SIU's operating budget increases 2.8 percent

University receives most government funding in seven years, keeps salaries safe

SIU had its budget bolstered after Gov. Rod Blagojevich approved the largest operating increase for state universities in seven years.

The university will receive a total increase of about $9 million from the total $77 million increase being allocated to public universities for operational costs. The 2.8 percent increase in operating budget is the largest in seven years.

SIU President Glenn Poshard said the increase saved jobs and allowed the university to maintain its staff.

"I told the individual schools to prepare a worst-case scenario budget in case the budget remained flat or was cut," Poshard said. "The fact we were able to come up with that amount of money helps us tremendously."

The increase will cover the fact we were able to come up with that amount of money helps us tremendously.

“SIU had its budget bolstered after Gov. Rod Blagojevich approved the largest operating increase for state universities in seven years.”

The budget increase was announced on July 15. It will help the university maintain its staff and pay salaries and personal services.

The budget for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2009, is $235.2 million. The budget for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2010, is $248.6 million.

SIU President Glenn Poshard said the increase saved jobs and allowed the university to maintain its staff.

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“SIU had its budget bolstered after Gov. Rod Blagojevich approved the largest operating increase for state universities in seven years.”
The university also secured $11.6 million for grants, scholarships and other programs. The university will receive $250,000 for an internship program, $1 million for the James Walker Presidential Scholarship Fund, a $2.4 million grant for the School of Medicine and a $4 million grant for ethanol research at the Edwardsville campus.

SIU will also receive $200,000 to help combat declining enrollment and find retention solutions.

Though the 2.8 percent increase was the largest for SIU in seven years, there is still a potential $320 million in their operating cost increase.

As SIU also works to bring help to the students and as well as economic developments.

The operating budget has only increased 6.4 percent since 2005, with 2.8 of that percentage accounted for this fiscal year. Poshard said he was glad the streak of half-percent and one-percent increases ended and hopes to secure at least the 2.8 mark in future years.

David Gross, executive director for the office of the president, said Poshard’s work in Springfield would bring help to the students and as well as economic staff.

“There has been a growing sense in the legislature that they needed to address the needs of universities,” Gross said. “And increasing the operating budget is one of the most important things the government can do for nation.”

Jeff Ewingbrode can be reached at 536-3311 ext. 268 or jewing@siu.edu.
Students, administrators hammer out ‘green’ fee

Fees not likely to be in place before next year

Allison Petty

Bear bugs, laughter and elated phone calls filled the room in April when members of the Student Environmental Center learned the student body voted overwhelmingly in support of the “green” fee. But for those students, the celebration is over.

It’s time to get down to business. Namely the business of working with administrators to implement the student fee for environmental sustainability projects and research as well as to hammer out the details of the proposal.

Pulliam said negotiations are going well, although it has become clear that students will not have total authority over money generated by the fee.

“You can’t say officially students have complete control because obviously, the Board (of Trustees) does,” said Pulliam, a former student member of the board.

But she said students — particularly student members of the sustainability council — would have a voice in how the money is spent.

SEC members wrote in a DAILY EGYPTIAN letter to the editor in April that students would make up two-thirds of the funding committee responsible for allocating the money.

Pulliam and others have pushed the proposal for months. When SEC members tried to get the fee included as a referendum on Undergraduate Student Government ballots in April, USG and its then-President Demetrios White shot them down.

So SEC members collected more than 1,600 signatures to get their fee on the ballot. After an extensive campaign, they were vindicated when students supported the fee, 996-372. Eminence Preston Dox Pulliam said he has talked about the fee with Goldman and other administrators, but the discussion was a brief one.

Pulliam requested Rice attend the council’s first meeting at which she hoped the sustainability coordinator position would be discussed in greater detail.

Discussion about the fee would most likely take place in Executive Session of the Board of Trustees’ meetings, said White, who now serves as Student Trustee. During those sessions, which are not open to the press or public, board members discuss the philosophy behind decisions, debate and explore options. White said he needed to be better informed before participating in those talks.

But he said he would support the fee and council as they are now proposed.

