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## The Daily Egyptian, July 25, 2002

Daily Egyptian Staff

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Carbondale attorney Timothy Capps is defending a first-degree murder case Wednesday at the Alexander County Courthouse in Cairo. Capps' record as a defense attorney includes nine murder cases, six of which were death penalty cases. None of the six resulted in the death penalty.

DAVID MISSEEMMA  
DAILY EGYPTIAN

## Playing to WIN

Georgiana Coffman  
Daily Egyptian

A court housing a case concerning capital punishment is much like a court hosting a basketball game.

In court cases seeking the death penalty, the two teams are the prosecutors and the defense attorneys. The audience is the jury, and the referee is represented as the judge. In the game, the prosecutors seek to have the accused sentenced to death as the defense searches for alternatives. As the opposing teams strive to win and the intensity increases, both sides begin to sweat.

The plays are carefully planned and require much persistence, just as the plays of a basketball game are carried out. However, as attorney Timothy Capps explains, "the outcome of this game determines much more than the future of a pigskin-covered ball; this outcome determines the destiny of a human life."

Graduating in 1989 from SIU School of Law, Capps has been practicing law for more than a decade. In the early part of Capps' career, he served as a state prosecutor in several cases in which the death penalty was sought. Now, as a Southern Illinois defense attorney and owner of a 4-year-old private practice firm in Jackson County, Capps sits on the opposite side of the court.

"Dealing with the people society has turned their back on is really a rewarding experience,

When lives are on the line, SIU law grad Timothy Capps gets tough as defender in death penalty cases

believe it or not," Capps said. "Most times, the attorney is the one person that the individual still feels they can count on."

Since his transition, Capps has defended nine murder cases, five in which the death penalty was sought against his clients. In each case, the request for the death penalty was denied.

Wednesday, Capps began defending in a murder trial in Cairo. Capps' client, Jessie Woods, 42, was charged with first-degree murder in the killing of Reuben Stacy.

Woods could face a term between 20 and 60 years in prison if found guilty.

According to Capps, Woods was accused of beating Stacy to death on Super Bowl Sunday. In cases like Woods', Capps said it takes a special kind of dedication to be successful.

"In cases like this, losing is not an option," Capps said. "This is a human life on the line, a matter not to be taken lightly."

Also on Tuesday, all 102 state prosecutors were sent to a conference in Las Vegas where there will be workshops held giving advice on how to win death penalty cases.

The funding for the event comes from the Capital Litigation Trust Fund, set up for the training of both prosecutors and defense attorneys handling death penalty cases.

Capps and other defense attorneys are not all worried about the effects this conference will

See PENALTY, page 6

## SIUC student killed in auto wreck two weeks before graduation

Driver lost control of pickup truck, drove off road

Brian Peach  
Daily Egyptian

An SIUC honor student who was going to graduate in less than two weeks was killed Wednesday after police say he lost control of his pickup truck and crashed into a tree while

driving home to Grantsburg.

The single-vehicle accident involving Chad Burnett Newberry, a senior in radiologic sciences, took place shortly after midnight. Police told Newberry's family that he misjudged a sharp turn and ran off Boskydell Road.

The Jackson County Sheriff's Department said in a press release that Newberry was the only passenger in the 1997 Chevrolet S-10 pickup truck. Deputies found the vehicle turned on its side near Boskydell and

Wagon Wheel roads.

Police said Newberry lost control of his truck when he drove it up a small hill. The truck then crashed through a fence and flew over a creek before striking the creek bank and a nearby tree.

Police say Newberry was not wearing a seat belt when his vehicle flipped onto its left side and partially ejected him from the truck. He was pinned between the ground and the left front side of his pickup.

Newberry lived at home during his

final semester at SIUC. He was specializing in radiation/oncology.

"He wanted to help people with cancer," said Linda Burnam, Newberry's aunt.

As valedictorian of his junior high and at Vienna High School, Newberry was always at the top of his class. He had family members in Carbondale who helped him celebrate his 23rd birthday on Saturday and who also helped send off his older brother, Casey, to the Navy last week.

Newberry was taken from the

accident scene to the morgue at Carbondale Memorial Hospital. The funeral director told his family the cause of death was blunt head trauma. His mother, Joellen, his father, Ron, and his brother are preparing for Newberry's funeral, which is scheduled for 1 p.m. Friday at Bailey's Funeral Home in Vienna.

"He was a wonderful person, and he'll be missed," Burnam said.

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

## Higher education in Illinois ranks number one in nation

First-ever national report card places Illinois B+ for overall educational performance

Samantha Edmondson  
Daily Egyptian

The Illinois Board of Higher Education recently opened the first national report card, "Measuring Up 2000," to find Illinois scored at the top of the class.

Receiving an overall B+ grade, Illinois' higher education scored a composite 88.8 overall grade point average, placing Illinois first in the country for its educational programs in 2000.

The National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education, an independent research policy organization in San Jose, Calif., developed the project to evaluate educational systems and how each state government can adjust policy-making accordingly.

Patrick M. Callan, president of the National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education, wrote in "Measuring Up 2000" that the states have the primary role in shaping the public policy of higher education.

Callan said the report card, a product from a two-and-a-half-year process, is designed to give state leaders and policy-makers a tool for evaluating and comparing their performance against top-performing states in each of the six categories.

William Doyle, senior policy analyst for the National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education, said a report card is used in other areas of educational evaluation, so the center used a scoring system the states' programs are familiar with: grading.

"There has not been a comprehensive look at state's performance in higher education," Doyle said. "[With the report card], policy makers have a view of how they are doing."

Illinois received As in three of the six categories — preparation for college, participation

## Measuring Up 2000 Higher Education

State	National Ranking	Average Scores	Grade
Illinois	1	88.8	B+
Connecticut	2	88.2	B+
New Jersey	3	88.0	B+
Maryland	4	87.4	B+
Massachusetts	5	87.2	B+
Minnesota	6	86.8	B
Kansas	7	86.0	B
Wisconsin	8	85.4	B
Colorado	9	85.4	B
Delaware	10	85.0	B

Source: The National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education

ROBIN JONES - DAILY EGYPTIAN

This study was conducted by the National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education for the 2000 school year. Illinois ranked at the top among the 50 states in Measuring Up 2000, the first-ever state-by-state report card in multiple systems of higher education.

