Rally encourages students to celebrate life, overcome adversity

MATT DARAY
Daily Egyptian

More than 200 people assembled outside Grinnell Hall Wednesday night to ask the question, “Can I live?”

Students chanted and marched through campus to celebrate the second annual Can I Live rally, an event dedicated to living life and overcoming adversity. The march was followed by a three-hour presentation that showcased different speakers and performers celebrating through rapping, poetry, dancing and talks about empowering women and appreciating life itself.

The event also presented powerful stories about overcoming hardships such as growing up with an abusive mother, being a multiple rape victim, surviving suicide and facing the hardships of being a handicapped mother in college.

Some of the emotional stories left the speakers in tears as they discussed the pain they endured and overcame. The crowd helped support each speaker who found it hard to continue his or her stories and followed every story with thunderous applause as well as some standing ovations.

Before the march began, a moment of silence was given to Treyvon Martin, a 17-year-old Florida resident who was shot to death Feb. 26 by a Neighborhood Watch leader, George Zimmerman.

Donald Chamberlain, a senior from Carbondale studying speech communication, leads students to the Student Center Tuesday during the “Can I Live” rally. Students marched from Grinnell Hall to the Student Center ballrooms to listen to speakers share stories about overcoming adversity.

Ryan Reed, a senior studying public relations from Homewood-Flossmoor, led the rally outside Grinnell Hall.

Reed, a Can I Live co-founder, said the number of participants increased dramatically from last year’s rally. He said it is a powerful event and affects everyone involved.

Reed said he hopes the event helps people open up more and talk about their problems instead of keeping it to themselves.

Corey Brooks, pastor of New Beginnings Church in Chicago, spoke at the rally. Brooks said the event was strong and greatly influenced the crowd. He said people should celebrate life by being there for each other and participating in people’s lives.

State budget cuts to IDNR could hurt region

SHARON WITTKE
Daily Egyptian

At the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, employees are starting to think DNR means “do not resuscitate,” because state budget cuts, a senior official from the agency said Monday.

Travis Lloyd, deputy director of the department, said the agency is facing problems because of state budget cuts, including employee attrition, leverage of state park fees and the loss of tourism dollars, if state parks are forced to cut more services.

“The DNR is a revenue generator like none other in southern Illinois,” Lloyd said at the First Presbyterian Church of Cobden. “The people of southern Illinois depend on the revenue DNR generates.”

The department works with regional tourism agencies to improve the economy of the area, he said. His agency oversees hunting regulations, maintains camping sites and monitors waterway recreation at Illinois-owned natural areas. These activities draw thousands of tourists to southern Illinois each year, he said.

Lloyd said he has traveled throughout the state to share information about state parks and other natural areas and to rally support in opposition of further funding cuts.

Lloyd said his department has been operating with reduced funding from the state for the past six years, and the next round of budget cuts may do irreparable harm to the state’s natural resources.

“We are as lean and mean at DNR as it can get,” he said. “We’ve done everything we can do with the budget we have.”

Lloyd said 10 years ago, the department had about 3,500 employees statewide to manage its programs. Today, there are 1,213 employees, and 35 percent of those are eligible for retirement during the next two years.

Tuition waiver elimination could threaten enrollment, employee recruitment

TIFFANY BLANCHETTE
Daily Egyptian

SIUC formally joined the University of Illinois and Northern Illinois University Tuesday in opposition to state legislation that would eliminate employee tuition waivers.

House Bill 5531 proposes that the tuition waivers available to state university employees and their children, upon reaching seven years of employment, be eliminated because of the struggling state budget.

Rep. Luis Arroyo, who proposed the bill, estimated the state would save $387 million, according to the Illinois Education Association website.

According to the Illinois Board of Higher Education, however, the figure would be around $8 million. SIUC President Glenn Poshard said 60 percent of the 247 students attending SIU on tuition waiver are children of university employees with salaries between $35,000 and $40,000.

He said after the remaining tuition, fees, and room and board are factored in, the employee waiver is about an 18 percent discount on the true cost of attending.

“The tuition waiver is important for many of our staff to put their children through college,” Poshard said.

Lonzie Midden, a senior from Carbondale studying communication disorders and sciences, has received the tuition waiver for her four years at SIUC.
About Us

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

Mission Statement

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

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The Daily Egyptian is published by the students of Southern Illinois University Carbondale. Offices are in the Communications Building, Room 1209, at Southern Illinois University Carbondale, Carbondale, Ill., 62901. Bill Freivogel, fiscal officer.
If a corporation wants to develop land for housing, he said, that office ensures that no archaeological sites would be disturbed. Because the backlog for real estate reviews is so great, the approval process takes a lot longer. He said some developers become frustrated and take their projects to another state.