“The students voted for it so absolutely, I would push for it,” White said.

Pulliam said she believed the administrators would not try to “ hijack” the fee, as some of its opponents had feared.

“I definitely think the administrators aren’t trying to be enemies in that, she said.

Pulliam said she hoped to see the council form a advisory group at which she said she would support the fee before April.

---

Center offers unique treatment for brain injuries

Justin Lange

After a near fatal car accident in 2003, Ryan Hutton lost his temporar y use on both hands. Having suffered severe physical injuries and brain trauma, Hutton was left without the use of much of his lower body.

After years of rehabilitation, therapy, and supported living at the Center for Comprehensive Services, Hutton is regaining his mobility and obtaining the skills needed to take back his independence.

The CCS, located at 306 W. Main St., is devoted to re habilitating individuals having suffered traumatic brain injuries. It was the first year-round hospital treatment center to offer this kind of care.

“Folks from all over the United States are coming here,” said Charles Williamson, program director for the center and SIUC graduate with a master’s degree in rehabilitation administration and service.

Williamson said the center has a history with close ties to the university. Speech-language pathologist Kathy Fishel and a program director graduated the CCS in 1977 after an insurance company came to the university and offered free programs for four injured workers living in a nursing center.

In 1998, MENTOR ABL, a corporation based in Boston specializing in care for brain-injury patients purchased the center. Williamson said since the buyout, the CCS has been able to oversee the treatment of individuals outside the region, MENTOR ABL currently has facilities in 10 states including Calif., Fla. and several in the Midwest. With 25 living facilities in Carbondale and a staff of over 500, the CCS is able to serve more than 150 participants at a time. Williamson said while individual treatment plans differ, the center has programs ranging from four months to a year and also provides supported living, which can last decades.

Aside from providing cognitive and physical therapy, CCS offers a wide variety of work including job coaching and teaching participants financial management. It also provides chances for participants to re-enter the community. Williamson said the center organizes several trips and events, so that participants can get to use the things they often take for granted.

With 25 living facilities, the CCS has a staff of committed, caring individuals, several of them from the university. Speech-lan-
WASHINGTON — Washington is back in the Olympics, and so is Beijing, where organizers say Monday's discovery doesn't solve the mystery.

Authorities don't know how many tickets were sold to the farm, or in the plant in McAllen, Texas.

Anita Chang
WASHINGTON

Obama in Iraq: Withdrawal support but no timetable


Truckers violating federal medical rules have been caught in every state.

WASHINGTON

Salamonella strain found in jalapenos

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A paper flower garden of brightly colored daisies sprang out of Attucks Park as community members celebrated the culmination of this summer’s “I Can Read” program.

In the center of the flowers were books including “Tales of a 4th Grade Nothing,” “Harry Potter,” and “How My Family Lives in America,” amongst other favorites read by children enrolled in the six-week program that concluded Thursday.

Although “I Can Read” participants cut out paper flowers and made “Soil Sammys” — little grass-headed creatures made of pantyhose, dirt, and seeds — what the program is designed to grow is stronger reading skills.

Volunteer workers seeking to instill children with a love for reading met with kids four times a week at the Eurma C. Hayes Center to read, play games, make crafts, eat snacks and listen to guest speakers. The program also gave kids the opportunity to enjoy being outdoors on field trips, such as an excursion to the “Boo” Rochman Memorial Castle Park.

Alicia McIntosh, the summer program coordinator, said that many different members of the community, including police, firefighters, and nurses, visited with the kids about their professions during “Who Are the People in Our Community?” week. Other themes in the program were Readers’ Theatre, We’re Going Places, Watch Us Grow, Poetry, and Fairy Tales.

“I Can Read” started as a free after-school program for kindergarten through 5th-grade students in District 95, but community donations made it possible for the program to continue into the summer.

Margaret Nesbitt, an organizer for the program and member of the Attucks’ Class of ’48, said it was a positive experience for the children to have a summer reading program. “Three months is too long for kids to go without reading,” Nesbitt said Thursday. Last school year, 24 kids were signed up for “I Can Read,” Nesbitt said, but more students were put on a waiting list because there were not enough volunteers. She estimates that nearly 50 students will be enrolled in the coming year.

