonrentals.net 618-924-0525

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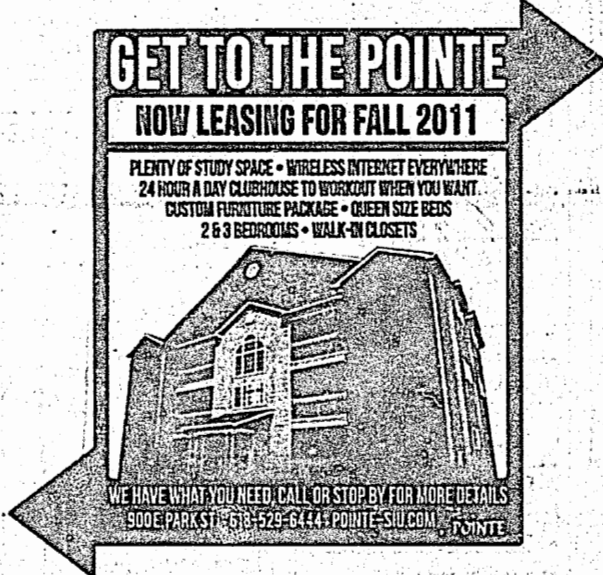
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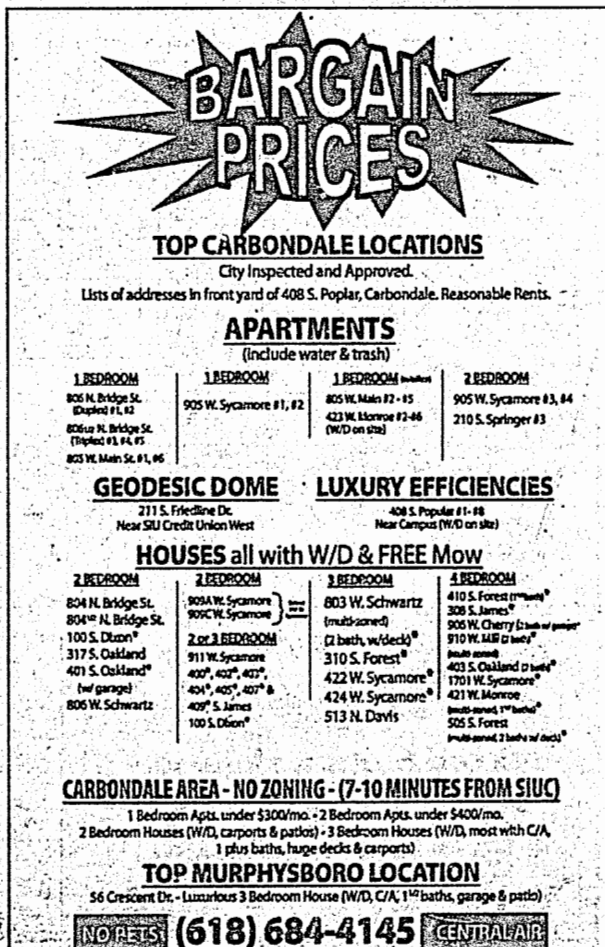
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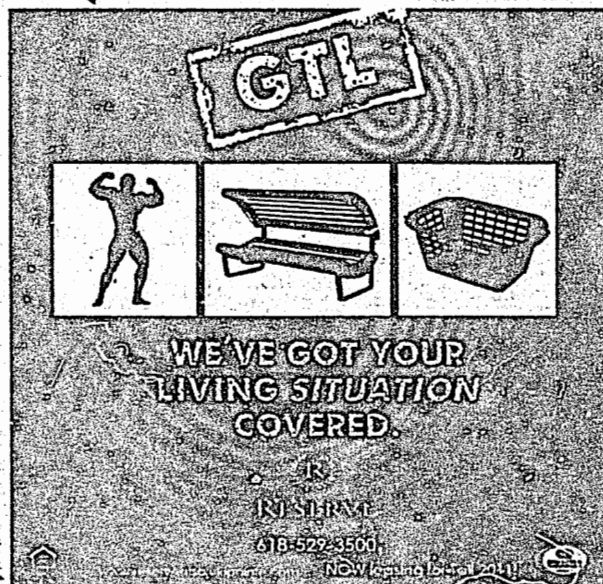
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Lists of addresses in front yard of 408 S. Poplar, Carbondale. Reasonable Rents.
APARTMENTS
(include water & trash)
1 BEDROOM: 805 N. Bridge St. Duplex #1, #2; 805 N. Bridge St. (Duplex #3, #4, #5); 805 W. Main St. #1, #6
1 BEDROOM: 905 W. Sycamore #1, #2
1 BEDROOM (basement): 805 W. Main #2 - #5; 423 W. Monroe #2-#6 (W/D on site)
2 BEDROOM: 905 W. Sycamore #3, #4; 210 S. Springer #3
GEODESIC DOME 271 S. Friedline Dr. Near SIU Credit Union West
LUXURY EFFICIENCIES 408 S. Poplar #1-#8 Near Campus (W/D on site)
HOUSES all with W/D & FREE Mow
2 BEDROOM: 804 N. Bridge St.; 100 S. Dixon*; 317 S. Oakland; 401 S. Oakland* (w/ garage); 806 W. Schwartz
2 BEDROOM: 805A W. Sycamore; 909C W. Sycamore
2 or 3 BEDROOM: 911 W. Sycamore; 409*, 407*, 407*; 404*, 405*, 405* & 409*; S. James; 100 S. Dixon*
3 BEDROOM: 803 W. Schwartz (multi-zone); (2 bath, w/ deck)*; 310 S. Forest*; 422 W. Sycamore*; 424 W. Sycamore*; 513 N. Davis
4 BEDROOM: 410 S. Forest (1st floor); 308 S. James*; 906 W. Cherry (basement garage); 910 W. Hill St. (basement); 403 S. Oakland (2 bath)*; 1701 W. Sycamore*; 421 W. Monroe (basement 1st bath)*; 505 S. Forest (multi-zone, 2 baths of deck)*
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Study Break