He said in order to protect the rights of all the citizens, his staff doesn’t cut corners while reviewing construction projects.

“We want to do it right — we just don’t have the staff,” Lloyd said.

One of the solutions to the budget crisis that people have been proposing is the implementation of daily and annual park fees.

Loyd said.

He said many people are willing to pay for either a daily use permit or an annual fee to gain access to Illinois state parks in return for continuation of services, such as mowing and trail clearing.

Loyd said his department has asked state legislators to fast track the fee proposal. He said he expects to hear about some type of decision within 60 days.

Trips to the Chicago area were sometimes disheartening, he said, because he has seen as few as three people show up in a region where 70 percent of the state’s population resides in two counties.

Loyd said the support for his department from southern Illinois is much stronger in many other regions of the state.

Cobden resident Les Sheets, the event coordinator, said he had attended a similar event at John A. Logan College in February, and he estimated 150 people were at the event. He said he decided Cobden’s residents might be interested in hearing about the department’s budget issues and requested the visit from the department.

Audience member Red Beckley, of Cobden, asked Loyd about proposed hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, in the southeastern part of the state.

Loyd said representatives from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources are working with state legislators to regulate fracturing and that Illinois is looking at New York’s and West Virginia’s laws as examples.

Loyd said he is passionate about preserving and maintaining Illinois state parks and natural resources for future generations.

“Some of the things we would like to see for budgetary purposes, we will never get back,” he said.

Sharon Wintle can be reached at swintle@dailyeagle.com or 536-3311 ext. 296.

Carbondale senior studying communication disorders and sciences

Lanie Midden

The Faculty Senate’s resolution, which passed Tuesday and opposes the House bill, states the tuition waivers are a recruiting and retention tool for public universities.

Poshard said the competition for quality faculty and staff is intensive, especially because it’s difficult for SIUC to compete with other universities because of budget reductions from the state.

Since 2002, the state has cut funding to university from $247 million to $217 million, Poshard said.

He said with the uncertainty in the bill is because the waivers are an important incentive for SIUC to recruit and retain better faculty and staff.

In Tuesday’s Faculty Senate meeting, the group passed a resolution to insist state legislators do not pass the bill.

One argument raised by the resolution is the waivers may benefit the state by attracting more students to universities within the state.

“Overall, the cost savings would not outweigh the damage revoking the waivers would cause in terms of enrollment and employee morale,” Hales said.

Tiffany Blanchette can be reached at tblanchett@dailyeagle.com or 536-3311 ext. 254.
Tackling an old Hobby

Ryan Wickham, a freshman from Evansville studying mining engineering, shows Adrienne Karl, an undecided freshman from Staunton, how to cast a spinning reel Wednesday at Campus Lake. Karl said she had not gone fishing since her grandfather took her when she was younger.

CHRIS ZOELLER | DAILY EGYPTIAN

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Godz gets to say whether something is right or wrong

Colors from the sun are in response to the staff column, published here, at The Daily Egyptian, published here, at The Daily Egyptian, published here, at The Daily Egyptian.

DESCRIPTION

In a recent staff column regarding comments made by Erik Canouse, you said the comments were "out of line and unsavory." You also added, "Take the high road of the equipoise and all that's left is an argument without a conclusion."

The point that you make is that you cannot take God's judgemy out of the equation. We would only believe in an act of do nothing. We get to cut the standard of what is right and what is wrong in the world. The Bible says, "He who is without sin among you, let him cast the first stone.

John Newton, in his last letter to the Christian, said that none of the world's sins will be the end of the kingdom of God. We are the world's immoral, insatiable and "men who pursue homosexuality" will all still be wrong.

God gets to say whether something is right or wrong. Do you know what God does when you want to have sex? We learn from the Bible that we should be sexual in a man, woman, child, first, and then after that, we need to learn about the world. We have to learn about the world. It's not what we learn.

The Bible says that we must be perverted for our sins. That punishment is Hell. Christians are trying to work people as a black man trying to work as a slave. We want to have a clean past and those who belong to this, down to the heart, because it is something we cherish and love.

We all deserve to be in Hell — not only homosexuals, but also anyone who has not made a change in their life and has not looked with lust.