“I Can Read” Program begins its next session on September 8, and will run Monday through Thursday from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. at the Euema C. Hayes Center. Nesbitt and Jordan said they are very appreciative of all the volunteers who have been able to donate time and resources to “I Can Read” since the program began in 1998, and encourage anyone with a love for reading and a few extra hours to help in the future.

Allison Huber can be reached at 536-3311 ext. 255 or at achuber@siu.edu.
Two minutes of truth
Pay it back by moving forward

PAUL FLOWERS
hope4usa@yahoo.com

"Hunter, Playboy or Penthouse." Sadly, this is the response I hear when I ask guys about the issues they pay attention to.

Sorry folks, this is not about magazine subscriptions. The issues I want to bring to focus have a little more worldly cause and effect. Unfortunately, we do not pay these things much attention.

Shocking? It should not be.

In a world full of distractions, one may find it hard to tear themselves away from their favorite entertainment source long enough to gain a moment of mental clarity. We constantly invite the opinion of others into our thought space without even wondering why. The reason one may want to wonder is that because of the amount of damage that can be done by not paying attention to the issues at hand.

For example, "The poorest 40 percent of the world’s population accounts for 5 percent of global income. The richest 20 percent of it owns 85 percent of the world’s wealth. The top 1 percent owns 17 percent of the world’s wealth. The top 1 percent also own 38 percent of the world’s top financial assets." If we do not pay attention to these kinds of facts, we are essentially giving these people and their agendas the chance to make the world worse.

Somebody knew that this problem was coming long before the first documentary ever hit the video stands. But, look at the bright side. There is always something that we can do to help out. Whether it be by volunteering time to help out in the community, donating money to a worthy cause or even helping out a single person in need. Every individual has in them an agent of great change. A candle burning with a positive flame that needs to be spread to others.

The Duke Report
I kissed a girl and I liked it

ANDREW O’CONNOR
andrewoc@siu.edu

Every summer has a song. It starts out innocently enough — a catchy pop song that starts to get heavy rotation. Then somewhere around mid-June, the song begins to be played officially ad nauseam. By August, just hearing the first chord elicits primal rage. Need proof? Last year’s “summer song” was “Beautiful Girls” by Shawn Kingston.

It is a feminist’s worst nightmare. This year’s song, however, has the distinct honor wherein its blood-boiling annoyance is raised by its mind-numbing stupidity.

Of course I am talking about Katy Perry’s “I Kissed A Girl.”

Her music is manufactured drivel that is only successful at exploiting stereotypes. I suppose the best place to start is Perry’s childhood. She was raised in the mutant wasteland that is somewhere California (not surprisingly) by two pastures. Her first album released in 2001 was a Christian gospel album.

Either she was thoroughly ensorcelled by Satan or Jesus did not pay very well, but eventually she moved toward making music for tweens too cool for Hannah Montana.

She first burst on to the scene with the song, “Ur So Gay.” The song is about a fed up and unsatisfied girl whose hipster-indie boyfriend is “gay.” Of course, she clarifies that he is not "gay" in the sense that he has sex with other men (which, she reminds us is really, really gross) — no, he is gay in the sense that he is an “emo” nerd.

Maybe it was Madonna passing the torch to Britney and Christina through their towels, or maybe it was the first “nipple-clip” on MTV, but somewhere along the line, lesbians became trendy. As we will indefinitely see when the new “Bruno” movie comes out, gay-guy gay is a corporate cash crop, while boy-boy gay is unsettling.

Furthermore, gay-guy gay is still caricatured as a relationship between two purse-snobs obsessed with Bravo. As the brilliant Kayt reminds us, gay guys are not "real" men. Conversely, if you are not her idea of a real "straight" man, “Ur So Gay”

Yet some people cling to the idea that the song was actually a sly tongue-and-check masterpiece of irony. Then she released “I Kissed A Girl.” Anyone who tries to rhyme something with "cherry chapstick" is intellectually incapable of irony.

