ATTENTION:

THESE DOCUMENTS ARE FILMED EXACTLY AS THEY WERE RECEIVED. IN SOME CASES, PAGES MAY BE DIFFICULT TO READ. SOME PAGES APPEAR TO HAVE OVERLAPPING DOCUMENTS. BUT THEY WERE PHOTOCOPIED IN THIS MANNER.

SANDRA MASON
DIRECTOR OF RECORDS MANAGEMENT
SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
MICROGRAPHICS DEPARTMENT
CARBONDALE, ILLINOIS
No decision yet in Argersinger motions

Arguments center on questions of jurisdiction and whether suits are against state or University

Monday were made by Bloyer on behalf of the University. Peter Ruga, University legal counsel, said these motions asked for dismissal of the cases because they were filed as the writing jurisdiction.

"We see these [lawsuits] as being against the state, which, by law, should have been filed in the Illinois Court of Claims," Ruga said.

If the lawsuits were found to be against the state, then the Illinois Court of Claims would have exclusive jurisdiction.

The fourth motion, filed by Osman, contends that if the suits are against the state, Bloyer should be disqualified and Illinois Attorney General Jim Ryan should be brought in on behalf of the state of Illinois.

Ruga said he thought this motion probably would not be considered first because the decision on this motion could affect the decisions on the other motions.

The controversy surrounding the cases began soon after Argersinger announced at a June 3 press conference that the SIU Board of Trustees had fired her as chancellor after less than a year in the position. Two days later, the board officially terminated her as chancellor and named John Jackson, former vice chancellor for Academic Affairs and provost, as her interim replacement.

The basis of the arguments heard Monday was whether the lawsuits involve a state issue, which Osman contends is not the case. Osman said the cases are not against the state, but rather against the SIU Board of Trustees, as a whole and individually.

The case also would be against the state if Argersinger was seeking monetary compensation, Osman said, but the only one seeking injunctive action.

ISS locates temporary housing for international students

International Students and Scholars officials developed a plan Thursday to provide temporary on-campus housing for international students, after obtaining information that temporary off-campus housing is often a hit-or-miss situation.

Fifty-two rooms in the C-wing of the Northwest Annex are available Jan. 5 through June for international students who arrive at SIUC without housing contracts. At the beginning of each semester, a resident assistant and one meal daily is available at a cost of $20 per night for a two-week period.

Carla Coppi, associate director of ISS, said the plan, developed in conjunction with Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Harvey Welch, should eliminate any problems international students have with finding temporary housing.

The plan comes in lieu of a Daily Egyptian investigation that uncovered several international students were turned away from temporary housing locations at Forest Hall, 820 W. Freeman St., and Ambassador Hall, 600 W. Freeman St., after the buildings became full.

While ISS helps international students without housing contracts locate temporary residence, miscommunication occurred between ISS and the international residence halls.

Although Matt Miles, owner of both Forest and Ambassador halls, said they were full prior to Aug. 12, Coppi said she wasn't aware they were full until that day.

University Hall, 1101 S. Wall St., was then made available, but some international students were not aware of this development because they were already in flight to the United States.

As a result, a Korean student was forced to return to Korea. Although Matt Miles, owner of both Forest and Ambassador halls, said they were full prior to Aug. 12, Coppi said she wasn't aware they were full until that day.

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Coppi said the Northwest Annex was available to international students during the spring semester, but was discontinued because only 13 students used the service. The Northwest Annex, once an on-campus housing unit, now houses the Administrative Information System, formerly the Oracle project.

Although off-campus housing still will be an option to international students, Coppi said utilizing on-campus housing would prevent three types of problems.

"Now, we matter what time the students arrive, even if they are unannounced, we can still bring them here," Coppi said. "With this plan, our international students' arrival will be perfect."
**POLICE BITTER:**

A 24-year-old SIUC student was struck on the head with a bottle and stabbed of 8:14 by five assailants at 11:30 p.m. Sunday at the corner of State and Stoker streets. Carbondale police said the assailants, described as five African-American men in their 20s, were last seen running west on Freeman Street. The victim said the men followed him, two of them blocked his path, took the money and then joined the other three who were waiting a short distance away. The two men who committed the robbery are each described as 5 feet 10 inches tall and 150 pounds. The victim was treated and released at Carbondale Memorial Hospital. There are no suspects in this incident, police said.