SIU coal plant needs to retire

DESCRIPTION

The burning of coal is being viewed by some as the strength energy generator. That we need to change between fiercely, not human health. Payments of the coal plant that is owned by a company energy would be beneficial to the people.

According to Environmental Protection Agency, there are 177 power plants that emit more than 1 million tons of Mercury emissions in 2013. The power plants are not calculated in the plants that have fewer, largely because of the difficulty of establishing reliability in a number of locations. In the power plants that emit more than 1 million tons of Mercury emissions in 2013, the plants are not calculated in the plants that have fewer. It is not measured in the power plants that emit more than 1 million tons of Mercury emissions in 2013. It is not measured in the power plants that emit more than 1 million tons of Mercury emissions in 2013. It is not measured in the power plants that emit more than 1 million tons of Mercury emissions in 2013.

The 31st Century on green energy, there is a need to change, to generate technology advancement during the past 40 years. Beloit State University demonstrated this by developing a new form of green energy. REE is expected to replace the power plants by 2020 and need to have the largest greenhouse, smokestacks and confirmed results in the United States.

According to a 2014 article in Green World, taking the current coal plants offline will save the university 1.5 billion dollars, plus be a large health benefit. Regulations on coal plants that emit more than 1 million tons of Mercury emissions in 2013.

The plants are not calculated in the plants that have fewer. It is not measured in the power plants that emit more than 1 million tons of Mercury emissions in 2013.

Danish Mortensen

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Survey attempts to increase enrollment

TARA KULASH
Daily Egyptian

Students see increased focus, tighter control on university.

The school is pushing for increased focus on enrollment. The university is taking steps to ensure that students stay enrolled and are active in their studies. These steps include tighter control and monitoring of enrollment, as well as increased attention to student needs and concerns. The university is also looking to increase the number of students who are enrolled and actively involved in their studies. This focus on enrollment is expected to have a positive impact on the university's overall performance and success. It is an important initiative for ensuring the continued success of the university and its students.
Double bill set for Kleinau stage

LAURA ANN WOOD
Daily Egyptian

Double bill of Shakespeare, the two plays that will show in the Kleinau Theatre today through Sunday are as different as the learning environment and casting.

The three-act play, "Richard III," will be performed at 7:30 p.m. daily, while the one-act play, "The Two Gentlemen of Verona," will be performed at 2 p.m. daily.

"Richard III" is a historical play that focuses on the life of King Richard III, while "The Two Gentlemen of Verona" is a comedy that focuses on the love triangle between two men and a woman.

Tickets for both plays are available for $5 at the door. Both plays are directed by Dr. Eric J. Vogel, associate professor of theatre and drama.

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March 22, 2012
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Audiences may ‘crave’ answers, but play is about experience

ELI NISER
Daily Egyptian

For this play intended to ask what it is about, ask yourself what does it ask you.

The Chico H. New Theatre may be the best vehicle to produce a performance of ‘Crave,’ but that may provide a relatively safe distance from the audience members in some of its 110-seat capacity.

For this play, instead of asking what it is about, ask yourself how can you connect with the different characters who make up its story, written by Karen Thoma, Campbell, who was the director of the play and also the book for it. The play is student-written and produced in the New Theatre for the Performing Arts.

Campbell had the idea of doing it, and the way to understanding it, is probably like in the title itself. How is it possible to comprehend how the play is about the characters in the midst of their daily lives.

Baker, a character portrayed by Davis, is a character on its own because as a character, he presents a complex role of juggling the complexity of the performance. The whole performance, like in the title itself, is a complex role of juggling the complexity of the performance. The whole performance is about the character’s path from the beginning until the end of the play. The book is a good way of preparing the show that will be done in the performance.

Karen Thoma named the play ‘Crave.’ ‘Crave’ is a good name for preparing the show that will be done in the performance. The whole performance is about the character’s path from the beginning until the end of the play. The book is a good way of preparing the show that will be done in the performance.

The audience will be required to develop a specific perspective for things such as complex and important themes, such as the complexity of the characters in the different musical works. The audience will have to understand the different musical expressions of the characters and try to understand and interpret the different musical expressions of the characters. The audience will have to be aware of the complexity of the characters and try to understand the different musical expressions of the characters.
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By Eco-Expert Danny Seo

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Find the number that belongs in each cell.