Do I know what I hate more about “I Kissed A Girl,” the song or people’s reactions to it. The song is atrocious and so is the video. It is three minutes in a room of scantily clad women wherein no one — not even Katy Perry — actually kisses a girl. It would be the cinematic equivalent of "Snakes On A Plane." If there were no snakes on that plane.

Why does she kiss a girl? “Just to try it.”

She goes on to assure us that she is not “gay,” and ultimately "she hopes her boyfriend won’t mind it." She surely doesn’t want to disrupt the patriarchy.

It trivializes and exploits homosexuality while simultaneously conforming to the hierarchical structures of “approved sexuality” and patriarchal rule.

It’s nuthsell, it’s a feminist’s worst nightmare. Sexual identity is a complex concept full of nuances and specificities. Alfred Kinsey, the most famous sexologist of the twentieth century believed there to be no such thing as a definitively heterosexual or homosexual identity, but that there was a spectrum, or scale, of sexuality. His Kinsey Scale, while archaic, was the first chunk in the armor of the concept of normative sexuality.

A recent study concluded that women were more likely to be sexually aroused at the sight of a naked woman than that of a naked man. If you have seen “Forgetting Sarah Marshall” you know why — standalone male genitals are just comical. The actions of a couple would elicit arousal in women, but just a standalone male would not.

We are learning more about our sexuality every day, and our prehistoric stereotypes are being shattered by people just being themselves.

At the end of the day, at least for lesbianism, Katy Perry’s song is kind of a milestone.

You know you have made it when corporate America co-opts and exploits your identity.

It is almost a badge of honor. Almost.

Eventually Ma-Perry will follow Sean Kingston into one-hit history, while withering away from overexposure. Maybe her narrow constructs will too.

O’Connor is a junior studying political science.

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.

Quote of the Day
“I’d like to give the king a hug.”

Hugo Chavez, President of Venezuela, referring to King Juan Carlos of Spain, who famously told him to shut up during a diplomatic spat last year.
Tuesday, July 22, 2008

**Legal Notices**

Public Notice to Lemon Grove that on July 10, A.D. 2008, a certifi- cated survey report was filed with the County Clerk of Jackson County, Fl. Notifying both the name and address of the owner, and the name of the surveyor conducting the survey and the location of the Plat of Survey. Located at 1023 Vista Court, Delmarva, FL 32536 filed the 10th day of July, A.D. 2008.

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BUY, SELL, AND TRADE. AAA Auto Sales, 5493 N. Main St., (863) 484-2044.

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For Sale Mobile Home, 2 brm, near Su, $17,000, call 367-6800.

**Real Estate**

For SALE in Homestead, Million Dollar View, 2 brms, one bath, asking price is $39,000, call (305) 255-9844.

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**Apartments**

COCOA CREST 2, 1 BR, 1 BF, laundry, private parking, pool, $645.00, call (321) 724-2097.

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ROOMMATES OWN MBL, 1 bd, 1 bath, no rent due, call (321) 252-0948.

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**Dark Knight’ proves itself worthy**

Luke McCormick

“*The Dark Knight*”

RATED PG-13

STARRING: Christian Bale, Heath Ledger, Aaron Eckhart

DIRECTED BY: Christopher Nolan

RUNTIME: 152 min.

**WARNING:** This is not a comic book film. Do not be fooled by the man in the cape or the psychopathic villain. This is the live-action film first and foremost with just as much brain as it has brown. Director Christopher Nolan has torn down the remnants of superhero films and created the best release of the summer (superhero or otherwise).

With this film’s predecessor, Nolan’s “*Batman Begins*” setting up the caped crusader’s origin, this film gets things right down to business. Batman (Christian Bale) and Lt. James Gordon (Gary Oldman) team up with Gotham’s ambitious new District Attorney, Harvey Dent (Aaron Eckhart) to rid their city of its criminal underground once and for all. Things seem to be going swimmingly until a new but not so attractive face arrives on Gotham’s crime scene.

The Joker (Heath Ledger) takes over Gotham City, intent on destruction and setting those fighting for justice against each other in a tormented circus.

