The AGONY of SILENCE

SIUC students were shocked one year ago when one of their own was shot and killed. As the crime remains unsolved, a family prays for a community to give them justice.

STORY BY BRETT NAUMAN

Opaline Williams is haunted by the image of her grandson trying to outrun a killer through the housing projects on Carbondale's South Marion Street.

The Marion woman sees the murderer shoot 21-year-old SIUC student Marcus Thomas, shooting him in the back twice as he scrambled out of his 300 E. College St. home. Marcus flew through his bedroom hayward hoping his bare feet can carry him to safety.

With the shooter close behind, Opaline hears her grandson yell, "HELP ME!"

A memorial marking the one-year anniversary of SIUC student Marcus Thomas' death stands in the front yard of the house where he was killed. Police believe he was shot at this house and fled down this sidewalk seeking help from his neighbors.

"If I had known that my grandson was running for his life, I would have given him my life," Opaline said. "I'm an old woman, now, and I've lived a good life. He was only 21. He had my breath, my heart to beat, my eyes to see.

By the time Opaline's grandson found the unlocked door, it was too late. After losing a large amount of blood, Marcus stumbled into a cramped apartment and collapsed on the floor before he was killed to death from his gunshot wound.

Opaline and Marcus' family continue to work with the police to find answers to the questions they have been asking for a year that can finally be answered.

Questions such as: what would drive a person to want to take Marcus' life? Another looming question.

Opaline wants answered is how the killer manages to live, knowing the pain that has been caused to Marcus' family and every other life the Marion native touched before he was shrewdly ended.

"Sometimes I just want to scream at the top of my voice," Opaline says. "This is a violation of our life because somebody ended his life and violated our hearts."

The investigation into Marcus' death may have been derailed from the outset. Carbondale Police officers did not discover his body until almost 8 a.m. when the person living in the apartment found him in a pool of blood on her living room floor. With no eyewitnesses and a crime committed about six hours before officers arrived, investigators have found a difficult task in piecing together what actually took place that night.

Making matters worse, most of the people who knew Marcus best were out of town on spring break. Of his four roommates, only Jeff Martinis, a senior in cinema and photography, was able to provide police with information about what went on that night in Carbondale. He told police he was with Marcus until about midnight. He left the house and returned later in the night after having already gone down. Martinis said investigators know that Marcus trusted would have gotten him in to Marcus' bedroom. Topic under discussion.

The first motive for the killing emerged when officers searched Marcus' bedroom. Investigators discovered small quantities of marijuana and plastic bags commonly used by those who deal. On top of that, a confidential source involved in the Carbondale drug world indicated to police that Marcus owed money to another dealer.

Carbondale Police Chief R.T. Finney said detectives continue to pursue this lead. However, Finney said investigators know that Marcus was only dealing in "small amounts" before he was killed.

Donnelly Thomas had no idea why two officers from the Marion Police Department were knocking on her door on a late Saturday night last year. But Marcus was the last thing that popped in her mind before the instantaneous opened the door.

He had called the night before telling his mother that he was coming home for the weekend to see his family before returning to classes.

When the officers told Donnelly that Marcus had been killed, it was something she was unable to fathom. He was supposed to be on Interstate 57. He was supposed to be walking into her home at any minute telling her he was home.

See SILENCE, page 8

Students to sleep in cardboard ‘Shanty Town’

Homeless rally to be held this weekend outside Mae Smith

Brian Peach

Daily Egyptian

The area outside Mae Smith Hall will be transformed into a "Shanty Town" this weekend, complete with students spending the night in cardboard boxes.

Students interested in the "Shanty Town" project can contact the Carbondale Housing Development Corporation for more information.

"We want to raise awareness that there is homelessness and help organizations that are struggling to provide adequate housing, but they just don't have the money to do it," said Aaron Sanford, chairman of the event and events coordinator for the student union.

The event starts at 8 p.m. on Saturday, but people will come out during the day to set up their cardboard "houses." The event is free for all students.

"We just told everyone to be creative and let it reflect your organization," said Eric Younger, a Mae Smith Hall Council advisor.

Anyone who wants to participate is welcome to show up during the day, register their name and set up their "shanty" for the all-night assembly, Younger said.

Younger, a graduate student in social work from Charleston, invited the nearby 400 BSO's at SIUC to attend, along with fraternal organizations and volunteers. At least 500 people participated.

Weather may play a factor in the number of people who turn out, but Younger said the event will go on even if it is raining or cold.

Students in cardboard shelters will "live" in the boxes, "eating and really want to help, but they just don't have the money to do it," said Aaron Sanford, chair of the register their name and set up shelter endure the elements, so we'll go through.

See SILENCE, page 8
Bus focuses attention on Latin America
WASHINGTON - President George W. Bush came into his presidential term with a goal of taking a greater interest in Latin America. "The United States is not going to sit back and look on at what happens in Latin America," he said.

His first official visit to Washington was that of the Mexican President, Vicente Fox. Then, he traveled to Monterrey, Mexico, for a meeting with the Mexican-American Business Association.

Bush's visit to Monterrey was part of his push to increase economic and political ties with Latin America. "I want to see a greater level of cooperation with the United States and our friends in Latin America," he said.

Bush was met with a rapt audience in Monterrey, where he was given a tour of the city and met with business leaders. He also held a press conference with Mexican President Vicente Fox.

In his speech, Bush emphasized the importance of trade and investment in Latin America. He said that the United States and Latin America should work together to create a "new partnership" that would benefit both sides.

Bush's visit to Monterrey was seen as a sign that the United States was serious about its commitment to Latin America. "This is a reaffirmation of our commitment," said Secretary of State Colin Powell.

However, some critics have questioned the wisdom of Bush's focus on Latin America. "The United States should be doing more to address the needs of its own citizens," said Senator John Kerry.

On the day before Bush's visit, Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld was in Mexico City for a meeting with Mexican Defense Minister Alfredo Clark.

Rumsfeld said that the United States was committed to working with Mexico to combat drug trafficking and terrorism. He also said that the United States and Mexico should work together to "engage the entire region."
Candidates tour Illinois with message of unity

Blagojevich and Ryan thank their supporters and continue the battle for governor

Alexa Aguilar and Molly Parker

Daily Egyptian

The two winners from Tuesday night's gubernatorial battle for Southern Illinois airports Thursday with a message of party unity, just one day after the vicious battles over their party's end. Democratic candidate Rod Blagojevich and Republican Jim Ryan won on a whirlwind light tour of Illinois to thank supporters and to begin the process of bringing everyone in the party back into the fold.

Dealing that may be a struggle for Republicans, considering losses Corinne Wood and Patrick O'Malley, who together secured 56 percent of the Republican vote, were absent at a Republican unity breakfast following Ryan's win.

Blagojevich, on the other hand, has already received loud vocal support from his defeated opponents, Roland Burris and Paul Vallas. Democrats are banking on the Northwest Side congressman to win the general election so they can finally enjoy a view from the top after more than 25 years of Republican control.