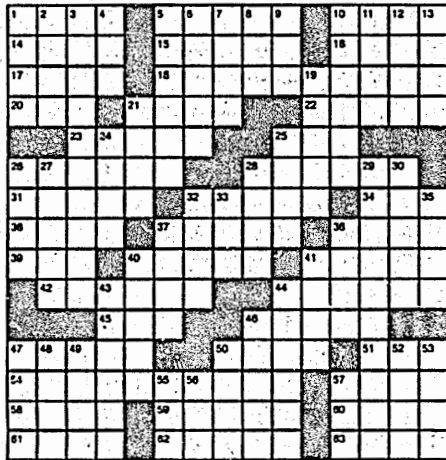
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Crossword

THE Daily Commuter Puzzle by Jacqueline E. Mathews

- ACROSS**
- Out of ___; not in harmony
 - Slogan
 - Impulsive; too hasty
 - Penniless
 - Burr or Spelling
 - Montreal event of the 1960s
 - National military force
 - Safeguard; defense
 - ___ as a beet
 - Implored
 - Speediness
 - Dog ___; like a well-read book
 - Oahu garland
 - Granny Smiths and McIntoshes
 - Sensory appendage
 - Festive celebrations
 - Inexpensive
 - Eminem's style
 - Burden
 - Transparent
 - Intl. military alliance
 - Jewel
 - Incline
 - One who gets just his feet wet
 - Wiggle room
 - Defy; oppose
 - Moving truck
 - Purple shade
 - Run ___; chase
 - James ___; 007
 - ___ we having fun yet?
 - Defamatory
 - Object
 - ___ up; confined
 - Swimming bird
 - Paper quantity
 - Droops
 - Possessed
 - Catch sight of
- DOWN**
- Shadowbox
 - Days of ___; time long past
 - Pen name
 - Weep
 - Trees with sap used for syrup
 - Rowed
 - Trampled
 - Small child
 - ___ for the road; final drink
 - Not wholesale
 - Allies' WWII foe
 - Blemish
 - Sharpen
 - Baby bird's cry
 - Reagan or Clinton: abbr.
 - "Dear mo!"
 - Shakespeare's "King ___"
 - Very eager
 - Dashboard
 - Daring act
 - Gets rid of
 - Prices per hour
 - Potter's material
 - As mad as a wet ___
 - Harbor town
 - Family group
 - Space eggy
 - Field of grass
 - Unite metals
 - Happenings
 - Hosed down
 - ___ up; make a mess of things
 - Biting snakes
 - Hopping insect
 - Orange-flavored drink
 - Benefit
 - Harvest
 - TV show award
 - Self-esteem
 - Argument
 - Wrath



Thursday's Puzzle Solved



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Horoscopes

By Nancy Black and Stephanie Clement

Today's Birthday — Celebrate your birthday and that of Italian poet Forgiato Tasso. His words resonate all the way back from the 16th century to define your year ahead: "All time is truly lost and gone, which is not spent in serving love."