The report card that was given to the state of Illinois scored well in the respect that it provided preparation for college, participation in college, and affordability according to the goals that were outlined by The Illinois Commitment.

Report Card	Grade	Illinois Commitment
Preparation	A	Goal 2, Goal 5
Participation	A	Goal 4
Affordability	A	Goal 3
Completion	C+	Goal 4, Goal 5
Benefits	B-	Goal 1

in college and affordability. College completion rates in Illinois warranted a C+, and Illinois earned a B- for benefits derived by the state from higher education.

However, all states were given an "incomplete" for the sixth category, student learning, because of the lack of comparable data.

Doyle said the National Center could not measure the kind of information it knows in the area of student learning for each state. Thus, it would be unfair to compare states with data that was unavailable in other programs.

The report card graded each state on the six

categories, but Doyle said some state higher education boards calculated an average grade for the states resulting in a first-place rank for Illinois.

The National Center suggested recommendations for each state and overall to improve in low-scoring category. But in February 1995, the IBHE composed the "Illinois Commitment," a strategic plan to guide higher education institutions and agencies into the next century under six goals.

See EDUCATION, page 6

NATIONAL NEWS

Philly girl escapes kidnappers

PHILADELPHIA — A 7-year-old kidnapped girl escaped from an abandoned rowhouse Tuesday night by chewing through duct tape binding her arms and legs, smashing a window and then calling to nearby playing children for help, police said.

One of the children rode a bike from the building where Erica Pratt was being held down the street to alert officers who were on patrol. Lt. Michael Chitwood said. The girl had been abducted, kicking and screaming, from in front of her home Monday evening and held for ransom. Police were searching for two suspects late Tuesday, Chitwood said. Erica had only minor injuries.

While being held in a police officer's arms, Erica waved to television cameras and beamed with a wide smile as she was returned to her grandmother's home.

"She's an amazing little girl," Chief Inspector Robert Davis said. The girl had been left on a mattress with duct tape around her arms and legs and covering her eyes in the debris-strewn basement of the rowhouse in northern Philadelphia, about 10 miles from where she was snatched, police said.

"She was eventually able to free herself from the duct tape, she broke through the basement door, she made her way to the first floor and she couldn't get out, so she smashed the window," Chitwood said. "And she summoned help of a couple of little kids who were playing in front of the house."

The children pulled Erica out of the window, and one of them rode a bike to where the officers were patrolling, Chitwood said.

Bush's job approval dips

WASHINGTON — President Bush's approval rating has slipped to the mid-60s amid growing nervousness about the economy. The president's sky-high post-Sept. 11 ratings above 70% lasted for more than 10 months. His father, George H.W. Bush, had similarly high approval ratings during the Persian Gulf War, but they evaporated in an economic downturn and foreshadowed his defeat in 1992.

The younger Bush's ratings had hovered just above 70% in most polls for the past few months. Now polls by Newsweek and CBS News show his job approval at 65% and an Ipsos-Reid poll done for the Cook Political Report and an NBC-Wall Street Journal poll have him at 67%.

"There's been unrelieved bad news for the past several weeks," said Thomas Riehle, president of Ipsos-Reid Public Affairs, "so a lot of what's happened has occurred in the weeks from the end of June until today."

The timing of Bush's return to a more normal, though still high, rating was predicted months ago by Matthew Dowd, pollster for the Republican National Committee.

Dowd sent a message to Republican activists during the spring predicting the president's rating "should return to a new normal," possibly in the 60s, by the end of July, if historical patterns proved true.

Republican strategist Rich Galen said the current polls aren't that important but the trend over the next few months will be.

Bush's ratings soared to 90% and stayed high for an extraordinary period "because the war on terrorism was going pretty well as far as people could tell," political scientist Rohde said.

WORLD NEWS

Democracy under threat

MANILA, Philippines — Recent progress on human rights and the growth of democracy around the world should not become casualties of the global war against terror, a report from the United Nations has warned.

In its 12th annual Human Development Report, the United Nations Development Program has said anti-terrorist measures in the wake of the Sept. 11 attacks on America risked "violating human rights or at least make it easier for them to be violated."

Following the attacks on New York and Washington, several countries rushed through legislation designed to crack down on terrorist activities. But such moves have sparked alarm from human rights groups who say the new laws could be used to silence legitimate opposition.

"Democracies face difficult challenges in deriving legitimate ways to prevent terrorist attacks and bring the perpetrators to justice," the report said.

"In addressing legitimate concerns about public safety, free societies cannot afford to lose sight of protecting core human freedoms."

China: Falun Gong a global threat

HONG KONG, China — Beijing has taken its nationwide campaign to discredit the Falun Gong movement to an international stage, calling the spiritual group a threat to civilized society all over the world.

Speaking to reporters in his first news conference as spokesman of China's embassy in Washington, Xie Feng said the Falun Gong "cult has never stopped breaking [the] law and committing crimes."

The latest step in China's battle against the Falun Gong, which Beijing now brands as a quasi-terrorist sect, follows the alleged hijacking of state-run satellites to broadcast pro-Falun Gong propaganda last month by group members based outside the country.

"By openly and deliberately attacking the Sinosat in contempt of international laws and the regulations, the Falun Gong cult was unscrupulously breaking the order of wireless communications and launching a challenge against civilization," Xie said in Washington on Monday.

"The international community should unite in condemning and punishing this cult," Xie said.

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**Today**  **High 90 Low 66**  
Mostly sunny with light and variable winds.

**Five-day Forecast**

Friday	Partly Cloudy	90/71
Saturday	Partly Cloudy	95/71
Sunday	Partly Cloudy	95/74
Monday	Partly Cloudy	96/74
Tuesday	Partly Cloudy	96/74

**Almanac**

Average high: 88  
Average low: 66  
Tuesday precip: 0.00 in.  
Wed. hi/low: 87/66

July 25, Saturday Starts  
Big Smith  
Rock-A-Billy Bluesgrass

*sunset concerts*

2002

SIU

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TODAY'S CALENDAR

The Individualized Learning Program is offering extended testing hours the last week of school. The Division of Continuing Education will be open late July 29 through Aug. 1, and two day advanced notice is required for after-hours appointments. For more information call 536-7751 to schedule an exam.