That spirit carried to the Williamson County Airport Thursday where more than 100 mostly downstate supporters cheered on Blagojevich with Elvis crooning in the background.

Supporters included former U.S. Rep. Ken Gray and his wife, who showed off the flamboyant sentiment of the day and other 'outfits.' The Prince of Pork' was wearing a red box tie and a baseball cap with a flashing USA logo and his hat and scarf to accompany his dressy suit.

Just a few hours earlier, Attorney General Ryan was met at Southern Illinois' County Airport Thursday with a message of party unity, just one day after the vicious battles to secure their party's nod ended.

Democrats won this year's primary, but there seems to be a divisive rift remaining in the party considering that his counterparts wooed more than 50 percent of the Republican electorate.

"We just don't seem to handle that real well," Margolis said. But Ryan supporters are confident that Ryan's primary victory proved they have the grassroots organization needed to carry him to the governor's mansion.

The crowds of supporters on both sides were reminiscent of the happy sides were reminiscent of the happy side of the downstate attorney general's office was giving a speech about the importance of party unity.

"It's been tough, hasn't it," said Tom Margolis about this year's primary — one of the most contested in recent Republican history. Republicans have a history of easy primaries, where the winner is typically a sho-in from the beginning. Ryan hardly won this year's primary, but there seems to be a divisive rift remaining in the party considering that his counterparts wooed more than 50 percent of the Republican electorate.

As with our Salukis, we have another hurdle to cross, and that is to get Jim Ryan elected to the governor's office."

Mark Holt
Chairman, Jackson County Republicans

As with our Salukis, we have another hurdle to cross," said Mark Holt, chairman of the Jackson County Republicans. "And that is to get Jim Ryan elected to the governor's office.

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On Campus

Fun Friday Social offered by University Club

Those interested in learning more about the University Club can attend the Fun Friday Social from 5 to 7 tonight at the Admission Reception Center in Woody Hall. The club is open to faculty, staff, student employees and alumnus and offers socials, food, business discounts and ticket specialties.

The event will feature wines from Alto Pass Vineyards and hors d'oeuvres from the Office of the vice chancellor for Student Affairs and the Center for Professional Management. Attendees will have a chance to meet vice chancellors for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management Larry Dietz and Director of Admissions Reception Center to learn how to recruit more and better students.

Screenwriting seminar offered at SIU

There will be a screenwriting seminar presented by the Illinois Film Office from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Sciences III Auditory. Dick Decker will be the speaker. The seminar is sponsored by the Department of Cinema and Photography and the Illinois Film Office; there is no fee to attend. For additional information, call the Illinois Film Office at 312-414-0711.

Roadwork gets the green light

New entrance gets approval from the Board of Trustees

Codell Rodriguez
Daily Egyptian

A new entrance that may improve access to the SIUC campus is good to go.

During Spring Break, the Board of Trustees approved the Land Use project and its estimated $400,000 budget. A new parking garage will be on the north side of Lincoln Drive near its intersection with U.S. Route 51.

The new entrance will be on Lincoln Drive, west of the original entrance, and will curve into the far northwest area of the parking garage. Then the existing entrances to the parking garage will be removed.

This change will come in addition to the changes that the Illinois Department of Transportation will make to Route 51 and Lincoln Drive.

Lincoln Drive will be moved north with a three-lane road existing the campus and two lanes coming in to the first for traffic traveling north and the other an on-ramp for traffic traveling south.

This road would allow better opportunities for welcome signs displaying the name of the SIUC campus, according to Phil Gatton, director of Plant and Service Operations.

"As you drive down 51, you can hardly see the SIU sign," Gatton said.

Gatton said the Alumni Center would probably be moved to the north side of McAndrew Stadium and facade would also be added to make the stadium more presentable.

"We're trying to hide the brickwork, essentially," Gatton said.

"As you drive down 51, you can hardly see the SIU sign."

Phil Gatton
Director, Plant and Service Operations

Moving the road to the north would also create added space around the stadium for possible expansion to McAndrew in the future.

Brian Mager, administrative assistant of Traffic and Parking, said the change of the entrance, which should be finished by summer 2002, will have an impact on the University, as well as how it is seen.

"It's going to effect everyone," Mager said.

Reporter Codell Rodriguez can be reached at
codreg@dalyegyptian.com

"As you drive down 51, you can hardly see the SIU sign."
Afghanistan woman shares her nation's experiences

Post-Taliban effects addressed by Belquis Ahmadi during speech Thursday

Ginny Skalski

Daily Egyptian

A group of children surrounded Belquis Ahmadi when she went to Kabul, Afghanistan, in January and thanked her.

They said she was going to hell. They told her the Taliban was going to kill her — if she because the woman wanted to return to university and her head.

Ahmadi, co-founder of the Afghan Women's Network, was sick and the bubba was bothering her when she coughed. But the five-and six-year-old children had only grown up under Taliban rule, and even though the women are no longer required to hide their faces under the burka, the mindset of the Taliban still rests with many of the children.

Ahmadi confessed that the children had words made her cry when she spoke about human rights in Afghanistan to an audience of about 60 people at the University Museum Auditorium Thursday night.

The Afghan nation now serves in Washington, D.C., as an Afghan nation, and the words as the work of the Afghan Woman's Network in the United States. Ahmadi said women who went on the street without their burkas were publicly beaten. Women who were not policed were beaten, and some women wearing white shoes would be chased in the street. It was seen as disrespecting the Taliban's flag, which is white.

Jasin, 35, a freshman in radio-television from East Lansing, Mich., attended the lecture because he has been traveling to Afghanistan for a couple of years and has written the first man on an Afghanistan for the regime. She doesn't think she could have attended the lecture in Afghanistan.

"I would have been too angry and too upset to even think that I probably would have been tortured just like some of those women," she said.

Some of the Afghan women chose to combat their oppressed lifestyles by committing suicide, according to

Ahmadi.

Belquis Ahmadi, co-founder of the Afghan Women'sNetwork, convenes with one of about 60 people after her lecture at the University Museum Auditorium Thursday evening. Ahmadi spoke for more than an hour about what living in Afghanistan under the Taliban was like and how women were mistreated.

Ahmadi said many women chose to live the consequences of the Taliban and suffocated them. That meant they weren't allowed to draw pictures, walk on the street with a man not related to them or even fly kites or play with pigeons.

"Some Americans may not have heard of the courage and determination of Afghan women," Ahmadi said.

Jared Dorn, director of International Programs and Services, thought Ahmadi humanized the experience of women in Afghanistan. Women's Network, and the Public Policy Institute and Carbondale's American University of Afghanistan Women sponsored the lecture to hear an Afghan perspective of terrorism and the Taliban.

"She can show many more facts of what happens in Afghanistan, compared to what we hear about in the United States," Dorn said.

Part of Ahmadi's mission now, as part of the Women's Rights Advocacy Program, is to educate the men, women and children of Afghanistan and other countries about peace. She said to re-establish trust among the people of Afghanistan, counting oneself to be created in every district of the country so that everyone can share their problems.

