Governor to focus on education in upcoming 'State of State' address

Blagojevich focuses on improving education

Amber Ellis
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Jim Edgar started it. George Ryan ended it. And now Gov. Rod Blagojevich is bringing it back.

While Project Success, a program serving more than 200,000 people, ended in 2002, the families of school-age children were left without health care services ranging from substance abuse programs...
Energy assistance available for low-income households

Energy assistance is now available for residents in Jackson County from the Western Illinois Energy Assistance Program. Gross income is used to determine eligibility, and all income received by each household member is counted. Rent, utilities, and food stamps are included in the rental payment and whose net is 30 percent or more of their gross-day gross income may be eligible for a grant. Total gross income must be as to receive the following: one person, $1123; two persons, $1515; three persons, $1908; four persons, $2300. Applicants must provide the agency with proof of Social Security numbers of each household member and a copy of their most recent heating and electric bills. To apply for energy assistance, contact the Western Illinois Outreach Office at (692-3494).

IEEE to sponsor lecture

The SIUC chapter of the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers will sponsor a lecture by Arizona State University's Constantine Balanis on the subject of smart antennas and wireless portable systems and networks. The lecture will take place at 11 a.m. Thursday in Room A111 of the Engineering Building.

Carbondale Board of Education to meet at high school

The Carbondale Community High School District Board of Education is scheduled to meet at 7 p.m. Monday in the high school cafeteria. An announcement will precede the meeting at 6:30 p.m.

Public comments concerning agenda and non-agenda items are welcomed when recognized by the board president.

SIUC to offer 11-week hypnosis class

The University will be offering an 11-week evening class on hypnosis starting Jan. 27 from 6 to 8 p.m. in Pulliam Hall Room 35. The class will focus on the history, potential benefits and techniques of inducing hypnosis. The enrollment fee for the class is $49. Register online through the Student Center Check-in and Ticketing on the 2nd floor of the Student Center.

Road Trip

Memphis, TN

See NBA Basketball at its best! LAKERS vs. GRIZZLIES

Wednesday, January 21st

$40 for your round-trip charter bus seat and ticket to the game Reserve Your Spot at Student Center Check-in and Ticketing on the 2nd floor of the Student Center. This Trip WILL Sell out and seats are going fast! Contact SPC Travel for more info at 536-3393

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Good beer. Great Pizza.

Limit 1 per medium pizza per large pizza.


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AccuWeather 5-Day Forecast for Carbondale
Pam Pullien and Kim Schelei, both of Marion, donate blood Thursday evening to the American Red Cross Missouri-Illinois Blood Services Region at the Cornerstone Community Church in Marion. Increased donations have expanded the blood supply from only having enough blood for half a day to having enough for 2 1/2 days.

Region’s blood supply rises out of critical stage

The blood supply for Southern Illinois has climbed out of the dangerous phases after threatening to run dry by New Year’s Day. However, recent blood is needed in the Illinois-Missouri region was at a two-day supply as of early Monday evening. In other words, it would take the region two days to empty its blood bank if no donations are made. Therefore, which centers more than 120 counties in Southern Illinois and eastern Missouri, but a year-round supply of blood was needed.

“We want to have a five-day supply,” said Nicole Traycoff, media relations coordinator for the Red Cross’ Illinois-Missouri Blood Service Region. “We feel comfortable at the Red Cross having a five-day supply in terms of meeting patient needs, but also if a disaster or catastrophe might occur.”

The region’s blood supply, which is historically low during the winter holiday season, dropped to less than a day’s worth Jan. 1 due to a large number of cases of influenza in the area.

The Red Cross encourages anyone who is in good health to donate blood. Traycoff says blood is especially critical if the area’s donor recruitment managers and volunteers because of the possible donors that could come out of the flu-stricken red blood cells.

“At the Red Cross, our top priority is safety and quality of the blood supply.” Traycoff said. “We ask that our donors are in good health when they come in. If they exhibit any flu symptoms, we discourage them from donating. It’s not in the benefit of the donor or the recipient.”

Traycoff said the recent epidemic forced the Red Cross to cancel blood drives at several of the region’s high schools in the past month. According to Traycoff, the region is particularly in need of type O negative blood.

New ethics package aims to legitimize Illinois politics

New watchdog measures to ensure honesty, ethics

Valerie N. Donnals
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Ethics is an ambiguous term but one all state employees will soon be learning due to mandatory ethics training for all state employees, as required by new legislation signed by Gov. Rod Blagojevich Dec. 9 in an effort to clean up Illinois politics.

A statement from the governor’s office called the ethics law “the toughest, most comprehensive ethics reform package in the state’s history.”