Across
1. 3LFNXSWKH
2. 44 Pilot
3. 24 Chuck Connors
4. 23 Beast of burden
5. 22

Down
1. 66 Latin 101 verb
2. 65 Mid-size Nissa
3. 47 Plenty
4. 60 Sí, in Pari

By Ed News

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

Answers

Aries — Today is a 7 — You're on a roll and you're hot. Get out the message. Decisions you make now will last, possibly for generations. Consider all options. Get inspired by another.

Taurus — Today is a 7 — Plot out the plan and, clarify direction. Conserve resources. Don't worry about the money. Back up computers. Consider long-term strategy, and shoot for the stars.

Gemini — Today is an 8 — Your friends are really there for you, just like you are for them. Social networking, buzzes about fun and profit. Encourage another's creativity. Offer solutions.

Cancer — Today is a 9 — New opportunities develop ... go for the most realistic. Go over the instructions one more time. Completing brings new beginnings. There's good news from afar.

Leo — Today is a 9 — Your view expands beyond your own neighborhood and travels abroad. Why? Not plan it and go. You know how much to expect and make check reservations. No gambling.

Virgo — Today is a 9 — With the New Moon (and the Sun) in Aries, get into making money. Play by the rules, and find out what your clients need. Expand your influence. Listen to a mentor.

Libra — Today is an 8 — Your brainpower increases exponentially when working as part of a team. Upgrade technology, but don't forget to keep a record. Don't make the same mistake twice.

Scorpio — Today is a 9 — Entering two days of very satisfying, intense work. Delicate what you're not passionate about to someone who cares. New career opportunities open up.

Sagittarius — Today is an 8 — Complete your obligations down to the tiniest detail so that you have time to relax later. Entering a two-day romantic phase. Listen intensively.

Capricorn — Today is a 7 — Get into your roots for the next few days. Reviewing your past gives you a new perspective on the future with your family. Feel the love from generations.

Aquarius — Today is a 7 — There's so much to learn and so little time, or so it seems. Get organized to get it all done on schedule and have extra time to play. You can do it.

Pisces — Today is a 9 — Use the next couple of days to increase profits, but beware of burning bridges. Let go of those things you don't want or need. Simplify your outlook.
LOVE

I don’t mind talking to people. I’m a class clown, so it was no problem for me making new friends,” Love said. “You kind of get used to leaving a house, making friendships and relationships with people in the house (as well as other foster kids), but you have to learn how to break ties real quick and move on.”

Love excelled at track and volleyball during her time at Carbondale High School, where she was at four-time state qualifier and two-time Southern Illinoisan Track Athlete of the Year. Despite her success, Love was not highly recruited and said she did not know much about collegiate athletics while deciding to continue her athletic career.

“I knew I was a good athlete, I knew I was a competitive athlete … for me it was never a question of am I good enough to be among these people,” she said.

Love said she was originally set on leaving the southern Illinois region to continue her athletic career, but she eventually decided to stay. She initially decided to attend Rend Lake College in Ina to play volleyball, but she changed her mind and decided to attend SIU on a track scholarship.

Coach Connie Price-Smith initially recruited Love as a multi-event athlete, but Love worked exclusively with跳球队 coach Andre Scott during her first year on campus.

“The first year she was here, she only did the long and triple jump,” Love said (Blanca Stuart) here who sprinted and jumped, and (Love) told me to train her like (Stuart),” Scott said. “They were kind of teetering if (Love) should go to the sprint coach or me, but she was a better jumper than sprinter, so I got her.”

During her freshman year, Love went on to be an all-MVC performer in the long jump and triple jump. As she went into her sophomore year, Love started to compete in the pentathlon. Despite her unfamiliarity with the pentathlon upon her arrival at SIU, she applied the competitive nature and ability to easily pick up new sports easily allowed her to excel immediately.

“I knew nothing about the pentathlon, Love said. “I don’t mind being put in all these different kind of events. Its kind of fun, especially when you first start out.”

Love earned NCAA All-American honors in the pentathlon her sophomore and junior year, and even though she enjoys competing in the events, she said she feels an obligation as a student athlete to continually perform at a national level.

Despite the rigors of practice and the toll that continuous jumps into a sand pit can take on her body, Love said she does not consider quitting an option and finds a way to finish her workouts no matter what.

“It’s not even a question of if I sit this one out?” It’s an obligation; once you start you have to finish,” she said.

Love said she recognizes the privilege she has as a student athlete. However, she said being on scholarship does not disregard the hard work that athletes but into their sports.