Ahmadi fears that if children like the five-and six-year-old who cried to her in Kabul and nostalgia for not seeing her books are not taught about other forms of government and ways of life, the plight of the Taliban will be repeated.

"We need to encourage relationships building and work with educating men, women and children and help them to share togetherness," Ahmadi said.

Reporters Ginny Skalski can be reached at gskalski@dailyEgyptian.com

Military recruiters always need a few good applicants

Six months after Sept. 11, it's business as usual for military recruiters

Ben Botkin

Daily Egyptian

When SIUC student Bradley Barerwald checked his answering machine for the first time on Sept. 11, he didn't expect to hear from friends calling from friends, or he just finished talking to them. "It was upsetting," he said.

He hadn't signed up for the Marine Corps, and he had to go to the nearest Marine recruiting office, along with the other branches of the military, to get technical training in the field of their choice.

Some military jobs have bonuses, but there are "deadlocks" to offer the largest bonuses, he said.

He also noted that he was interested in the number of possible recruits with prior military service after the attacks.

"The next day, they were coming in and out of the door," he said.

"If my unit is deployed; I'll be willing to go," Barerwald said.

As a recruiter, Barerwald cannot guarantee where a soldier's duty will call him.

"I don't tell them if they'll even go," he said.

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Bush launches Latin American trip with tour of Texas border city

Kevin G. Hall and James Killion
Knight Ridder Newspapers

EL PASO, Texas (KRT) — President Bush and Mexican President Vicente Fox are set to announce a plus Friday that would tighten security along the 2,000-mile border. Bush will also announce a $30 million in new aid for regions of Mexico that have been the source of illegal migration to the United States.

Their summit is the dusty northern industrial city of Monterrey, Mexico, coming after the close of the United Nations' Madrid International Conference on Financing for Development, will be about on both sides for contentious issues such as Mexico's push to legitimize the status of Mexican workers in the United States.

In the United States, another two countries shared a common border city, which has matured over the past two decades narrowing differences on the terrorist, the attacks.

Bush has asked Congress for $11 billion for border security in his fiscal 2003 budget. It includes $380 million for the Immigration and Naturalization Service to build a modern "exit-entry" system.

Bush asked Congress on Thursday for an additional $27 billion in emergency money for this fiscal year. The amount includes $8 billion for airports and ports of entry.

"On the one hand, we want the legal commerce, the people who travel back and forth on a daily basis, the brothers and sisters on both sides of the border ... to be able to do so in an efficient and easy way," he said.

"On the other hand, we want to use our technology to weed out the people we don't want in our country -- the terrorists, the crooks, those who prey on innocent lives."

Bush announced earlier this week that he would announce $30 million in new aid for rural development and the bilateral Partnership for Prosperity program, which pools government resources from both countries to create jobs in Mexico.

The long-term goal is to give Mexicans from poorer regions an incentive to seek jobs at home, easing the bilateral strain caused by illegal immigration. Mexican workers in the United States sent more than $6 billion in remittances to Mexico last year.

Last in the headlines of the Friday summit, however, is how this relationship has matured over the past few years. For decades, the two countries shared a common border city but deeply distrusted each other. "It's never been this good," jefferson Davis, the ambassador to Mexico, said in an assessment of relations, adding, "At the upper levels of government, there are people deeply serious and willing to work with.

James Kuhnhenn

SEATTLE (KRT) -- Nearly two years ago, Mustafa Taleb was working as an extra on a film set in his native Dubai in the United Arab Emirates when the director showed him a study of the United States at a place called Bellevue Community College (BCC).

Twenty years ago, when his boss attended the Washington state school, he was one of only a handful of foreign students. Today, Taleb, 23, is one of 700 international students from 64 countries on campus.

In a time of shrinking state resources, community colleges have found a potential gold mine among foreign students.

Attracted by cheaper tuition, smaller classes and more intimate environments than at four-year institutions, overseas students are funneling millions of dollars into college programs -- one of the few ways a community college can raise its own funds.

Foreign students pay the same tuition as out-of-state students, nearly four times what in-state students pay.

Washington state now boasts the nation's fourth-highest enrollment of overseas students -- roughly 6,000 attending state institutions, according to Bellevue.

At Bellevue, foreign students bring in about $300,000 a year above expenses.

Green River even plans to build a dorm for its international students, which are typically in their own countries, though students not only receive a degree, but also a taste of freedom and democracy that they can share in their own countries.

Cris Samia, director of Bellevue's international programs, emigrated from the Philippines in 1989 after the country's political situation became too dangerous.

"Yes, we have to be honest: these students bring the college a lot of pressure. But it is something we can do.

"Studying abroad, they can live an American culture," he said.

"My hope is that they go back to their countries with changed minds -- respect, kidnappings, the huge gap between rich and poor."
America will be watching SIU come game time, show Saluki pride with class

Tonight, the SIU men's basketball team will take on the Connecticut Huskies in the Sweet Sixteen round of the NCAA Tournament. The game will take place at 6:28 p.m. in Syracuse, N.Y., but Saluki fans in Carbondale will be a part of the action more than at any point in this already remarkable season. Fans can watch the game free of charge in the Student Center ballrooms tonight. Doors will open at 6 p.m. The CBS network that will broadcast the game will arrange a satellite hookup in the ballrooms to beam images of boisterous fans across the nation during the game. Though hundreds of miles away, their presence will be felt by all the fans here in Carbondale.

So, give America a taste of that Saluki pride and spirit that has engulfed our campus and community. Put on your maroon and white, grab your Saluki gear and get to the ballrooms. The Student Center expects at least 1,000 people to attend. They're even providing free popcorn and soda. You can't beat that.

Americans will be watching the game and Carbondale. For those who do attend, show your school spirit responsibly. Keep a cool head and also try to keep your shirts on. As for the game, the 26-6 Huskies are no pushovers, but SIU has a good shot to advance to the Elite Eight round.

The downstate advantage

There has always been a downstate lament: Illinois politicians just don't care about us. The big shows in the governor's race always seem to have Chicago tattooed to their butts, them, we're usually left with token visits to Southern Illinois, tell us all how much they care, and then escape back up Interstate 57 from whence they came.

But the latest primary election reflects a tiny shift in all of that.

Rod Blagojevich, who barely squeaked into the Democratic nomination, made numerous visits to the downstate region and spent big bucks dominating our television with campaign commercials. Paul Vallas did not get the downstate advantage, even with the endorsement of the 1998 democratic candidate, and Southern Illinois sweethearts, Glenn Poshard. In Jackson County, Blagojevich inched out Vallas by a mere 53 votes. But all the Southern attention helped give him the tiny boost he needed to win.

Republican gubernatorial nominee Jim Ryan, who visited Carbondale Thursday, and Blagojevich both promised to reopen the Vienna Correctional Center, that reflects citizens have finally taken some real notice of affairs south of them.

Republican gubernatorial nominee Jim Ryan, who visited Carbondale Thursday, and Blagojevich both promised to reopen the Vienna Correctional Center, that reflects citizens have finally taken some real notice of affairs south of them.