Aries (March 21-April 19) — Today is an 8 — Words come easily. People want to hear, even when you let your imagination go wild. Just make sure that you speak to what they're listening for.

Taurus (April 20-May 20) — Today is an 8 — It doesn't always have to be "me, me, me." Practice random acts of kindness, like putting spare change in someone's parking meter or volunteering at a soup kitchen.

Gemini (May 21-June 21) — Today is an 8 — Give a grin. Wavy Gravy, the Woodstock down master of ceremonies, has the word "smile" painted on the ceiling above his bed as a waking reminder. It's contagious.

Cancer (June 22-July 22) — Today is an 8 — If you believe everything you think, you'd drive yourself crazy. Sometimes it's good to tell the voice in your head that you need a break and won't pay attention.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) — Today is a 7 — A friend shows you a different way. Be open to change, which may bring pleasant surprises. Revisit your goals and dreams today. Trust your intuition first. Then rely on a solid plan.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — Today is an 8 — Believe in your dreams. New career possibilities open. Did you always want to be an astronaut? What's stopping you? Woody Allen says, "90 percent of success is just showing up."

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) — Today is a 7 — Adventure time! Let go of limitations and discover new territories within. You find new ways to express yourself that you never considered possible.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) — Today is an 8 — If you say there's gold at the end of the rainbow, then there must be. Be true to yourself and follow your path to joy. Enjoy the ride. The destination can wait.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) — Today is an 8 — Partnership is key, at home and at work. The collaboration goes both ways. Be ready to listen and to recognize other's ideas. They may be right.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — Today is a 9 — It's a good time to write and reflect on nature. What can you do that would involve both activities? Fix a picnic lunch and escape for a journal session outside.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) — Today is an 8 — Consider a creative activity with children. Volunteer at your local school, if you can. Or just spend time reading to a younger family member. They teach you.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) — Today is an 8 — The day could be a roller coaster, but it's nothing you can't handle. After you get used to the thrill of the ride, you might even enjoy it. Lift up your arms as you scream.

JUMBLE

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

SAIBS

SGESU

RUADON

KTDECO

Ans:

THURSDAY'S ANSWERS: Jumbles: CHESS CRUSH WEAPON WICKED
 Answer: What the engineer's lunch was — CHEW CHEWS

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek



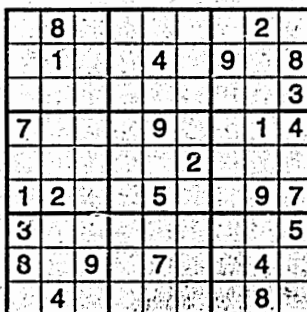
Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

SUDOKU

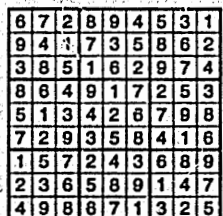
THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mepham Group

Level: **1** **2** **3** **4**

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit www.sudoku.org.uk.



THURSDAY'S ANSWERS



TENNIS

Men, women to spend break on road

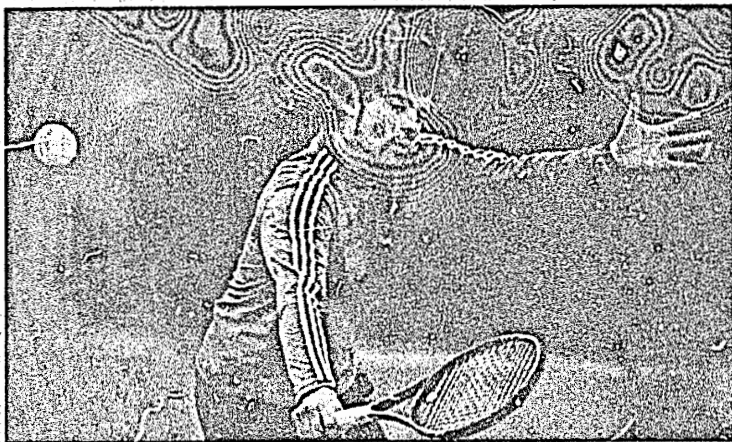
TREY BRAUNECKER
Daily Egyptian

Women's tennis coach Audra Nothwehr said her team has never beaten Arkansas State in her two years as coach at SIUC, but she's determined to show the Red Wolves how far the team has come since their last meeting.