POLICE BLOTTER

No items submitted

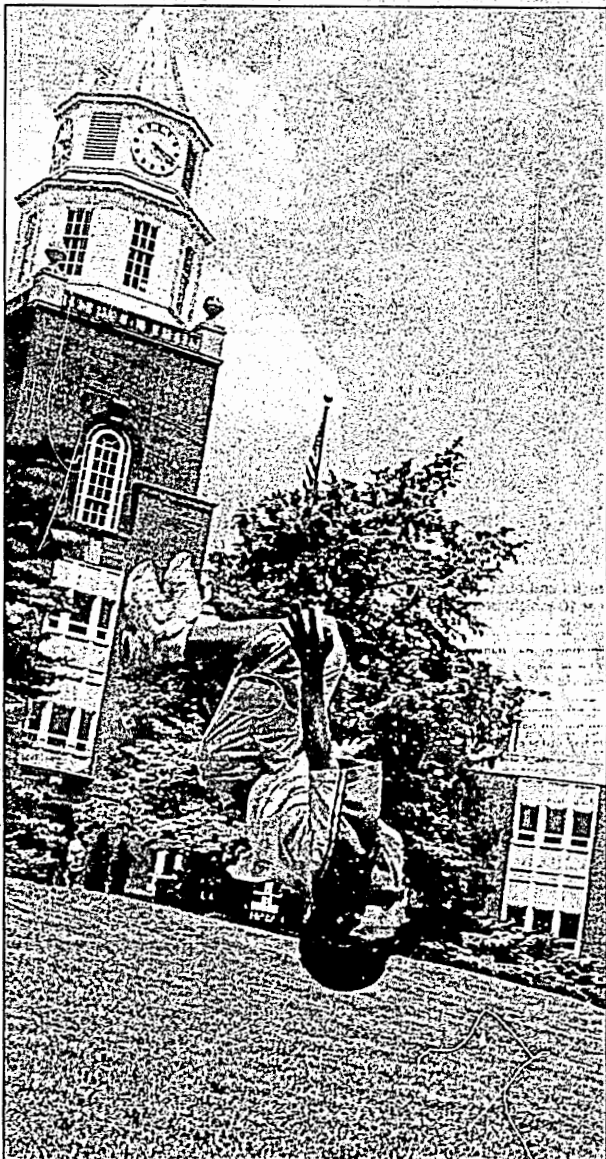
CORRECTIONS

- In Tuesday's story "University's image put on back burner," SIU President James Walker was misidentified.
- Tuesday's story "Basketball and football teams working together," should have read Eric Klein is a strength and conditioning coach.

The DAILY EGYPTIAN regrets these errors.

Readers who spot an error should contact the DAILY EGYPTIAN at 536-3311 ext. 253.

## The air up there



WILLIAM A. RICE - DAILY EGYPTIAN

Jayshawn Sherrill of Carbondale does a back flip Wednesday on the lawn in front of Pulliam Clocktower. "I have been doing flips for about five years," Jayshawn, who is 9 years old, said. Sherrill is on campus this week with the Saluki Kids Academy, which will come to a close on Friday.

# Layoffs situation simmers on backburner until Nov.

## Chancellor to receive department cut recommendations before Thanksgiving

Jane Huh  
Daily Egyptian

Chancellor Walter Wendler is expecting finalized recommendations on layoffs and other cuts by the Friday before Thanksgiving.

Department and college heads will present their finalized recommendations by mid-November as the school grapples with a \$15 million budget hole.

The chancellor said the deans and vice chancellors will come up with their recommended list specifying what areas within the departments can afford to be cut, including layoffs and graduate assistantships. For now, layoffs are postponed.

"We're at the process of looking at their areas of responsibilities, ways to reduce our overhead and do some reorganization to save money," Wendler said.

College deans will soon assess their department's spending and bring their reports up to the provost, who will then pass

it along to the chancellor, said George Swisher, dean of the College of Engineering.

The chancellor said a careful, long-term look into targeting cuts is required to ensure that the right decisions are made.

Spending, including on administration and faculty travel, will be sustained as long as the costs go toward promoting educational opportunities and academic excellence, Wendler said.

Swisher said the November deadline requires all departments to make assessments at a fast pace, but he understands the earlier the process gets done, the sooner future school budgeting gets done.

### Gus Bode



Gus says:  
So do I still have a job or not?

To keep faculty and staff layoffs at a minimum, spending on college programs, including the Digital Communication Specialization in the College of Mass Communications and Media Arts and Expansion Initiative Center for Excellence in Soybean Research, was cut. Also, departments are not hiring faculty vacancies left by retirees or replacing non-returning staff.

"We're just beginning to think about it," Swisher said. "Pretty much, everyone makes recommendations, even the chancellor but the chancellor and the [BOT] make the decisions. That's the typical nature of the University."

Reporter Jane Huh can be reached at [jhuh@dailyegyptian.com](mailto:jhuh@dailyegyptian.com)

## SIUC receives research recognition

### SIUC places 16 on list of most productive research schools in U.S.

Arin Thompson  
Daily Egyptian

SIUC came in 16th on a list of institutions for the number of inventions disclosed per \$1 million in spending on research, beating Harvard and Yale by a long shot, as reported in *The Chronicle of Higher Education*.

"Generally, research is an important part of the mission at this University," said John Koropchak, Graduate School dean and recently appointed vice chancellor for research. "It will have a lot of effect on the reputation of the University and will help attract faculty and students."

Koropchak believes that the research will help to boost SIUC's reputation as well, increasing the value of degrees received.

The technology transfer is the transfer of ideas from the research stage to the idea stage, and from there the ideas may become patented to make products and possibly form companies. SIUC has made enough headway in

these areas to be recognized among the top 117 institutions in the U.S.

Jeff Myers, SIUC's technology transfer specialist, said SIUC research teams are happy to compare favorably with other schools in some categories.