Mr. Chatt is a Miami University law student in Marina del Rey, Calif. His views do not necessarily reflect those of the Miami University student newspaper.
Supersonic bat rays

My son, Isaiah, is 3 years old. He is the most adorable child that anyone who is not his parents, let me warn you in a most charming way—will ever see. 

A whopping 60 percent of the time, he is Isaiah. But 40 percent of the time, he is Batman. There is nothing more pleasing about him. It is just Isaiah. And despite the fact that he is 6 feet tall and can demonstrate that Batman does fly. Many have tried to fly and have fallen flat on their faces. But Isaiah has no superpowers. He just has a sweet fit right up to a lot of toys. 

He listens politely then flies around shooting supersonic bat rays from his batman gloves. 

Another 30 percent of the time, he is an imitation of characters: a barnstorming fighter, a dragon piloting the seven seas, a real, live unicorn who could shoot inaturn and read about how important it is for your safety to sleep with a loaded weapon underneath your pillow. In fact, I have many nightmares to point out, if you were a safety and crime prevention teacher, then we live in the safest country in the world. Back to the drive.

On your left you will see an old hill in the cornfield. This is so that if those mean men in the Middle East decide they don't want to sell us any more cars, we might have a year's supply of our own. If that scenario should arise, we might have to pay attention to what the wise people of alternative energy have been writing about alternative energy sources. Back to the drive. What was that on the radio? I think I just heard a public service announcement that everyone carries a load. Who am I to tell how to feed their family? Kids like to eat. Maybe that people who sold drugs were just trying to feed their families like anyone else. I worry. I worry. I worry. Most of the time, Isaiah has to play in the Marleen menagerie. You see, I always wanted to be a punk-princess-warrior. Now that flows out of not acting accordingly. Women are just nude it to the head of the torch. They were called to make a few comments. I think they with am complaining minute to put together this celebration. My only comment is... 

My 9-year-old son is dashing about in a mixture of law-abiding, manirured Dawgs laportsigning and 12-inch long Batman nails. Am I the only one who must be worked up to the point of being incredibly confused goldfish? Actually, I am. There might not be a whole lot to do. I expected an enormous Puff of Power. At the last minute, I realized this is not what I wanted. So I came of becoming the enormous Puff of Power, Underneath the enormous Puff of Power does. Who am I to tell someone how to tell a story? I am not a good writer. I am a punk-princess-warrior. Men as well. And I am a punk-princess-warrior. I am a punk-princess-warrior.

The Femke Factor

by MARLENE TRUXT
marlene@marlcom.com

Of course those mere men in the Middle East decide they don't want to sell us any more cars, we might have a year's supply of our own. If that scenario should arise, we might have to pay attention to what those wise people of alternative energy have been writing about alternative energy sources. Back to the drive. What was that on the radio? I think I just heard a public service announcement that everyone carries a load. Who am I to tell how to feed their family? Kids like to eat. Maybe that people who sold drugs were just trying to feed their families like anyone else. I worry. I worry. I worry. Most of the time, Isaiah has to play in the Marleen menagerie. You see, I always wanted to be a punk-princess-warrior. Now that flows out of not acting accordingly. Women are just nude it to the head of the torch. They were called to make a few comments. I think they with am complaining minute to put together this celebration. My only comment is...

The Femke Factor

by MARLENE TRUXT
marlene@marlcom.com

It's funny, we always tell people "Be yourself." In fact we go even further and define that as being who you are, or your self as a woman or your self as old. Then we get confused when people do not act accordingly.

This page appears every other Friday. Marleen is a senior in journalism. Her views do not necessarily reflect those of the Daily Egyptian.

Letters

Saluki fever no excuse for rude behavior

DEAR EDITOR:

After reading the op-ed essay for the Saluki, I just wanted to say a few comments. I think the show of support for the team was wonderful. Salukis to everyone! That is why we all worked so hard this year to get to this point.

I was present for the game against Carbondale and we all thought it was a great game. The Salukis played well and the Carbondale fans were great. They were very supportive of the team and we all had a great time. The Salukis won the game and it was an exciting one.

I think it is unfortunate that some fans at the game were not as respectful as they could have been. It is important to remember that we are representing Southern Illinois University, and we need to be respectful of both the university and the fans. We need to show that we can be proud of our team and the work they have put in.

It is unfortunate that some fans did not show respect to the Carbondale fans. We need to be respectful of everyone and make sure we are not disrespectful to anyone. We need to show that we can be proud of our team and the work they have put in.

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SILENCE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

her favorite home cooked meal he wanted her to make.

When they told her that Marcus had died, a piece of me died instantly," Dorothy said. "In my mind I thought he was still coming home."

The next day, Dorothy and Opaline tried to go to the police station to report the murder and they were prevented from going because the police were blocking the street with their cars. Dorothy was able to make it to the police station later on and she was able to see the police officers working on the case. She was able to see that there was a large crowd of people gathered around the police officers. She was able to see that there was a lot of activity going on at the police station.

Dorothy and Opaline said that dealing did not fit into Marcus' lifestyle, but they were not sure how he was earning his money. They were not sure how he was making ends meet, but they were sure that he was not doing drugs. They were not sure how he was earning his money, but they were sure that he was not doing drugs.

Dorothy and Opaline said that they were not sure how he was going to pay rent, but they were sure that he was not doing drugs. They were not sure how he was going to pay rent, but they were sure that he was not doing drugs.
**Feathered hair may be the way out**

By Candace Murphy

Knight Ridder Newspapers

One person's fashionable "do can look like another person's bad hair day.

Take Jennifer Lopez and Mariah Carey, who have plumed their dark Farrah Fawcett roots and accented feathered hair. Or Brad Pitt, who gives bed head a bad name because it actually takes hours to achieve his look of "Oh, Whoop! I Just Turned Off the Alarm and What, Hey! Looky There! I Am Bed Shot Photographed by the Paparazzis!"


"The hair matches the image driven by the clothes," says hair guru Frederic Fekkai, who styled the trendy runways shows of Nicole Miller, Donna Karan, Marc Bouwer, Kenneth Frazier and Nautica by David Chu for one of last fall's Fashion Week in New York. "You follow the themes of the fashion."

That said, relief for the feathered-wresty is on the way. The bad-guy rock star look so fashionable up now is giving way to good-guy innocence. California already has the second-highest beginning teacher salaries in the nation, and new legislation is pushing salaries even higher.

California's teachers are treated very well. Last year, the California public school system began implementing a $34,000 statewide minimum salary for beginning teachers — and some districts pay as much as $44,000 for first-year teachers.

Higher salaries are just one of the ways California demonstrates the great respect we have for our teachers. Other support and incentives — inside and outside the classroom — help you develop within the profession, achieve an advanced degree, and even purchase your first home. We're committed to getting you here and keeping you here.

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Another Dawg fight

Readers weigh in with their picks on the Salukis' game tonight against UConn

SIU 68, UConn 76
I believe we will win because each game we appear to play better than before. We would have had 80 points on Tuesday if we hadn't gotten off to a slow start and I think we will get 80 on Friday.