- Daniel Schmidt, 22, was arrested and charged with two counts of rape, one count of robbery and one count of theft.
- An 11-year-old female resident of Schneider Hall was treated and released at Carbondale Memorial Hospital. There are no suspects in this incident, police said.

**TODAY:**

- Library Affairs Thursday, 10 to 11 a.m., Union Lobby, Rooms 3 to 4 p.m., Union Library Room 1010, 5:00 p.m.
- University Career Services Internship Fair, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., Student Center, Student Center Gymnasium Room 533-1209.
- Photographers meeting, 5 p.m., Classroom Building Room 412, Monday 6:55-3105.
- College Democrats meeting, 5:30 p.m., Arnie Room, C Murray 526-6000.
- Word of Inspiration Gospel accepting volunteers, every Sat. and Sun., 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., Arnie Room, C Murray 526-6000.

**UPCOMING:**

- The Southern Illinois Music in the Graces featuring Illmac, Sept. 16, 9 to 11 p.m., Student Union Ballroom, C Murray 633-3589.
- Library Affairs Thursday, 2 to 3 p.m., Union Library Room.
- Digital imaging for the Web, 3 to 3:30 p.m., Student Union Ballroom, C Murray 533-1209.
- Student Union Council meeting, 5 p.m., Union Room, C Murray 533-1209.

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Carbondale

**Chairwoman takes directing job**

Pamela Rice, chairwoman of the Anthropology Department, is the new acting director of the Office of Research Development and Administration. She was named to the position Aug. 20. Rice will act as director for one year and then will return to the Anthropology Department. She fills the position left vacant by Victoria Molfese who took a job at the University of Louisville. Jonathan Hill has replaced Rice as chairman of the Anthropology Department. Both have been chosen to subject to ratification by the Board of Trustees.

**Jeanne Simon released after successful surgery**

Jerene Hurley Simon, wife of former Sen. Paul Simon, was released from Methodist Hospital in Houston Monday after having surgery for a small brain tumor Sept. 9. Mike Lawrence, family friend and associate director of the Public Policy Institute, said she is progressing well and could be home as early as Saturday. Simon spent the last couple of days in Houston in post-surgery recovery in the Intensive Care Unit.

**Jackson Street closed off for further construction**

Jackson Street between Washington Street and Hotel Avenue will be closed off for two days starting Wednesday at 7 a.m. The closure will cost about $36,000 and end by 4 a.m. Illinois Central Railroad workers will be doing construction work on the crossing. Water-main extensions have caused the road to be closed the days to follow. The public will be notified when and where future work will be done. For more information, contact the city engineering department at 549-3303, ext. 270.

**Memorial held today for former professor**

A memorial service will be held today for Henry Dan Piper, former professor of English and dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at 11:30 a.m. in Fayerweather Hall. Piper, 81, died July 25 from a stroke. He came to Carbondale as dean of Liberal Arts in 1968, then later, becoming a professor in 1969 and staying with SUC until his retirement in 1988.

**Southern Illinois**

**RHOADA SCHMIDT**

DailyEgyptian

A $369,000 endowment to the School of Law, donated from the estate of Hiram Lea$, will be used to fund a visiting professorship or a series of lectures.

Tom Guernsey, interim vice chancellor for Academic Affairs and dean of the Law School, had "mixed feelings" about the donation left by the Law School's founding dean. According to guidelines indicated by the Lexar estate, the endowment will be used to provide funds for the Hiram H. Lexar Distinguished Lecture series or to support a visiting professorship.

Guernsey said Law School officials have not decided exactly what to do with the money they have received.

**Apple Festival forecasted to be successful**

**ERIN FAYOLLE**

DailyEgyptian

A narrow gray plastic sheet covers the length of the west brick wall of Virginia's Antiques, 2134 Chatham St. As the sun shines through the plastic, the piece, called a "weather blanket," will be revealed today at 5:30 p.m. as part of Murphysboro's 48th Annual Apple Festival.

The only lead about the masked artwork is that it is a portrait of important persons in Murphysboro's past, accompanying the Festival's theme, "A Moment in Time."

The mural was done by local artist Iona Silver. Silver is a new addition to the 1999 Apple Festival, which begins today and continues through Sunday.

"The artist worked with Jackson County,

**Jeanie Young • Photo Editor**

**8th Annual Mursphypo Apple Festival**

**TOM BARTIT**

DailyEgyptian

The president of the Graduate and Professional Student Council does not think students should have to pay the proposed $22 technology fee, though he agrees with the intentions of the service, and he plans to discuss the proposed fee at tonight's GPSC meeting.