Instead of using the free time to travel to the coasts and enjoy the beaches, the men and women's teams will face a total of seven teams for their spring break. The men will face Georgia Southern on Monday, George Mason on Tuesday and South Carolina State on Wednesday. The women will play on Arkansas State on Saturday, Charleston Southern on Tuesday, South Carolina State on Wednesday and both Georgia Southern and George Mason on March 18.

Both teams will play their first outside matches of the spring season as well. Men's coach Dann Nelson said he would like to see the team play better matches on the outdoor courts.

Nothwehr said she hopes her



GENNA ORD | DAILY EGYPTIAN

Sophomore, Brandon Florez uses a backhand in Statesboro, Ga., and moves on Tuesday to play George Mason in Hilton Head, S.C. The men's team plays Monday at Georgia Southern.

team will be able to beat Arkansas State on Saturday, but the real challenge will be the transition from indoor to outdoor courts.

Arkansas State's advantage is

how hard the team hits the ball, so SIU will also focus on ball returns, Nothwehr said.

"It's not as much of a power game," Nothwehr said. "They're

traditionally a big hitting team, so it's in our favor that we're playing on slower courts."

Sophomore Jennifer Dien said playing on an outdoor court also

gives players the opportunity to hit the ball as high as they want without it hitting the roof.

"Well, the sky's the limit," Dien said. "Without a roof, the ball is much easier to control and set up."

Since the team is less concentrated on school, they have more time to focus on tennis, Nelson said.

"Spring break is great for the team," he said. "We can practice more, clear our minds, and since it's just players and coaches for a week, we really come together as a team."

The women's team didn't play Arkansas State last year, but Nothwehr said the Red Wolves are even stronger than the last time they played the Salukis.

"They're playing their No. 1 position two years ago in the No. 2 position now," Nothwehr said. "Still, the results say they're a beatable team, so we've got to be ready at every position."

Trey Braunecker can be reached at tbraunecker@dailyegyptian.com or 536-3311 ext 282.

BASEBALL

SIU looks to bounce back against Gamecocks

JUSTIN KABBEES
Daily Egyptian

Interim head coach Ken Henderson said the Salukis need to eliminate strikeouts from batters and walks from pitchers going into the three-game weekend series at Jacksonville State.

Last season, the Salukis won two of three games at Jacksonville State. In those three games, the teams combined for 99 hits and 81 runs.

Jacksonville State is 8-3 overall and 5-1 at home. The Gamecocks have won five straight games and eight of their past nine.

Jacksonville State also swept a three-game series against Middle Tennessee State, the Salukis' opponent next week. Henderson said the Gamecocks

will be a tough matchup and have many returning players from last year. However, he said the team has been playing better in weekend games than mid-week ones.

"I'm confident we'll be ready to go on Friday," Henderson said.

SIU is 4-4 in weekend games and 0-3 on weekdays.

Two players will miss the series. Sophomore infielder Austin Montgomery is out for most of the month because of illness and junior infielder Chris Serritella will be out until late April with a broken bone in his hand. With the injuries, SIU only has three upperclassmen in its lineup: junior catcher Brian Bajer, senior outfielder Chris Murphy and junior outfielder Jordan Sivertsen.

It's just a bad game. It's really nothing else besides that. I don't think anyone is worn down yet.

— Nick Johnson, sophomore outfielder.

Sivertsen is batting .350 and leads the team with nine RBIs. He also has two home runs this season.

SIU is coming off a 10-9 loss to Le Moyne Wednesday in its only home game of the season, and the Salukis now begin a weeklong five-game road trip starting with this weekend's series.

The Salukis already started the season with a 10-game road trip, but sophomore outfielder Nick Johnson said Wednesday's loss wasn't because of the wear and tear of early away games.