While Batman may be the central character in this old comic book franchise, this film is more of an ensemble piece, not a look into just Batman’s war against the Gotham world and Ledger’s Joker is the anchor of the whole thing.

From the first moment his frightening, scarred face appears on screen, The Joker takes control of every moment he appears in. Ledger’s performance has been heralded all across the board, and all the praise is due. With a reptilian-like tongue, darting in and out of his mouth, Ledger transforms himself into one of the most terrifying monsters in movie history.

The rest of the cast turns in high-quality performances as well. Aaron Eckhart undoubtedly just upped the asking price for his Harvey Dent plays both sides of the coin, going from good to evil after a tragic and very devastating accident, which alters one side of his face. Besides Ledger’s wild foray into madness, Eckhart’s performance shows the most range and is quite disheartening, as his character becomes a harsh, revenge-seekin’ villain.

The humans in the film are not the only things larger than life as the special effects are marvelously well done. Buildings are blown up creating sky-high firesballs, semi-trailers are up-ended and flipped over and there is a chase car (well, large truck chase), which is the epitome of destruction.

The tone of the film is incredibly dark as main characters make life changing and ending decisions. The violence is really amped up as well, on the screen and sometimes implied just outside the camera. It would be quite interesting to know what Warner Bros. had to go through (or had to spend) to get this flick down to a PG-13 with the MPAA.

No one should let the Batman tag on the film stop him or her from taking the film seriously. It is much more than just another comic book film and can stand alone as a great piece of work.

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**Leave ‘Mamma’ for the mamas**

Amber Fijolek

“*Mamma Mia!*”

DAILY EGYPTIAN

**“Mamma Mia!”**

DIRECTOR: Phyllida Lloyd

STARRING: Meryl Streep, Pierce Brosnan, Julie Walters, Colin Firth, Christine Baranski, Amanda Seyfried

RATED: PG-13

RUNTIME: 108 minutes

Three possible fathers. A wedding in Greece. Two previous or is there another comic out there you’d rather see in the seat?

The story is cute, but if it were not for Hollywood icons making fools of themselves in front of the gorgeous Mediterranean coast, viewers’ interest would wane quickly.

The plot revolves around Donna (Streep), an ex-American, ex-promiscuous woman who singlehandedly raised her daughter, Sophie, while living and running a bed and breakfast in Crete. Sophie, played by the sassy and sweet blonde, Amanda Seyfried, unlike her mother, has decided to settle down and marry at the early age of twenty to hollywood, Greek lover, Sky (Dominic Cooper), and the wedding has Donna, the inn and all its workers preparing for the big day. But Sophie has plans of her own, inviting three strangers, whose names she found in her mother’s old diary, in attempts to resolve feelings of an incomplete, fatherless childhood.

Meanwhile, the crowd is entertained by the dynamic reunion of Donna and back-in-the-day friends, Rosie and Tanya, played by Julie Walters and Christine Baranski — older ladies who think they are teenaged and able to pull off way too much crude humor, and for talent, not to mention stellar choreography and visuals incomparable to this flop of a remake.

The film industry has seen better musical-turned-movies and this summer’s has seen better blockbuster entertainment. Except for the middle-aged ABBA-enthused mom-crowd, a nice, summer day should probably not be wasted on this ‘Mamma.’

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**PULSE Chatterbox**

Luke McCormick

While O’Brien is not as fresh as he was five or so years ago, he is still much funnier than stale old Jay Leno. I’d like to see him do some more writing for the show, his humor is somewhat shallow during the recent writer’s strike when he had to do a bulk of the writing.

Amber Fijolek

Well, as far as primetime Late Night TV goes, Leno was the only one I could tolerate. Least tolerable, I’ve always thought, was O’Brien. If you want good Late Night TV, Jon Stewart really is the only way to go.

Christian Holt

Personally, I would rather watch reruns of “The Daily Show” and “The Colbert Report” than watching any other Late Night TV. However, the time Jon Stewart, Stephen Colbert and Conan O’Brien were on each other’s shows during the writer’s strike, I thought O’Brien was funny. So, while I don’t actually care very much, I am sure he will do a fine job.
There really isn’t a whole lot in Oklahoma so they do not have much to work with.