The driving force behind the law was Blagojevich, who did an amendment veto on the first ethics bill, sending it back to lawmakers to implement tougher provisions. Though the General Assembly overrode the veto in November, they used his criticisms to pass a second, more powerful bill during the fall veto session.

The Illinois Campaign Reform Coalition, an organization that has been dedicated to developing ethics legislation for more than five years, has monitored and been involved closely with the legislation. Mary Schaafsma, director of the coalition’s judicial reform project, said the initial version was considered a setback, but the final results have proved more rewarding.

“We were initially disappointed because we were hoping that he would sign it and that we might be able to deal with any issues and questions in a subsequent legislative session,” Schaafsma said. “We would at least have the bare bones and outline of a good bill signed and passed.”

“By and large, we are delighted with what we got. We are now looking forward to seeing that the bill gets implemented.”

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Former governor pleads not guilty

Ryan vows to go to trial, maintains innocence

Former Illinois Gov. George Ryan pleaded not guilty to charges in federal court Thursday afternoon.

Operation Safe Road cleans up the street — in the political world, that is.

What began as an investigation into unqualified truck drivers getting licenses in exchange for bribes during former Illinois Gov. George Ryan’s tenure as secretary of state turned into a federal probe into Ryan’s office.

Indicted were Ryan and his family, accepted gifts and loans totaling $167,000 and allowed friends to benefit from his position as secretary of state and then later as governor.

As controversy from the investigation continues to surround Ryan, he is said he plans to run for a second term as governor. Rather than plea bargaining, Ryan has maintained his innocence and vowed to go to trial.

The 69-year-old Republican, who pardoned 137 people during his tenure, is expected to face a jury that includes the 66th person to be charged in this investigation.

“This has been affecting the reputation of government for some time while the investigation has been going on,” said Ryan’s spokesman for Gov. Rod Blagojevich.

“It’s been affecting the reputation of government for some time while the investigation has been going on,” Ossenfort said. “Voters are very suspicious about the intentions and the goals of their officials, and we certainly have suffered because of the problems associated with Safe Roads.”

Members of state government are optimistic that the recently passed ethics legislation will stop similar incidents of dishonesty in public service from occurring. The legislation attempts to halt political corruption by imposing tougher fines and requiring political officials to go through ongoing ethics training.

“The broader law, Operation Safe Road certainly shows the need for stronger ethics laws and enforcement measures,” Ossenfort said. “The things we were able to accomplish this year are going to send the signal that these sorts of incidents in the future.”

Cindi Canady, director of the Illinois Campaign Reform Coalition, said the ethics legislation will stop political corruption in its tracks.

“Operation Safe Road is California’s often-high-profile scandals,” Canady said. “It often goes too far. This legislation is designed not to go too far. It is supposed to be sipped in the bud before it ever gets to plate.”

See Dave Loechtefeld, R-Oakwood, said he does not think the ethics package will reform individuals who do not want to follow the recognized laws.

“I don’t think it will make such a difference,” he said. “If people want to do
Insurance companies now cover contraceptives

Insurance must renew policies before coverage is mandated

Amber Ellis
selinda@dailyEgyptian.com

Oral contraceptives have been available for more than three decades. But until Gov. Rod Blagojevich signed legislation this summer requiring insurance companies that cover prescription drugs to also cover FDA-approved contraceptives, women had to dig into their pockets to cover birth control costs.

The law, which also covers outpatient medical services used as a means to prevent pregnancy, went into effect at the beginning of the year.

But some women may have to wait until their insurance policy is renewed before taking advantage of the coverage.

Sen. Iris Martinez, D-Chicago, urged women who are told contraceptives cannot be covered under their insurance to come forward and report such incidents.

"It is important for women out there to know that employers have to provide this service," Martinez said.

"Employees have got to be able to provide this, and employers cannot decide not to provide coverage with the idea that it's not morally right," Martinez said.

"It's really a matter of fairness," Ottenhoff said. "If drug companies, for example, cover Viagra, which certainly helps men control fertility, to the number of unintended pregnancies, it's only fair that women who are able to have access to the drugs that are able to help them control their reproductive health.

"According to the National Center for Health Statistics, 71 percent of women between the ages of 25 to 34 use contraceptives in the United States.

"In the long run, allowing women to avoid unintended and unplanned pregnancies is going to save insurance companies a lot of money," Ottenhoff said. "The cost of prenatal care and hospital stays certainly outweighs the cost of birth control pills.

Martinez, a sponsor of the bill, said she decided to sponsor the bill because she had to take birth control pills for 15 years, not to prevent pregnancy but for a medical condition.