"It's just a bad game," Johnson said. "It's really nothing else besides that. I don't think anyone is worn down yet."

Johnson said the Salukis need to put the bullpen's performance against Le Moyne, but its effort was good.

Henderson said he wasn't happy with the bullpen's performance against Le Moyne, but its effort was good.

"It was just a bad baseball," Henderson said. "We're going to have days where we don't play well, and this certainly was one of them."

Senior pitcher Andrew Bever said the team has made progress in some areas but is still struggling in others.

"We've got playing hard down, now we just need to execute," Bever said.

Murphy had four hits Wednesday, including two doubles and three runs. It was the third four-hit game of his career.

"We need him out there," Henderson said. "We need him for the long haul."

SIU has struck out 9.7 times on average over the last seven games and 13 times against Le Moyne.

The Salukis' first game of the series starts at 6:30 p.m. Friday, and they will play at 1 p.m. Saturday and Sunday at Rudy Abbott Field in Jacksonville, Ala.

LOWERY

CONTINUED FROM 12

Lowery said the meeting with Moccia was frank and honest but both have respect for each other and the discussion was not personal.

"He said some things to me that needed to be said, and obviously I was very thankful," Lowery said.

Lowery said neither he nor Moccia is happy with where the program is, and it hurts when changes have to be

made because he doesn't want to fail at anything.

One of the issues Lowery and Moccia talked about in their meeting was how to bring in the right student-athletes for the program, Lowery said.

He said the failure to keep players from the 2008 recruiting class is a primary reason the program has struggled recently. Four players from that class have left the program, including Kevin Dillard and Nick Evans.

"Those were supposed to be our upperclassmen right now; those were supposed to be the leaders of our program right now and for whatever reason, they are not here," Lowery said. "Moving forward, we have to recruit players who understand this culture before they get here."

Lowery also said he hasn't had end-of-season meetings with all of the current players yet.

As for sophomore center Gene Teague, who did not play in the final

five games of the season, Lowery said he and Teague have not yet met. Teague had different issues from the rest of the team because of how he handled his suspension.

Teague and two other players were suspended for three games Feb. 4 after they were charged with battery for shooting teammate Davante Drinkard and an unidentified male student on campus with an Airsoft rifle.

Lowery said it bothers him when

he hears people say they think he doesn't care or want him to leave, but he thinks this might be a chance for him to be successful again.

"I've been an underdog my whole life," he said. "At this point, maybe this is what I need to get back to where I've had success and work with my back against the wall."

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Smith believes Atkinson is the type of recruit he has been looking for. Of the group traveling to Texas, Atkinson is the only Saluki freshman to compete in the weight throw at an NCAA meet in the past 10 years.

Given the fact current world

record-holder in the women's weight throw and former Saluki Britney Riley didn't travel to the NCAA championships during her freshman year, Smith said the trip itself is a testament to Atkinson's talent.

But Atkinson said she is not letting the pressure get to her. Although she is a freshman, she said she has worked hard throughout the season

and deserves to be at the meet.

After talking to her coaches and arriving in Texas, Atkinson said she would remember her coaches telling her she has nothing to lose, and she needs to go out and enjoy the opportunity.

Competition will begin today inside the Gilliam Indoor Track Stadium at Texas A&M University,

Smith said this meet is one of the top three in the world, with athletes from across the nation and many from foreign countries.

He said everything the team has worked for during the indoor season has led to this moment, and the meet could change an athlete's college career.

"When you come to this meet,

it changes you because it is so big," he said. "You're competing against the best in the 18 to 25 age group. You're competing against the best in the world."

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Salukis downed by Sycamores in first round

The Salukis were plagued with turnovers and low shooting percentages and were never able to find a cure in their final game of the season. SIU lost to Indiana State 83-68

Thursday in the first round of the women's Missouri Valley Conference Tournament at the Family Arena in St. Charles, Mo. The Salukis had trouble containing the Sycamores down low,

as points in the paint counted for more than half of their points in the game.

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MEN'S BASKETBALL

Lowery stays, other changes imminent

JACOB MAYER
Daily Egyptian

SIU men's basketball coach Chris Lowery will be the Salukis' head coach for the 2011-2012 season, but he won't have the same coaching staff around him, Athletic Director Mario Moccia said at a press conference Thursday.