Because they need a name though, I would say the Oklahoma City Strut Muffins. It has absolutely nothing to do with basketball, but I just want to hear someone on the practice court say "The Oklahoma City Strut Muffins." It rolls off the tongue and with an original name with a young lineup that has a few rookies, that doesn’t make too much sense. The hope in New Orleans is that Shockey will join another tight end with the New Orleans’ roster including last year’s starter, Eric Johnson, along with Billy Miller and Mark Carrier. Shockey, who spent six seasons with the Giants, broke his leg against the Washington Redskins on Dec. 16. It is known for his receiving ability more than his blocking, and he was unhappy even before the injury he was asked to block in addition to catching. Once hurt, he didn’t like the fact that much was made of the blocking—something with rookie Kevin Boss in his place. "Jeremy brought great energy to the offense every time he stepped on the field," said Giants team president John Mara, son of the late Wellington Mara, a longtime owner of the team. "He had a close relationship with my father from the time we drafted him, and I had a couple of long conversations with Jeremy this spring and summer. From those conversations, it was apparent to me that a fresh start was the best thing for us and for Jeremy."

"The Giants, a proven winner with

out Shockey in the lineup, cut ties with a player who provided plenty of excitement on the field and plenty of distractions off it — once throwing a cup of ice in the stands during a playoff game — the one season when New Orleans Saints coach Sean Payton was his offensive coordinator in New York — than any other."

The Giants, meanwhile, proved they didn’t need that disgruntled star tight end to pull off one of the most stunning playoff runs in NFL history, winning three postseason contests on the road and then beating previously unneated New England in the Super Bowl — all while Shockey was watching from afar.

So the Giants sought to do both themselves and Shockey a favor on Monday, cutting ties with the four-time Pro Bowl selection in a deal that the Saints had been trying to pull off for months.

The Giants will get second-and-fifth round picks in the 2009 draft in exchange for sending Shockey to the team he played to play for most. The trade must be approved by the league and is contingent on Shockey passing a physical.

"I have had a relationship with coach Payton and I appreciate what he has done as a head coach," Shockey said in a statement released by the Giants. "The Saints have always been a place of weapons starting with Drew Brees and I look forward to joining my teammates at training camp. This will be a fun year."
Brandon Augsburg

Stuart takes third at NACAC Games

Bianca Stuart, a senior long jumper on the SIU track team, had a summer most athletes dream about — but she came up short of reaching her main goal.

Stuart competed at the North American, Central American and Caribbean Games over the weekend in Toluca, Mexico, in her final attempt to jump the Olympic qualifying standard of 6.60 meters. She came up short of qualifying — jumping 6.57 meters — but took third place at the meet, according to the NACAC Web site.

Joemi Maduka, representing the U.S., took first in the long jump with her meet record leap of 6.66 meters, according to the NACAC Web site.

Stuart said in an e-mail that she felt she took her jumping to a new level this season, especially this summer.

“I worked very hard, with the help of my coach, to get this far in my ‘08 season, and I am happy about that,” she said. “I feel that this year has been my most successful season, having accomplished so much.”

Stuart, a native of the Bahamas, was in her third attempt at hitting the Olympic standard at the NACAC Games. She qualified for the Bahamian National Team in June, winning the national championship by out jumping Bahamian long jump legend Jackie Edwards. Stuart won that event with a leap of 6.5 meters.

She went on to take the meet title at the Central American and Caribbean Games with a jump of 6.56 meters in early July. Stuart also took seventh in the long jump at the NCAA Outdoor Championships in June.

Head track coach Connie Price-Smith said Stuart is right to reflect warmly on her accomplishments this past season. She said Stuart competed this summer mostly on training from the spring and the fact that she was able to compete so well was impressive within itself.

“It is hard for college kids to maintain such a long period of time,” Price-Smith said. Stuart said her efforts this summer were helped by the high level of competition she faced, especially at the CAC Games.