I think it will be a close game because UConn is a tough team that will not get blown out at any time. I hope that our players make their free throws down the stretch.

Let's go Dawgs!

Thomas Goad

SIU 78, UConn 69
The Salukis will come up big one more time and the play of our big guys — Deanes and Rolan — will be as huge as it has been all year.

Look for the bench, in particular Tyrese Buie, to have a big game as the Salukis continue their dream run.

Brian Burke

SIU 85, UConn 80
UConn was ranked 24th in the nation at the start of the NCAA tournament. Somehow, they managed a No. 2 seed. UConn has been outscored by Hampton and North Carolina State and I feel that SIU is better than both of those teams.

Plus, UConn only beat N.C. State because Caron Butler had the game of his life. UConn won't be so lucky this game.

A.J. Leman

SIU 68, UConn 63
The Salukis will win if they can make their free throws. I hopefully they practice a lot this week.

Steve Chapman

SIU 80, UConn 70
Calhoun is a terrific coach. He usually finds a way to win the big ones. If it's a close game going down the stretch, it will be all over for the Salukis. In eight games when the score was within a point or two with under a minute, UConn won each and every time.

Also, the home-court advantage goes to UConn as the Carrier Dome is home to Syracuse, another Big East school.

Jim Weiden

SIU 78, UConn 74, OT
Both teams have good defensive games. It will be low-scoring until overtime.

David Schroeder

SIU 78, UConn 75
Think about it, there is always one Cinderella who reaches the Elite Eight and UConn simply will not take SIU seriously. Texas Tech and Georgia were significantly bigger in size and SIU ran circles around them.

The bench strength of SIU is truly their team strength. UConn will be focusing on Deanes, but as we all know, it was someone different every game throughout the season who ended up being the difference.

Everyone loves an underdog and I bet you the crowd will be behind SIU.

Dave Patisciano
Class of 1988

SIU 73, UConn 68
We're playing with so much heart and desire right now. I still think UConn will take it lightly despite our previous two games. We need to knock down the free throws though. We can't win many more close games if we keep missing so many free throws.

Courtney Smith

SIU 71, UConn 69
I think the Salukis have a lot going for them right now. Deanes is playing exceptionally well. There seems to be a lot of help coming off the bench.

SIU tends to wear these bigger teams down and the Salukis have more time and the play of our big guys.

Mark Smaron

SIU 86, UConn 79
I think the Salukis have proven that they have what it takes to win the important games. I think they are going to be well prepared and able to come away with a win to make it into the Elite Eight.

Margaret Lockwood

SIU 74, UConn 68
Connecticut's power is in its guards. SIU's defense will shut them down and the Salukis will dominate the inside game. UConn will rebound badly and Kent Williams will lead the scoring.

Ed Roberts
Class of 1971

SIU 63, UConn 60
Both teams play solid team defense so the score should be lower than expected. Caron Butler is due for a monster-performance and Rolan Roberts is due for a big game.

Everybody is picking the Salukis and this should lessen the pressure on SIU to win the game and make the Huskies more likely to stumble under the pressure from their fans and expectations.

See PICKS, page 1
DAILY EVOMAN

PICKS
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

SIU 78, UConn 74
Two players this time around from the Salukis will come out big on this occasion — Kent Williams and Rolaar Roberts.

Bikash Dalke

SIU 68, UConn 65
I believe the Dawgs will win, and I wish UCCLM. We must down UConn, take them out of their game. I see our only path to victory as a game played like Wisconsin played last year, almost a rope-a-dope, slow them down, foul if you have to, keep the score low and win a close one.

Pat Benton
Magic 95.1

SIU 72, UConn 69
The Dawgs still won’t die! They will keep beating the taller teams with their quickness and tough defense. UConn will guard Dearman but Kent will bomb them from the outside.

Donald S. Buhl

SIU 67, UConn 64
I think that with all the pressure on UConn we have nothing to lose. The Salukis will come out loose and relaxed and not allow them to play their game. Look for Rolaar to finally have his breakout game in the tournament. If all the other players play up to par I see the Salukis taking it in the end.

Maria Boenzig

SIU 74, UConn 69
Because we reed!

Chris Tungel

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Got Salukis! A lot of people are pulling for you up here in Illini country.

Maria Boenzig

UConn 86, SIU 69
The defense is the Salukis’ forte. With that they will stifl the offensive game of UConn.

Muhammad Tajuddin

SIU 69, UConn 66
I believe the defense will carry the team to one more win. After that, it’s a tough road.

Brian Ouel

SIU 71, UConn 67
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Brian Ouel

SIU 74, UConn 69
Because we reed!

Chris Tungel

Congratulations Salukis

Go Dawgs!

Join our Friday Afternoon ‘Club and Stay to Cheer the Dawgs to Victory.
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SIU 67, UConn 64
I think that with all the pressure on UConn we have nothing to lose. The Salukis will come out loose and relaxed and not allow them to play their game. Look for Rolaar to finally have his breakout game in the tournament. If all the other players play up to par I see the Salukis taking it in the end.

Maria Boenzig

SIU 83, UConn 81
Gift Certificates
Availab
able

The defense is the Salukis’ forte. With that they will stifl the offensive game of UConn.

Muhammad Tajuddin

SIU 72, UConn 67
UConn hasnt seen the kind of pressure that the Salukis play at all this year. Sure, they'll come plenty, but the Huskies will turn the ball over enough to give the edge to the sal

Patrick Hart

SIU 65, UConn 81
The Dawgs are hungry to show the nation that the MVC needs to be recognized with.

Southern has the bench strength to compete with anyone in the nation. The Salukis will wear down UConn in the end and come out on top.

Drive Marker

SIU 69, UConn 66
The slipper fits. Look out for us.

Jack Vogue

SIU 86, UConn 82
The defense is the Salukis’ forte. With that they will stifl the offensive game of UConn.

Muhammad Tajuddin

UConn 82, SIU 69
Salukis will make a game of it, but probably will run out of juice. Home team advantage helps UConn in Syracuse.

Go DAWGS!

Randy Flannery

SIU 75, UConn 67
I believe that the defense will carry the team to one more win. After that, it’s a tough road.

Brian Ouel

SIU 74, UConn 69
Because we reed!

Chris Tungel
Saluki promo

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These scores are showing the brackets as of 9:00 a.m. or

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2. Connecticut (26-6)
3. Kansas (31-3)
4. Illinois (26-8)
5. So. Illinois (28-7)
6. Texas (22-11)

MIDWEST
Madison, WI

1. Illinois (26-8)
2. Oregon (25-8)

(1) Kentucky (22-9)

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Gus Says:

Come on, Salukis, I got some serious cash on you.
Suicide bomber kills himself, three Israelis in Jerusalem

JERUSALEM (KRT) — A suicide bomber linked to Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's organization blew himself up in central Jerusalem on Thursday, killing three Israelis and injuring dozens more as the three-month-old intifada, or Palestinian uprising, gathered more and more momentum.