"Coach Lowery has my support moving forward," Moccia said.

Moccia said there were a lot of rumors about a possible buyout of Lowery's contract, and finances are part of the considerations of any decision by Saluki athletics.

Mark Scully, associate athletic director of finances, said he agrees there were rumors about possibilities of a buyout, but the athletic department, university and state are all having financial difficulties.

"I can't imagine how anybody would've thought that we were looking at that," he said.

Lowery will be entering the fifth year of his seven-year contract, which is worth \$750,000 per season. If the university wanted to release Lowery and hire a new head coach, it would have to buy out the remaining three years of Lowery's contract, valued at \$2.25 million. Chairwoman Rita Cheng has said no university money would be used for a buyout.

Moccia said other coaching changes will be made, but he doesn't know when those will happen.

He said keeping the same assistant coaches would not be planning for the future, and changing head coaches because the program went through a rough stretch would not be productive.

"Just saying, 'Let's change coaches,' that, in my opinion, would be the easy way out, but I do not feel that would



STEVE BERZYSKO | DAILY EGYPTIAN

Men's basketball coach Chris Lowery addresses the media Thursday at the Boydston Center. Lowery met with Athletic Director Mario Moccia earlier in the week to review the program and address such

issues as player retention and the overall state of the team. Moccia said changes in the coaching staff will take place in the near future, though he gave no specific details.

be the best thing for the program," Moccia said.

Moccia said he and Lowery determined changes were necessary during their season-review meetings after the Salukis' season

ended Friday in a loss to Missouri State in the Missouri Valley Conference Tournament.

"(Lowery) expressed a very fierce resolve during our meeting," Moccia said. "Nobody takes losses

harder than he does. Nobody is more passionate about Saluki basketball."

Moccia said Lowery was out talking to potential recruits as soon as the season ended.

"He has not lost his passion

for his alma mater," Moccia said. "If anything, he is redoubling his efforts to bring our program back to prominence."

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TRACK & FIELD

Five track and field athletes chase titles in Texas

JACQUELINE MUHAMMAD
Daily Egyptian

With the women's team ranked 12th in the nation and the men 14th, the Salukis will have five throwers to compete in the NCAA Indoor Track and Field Championships today in College Station, Texas.

"As we boarded the plane, I thought to myself, 'It's finally here,'" senior thrower Gwen Berry said.

Berry said she is anxious to compete in her final indoor meet.

Along with Berry, freshman thrower Erin Atkinson will represent SIU in the weight throw. Junior Jeneva McCall will compete in the weight throw and

shot put and Junior Malaikah Love will participate in the pentathlon. Junior J.C. Lambert will represent the men's team in the weight throw.

Berry, McCall and Atkinson are all ranked in the top 14 in the nation in the weight throw. Berry holds the top mark in the nation at 22.71 meters, while McCall is third at 22.54 meters and Atkinson ranks 13th with a mark of 20.27 meters.

In the shot put, McCall is ranked sixth with a mark of 17.22 meters. Love is ranked 11th with 3,997 points in the pentathlon, and Lambert holds the fourth best mark in the nation in the weight throw at 21.58 meters.

Both Berry and Love said they

"It's a very friendly atmosphere. I see a lot of girls that I've competed against before, even those I've made the team with, but when it comes time for the competition, you have to put on a serious face because it's time to go to work."

— Gwen Berry
senior thrower

are not nervous since they've been to NCAA championships before; they are more overcome with excitement to be among some of the nation's best athletes.

After traveling to Texas throughout her college career, Berry said she expects to see familiar faces and will enjoy the trip, but she won't lose sight of

why she came to Texas.

"It's a very friendly atmosphere," Berry said. "I see a lot of girls that I've competed against before, even these I've made the USA team with, but when it comes time for the competition, you have to put on a serious face because it's time to go to work."

Coach John Smith is a former

thrower for the Salukis and still holds the school record in the shot put. Smith said this year he has seen some of the best performances from throwers in his coaching career.

Smith said he recruits students who weren't given a lot of attention in high school but have the drive to be top performers.

"It's not always about the glamour," Smith said. "The students I recruit don't often get scholarships or have a lot of schools looking at them, but they have the work ethic and they often end up being some of the best in the nation."

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