SIUC has excelled in patenting ideas and processes in the Colleges of Agriculture, Engineering, Science, Liberal Arts, Medicine, Applied Sciences and Arts and others.

Koropchak expects SIUC's success to continue. He believes that the recognition, as well as the productivity, has been good for SIUC faculty, students and citizens in Southern Illinois.

"We've seen growth in research productivity, and we've seen growth in graduate enrollment," Koropchak said. "I'm looking forward to the opportunity to see continued growth."

Even with all of the success, the technology transfer area at SIUC is not going to slack off. In fact, they realize they must only work harder.

"We're pleased with those numbers," Myers said. "For us, that's just a good starting point. We hope to improve in our technology transfer for some time to come."

Reporter Arin Thompson can be reached at [athompson@dailyegyptian.com](mailto:athompson@dailyegyptian.com)

# Graduate enrollment looks up despite assistantship cuts

Jane Huh  
Daily Egyptian

Graduate enrollment may be on an upswing come this fall despite an almost \$1 million cut to graduate assistantships.

John Koropchak, dean of the Graduate School, said the current data that compares enrollment figures from last year projects an increase up to 200 students.

"Graduate enrollment has grown over the last three years, and at least the projections for the fall indicate another significant increase," he said. "So it doesn't look like the things that have been going on campus have degraded graduate enrollment."

A finalized report on graduate assistantship cuts will be presented in November.

Throughout the University,

about \$2 million in graduate assistantships was cut. However, \$1.2 million from the tuition increase is earmarked to cover the loss, bringing the shortfall down close to \$1 million.

Kate Kallal, an English teaching assistant from Iron Mountain, Mich., plans to continue as a teaching assistant through her graduation in 2003. She said the budget cuts leave assistants with fewer resources. Kallal said in her case, if her assistantship were cut from the department, her school loans would not be paid off on time. Hiring a graduate student for nine months costs roughly \$10,000 that is mainly covered by state and tuition dollars.

Graduate students can be supported by fellowships and teaching or research assistantships. Fellowships are used for honorary

and recruitment purposes.

Amy Sileven, Graduate and Professional Student Council president, estimated that around 100 assistantships will be cut from the total of 1,500 for fall.

"The cuts could prove to be extraordinarily detrimental to undergraduate education as well as graduate education," she said.

Sileven said the vast majority of undergraduate students take core-curriculum courses taught by teaching assistants who are graduate students. Reducing teaching assistantships may result in a greater student-to-teacher ratio, she said.

Undergraduate assistantships, which will receive \$750,000 from the \$8.5 million tuition increase, also pose a threat to the status of graduate assistantships, Sileven said.

"The fear is... and I don't

believe the chancellor intends to take the money and gear it towards undergraduate assistantships — there's a risk that jobs currently being performed at the graduate assistantship level will be shifted to undergraduate assistants at undergraduate salary," she said.

At the last Board of Trustees meeting in May, the chancellor addressed the concern saying he does not intend for the undergraduate assistantships to lead to any problematic shift.

Offering undergraduate assistantships is a new program that intends to enhance undergraduate learning by employing undergraduates in jobs that allow them to exercise working skills that correlate with their career choice.

Koropchak said some departments are doing their best to provide assistantships for as many grad-

“The cuts could prove to be extraordinarily detrimental to undergraduate education as well as graduate education.”

Amy Sileven  
president,  
Graduate and Professional Student Council

uates as they can by trimming the assistantships' time percentage from 50 to 40 percent.

"We're sensitive to the same concerns, and we'll maintain vigilance to make sure that doesn't happen," he said.

Reporter Jane Huh can be reached at [jhuh@dailyegyptian.com](mailto:jhuh@dailyegyptian.com)







# NASA seeks younger workers to join aging agency

Gwyneth K. Shaw  
The Orlando Sentinel

WASHINGTON (KRT) — NASA, faced with the prospect of a crippling brain drain as an aging work force approaches retirement, is scrambling to attract and keep young talent.

The average age at NASA is 45. And among those in the agency's crucial science and engineering fields, the number of employees over 60 outnumber those under 30 almost 3 to 1.

Even though the National Aeronautics and Space Administration has cut its work force by almost 7,000 people since 1993, the age disparity has only increased. Roughly a quarter of the agency's workers are eligible to retire within the next five years.

So NASA Administrator Sean O'Keefe wants more freedom to hire new workers — those just starting out as well as those with established careers in the private sector. He wants to offer them bigger bonuses for strong work, scholarships, the chance to move up quickly or even a short-term appointment to allow them to bring their expertise to the space program without signing on to be career civil servants.

He will need Congress' help, and it won't be easy.

It is a battle that's brewing across the federal government — changing the nation's civil service rules is one of the key components of President Bush's plan to run the government more like private businesses.

But O'Keefe's plan, like other attempts to change the way federal workers are hired and fired, is being met with some suspicion.

"We believe that some flexibilities would make sense, provided they have safeguards for employees," U.S. Comptroller General David Walker told a congressional panel considering O'Keefe's plans last week. "Times have changed, and NASA must change with the times in considering... how it does business."

Walker emphasized, however, that plenty could be accomplished without a wholesale rewriting of the rules governing federal employees. And he added that any changes should be done slowly and carefully.

Members of the House Space Subcommittee, many of whom have NASA centers in their districts, expressed support for the idea of luring the cream of the crop to the space program. U.S. Rep. Dave Weldon, a Republican whose dis-

trict includes Kennedy Space Center, said the agency has to do a better job of infusing today's science and technology students with the same passion for space that helped send men to the moon.

"What I'm told is that young people coming in, the only reason they're going there is because they're enamored of their idea of working for NASA," Weldon said. "They're offered much better jobs in the private sector."

However, Weldon and others also were concerned that longtime employees could be hurt if NASA became more like the private sector.

Rep. Bart Gordon pressed O'Keefe about the wisdom of changing the rules before the new chief offers a complete plan for streamlining the agency.

"You're asking us for a lot of authority without specifics," said Gordon, D-Tenn. "To give that authority blindfolded makes me a little nervous... if you're going to say 'trust us,' then give us a better idea of where you're going and what you're doing."