According to Palestinian security officials, the man walked up to a stretch of shops and restaurants on King George Street, where, police said, Hashaika apparently placed a bomb packed with words and the street is the mid of shoppers.

The powerful explosion occurred at 4:20 p.m. local time (9:20 EST) reverberated across much of Jerusalem's center. The blast took place near a Sbarro restaurant that was the scene of a devastating suicide bombing last summer, and the area is one of the sites most frequently targeted by suicide bombers.

In a Ramallah hotel room, police and ambulances rushed to the scene, while several Israeli ambulances raced to the site of another recent suicide attack, the first by a woman.

Minutes after the attack, police detained one Arab man, forcing him against a wall down the street from the bombing. A young Israeli kicked and cursed at the man who authorities found fit to go.

The bombing took place some 90 minutes after a second explosion at around 4:20 p.m. at another site.

The bomber was quickly killed (the suicide bomber), a witness who would give only his first name, said Israeli radio.

"I saw him walk down the street and I saw him stop, I saw him blow himself up, I saw him fall over, I saw him collapse," said the witness.

Three other people were killed and as many as 80 wounded, three of them reportedly in their 70s.

On Thursday, Israeli soldiers raided Palestinian-controlled villages near the West Bank town of Jenin. They arrested more than 20 Palestinians, Palestinian officials said.

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d~4:~[252x427]l,(,)[274x416]~­

Dormant Life

by Shane Pangburn

Daily Horoscopes

By Unda C. Blad<

Today's Starday (March 22), You have plus, and you have a picture in your mind of how things should be. But don't get too ret on it. As this year's project develops, the picture may change. What you end up with may be more like what you were originally after, leaving room for the uncharted. Keep your options open. 10 is the earliest day, 0 the most challenging.

Aries (March 21•April 20) • Today is a 6 • A domestic situation doesn't go smoothly. Today you may have trouble understanding somebody's point of view. Postpone an outing in order to spend more time listening.

Taurus (April 20-May 20) • Today Is a 6 • You may have somebody looking over your shoulder, supposedly giving you encouragement. To you, it could feel more like nagging, but it's faring you to it. Keep studying.

Gemini (May 21-June 21) • Today Is a 7 • All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy. But all play and no work would have you spending next week out on the streets, asking for spare change. Do the work, get the buds, then party.

Cancer (June 22-July 22) • Today Is a 7 • You should be feeling a lot stronger. That's good, because you're being held to a very high standard. No point in complaining. You may be the one with great expectations. Give it your best shot.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) • Today Is a 7 • He's the one you're looking for problems you didn't expect. That's because you're in unfamiliar territory. You've leached your safety zone. Get used to it.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) • Today Is a 6 • You and your friends may not be able to achieve everything you want, but you can get started. There's not enough money yet. Work out your budget first.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) • Today Is a 7 • Now you're the one who has to curtail frisky behavior. An influential person will not be amused if you and your friends are goofing off during working hours. Be neat, be present, be on time.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) • Today Is an 8 • Obligations prevent you from taking time off. You've had your week-end off, but don't despair. You can find moments. Your passions can be diverted, but they won't be denied. You'll find them.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) • Today Is an 8 • You have to get practical whether you want to or not. You know money isn't everything; love is much more important. But love will be much easier to achieve if you stop blowing all the money.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) • Today Is a 7 • You're an independent, self-made person, and you've never asked for help. But you could use a break and somebody else has more time to devote to a child. It's not far away.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) • Today Is an 8 • Conditions are better for love than for money, but don't despair. Conditions for money are good the first week. Schedule accordingly.
Workout clothes work anytime

Candace Murphy
Knight Ridder Newspapers

"Workout apparel used to be very 80's," Truitt says, "right, Tracy and Lynda. Not anymore... People like to look stylish in the gym, in fact, to some, it is just as important as the workout."

But that doesn't mean the fashion isn't functional. High-tech fabrics like those popular at Athleta and InSPORT, a small Oregon-based company, as well as smarter cuts, cause a more comfortable workout. Motive Transfer Fabrics have the edgy cotton because they won't say wet and dull your body as you pulse return to normal. Fitness cutting - like flat-lock stitching - is crucial, area prevents chafing. Trendy cotton fabrics do double duty with built-in shelf bras.

Smart-looking running shirts, those designed by Segol of Vancouver, British Columbia, which specializes in gear for jogging, cycling and fitness, have built-in hand warmers to keep swing steady during outdoor exercise.

Color, too. Important. Though black is always in vogue, and the epitome of exercise clothing, bold hues are spotted throughout the fitness fashion radar. People, in all glorious hues - lavender, bold grape, magneta, pink - is popular. Classic colors such as camel, navy and gold are also trendy.

Fits, too, along with the pink and aqua camouflages that have successfully used up their 15 minutes of fame, aren't must-haves, unless, of course, it's a price of the star-strung banquet. Or something safe, like a black-and-white print, for which Yturri has a weakness.

"It's more practical. It can cross over from the gym to kicking around town."

And that is, after all, the point.

"Maxim" names 13 greatest North American cities

David Lyman
Knight Ridder Newspapers

DETOIT - Just like a guy.

This week, Maxim, a monthly magazine with a circulation of 2.5 million, named Detroit the Greatest City on Earth.

Just one problem, though. The magazine's editor also named Miami the Greatest City on the Earth. And Philadelphia. And San Francisco and Dallas. By the time Maxim's retail cities were done, they had named 13 North American cities the greatest on the globe.

Rewrite their game complaint, they printed 13 versions of the magazine, each boasting a different city as the greatest. About 75,000 magazines named Detroit No. 1, and were distributed throughout Michigan, Ohio and Indiana.

"I felt like a failure," admits senior editor, James Henderson. Just 24 hours earlier, he had blessed Detroit to the venerable Coupe de Ville and said, "What American guy doesn't love Detroit?"

Henderson was confident in spreading similarly bring words to reporters from at least five other cities - all in one day.

When asked point-blank early in the week whether there were any other cities involved, he flat-out lied. "No," he said. "We love Detroit."

It all began honestly enough, he said. "This is our fifth anniversary, so we thought it would be cool to name a city of the year."

But when the editors slashed the list of contenders to 13, they couldn't decide which one they liked best.

"We just couldn't bring ourselves to tell the Southerners in Boston that they weren't No. 1," Henderson said, "or the people in New York that they weren't No. 1. But when talking to different foregrounds, we told them all they were No. 1.

He added, "everything we said about Detroit, we meant."

The downside is that, in each issue, the 12 runners-up each receive a paragraph of insults. Detroit's done of veiled said the best thing about it is that it's "too quite Canadian."
Patch provides new birth control alternative for women

Ashlea Halpern

Marcia Parks, a receptionist at Patch, provides a new birth control alternative for peg-legged pirates and chain smokers.

Worn like a Band-Aid, transdermal patches stick to the skin and release a hormone combination similar to the Pill, and just as effective as today's oral contraceptives, Saleh said; adding progestin in her buttocks every three months, Thats it.,. you're married, and this affects the plan.