Ed Ford, GPSC president, lately has expressed concern about the use of a charge to fund technology at SUC.

"Fees are intended to provide some type of service that's not already available through the classroom," Ford said.

He said that other student fees are used appropriately because they fund services students are willing to pay for but are nonessential to the learning environment, such as the Recreation Center.

Technology, however, is instrumental for instructional purposes and should be funded by the state, Ford said.

The committee that drafted the fee proposal set forth plans to improve Internet access, e-mail services and increase the flexibility of computer labs at the University. However, a fee advisory board ultimately will make the decision as to how the generated funds, an estimated $900,000, will be allocated.
The Quest for Fire

Immutability leads to restrictions of our freedom

The Carbondale City Council banned parking on the west side of the 200 block of South Illinois Avenue between midnight and 7 a.m. It's only the loss of that parking space, but this parking ban reveals a lot about the City Council's state of mind. Simply quite, they just don't trust us to behave ourselves. And with the cycle of irresponsibility often displayed on the Strip, why should they?

By large, SIUC students are fairly responsible adults. Still, there are those few miscreants who try to make more of a party school image by destroying private property, overrating gays and otherwise acting like fools than in establishing a University where their degree actually reflects some knowledge. These are usually some of the same people who call the Daily Egyptian Monday morning being left to outlet the police blotter.

The Egyptian has no sympathy for people majoring in "How To Be An Idiot." If you don't want to be recognized as a delinquent member of our community, then don't act like one.

Being drunk isn't an excuse to act irresponsibly. Your parents don't have to sign a permission slip for you to come here because, surprise, you're supposed to be an adult now. When students don't act like adults, they're not treated like adults — except when it comes to punishment.

By restricting parking on the Strip, the Council has taken away the toys you weren't playing nice with. It doesn't necessarily happen every weekend, but sooner or later, some group of drunks trying to be the life of the party and impress their friends try to overspin a car. Too often this act — accompanied by encouraging chants from the onlookers — is successful.

In these occurrences, SIUC students sink about as low as possible on the matrimony crest. How infanile can we act? How large's display of childishness can we perform for the city? These seem to be the questions at the forefront of every individual who gets a thrill out of standing in the middle of a street. These are also the classic examples of a cycle that allows the city, University and the adult world around us to sink back on the leash of freedom. With each act of immaturity, the case against adult and true treatment of students builds evidence, making it harder for those of us who act responsibly.

— Yet through this we wonder why things stay the way they are. Why are there no problems associated with the Strip? Why can't we park on the Strip? Why does no student seem to listen to us when we have a genuine request or problem? Because actions speak louder than words.

The next time you feel the urge to change, "Tip the car," quickly follow with, "Never trust students.

"If you ever have to shout in frustration, I'm not at all anymore, why does everybody treat me like one," ask yourself if you've really been acting like the adult you claim to be. If you haven't, then stop blocking the path to respectability and trust for the rest of us and take home to drink.

Students can learn a lot from each other, even how to row

I have always been a fitness buff, trying desperately to bust off the extra pounds gained through each day's food, too much reading and a slow metabolism.

However, after being diagnosed with hypoglycemia (low blood sugar) this summer, I have to learn to balance fighting off extra insulin.

I have been a faithful patient of the Student Recreation Center, trying the new machines and lifting weights to ward off the condition, without any success.

Before too long, I grew frustrated and decided to glance around at my neighbors. Most people were busy, watching television. Some were stretching, while others would glance from the couches, already tired from a hard workout,

I had to know what made her give up her time and body to student the last 50 years.

After my workout, I introduced myself to her and learned that the young woman was a graduate student and former rowing coach. She told me she had been in the sport for 10 years and was disappointed that she had not seen anyone using the $700,000 rowing machines correctly. As a former rowing coach, she couldn't stand seeing people jerk the handle and work it in the wrong way.

"The beauty of the coaching was that now the student was doing the coaching for free," she said, which had previously helped her pay the bills as an undergraduate.

She was teaching me about rowing. How to row, how to "break" and "ride" away through the stream of life, overcome it just a few minutes to show your neighbor the right way to row.

Mailbox

Look at the positive not the negative

Dear Editor,

In light of recent editorial comments by Daily Egyptian staff, it is clear that there is an interest in pursuing the truth about international student life at SIUC is sadly lacking. As a member of the University established emergency group ten months ago to help international students succeed in the classroom, I would like to reiterate some veritable statements about the international students that arrived on campus.