O'Keefe said he doesn't anticipate any layoffs or job cuts, and that the NASA work force will simply be "reshaped."

Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee, a

Democrat who counts workers at Houston's Johnson Space Center among her constituents, said the uncertainty is causing real problems. O'Keefe's budget-minded reputation — he was the White House's deputy budget director before taking over NASA earlier this year — doesn't help, she said.

"I'll tell you that right now, in the NASA family, you have people cowering in the corners and shaking in their boots that you are coming to slash at any moment," Jackson Lee said.

Mark Roth, general counsel for the American Federation of Government Employees, a union that represents federal workers, said NASA has contributed to its problems with a series of layoffs and the decision to shift many responsibilities to private contractors.

"NASA has, for more than a decade, pursued an ill-advised plan of downsizing and outsourcing," Roth said. "That has made the coming retirement waves truly daunting for NASA."

O'Keefe's plan is modeled on the successes of several other agencies, including the Defense Department. The prime motivating tool available to private sector bosses — money — figures prominently.

Some proposals, such as offering scholarships in return for a commitment of service to NASA for a certain period of time, do not need congressional approval.

Others do. For example, existing rules allow government bosses to offer bonuses up to 25 percent of an employee's salary.

O'Keefe, who noted that NASA has handed out very few of these incentives in the past few years, wants to be able to offer more in order to attract stellar new employees or keep existing workers from quitting.

He also wants a greater ability to hire someone with expertise in a specific area for a set period of time up to six years, without the constraints of making them civil servants. Right now, NASA is very limited in the number of people it can hire that way, and they can only stay for four years.

Roth, though, questioned whether O'Keefe will be able to get more money from Congress to pay for bigger bonuses and higher salaries, implying that if he can't, current employees will suffer financially and morale will sag.

"I'm afraid you're going to end up losing the best and brightest that you already have," Roth said.

## EDUCATION

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The goals included helping Illinois businesses and industries sustain strong economic growth, improve teaching at all levels by joining elementary and secondary education, holding students to even higher expectations for learning and be accountable for quality of academic programs, improving cost-effectiveness and productivity and ensuring every Illinois citizen can attend college because of financial aid.

Affordability was one way that Illinois stood out against some of its top classmates such as Connecticut and New Jersey, Doyle said.

He said Connecticut showed a high percentage of students remaining within its state to attend college, but Illinois' financial assistance programs help keep college students within its borders and universities.

"Illinois has done an extraordinary job of making their colleges affordable," he said. "With the MAP program and moderate levels of tuition, it is not the same kind of effort in other states."

However, Doyle said Illinois' grade for degree completion was low compared to other schools. Connecticut was one state that had

a higher grade in college completion, but he said all states could improve on certain areas.

"Some overall improvement can be made to the completion rate," Doyle said. "Students need to get through college in a timely manner."

Don Sevenser, IBHE communications director, said that after looking at Illinois' grades in comparison with the "Illinois Commitment," the IBHE has noted other changes and improvements for its top-ranking educational system.

Noting the grades are based on performance for 2000, he said the recommendations from the National Center and IBHE's own assessment must include recent events, such as budget cuts.

Sevenser said IBHE is deeply involved in making Illinois more affordable, because students are facing rising tuition costs and MAP grant cuts.

"Despite the high grade, this will continue to be a high priority for the board," Sevenser said.

But Sevenser said Illinois also hopes to develop collaborative efforts with the Illinois Student Assistance Co. mission to improve financial aid and develop teacher-training programs.

The report card showed a high grade in participation and preparation of college, and that includes

how universities are attracting students. The grade notes Illinois met its goal in the IBHE 2001 Annual Report, ranking Illinois the fourth in high percentages of minority population.

Sevenser said it is hard to pinpoint which colleges help to contribute to the ranking, but he said SIUC has a high regard for diversity. "SIUC has worked very hard to ensure that minorities have access to campus," Sevenser said, noting that diversity was a factor in Illinois' high rank.

Doyle said that overall, the state higher education boards responded positively to the national report card. He said it offers states a chance to compare their policies, goals and performances among other states and learn from their strengths and weaknesses.

Sevenser was pleased with the ranking and hopes Illinois will continue to rank high in the future.

"The national report card shows the fine job Illinois colleges have been doing and support the General Assembly has given to Illinois," Sevenser said. "That support has been important to our system, and it gave a No. 1 rank in the country."

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

## PENALTY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

have on future cases.

"Most death penalty cases in the Southern Illinois area do not survive appeal anyway," Capps said. "Defense attorneys will still persist in presenting that their client is a person, not a monster."

Attorney John Clemons, also in private practice in Jackson County, agrees the conference is an extended education activity.

"Any good lawyer will take the opportunity to advance his or her education," Clemons said. "You have to keep up with the trade; there is always something to learn. That is all that is."

Like Capps, Clemons was once a prosecutor. Though he has never represented a case where the death penalty was sought, he too has defended murder cases from both sides.

"There are good days and bad days on both sides; it just depends on the case and the people," Clemons said.

Both Capps and Clemons agree that cases involving the death penalty require a certain amount of knowledge and experience. In fact, the Illinois Supreme court requires that lawyers be certified before handling such cases.

Capps and Clemons also agree that despite Gov. George Ryan's recommendation to abolish the death penalty, it will not be done away with. The death penalty was reinstated in the state of Illinois in 1977. Since then, 12 inmates have been executed.

Just two years ago, Ryan imposed a

moratorium on the death penalty after he found that the state had wrongly convicted several inmates. As a result of the wrong convictions, 13 people were released from death row, and a commission was formed to improve the criminal justice system and decrease the number of people on death row.

According to the Illinois Department of Corrections' website, there are still 160 people on death row in the state of Illinois. Recently, the commission has advised that confessions were videotaped.

Capps said this step should stop police interrogation from scaring the innocent into a guilty plea.

"Many times, police use techniques to get people to believe they actually did the crime," Capps said. "It is an easy way to get out of the pressures of surrounding heavy cases like murder."

Capps thinks the pressure that surrounds murder cases often leads to rushed conclusions of guilt.