Although Ortho Evra is as effective as Depo-Provera, Tirinato smokes, and smokers are discouraged from using the patch because of the increased risk of cardiovascular side effects. A trial among 1,417 women indicated the patch may be more effective than the Pill because women were more likely to comply with its prescribed usage, according to Ortho-McNeil Pharmaceuticals, Inc. The patch testers showed 88 percent compliance, compared to 78 percent of women taking the Pill, their study showed.

However, throughout the clinical trials, women complained the patch wasn't discreet enough. Angela Jackson, a junior elementary education major, has never taken prescription birth control and doesn't entertain the thought of the Ortho Evra patch. "I think it'd be unattractive," Jackson said. "People are too superficial about their bodies during sex, but I guess if you were half drunk you really won't care anyway." Tirinato worried that people, in particular sexual partners, would see the patch and be turned off. Jackson agreed that she'd feel self-conscious wearing the patch, and would worry that her family members might ask about it. Jackson sees the patch somewhat like a billboard, advertising a sexually active lifestyle.

The shapes factor is there. It's like you're supposed to wait until you're married, and this affects the purity factor. And for a girl, you're still looked at as a slut," she said.

Spread the good word.

Public interest in the patch has been slow to surface.

Martha Parks, a receptionist at OB/GYN Associates of Western New York, 966 Centers Rd., in Buffalo, N.Y., has yet to field client inquiries about the patch.

New methods of contraception are introduced to Patch's OB/GYN practice mostly by drug reps who visit from pharmaceutical companies. Parks believes client interest will increase once more information is publicized, both by practitioners and advertisers.

Mary Easton, the secretary for External Affairs/Communications at Planned Parenthood Center of Syracuse, 1120 E. Genesee St., said the clinic has not received the right legal protocol from the national office.

"If they feel it's beneficial and we see a big request, certainly it will be offered," Easton said, adding they have not received any requests.

"I'm not sure. Guttmacher Institute, a non-profit organization focused on sexual and reproductive health research, has been on the mall of Ortho Evra since it first surfaced. Christine Loreda, a communications associate at Guttmacher, said she couldn't imagine why the patch wouldn't be a success.

"I'm not sure," Loreda said. "It's more convenient, and the more options women have, the better."
Carbondale shows its Saluki spirit

Local stores experience sales boom as basketball team reaches Sweet 16

Todd Merchant

DAILY EGYPTIAN

As the SIU men’s basketball team gains more and more notoriety from the national media, some Saluki fans are making reuse of their own. James Karayannis, the general manager of Finch Penny Pub and Coyer Dragon Brewing Co., recently had about 200 shirts produced in support of the Salukis only to have them confiscated by NCAA officials in Chicago last week.

The shirts, designed by Karayannis, have a design on the back that depicts a Saluki choking a man. According to NCAA, this is not allowed.

“This guy was an Indiana fan, I don’t know,” Karayannis said. “I guess they looked at them and thought maybe this is controversial. We don’t need Bobby Knight’s reputation being smeared. Maybe he was an Indiana fan, I don’t know.”

Karayannis recently made a second batch of shirts depicting a Saluki-driven sled that is being pulled by bulldogs and huskies, the respective mascots of Georgia and Connecticut — two schools that SIU is facing in the tournament. He expects to sell these three shirts quickly as well.

Fash is not the only local store experiencing a sales boom in Saluki merchandise. The three major bookstores, as well as Southern Illinois Central, all reported a major increase in sales of SIU apparel and merchandise.

Chris Croson, a manager at the University Bookstore, said this week has been a zoo all week long. The biggest increase, however, has been in Internet sales.

“Like most places in the country, we’re getting averages more than 10 mail orders per day, but between Sunday and Wednesday, it had already increased more than 700 percent,” Croson said.

Croson’s most interesting sale so far was to a bar in Syracuse, N.Y. — to host to this weekend’s East Regional. “I think that that’s the biggest SIU day to prepare for the tournament.

“Normally, this time of the year, we’re getting a lot of ‘t’s and ‘s’,” Croson said, “taking a back seat to getting prepared for the game.

Bobbi Mack, marketing director at Saluki Central, said business this week has been incredible. Business is usually slow the week after tournament, but this year sales are up as much as 75 percent.

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We definitely have a home court advantage playing here, there’s no doubt about it,” said Croson. “This is a very tough golf course.”

The Salukis are used to the rough conditions of their home court and have years of experience playing on it.

“That experience will give the Salukis a significant advantage since the teams, who only get one practice round before competition starts. We’ve played and won a change from the bas­ ed of the maroon and white in the region. Out there, it’s our little home court,” said Croson.

Salukis set eyes on first place

Only one home tournament for women’s golf

Michael Brenner

DAILY EGYPTIAN

What is usually a cross-country flight will be reduced to a country mud drive for the SIU women’s golf team this weekend.

The squad plays host to the Saluki Invitational on Monday at Hickory Ridge Golf Center, their only home tournament of the year and a welcome change from the bas­ ones of the maroon and white in the region. Out there, it’s our little home court,” said Croson.

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Salukis set eyes on first place
SIU baseball opens up MVC play

Salukis battle Bradley in a four-game series

Todd Merchant - Daily Egyptian

Most of Carbondale's focus this weekend is out in Syracuse, N.Y., as the SIU men's basketball team competes in the Sweet 16. However, it is not the only important sporting event going on this weekend as a number of SIU squads will be in action during the next few days, including the Saluki baseball team.

The Diamond Dawgs open their Missouri Valley Conference season this weekend at home against Bradley in a four-game series at Abe Martin Field. The series opener is today at 2 p.m.

SIU is 11-4 so far and off to its best start to a season since 1999. The Salukis have been hitting on all cylinders this year and, had it not been for a couple of close losses, could be undefeated right now.

The most impressive aspect of SIU's quick start has been its starting pitching. Jake Alley (3-0), Jerret Detringer (4-0) and Jake Nielson (1-1) have combined to amass an 8-1 record.

The Salukis, however, still need to find a solid fourth starter for the conference season. Alley and Detringer will start the first two games while Nielson closes out the series. Head coach Don Gaff has yet to decide who will start the third game.

He narrowed it down to either Ryan Welch (1-0) or Eric Haberer (1-0), both freshman. Welch already has one start under his belt from last weekend while Haberer has been the ace in the bullpen.

Callahan will wait and see what happens in the first two games before deciding who will start the third.

Bradley has had to wait four games series (2-6). Callahan thinks will motivate them.

"In their minds, they have something to prove," Callahan said. "The losers in the conference did not think they had a chance of making it and figured they had nothing to lose.

Callahan said that a typical Bradley team includes two or three good pitchers and two or three decent hitters. If this holds true, the more-talented Salukis should dominate the Braves this weekend.

Bradley is coming off its spring road trip in which several games were called due to bad weather, which means the Braves should be well rested.

"They had their last two games rained out," Callahan said. "So pitching-wise, they should be pretty strong.