“We work. We’re on the track, football field or basketball court,” she said. “It’s a 24-hour process. Its not us being given things. We work for it."

As Love enters her final outdoor season, she said she will not compete in the pentathlon and will instead focus on jumping. After her athletic career is finished, Love said she would like to become a dental hygienist.

Scott said while the track team tries to get southern Illinoisan athletes to stay and attend SIU, many choose to leave. Love’s willingness to attend SIU is a positive for the school and the community as a whole, Scott said.

“There’s a bunch of eyes watching her, whether she knows it or not. Her whole high school is watching her. The community itself is watching her,” Scott said.

“It’s a blessing on both sides for her to get the proper coaching, but she’s also willing to do all the work to become successful.”

Akeem Glaspie can be reached at aglaspie@dailyEgyptian.com or 536-331 ext. 269.
Henderson rachets up intensity before conference play begins

JOE RAGUSA
Daily Egyptian

Baseball coach Ken Henderson privately met with his team Tuesday after its 5-1 loss to Eastern Illinois and said it was because the game has shown enough leadership and toughness this season.

“We’ve won 12 games because we have talent. We haven’t won any more than 12, and we’ve lost four in a row because we haven’t battled and haven’t been tough enough,” Henderson said. “It’s not been fun, and we haven’t played as hard as we should, but we can come around tomorrow.”

Defensive miscues, poor at-bats and lack of timely hitting were all things Henderson said the Salukis (12-11) need to change as they head into their first conference series against Bradley (10-6-1) Friday to Sunday at Abe Martin Field. Henderson said the team hasn’t battled through under pressure, and that’s part of the reason it has gone into a four-game losing streak.

“I don’t think it’s (about) pressure, I think it’s we’ve got some guys that are maybe a little self-conscious about what they’re doing,” junior outfielder Austin Montgomery said.

Part of the problem is the 54 errors the team has accrued in 21 games this season, which puts the Salukis on pace to finish the regular season with 141. The poor defense has allowed 41 of the 144 runs Saluki has given up this season to be unearned.

In 57 games last season, SIU committed 79 errors and gave up 54 unearned runs.

“We definitely have to clean up on defense. We’re giving up a lot of runs with our defense right now,” Montgomery said. “But our pitching’s been pretty good, for the most part, and our offense has been at least fairly consistent.”

The starting rotation this weekend won’t change, Henderson said, with junior left-handed pitcher Cody Forrythe (0-1) starting Friday at 1 p.m. He has a 3.81 earned run average in five starts this season, with 23 strikeouts and 10 walks.

“The team … Friday will be a lot different than the team we’ve been the last few days,” Forrythe said.

Forrythe started in the only win SIU has over Bradley last season in three games, picking up the victory. He gave up four runs, two earned, in nine hits over eight innings.

“Tied square off against Bradley senior left-handed pitcher Joe Bircher (3-0), who pitched a complete game two-hitter last season against the Salukis. He has a 2.55 ERA in five starts this season, with 44 strikeouts.”

“(Bradley’s pitchers) aren’t dominating guys, but they know how to pitch,” Henderson said.

“Just have to take the right approach against them. We have to take what they can give us. If you try to do too much against them, you’re not going to have a lot of success.”

Junior right-handed pitcher Cameron Maldonado (2-0) will take the bump Saturday. He gave up eight earned runs in five and a three innings last season against Bradley in a losing effort.

Maldonado has a 6.33 ERA in 27 innings this season, giving up 35 hits while striking out 21.

Junior left-handed pitcher Nathan Dorris will round out the starting rotation Sunday. He was shelled in his last start against Illinois March 18, giving up six earned runs on nine hits in four and a third innings.

Bradley hasn’t announced its starters for Saturday or Sunday yet, but senior right-handed pitcher Justin Ziegler (1-1) and junior left-handed pitcher John Nasnah (2-2) have combined for nine of Bradley’s 14 starts on weekends this season. Bircher has the other five starts.

Nasnah pitched eight shutout innings against the Salukis last season, a game the Braves won 4-0 on May 8. He has a 6.20 ERA this season, giving up 25 hits in 20.1 innings, with 12 strikeouts.

Junior infielder Austin Montgomery, left, practices his swing as junior first baseman Chris Serritella bats Saturday during the Saluki home loss against the Northern Illinois University Huskies. The Salukis will face the Bradley Braves Friday at home at 1 p.m.