"The more serious the case, the more pressure," Capps said. "But, just like when the warhorse hears the trumpet, I am ready to go at any moment to defend my clients."

Georgiana Coffman can be reached at geoffman@dailylegyptian.com

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# Austin Powers's Mini Me sets up foundation for little people

Mike Szymanski  
Zap2it.com

**BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (KRT)** — Before entering the hotel room, Verne Troyer is already getting the star treatment. A step is set up next to his chair and a box is placed on his seat before he walks in for the interview. Troyer is 33 years old and 32 inches. Yes, at 2 feet 8 inches, he's shorter than most men's legs.

Nevertheless, he's a big man in Hollywood these days as Mini Me in Mike Myers' film 'Austin Powers in Goldmember' (opening Friday).

Although he comes across as a mute wide-eyed imbecile in his most famous part (he's been the clone of Dr. Evil in these latest two Austin Powers films), Troyer is in fact a smart stuntman-turned-movie star who lives alone in a house in Los Angeles and is pretty handy with the ladies.

"I didn't really have much trouble before the movies," he smiles.

Fellow actor and friend Seth Green teases Troyer about the little man's success with women cooing over him on the set. "I mean, look at Verne," Green says seriously. "How do you deny what an unbelievably impressive stud he is? I don't fight it."

Walking into the room drinking a Red Bull after just seeing Green in the hallway, Troyer said, "He just tried to trip me in the hall!"

With his black sweats, a black cap and black tank top, it's easy to see a huge yin/yang symbol tattooed on Troyer's left arm and barbed wire on his right — and he doesn't have the characteristic scar on his face as he does in the movies.

"Mike's amazing. He's such a nice person, really down to earth. He makes

you feel comfortable working with him," Troyer says about the creator of Austin Powers. He talks about how the Canadian comedian always cracks up the cast because he's so unpredictable.

"You never know what Mike's going to do. When you're in a scene with him you have to react off whatever he's doing at that time," Troyer says.

He remembers loving the first Austin Powers film, and was thrilled to be in the 1999 summer hit 'Austin Powers 2 — The Spy Who Shagged Me.' He thinks it's a challenge that his character doesn't talk.

"It's like being in a silent movie — you have to still get the emotion across," Troyer explains.

Troyer has been caught off guard by his popularity: He grew up in a tiny town of Centerville, Mich., with no spotlight, just a blinking light in the center of town. He has an older brother and younger sister, both average height. Troyer worked for a telephone company for years and at 21, he moved with his brother to Texas, where in 1993 he was hired to do stunt work for a 9-month-old baby in John Hughes' film "Baby's Day Out."

That led to TV appearances playing small children or animals in shows such as "Shasta McNasty," "VIP" and "Jack of All Trades." He's appeared in "Instinct," "My Giant," "Mighty Joe Young," "Jingle all the Way," "Men in Black," "Bubble Boy" and "Hairy Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone" as well as with Frau Farbissina's Mindy Sterling in "Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas."

"I'm just shocked," Troyer says about his career, his pale blue eyes sparkling. The only negatives have been ugly things said about him on the Internet, which he ignores. A big college football



NEW LINE PRODUCTIONS (KRT) - MELINDA SUE GORDON

Mike Meyers' new film "Austin Powers in Goldmember," will hit the box office this Friday. Verne Troyer (Mini Me), who stands 2 feet, 8 inches tall, the height of most men's legs, is putting together the Verne Troyer Foundation to help other little people make their dreams come true.

and soccer fan, he watches sports in his spare time.

He hopes to burst Hollywood stereotypes of little people. He's in two upcoming films, "Run for the Money" with Christian Slater and "You'll Never Wiece in this Town Again" with Pauly Shore, but he's not working on anything new.

"I'm getting scripts all the time, which is something I'm trying to take advantage of," Troyer hesitates, "But it's all ... well, crap."

"I'm not a very confident person, but

I grew up with parents who've given me the optimism that whatever you put your mind to you can do and hopefully I show that to other people," he says.

He's now putting together The Verne Troyer Foundation (www.vernetroyer.com) to help other little people make their dreams come true. "Basically I want to be able to inspire other little people to go to college and reach their goals," Troyer says.

It's unclear if there's going to be a fourth Austin Powers, although Troyer would like to see a "mini-Beyonce"

(a small version of Beyonce Knowles' sexy character Foxy Cleopatra). Meanwhile, he remains amazed by his own fame.

"We go to other parts of the world and they know who I am," Troyer says. "I go on the Internet and I'm amazed at all these fan sites."

So when he goes through the airport and wants to avoid being mobbed by fans, he has a plan.

"I do this," he says, flipping his dark sunglasses over his eyes. He then offers a big laugh.

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ALEX HAGLUND - PHOTO ILLUSTRATION

Ephedra-based weight loss products such as Metabolife 356, Ripped Fuel and Xenadrine RFA can help users to lose weight but can also cause dangerous side effects. "The recommended dosage is five milligrams per day and not to exceed 100 milligrams per day," Lynn Gill, coordinator of the Wellness Center in Nutrition Education, said. "But because it's considered an herb and not a drug, it's not regulated by the Food and Drug Administration, and some products exceed more than the recommended amount."

## Fit & Trim

Ephedra is a substance used by dietary supplements to facilitate weight loss

STORY BY MAUREN JOHNSON

It's No. 1 for a reason! It works! This is not the slogan for a new program to lower the national unemployment rate. It is the slogan adopted by Metabolife International, Inc., a corporation that has declared war on another national problem: obesity.

According to Wes Siegner, general spokesperson for the Ephedra Education Council, the U.S. Surgeon General declared nearly 40 million American adults to be obese and some 300,000 Americans die from obesity-related diseases every year.

Several years ago, Metabolife International, Inc., manufactured Metabolife 356, a dietary supplement that would combat the effects of obesity and its resulting health problems. The supplement is marketed as an herbal formula that increases a user's metabolism, increases energy level and reduces appetite.

Siegner said Metabolife 356 and many other similar dietary supplements contain Ephedra, a substance that occurs naturally in the ephedra sinica plant. Ephedra is also known as ma huang and has been used for thousands of years in Chinese medicine.