The Salukis will counter with four hitters who are among the top six in the conference in hitting. With the strong hitting and starting pitching, coupled with an ever-maturing bullpen, SIU should be pulling out the wins on Sunday as it rolls off a big sweep of the Braves.

Welch, however, knows better than to take any team lightly. "The Valley's tough," Welch said. "On a given day, anyone can beat anybody else.

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

Payback 10 months in making for San Diego State

Joel Sartain - The Daily Aztec (San Diego State U.)

SAN DIEGO (U-WIRE) - Ten months is a long time to wait for anything. But that's how long San Diego State (18-9, 2-1 Mountain West Conference) has had to wait for a rematch of last year's conference championship game against BYU (9-12-1, 3-0 MWCC).

"We've got some vengeance to pay," SDSU second baseman Carlos Cota said.

Last May, BYU came back from a 3-0 deficit in the 10th inning to win 4-3 in the Mountain West Conference Championship game, in Las Vegas, Nevada.

"We've got to bounce back," left fielder Josh Hill said. "We definitely need to take two out of three, if not sweep them, to get back on the positive side of things."

Only two teams took two of three against BYU last year, though neither of which was the Aztecs. In fact, SDSU was swept.

"The Aztecs just played better and we played better," Cota said.

Another thing that might cause some upset is the number of runners the Aztecs have been leaving on base lately. Monday night against Southern California, SDSU got 21 runners on base, only to strand 14 of them in an 8-6 loss. In three games against Air Force, SDSU averaged nine per game.

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"The Aztecs just played better and we played better," Cota said.

In 2002, however, the three-game set starting tonight will be the first three games played there.

OPEN INVITATION

First Annual UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH FORUM

March 25, 2002

Student Center Gallery Lounge

Students, faculty, staff, and the general public are invited to attend the First Annual Undergraduate Research Forum to celebrate and recognize research, scholarly, and creative achievements of SIUC students.

Posters Session: 1:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Prizes and Award Presentations: 4:00 p.m.

Drop by, have some refreshments, and browse the posters describing student projects. The forum is being held in conjunction with the 2002 Research Day sponsored by Phi Kappa Phi/ Sigma Xi / Phi Delta Kappa / Society for Neuroscience (2 - 5 p.m.) and with the Illinois Junior Science and Humanities Symposium (3 - 4:30 p.m.). Come to the poster sessions for all three.

Sponsored by ORDA and the Office of the Provost
Salukis hope to shine in Syracuse

Jay Schwab
Daily Egyptian

SYRACUSE, N.Y. — You think Bruce Weber would have had enough of his players by late Thursday.

But the Saluki coach had just participated in a wigged pop rally with the team honoring its Sweet Sixteen appearance, and he watched his players beam with delight while soaking in the adulation from the crowd.

Weber had a nice time, too. But the more he thought about it, he knew he had to pick up the pace.

"I called each guy that night and I said, 'It's our guys. You get your bags packed, you get everything ready to go to class tomorrow,' " he said. 'We're going to have a hard practice, and now come and focus on the game.'

"That's when I came back down to earth. Can we beat UConn? I'm not sure, but we're going to beat them if we've not must. I think if we play as a single, should go our way, we have a chance.'

SIU (18-7) and Connecticut (26-4) are squaring off tonight at the Carrier Dome in a 6:38 p.m. Eastern Regional semifinal. The winner will play either Maryland or Kentucky on Sunday for a trip to the Final Four of a national tournament.

The banner at the Carrier Dome listing the teams competing reads like a hallucination a Saluki fan might have after downing too much in cream before bed. That's Kentucky, Maryland, Connecticut, and Southern Illinois.

"People are thinking the win is [we are] doing here," said Saluki center Robin Roberts. "It's just a great feeling being here. I'm really happy, it's not over yet.'

SIU guard Kent Williams knows that few expect the Salukis can handle the No. 2 seeded Huskies. That's fine by him. After all, Texas Tech and Georgia probably didn't think their seasons would come to an end at the hands of the Salukis.

"We've just had to get our weight at our weight, so it doesn't matter if you're a Cinderella or if you expected to be here," Williams said. "As long as you make it in, that's all that's important.

Although the Salukis have shown they won't be bullied by bigger teams, Connecticut provides another step up in the Big East regular season and tournament play.

UConn's ammunition starts with Big East Player of the Year Caron Butler, a sophomore NREI prospect who outscouted 34 points in the 77-74 loss to N.C. State. Before that 6-7, Kent State didn't have a natural defensive solution for him since big men Jerome Davenport and Roberts will be tied up bounding forward Saluki center Rolan Roberts and Kentucky forward Ernest Okafor.

"My confidence is as high right now and my teammates know it, and that's why they're giving me the ball in certain situations and letting me score if I want to." Weber said.

The Salukis have played superb defense lately, and Weber thinks SIU's best shot tonight will be to bite off some of UConn's big men to the lane against two Texas Tech defenders this past Friday at the United Center in Chicago. He and the rest of the Salukis will try to continue their postseason run when they will face UConn tonight in Syracuse.

Jay Schwab
Daily Egyptian

Dawgs look to neutralize UConn's big three

Jens Deja
Daily Egyptian

In the Connecticut Huskies, the Salukis will face something they have not seen all year long — a truly dominant front line.

UConn's trio of Caron Butler, Jerome Seibert and Emeka Okafor is by far the most talented group SIU has had to match up against all year. Butler, just a sophomore, is the best of the group and he is considered to be one of the best players in the country. He averaged 19.2 points and 7.6 rebounds this season on the way to being named the Big East's Most Valuable Player.

The star small forward, who is considered a virtual lock to be a lottery pick whenever he chooses to go pro, wasn't disappointed in the first two rounds of the NCAA tournament, scoring 21 in the first round against Hampton and leading the team with 24 against North Carolina State in the second round.

White out can't fully realize the scope of Butler's talent without seeing him in person, the Salukis know they are more than going to have to hand their fill with the 6-foot-7-inch, 255-pound star.

"Butler's unbelievable watching him film, he's like Jordan out there," said Saluki senior center Rolan Roberts. "I just can't let him get in a rhythm and get comfortable with the ball. He does a great job of that."

Butler is the No. 2 seed, but he is no means the only player in the frontcourt that can play. Johnnie Selvage, a 6-9, 225-pound senior averaging 11.8 points and 5.8 rebounds a game, and shot blocking extraordinaire Ernest Okafor also command plenty of attention.

Of these two, Okafor is the one the Salukis will have to make ... they know him at all times. Just a freshman, Okafor, at 7-7, 237 lbs. and averaging 4.2 blocks per game.

UConn's other threats besides Butler.

"It's totally different because Connecticut has a shot blocker inside, Georgia didn't have any of that. That's where the magic is. You could go in the lane and do whatever they wanted against Georgia, get in there the fouls and things like that."

Against UConn, they're going to have to pull up a few feet earlier or they're going to have to make them at a distance.

SIU head coach Bruce Weber said one of

See UConn, page 22