Shaina Rennegarbe, a junior from Addieville studying biological sciences, works on putting Wednesday during golf practice at Hickory Ridge Golf Course and Driving Range. The golf team won first place last week in Northern Illinois University’s NIU Snowbird Tournament in Tampa, Fla.

NIU women’s golf earns third team title of 2011-12 season

CALEB MOTSINGER
Daily Egyptian

After the SIU women’s golf team ended its fall season with two tournament victories, the team took its game to Tampa during spring break to compete in Northern Illinois University’s Snowbird Classic.

After the team’s fourth place finish in the 2011 NIU Snowbird, a 36-hole tournament on Friday and Saturday, the Salukis used the final round to run away with the first place victory over the other 10 teams in attendance.

“At the beginning of the second round I knew if we wanted to move up on the leaderboard, we needed two scores in the mid-70s and under 80,” coach Alexis Mielisch said. “We came in more focused than the day before and got everything done that we needed to.”

Round one of the Snowbird Classic had put the Salukis in fourth place, but as the second round rolled on, SIU climbed up three places for a final round score of 304.

“Our parents were all keeping score,” senior golfer Margaret Gilley said. “We did great in round two, but we were all surprised when we got first.”

Gilley paced the Salukis with a final score of 147, as she scored an even par of 72 on the final 18 holes to put her ahead of McNeese State’s second-place finisher by a single stroke.

“Everyone else was on the beach, and we were playing golf,” Gilley said. “But I’m glad we won; it makes it all worthwhile.”

Gilley’s victory marked her second gold medal of the season after a first place finish at the Cardinal Classic in Munice, Ind. last fall.

Round two proved essential for the Salukis, and each team member earned a higher score than in the first. The Salukis would eventually beat second-place McNeese State by three strokes.

With a weekend tournament on the way, the SIU women’s golf team practiced Wednesday on its home green with hopes that good golfing out of the gate and a week’s rest will secure the team its fourth tournament victory of the 2011-12 season.

The Salukis will be back in action as they host the Saluki Invitational at Hickory Ridge Golf Course March 25 to 26.
Carbondale’s own Malaikah Love: jack-of-all trades

AEEK GLASPIE
Daily Egyptian

Carbondale native and multi-event track and field athlete senior Malaikah Love is known as her team’s in-house comedian.

Love’s ability to make others laugh is just one of the talents that the pentathlete and jumper possesses.

During the Missouri Valley Conference Indoor Championships Feb. 25-26, Love won the pentathlon, which consists of long jump, shot put, 60-meter hurdles, 800 meter and the high jump. She earned 10 points for the Saluki women who went on to finish fourth of eight conference teams.

Love’s multi-event background began as a youth in the southern Illinois area.

Love said she started to play sports in sixth grade when her friends encouraged her to try out for the volleyball team. Love, who said she’s always been athletic, did not know much about volleyball before the tryouts.

Love said she was not very good when she first started playing volleyball, but her ability to quickly pick up on the game’s nuances helped her make the team then and later transition to the pentathlon, she said.

“I’ve always been able to pick up on stuff,” Love said. “The first time I try it I might be kind of iffy, but the next time I do it you can bet it will be good,” Love said. “I’m the kind of athlete that it doesn’t take that much experience for me to get better.”

Love grew up in foster homes throughout the southern Illinois area after she was taken away from her mother before the first grade.

After a brief return to her mother, Love and her older sister lived in a foster home in Marion from second grade to fifth grade. From sixth to seventh grade, Love lived with a foster family in DuQuoin while she attended school in Carbondale and started to participate in volleyball.

Love then lived in foster care in Marion before moving back to Carbondale in eighth grade after she was adopted by her grandmother.

Senior jumper and fellow Carbondale native Nina Okafor, who has known Love since middle school, said she considers Love a sister whom she can talk to about anything. Okafor said Love’s jovial personality makes the difficult days of practice much easier.

“She definitely makes us laugh. Sometimes I come in mad and she’ll make a joke to make me feel better,” Okafor said. “She likes to tell jokes and they’re always funny and always keeps the team smiling and laughing.”

Love said her social skills and ability to easily make new friends made moving easier to adjust to as a child.

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Senior jumper Malaikah Love, right, works on her jumping approach as fellow teammate, senior jumper Nina Okafor, left, and jumping coach Andre Scott observe her form. Love is a multi-event athlete who, in her freshmen year, received the All MVC-Performer in the long jump and triple jump. She has also received NCAA All-American honors both her sophomore and junior years.

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