The foreign student advisory committee, which consists of faculty, administration and international members, hosted students in their homes and at parties and sponsored special events for the students. These events were designed for international and domestic students.

That initiative worked to fulfill the mission statement of the International Programs office in 1999 specifically to address the personal needs and concerns of students from abroad in a more organized fashion, and to encourage and support their cultural perspectives with the people of Southern Illinois.

I know that all college and universities do not provide a paid employment for international students, but it is an immigration special position was established by the director of International Programs at SIUC in 1999 to specifically address the personal needs and concerns of students from abroad in a more organized fashion, and to encourage and support their cultural perspectives with the people of Southern Illinois.

I believe that the focus of our discussion should be on the fact that SIUC students have an opportunity to improve their cultural knowledge. This is due to the fact that the University offers a wide variety of international courses, and the International Programs office in 1999 specifically to address the personal needs and concerns of students from abroad in a more organized fashion, and to encourage and support their cultural perspectives with the people of Southern Illinois.

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A simple donation can make a difference

By Kayla Amick

A Simple Donation can Make a Difference

SLOMAN CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

of both British and American journalism that they would receive locally.

Poon said Sloman's extensive background also gave her a substantial amount of credibility when addressing students.

"She's been in the front lines of journalism, gathering information and producing documentaries," Poon said. "Because of her broad experience, she should be able to give students a good idea of what to expect when they graduate from the University without having that kind of exposure.

We are dedicated to improving the health and well-being of all people in the communities we serve.

Catherine McLeod who works with the center said: "They meet the needs of people that come to the center and help us change things that we think are wrong with the world.

"Not only are we asking them to help as change things that we think are wrong with the world, but we also offering them real work experience that they can use in a job when they leave," Poon said.

The conference was first organized in April 1996 at Ball State University Gerlach students active in environmental issues is a key goal of Southern Sustainability, according to Dave Paprocki, one of the other project organizers.

"We want to provide a chance for students to get involved," Paprocki said. "We have opportunities for students to learn skills and build networks.

Those skills include organizational, administrative and research skills, he added. "Not only are we asking them to help as change things that we think are wrong with the world, but we also offering them real work experience that they can use in a job when they leave," Paprocki said.

The conference is expected to draw 500 participants from across the state and beyond.

Information for more about Southern Sustainability, contact: Dave Paprocki, 740-533-6853.

SIBS Southern Illinois Behavioral Services
We treat people, not problems.

110 Cedar Court, Carbondale, Ill. 62901
815-457-4144 or 800-545-2988

FREE Public Presentation on Attention Deficit Disorders
Tuesday, September 14, 1999
3:00 PM to 7:30 PM
110 Cedar Court, Carbondale (across from Carbondale Clinic)
Come learn more about the diagnosis and treatment of ADD.
Meet clinic 800-500-3585, and let us know you are coming.

SIBS Southern Illinois Behavioral Services
We treat people, not problems.

110 Cedar Court, Carbondale, Ill. 62901
815-457-4144 or 800-545-2988

Fall '99 Immunization Clinic Schedule
Tuesday, September 14, 1999
Monday, September 27, 1999
Tuesday, September 28, 1999
Monday, October 4, 1999
Tuesday, October 5, 1999

Clinics will be held in Kermel Hall from 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Please check in at Room 109, Phone 453-4454 for an appointment or more information.

Fall Immunization Compliance Deadline
Friday, October 8, 1999

S5 Front Door Charge

Don't Wait Until The Last Minute!
Student Health Programs provides Immunization Clinics to help you become compliant with the Immunization Law. If you have not sent your immunization record, bring them to the Immunization Office in Room 109, Kerman Hall as soon as possible.

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S5 Front Door Charge
Bradley kicks off presidential campaign in Missouri

Steve Kraczkowski Staff Correspondent

CRYSTAL CITY, Mo. — Democrat Bill Bradley, launching his presidential bid, stood in his small Mississippi River hometown Wednesday and pledged to tackle some of America's big problems.

"In so many ways, we have failed to use our prosperity to improve the well-being of all our citizens," he said in a quietly unshakable cadence.

"I want to stand up for the strong to challenge the weak to lead us into our full genius as a country."

He spoke of the need for a "deeper prosperity" that reaches out to people who have been left behind and helps the nation "feel rich inside as well as on the outside."

"I must accept the American dream is not just for the lucky among us. It is not just an ideal to which it should be possible to all."