Lynn Gill, coordinator of the Wellness Center in Nutrition Education, said Ephedra is known to be safe and effective when used in small doses. However, weight loss preparations may contain higher concentrations of Ephedra than the recommended dosage.

"The recommended dosage is five milligrams per serving and not to exceed 100 milligrams per day," Gill said. "But because it's considered an herb and not a drug, it's not regulated by the Food and Drug Administration, and some products exceed more than the recommended amount."

Furthermore, Gill said many dietary supplements contain guarana seeds, which is essentially caffeine. When Ephedra is combined with caffeine, it magnifies the stimulant effect.

Richard Price, senior associate of the Aizer Partners Public Relations Firm for the Ephedra Education Council, said dietary supplements containing Ephedra are safe as long as consumers take the supplements as directed.

"More than 12 million Americans are currently benefiting from using Ephedra dietary supplements," Price said. "The responsible manufacturers and distributors of Ephedra dietary supplements adopted industry standards that are included on all our Ephedra dietary supplement products for consumers to follow."

But Gill is concerned about the possibility of adverse effects of large quantities of Ephedra. She said the FDA has received many complaints concerning symptoms as mild as insomnia and as severe as psychosis, heart attacks and strokes.

"Ephedra works in the central nervous system," Gill said. "Ephedrine is a naturally occurring substance in our bodies. If we were to see a tiger, for example, and get scared, our blood pressure goes up, our eyes dilate, our heart rate increases and our perspiration occurs. This is the same effect this drug is giving the body. If this is continually taken over the next three months, what can happen is an adrenal exhaustion in the body because of that response."

Gill stressed that people with high blood pressure, heart problems, hyperthyroidism, prostate and urinary problems should definitely not take supplements with Ephedra. Furthermore, Ephedra may be dangerous for people who are

pregnant, breast feeding or have problems with blood sugar or glaucoma.

Gill also said people taking monoamine oxidase (MAO) inhibitor drugs, which are used as antidepressants, and those who are taking over-the-counter medications to control asthma, sinus, allergy or colds should not take these supplements, because many of these products already contain Ephedra.

However, Price emphasized Ephedra is safe when directed.

"Researchers from Harvard and Columbia Universities found that overweight, healthy Americans participating in this study lost between 11 and 12 pounds without experiencing significant side effects," Price said.

In addition to being unhealthy, supplements may also be ineffective if used over a long period of time. Gill said she would like to see a long-term study to determine if there is long-term success

with using dietary supplements containing Ephedra.

"I suspect that more people than not would have a weight gain once these pills are discontinued," Gill said. "What is better for your health and ensures long-term success is a reduction of total calories and an increase in physical activity. But it takes patience, time and planning, and many people aren't willing to do that."

Gill suggested healthier alternatives to dietary supplements with Ephedra. She recommended people cook less food and slow down their eating. Gill said people should also avoid eating while driving and watching television.

"That's the behavioral part I think these diet pills and programs and fad diets don't address," Gill said. "Many people take these pills and don't change their lifestyle, hoping that the pill will take care of it for them."

Jane Maxwell, the outreach and group counseling coordinator for Women's Services at the Counseling Center, said the decision to use dietary supplements containing Ephedra may include emotional issues such as poor body image and low self-esteem.

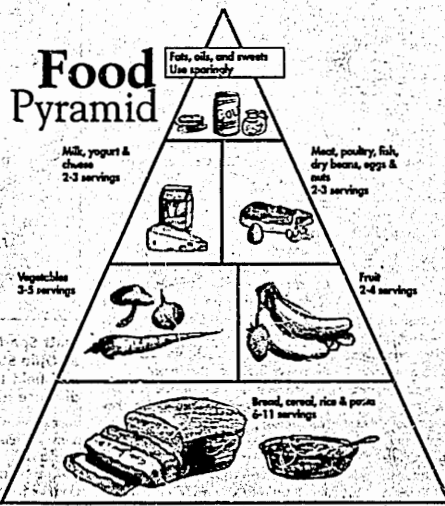
"I think people are looking for a quick fix to improve themselves or their appearance," Maxwell said. "But a pill is not going to solve the problem because as soon as they quit taking the pills, they'll go back to their same eating habits."

Maxwell said companies such as Metabolife International, Inc., may target both men and women who are vulnerable and have poor self-images. She said such men and women feel that weight loss supplements will improve their lives by improving their appearances.

"[Dietary supplements] can have a very short-term positive effect on self-image," Maxwell said. "But if someone has trouble with self-esteem and a very poor image of themselves in terms of appearance, that short-term boost will go away and the real problems will resurface."

Maxwell recommended that people with a poor body image think about what it's like to accept themselves. She said that being healthy doesn't necessarily mean being thin.

"Being healthy is so is how you think of yourself," Maxwell said. "If there is something you'd like to change, invest yourself into changing life-long habits into something positive."



ROBIN JONES - DAILY EGYPTIAN

Reporter Maureen Johnson can be reached at mjohnsuw2dailyegyptian.com

# Koutsos ready to run



WILLIAM A. RICE - DAILY EGYPTIAN

SIU senior running back Tom Koutsos works on agility drills earlier this summer. The SIU career rushing yardage leader will be attempting to break SIU's touchdown mark as well as the Gateway Conference's career rushing mark this upcoming season.

## Saluki football star set to break more career records

Jack Piatt  
Daily Egyptian

Tommy Koutsos is one season away from representing SIU as the all-time career rushing leader in the Gateway Conference.

The senior is already the school career rushing leader with 3,531 yards in just three seasons, and he has averaged 4.6 yards per carry during his career.

It will take only 701 yards this season for Koutsos to surpass Eastern Illinois University's Willie High, who holds the league's career rushing record with 4,321 yards.

Koutsos is the first running back in Gateway history to rush for 1,000 yards in each of his first three seasons. He has 17 100-yard rushing games so far in his career, which is also an SIU record. With 32 career touchdowns, he is only six scores away from setting the SIU career record. Koutsos has also never missed a game in his three-year career.