“There were a few women who jumped over 21 feet, so their competitiveness pushed me even more,” she said.

When Stuart got to the NACAC Games she said she began to feel the effects of such a vigorous summer. Before the meet Stuart said she wanted to remain focused, confident and patient because that was the only way she would be able to do well at the event.

“I continued to remain focused even though I was getting physically fatigued,” she said. “Being so close to qualifying boosted my confidence not to give up.”

Price-Smith said Stuart was right to model for the younger jumpers on the track squad develop in the coming year, as she heads into her senior year, and she expects Stuart to...

JUMPING THE SUMMER AWAY

Stuart worked very hard, with the help of my coach, to get this far in my ‘08 season, and I am happy about that. I feel that this year has been my most successful season, having accomplished so much.

Bianca Stuart

Senior long jumper

Stay away from these camps

With July coming to a close it is time we start getting really serious about fantasy football. In a couple more weeks, all 32 NFL franchises will travel to small colleges in the middle of nowhere and sweat out the remainder of summer in training camps.

Not only does this time really symbolize the start of the football season but also the start of when people like me begin to lose sleep over who is going to enter September as starters and who will be riding the pine. Not all these position battles, though, leave teams with the best options or worthy fantasy ones.

Below are my top three widely talked about and heated battles taking place this summer that all fantasy owners should stay as far away from as possible.

Oakland Raiders, running back

The battle is between Justin Fargas and first round draft pick Darren McFadden. Whoever starts will not help Oakland, or a fantasy team, have a winning record. Fargas is one of the most unproductive thousand-yard seasons I have ever seen, rushing for 1009 yards and only four touchdowns in 2007.

Now comes the highly touted McFadden from Arkansas who proved in college he can do it all, including throw touchdown passes. Either way, McFadden is the future of the Silver and Black, but whether it comes this year or in 2009. Look for Oakland to do what Jacksonville did last season with Maurice Jones-Drew and Fred Taylor, except neither member of the west-coast backfield will be worth anything fantasy-wise. Fargas will be penciled in at the starter, but Oakland will make sure to get McFadden plenty of playing time.

The best choice is McFadden. He, like the rest of the Raiders is at least a year away in my book, but he is more of a threat in the passing game.

Baltimore Ravens, quarterback

Everyone around SIU knows just how good rookie quarterback Joe Flacco is, but whether or not his success at Delaware can translate into a solid career in the NFL is the question on the table. He has got the size, the tools and the weapons to finally give the Ravens a decent signal caller.

However, he is still a rookie and not all teams get as lucky as Pittsburgh did with Ben Roethlisberger. In his way is another first round pick — Kyle Boller. The only reason Boller is in this picture is because he is the only guy on the roster with extensive NFL experience.

At some point, though, he has to be labeled a bust, and after five seasons, it is clear Boller does not get it (only 45 TDs, 44 interceptions in his career). Boller will get the nod to start the season over Flacco, but fool me once shame on you, fool me six straight times and bring on the padded walls and straight jacket. Flacco will get in there at some point this year but do not expect anything great.

Tampa Bay Buccaneers, quarterback

If the situation in Baltimore seems bad then what is going on in Tampa will make any Buck’s fan weep for the return of Trent Dilfer (oh yes, it is that bad). Currently there are six quarterbacks on the roster. None of them are worth writing home about proving once again that the old saying is true, “If you have six quarterbacks on your team then you really do not have one.” Jeff Garcia did go to the Pus Bowl for Tampa last year, but injuries and his age — 38 — are big concerns. Chris Simms is the most talented of the bunch but after nearly dying on the field last year it is no wonder why he really does not want to be in Tampa anymore. Luke McCown and Brian Grease have done nothing their entire careers except keep the bench warm, down there in Florida or Brett Favre finds a way to escape Green Bay.

The only hope for Tampa at this point is that Garcia finds the fountain of youth. If they are this desperate for a quarterback, then it is time to stop drafting running backs or get out of the 20-man leagues.

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Ian’s fantasy quick hits

Stay away from these camps

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