Wednesday's kick-off speech was about laying out goals, not specifying how they would be accomplished. The candidate has promised more detailed plans in full.

The former three-term New Jersey senator is running against Vice President Al Gore for the Democratic nomination. Although Gore is favored, Bradley has shown surprising strength.

Crystal City embraced Bradley with the same enthusiasm as a town boy who had a paper route and could tell you how to get a job "shining pennies" to majority shareholder.

As president, Bradley said, he "would propose" Wednesday's kick-off speech that "we invest in the future and that the nation 'feel rich inside' as well as on the outside."

"Today I want to be as dear as that glass about to be polished or throw a ball. His wife dressed him each day for the campaign system dominated by "sleazy special interests."

As a senator, Bradley said, he tried not to "do them more harm than good."

"I am a man of the people."

"I grew up in a minority labor background."

"We didn't grow corn or wheat."

"I love to see the look on our faces when we do something worthwhile.

"To me, the American dream is not just for the rich."

"I want to stand up for the American dream is not just for the lucky among us."

"I want to stand up for the strong to challenge the weak to lead us into our full genius as a country."

The parade is the largest parade in Southern Illinois, Ruid said."
Pregnancy Concerns?
For a free pregnancy test & confidential assistance
Call 549-2794 or 1-888-303-8859
Shawnee CPC
215 W. Main St.
**Comic Strip tease**

So are you having a good time, Annie? Yeah, this is fun!

I'm glad you accepted the invite! I've wanted to spend more time with you for a while now...

I just wish my boyfriend would've come!

...I need another beer...

---

**Doonesbury**

by Garry Trudeau

Keep it short... Birthday Wish... Chat about a party.

---

**Mother Goose and Grimm**

by Mike Peters

**Did You Know That September is...**

**HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH!**

Here's what's happening:

- **September 11**
  - 3rd Annual Lakeside Picnic
  - 12:00 Noon
  - Campus Boat Dock

- **September 15**
  - Proclamation Recepiton
  - 4:00 p.m.
  - Old Main Lounge

- **September 22**
  - Senator "Rogers de Vall" at the Union
  - 7:00 p.m.
  - Student Center Auditorium
  - Sponsored by SPC

- **September 30**
  - "An Evening of Latin Soul"
  - Irene Fuentes
  - 6:00 p.m.
  - Big Naldo's Room
  - Co-sponsored by SPC
**Keratoses Teatres MOVIES**
FREE REPLY in popcorn & wine drink
visit our website at www.keratoses.com

**Bill Fleckman**
Keratoses Teatres MOVIES

**New York** — Good show,

Following several semifinals, the U.S. Open meet final is often non-

No. 2 seed Andre Agassi climbed off the Arthur Ashe Stadium and

beat seventh-seeded Todd Martin 6-7 (5-7), 6-7 (4-7), 6-3, 6-1, 6-3, in one of the greatest U.S. Open finals.

The last major tournament final of the millennium was about to begin, and

the outcome was about to be decided.

Since falling for divorce from actress Brooke Shields, Agassi has won the U.S. Open and French Open, and was runner-up to Steffi Graf in Wimbledon. In raising his Grand Slam tournament title count to seven, Agassi won in two matches over one year for the first time.

Single loss has allowed to him to make a serious tournament to remain

Agassi's ranking has rocketed from No. 16 in 1997 to No. 2 in the world.

And imagine, Agassi, 29, will show up

on billboards advocating backhanded

trading on bilateral sources and

in the game's most intense match.

The match was on display at late-summer rain, and the final was delayed.

The red currents in the middle of the court were clearly visible. Agassi knew.

He had been there before with their 24-year-old quarterfinal.

The man had it back," said half-

facing Agassi when the offense started to click, you just knew it.

And just like...we knew we were watching some sort of a dream.

Flachauer has that special ingredient that eventually led him to the

run on his head before the ball was hit.

"But thinking and doing are
different things," he added.

The first set was a 6-4 win when it wasn't easy for them, as

had been the case in a pair of seasons.

Agassi said, "He didn't do everything right," said Penn State tight end Tony

Stewart, who made his first reception of the season and added a

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Gator too much for Central Florida

By CHRIS HARRY

GAINESVILLE, Fla. — The University of Florida needed a breakout game heading into the defining week of its season.

Unfortunately for the University of Central Florida Knights, they just happened to be in the way.

The fourth-ranked Gators exited the Gators-Royals War 85-0 and into Field hoping for a win at a routine bow but had such a routine bow. Not even a shadow that they just wanted this game to be over.