Koutsos has received numerous honors during his time at SIU. He was named to the First Team All-Gateway his sophomore and junior years. As a freshman, he received an honorable mention for All-Gateway. Koutsos also enters this season as a pre-season ALL-American.

The Saluki football squad is looking to Koutsos to lead them to a successful season. The team has been working hard to improve at many different levels. If Koutsos

can continue his success on the field, the team has a good recipe for winning some games this year.

"Koutsos has been working real hard all summer to improve," said junior linebacker Eric Egan. "He is going to have a great season. I hope he breaks the Gateway career rushing record."

SIU football head coach Jerry Kill said scouts last year thought Koutsos was stiff, but he thinks this season will be different.

"Tommy had a very productive spring. He is a much better player now than he was in the fall," Kill said. "He has increased his speed and will be exciting to watch in the fall."

After this season is over, Koutsos plans to compete at the professional level. He hopes to be invited to an All-Star game to begin his movement into the next level.

With a young team and a determined coaching staff, the Salukis are ready to create a new image for SIU football.

"We have a young team mixed with some good veterans," Koutsos said. "The young players need to step up and play hard, and the veterans need to step up and lead the younger players."

This season will be an important test for a fired-up Saluki football squad, and it also will be a chance for one SIU star to rise even higher.

"This will be my best season for sure; I have pre-season honors I am to back up," Koutsos said. "I am looking forward to going out on a winning season. This team is going to open some eyes."

Reporter Jack Piatt can be reached at [jpiatt@dailyegyptian.com](mailto:jpiatt@dailyegyptian.com)

## Pacers still interested in Roberts

Jack Piatt  
Daily Egyptian

The Indiana Pacers have invited former Saluki star Rolan Roberts to their upcoming veterans camp.

Roberts played summer league basketball for the Pacers earlier this summer and proved he has talent worthy of a second look. Roberts also played summer league ball for the Washington Wizards, but he didn't think he got enough playing time.

If Roberts decides to go to the veterans camp, he will be one of 18 players who will compete for a position on the team. The Pacers will keep 12 to 15 of the players from the camp and sign them to non-guaranteed contracts.

The players will compete in exhibition games with the rest of the Pacer stars, hoping to impress the team enough to make the final cut before the regular season starts.

According to Robert's agent, Bill Neff, the Pacers would give Roberts a pro-rated contract for \$350,000 a year if he makes the final cut. He would then get paid for each game played and have the opportunity to play the whole season.

If he doesn't make it to regular season, the Pacers don't pay him anything. "It is very hard for a free agent to get signed to the NBA at this point, but not impossible," Neff said.

International teams in Italy and Turkey are also interested in Roberts. Neff said Roberts can make good money overseas and make a name for himself.

"My dream is to play in the NBA," Roberts said earlier in the summer. "But if I don't play in the NBA, playing overseas is definitely an option."

Reporter Jack Piatt can be reached at [jpiatt@dailyegyptian.com](mailto:jpiatt@dailyegyptian.com)

# New women's track assistant coach is 'ready to run'

## Sparks ready to improve SIU's distance runners

Kristina Dailing  
Daily Egyptian

Matt Sparks, former Ohio State University women's track and field assistant coach, was looking to relocate.

Connie Price-Smith, SIU women's track and field head coach, was looking for a long distance running coach.

The timing was right, the need was there, and Sparks is now ready to lead the track team to greater distances.

Sparks, who has been hired to train the distance runners for the SIU women's track and field team, had his first official day on the job Wednesday. He replaces former assistant coach De Dee Nathan, who left the team earlier this summer after just one season in Carbondale.

Although Sparks has just recently been hired, he has already jumped into his job by calling and introducing himself to players and making sure they have kept up with their summer conditioning.

Players are already encouraged that he will help make a big difference with

training the long distance runners.

"I can tell he's really involved in trying to get our team back together," said Lindsey Campos, a distance runner who fat out last season.

Price-Smith has known Sparks for several years and is glad that the timing worked out so that he could join the Salukis.

Though she has never worked with Sparks directly, she knows he has worked with long distance runners in the past, an area Price-Smith admittedly doesn't have much experience with.

"I think he will be able to pull the distance team in closer together," Price-Smith said. "He will be able to provide them with the training knowledge to help them compete better."

Sparks spent his last two years coaching women's distance runners for Ohio State's cross country and track and field team, specifically working with and training the long distance runners. He also coached two years at Indiana University as a graduate assistant for the track and field team while he earned his master's. This was also where he met Price-Smith as she was training for the Olympics in Bloomington, Ind. Sparks has since watched her athletic career and has been impressed by the examples she sets for young athletes.

"I've just admired her leadership and what I think she can bring to a track and field program and to an athletic program," Sparks said. "That was one of my big selling points."

Sparks also likes Carbondale's smaller community, as well as SIU's beautiful campus. However, Sparks never let the scenery distract him from what he wants to do with the team.

"It's a rebuilding process," Sparks said. "The team has been down the past couple of years, and I realize that it may take a couple of years to try to turn things around."

Campos said the track and field team had a temporary distance coach for several months last season, but eventually Price-Smith and Nathan took over. Campos, like many of the long distance runners, said she is ready for a permanent coach who can train them specifically for their event.

"It was really hard for the girls last year," Campos said. "They felt like they were missing out, because they didn't have a long distance coach who could help with their specific needs."

Sparks, who hasn't personally met the team yet, is already planning to stress to the young women to have committed attitudes to aid in turning things around.

"I think you can make some quick



ALEX HARLUND - DAILY EGYPTIAN

Matt Sparks, former women's track and field assistant coach at Ohio State, is the newest hire for the Saluki women's track and field team. Sparks will be working with cross country and distance runners on the team.

improvement by just having the right frame of mind coming into a season," Sparks said.

Sparks' training and experience, along with his committed attitude, have impressed Price-Smith since she has known him. She is also impressed by his ability to recruit, work with people and with his administrative work.

"I've seen his work, and I know people that have worked with him," Price-Smith said. "I know he can do a good job, because I have seen him do it."

Reporter Kristina Dailing can be reached at [kdailing@dailyegyptian.com](mailto:kdailing@dailyegyptian.com)