"The hype for the next one to officially begin," Quarterback Doug Johnson said after an interception to throw for the fourth touchdowns, three games wide receiver Travis Taylor, in just one half of action, the Gators-20 rolled up 501 yards of total offense, and the turnover by the Knights (0-2) in winning their NCAA-best 24th consecutive game.

The game closed out UF's customary two rounds of September perfection.

Now, on to the main event.

Defending National Champion Tennessee, seemingly room confident than ever before, comes to town this weekend. The winner will direct command of the Southeastern Conference Eastern Division and leave the other to soak in thoughts of a season without a title.

Michigan University.

Likewise, Southeast Missouri State's one loss was to a Division I-A team — the University of Tulsa — and the Missouri Bears play hard-nosed football behind former Western Illinois University coach Randy Bullock. It's not fair to judge 0-2 Indiana State University quite yet.

The next weekend, the Indiana State and the Missouri State, the Missouri State and the University of Minnesota this Saturday.

Western Illinois, which has won the Gateway two years running, followed up its opening win over the NIU Huskies by humiliating Mississippi Valley State University 77-12.

Northern Iowa's 36-21 win over Ohio on the heels of a blowout victory at nationally ranked Division I-A power McKinsey State University is the Panthers' first game.

Elsewhere, Youngstown State Universityfigures to be their customary solid bunch, with the rare Ferguson of the year coming in the form of a 46-28 loss at Western Michigan University.

The Knights finished with 447 total yards, as Penn completed 14 of 35 passes for 279 yards, three touchdowns, and one interception.

More than half his yards and both his scoring tosses came against UF's first-team defense. So did Edward Mack's 43-yard run at 9:32 of the first quarter that gave the Knights a 7-0 lead. It was similar to last week, when UCF jumped to a one-touchdown lead on Florida.

Unlike that game, when things only got worse, the Knights had several bright spots in college football's most hostile venue.

"We can take plenty of positives from this game," said Penn, who led the team to a victory over a team that had a chance to win the game. "We can take plenty of positives from this game," said Penn, who led the team to a victory over a team that had a chance to win the game.

In the case of the UF's Florida defense when it allowed a UCF touchdown.


From there, UF put general. Like the Gators needed it. First, Penn and fullback Page Sessions missed an easy extra point, and Penn completed 14 of 35 passes for 279 yards, three touchdowns, and one interception.

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Racing up the charts

Senior and freshman cross country runners place themselves in SIU record books as top-20 finishers

Two weeks of the 1999 college football season are complete, and SIU is 2-0 — a pleasant surprise, but what does that mean for the rest of the season? Are the Salukis to be taken seriously?

Clearly, the defense had better refocus after a weak second half performance during the 58-51 rout of Murray State University Saturday, but Saluki fans have just cause to be excited about their team.

Considering SIU's offense has amassed an incredible 101 points in its first two games, it's pretty evident that SIU has little to fear except the Redbirds — or is that potatoes — offense.

Saluki quarterback Sherard Poteete looks superb; the Saluki wide receivers are all they were cracked up to be; and freshman running back Tom Koutsos appears ready to resurrect the Saluki rushing attack from the dead.

Yet, the Salukis are still likely to receive the Redbirds' "no respect" Dingerfield treatment from cynics regarding their outlook for a successful season — and with legitimate reason.

The fact that SIU has put up 27 points in its first two games and struggled to win is not the issue here. The problem is, what many football observers predicted in the preseason has already been confirmed in the early stages of the 1999 season — the Gateway Conference is loaded.

Not to be a killjoy, but it is probably worth mentioning that SIU has not yet played a conference game — which would not really be noteworthy except that the usually difficult Gateway looks like it will be especially brutal this season.

Looking up and down the league, it's not easy to say the Salukis will be up to their task in stiff competition whenever they line up against a conference foe. Suffice it to say, SIU will be forced to earn everything they get.

The Gateway, which is perennially one of the top Division I-AA leagues in the country, has waged a relentless assault on conference opponents thus far in '99. So far, the Gateway is 10-4, good for a winning percentage of .714. At that pace, the league will enjoy its best season ever.

What separates the league's start from impressive to downright phenomenal is that all four losses the Gateway has suffered have come at the hands of Division I-A teams.

In other words, no Gateway team has fallen to one of their Division I-AA peers through two weeks of action.

Speaking of which, the Gateway also boasts two victories over Division I-A teams,