"Women out there are taking it for reasons just like I did," she said.

"And it was not fair that I was not being covered because the mentality out there was that the only reason you take birth control is to avoid having a family. And that is just not the case. These are basic health needs."

Although SIUC students who go through the University's pharmacy pay less than what consumers pay at pharmacies, such as Walgreen Drug Stores or CVS Pharmacy, the cost of contraceptives has continued to increase.

Birth control pills at SIU's pharmacy can range anywhere from $18.10 to $30, while CVS charges $73.59 for the shot.

The cost of Depo-Provera, a contraceptive shot given every three months, is $53.60 at the SIU pharmacy; CVS charges $73.59 for the shot.

When purchased from SIU's pharmacy, Ortho Evra, a contraceptive patch used weekly, costs $40 per pack, while CVS customers pay $73.59.

Rep. Sara Feigenholtz, D-Chicago, said many college students are unaware of how much contraceptives cost because they generally pay lower rates through university pharmacies.

"When students graduate, they will no longer be able to get contraceptives from clinics," she said.

"They will see that the cost differential is tremendous, especially when you are out there trying to get a job with the size of our job market."

Under the new law, any post-conception drugs and procedures, such as the morning-after pill or abortion, will not be covered.

Permanent sterilization requiring surgery will also not be covered.

"On the other hand, not everyone is pleased with the new legislation. Several organizations are opposed to the law, including the Catholic Conference of Illinois, Concerned Women for America and the Illinois Life Insurance Council."

"CCI will be able to invoke the right of conscience, which will allow it to buy insurance from a Catholic-owned entity that does not cover contraceptives.

"Illinois, which became the 20th state to require private insurance companies to provide contraceptive, equity, received complaints earlier this summer from insurance companies who were unhappy about the new mandate.

Typically, insurance companies are opposed to what they call unfunded mandates," Feigenholtz said.

"That's just how they stand on anything we try and mandate. Whether it is pharmaceuticals or treatment, they are typically on the other side of the issue.

"But the other states that have passed similar laws have experienced reduced costs for insurance firms, so I expect the same to happen here in Illinois."

The Washington Business Group on Health released findings from its study showing employers who do not include contraceptive coverage in their employees' health insurance pay 15 percent to 17 percent more than those who do provide coverage.

Both Feigenholtz and Martinez said the response to this legislation has been overwhelming, as many women have told them how happy they are to now have contraceptives covered by their insurance companies.

"This is a new day for women in this state, and I am beside myself with satisfaction," Feigenholtz said.

Source: Times-Com
**Mars rover takes steps toward going out**

Thomas H. Maugh II
Los Angeles Times

(LATWP) — NASA’s Spirit rover severed its final connection to its lander and made the first of three jumps that will line it up for a roll-off sometime early Thursday morning.

“It’s ready to roll,” flight director Chris Leblond said Tuesday. A jump that lasts two more turns scheduled for overnight Tuesday will position the rover south-southwest for the roll-off.

Scientists at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, Calif., also released detailed photographs showing where the lander is sitting in Gusev Crater and where the rover will proceed on its mission to search for traces of water.

“We know where we are now and we know where we are going,” said principal investigator Steven Squyres of Cornell University.

Spirit’s first target will be a 200-yard-wide crater about 800 feet to the northeast, although it will likely make several stops along the way to examine individual rocks.

The camera “will provide a window into the subsurface of Mars,” Squyres said. “Once we have done our business here, we will have seen as deep into Mars as we can hope to see on this mission. Then, we will head for those hills — a dune of hills to the east that are about 1.5 miles away.

“Regardless of whether you are going to reach those hills,” he added. “Spirit is designed to travel about 600 yards during its planned 90-day life.”

But even if the rover does not make it to the hills, it will glean a great deal of information, he said. “As we get closer, the view will get better and better. We’ll be able to resolve details, measure compositions. And we will have a better and better chance of finding materials on the ground that originated in the hills.”

Squyres added that the planned route is “very rich in scientific potential and represents a shared adventure unprecedented in human history. ... I don’t know how it is going to turn out.”

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration team used two different techniques to determine the location of the rover, said JPL’s Joe Giacca, a member of the navigation team. In one, they used the Mars Odyssey orbiter like a GPS satellite to triangulate the lander’s location to an area about 100 feet square. In the second approach, a team led by JPL’s Tim Parker used stereo images obtained by the rover’s panoramic camera to determine the distance and direction to various landmarks described in the plan. Finding these two sets of images, they were able to locate the lander precisely.

*Bush reverses on Iraq contracts for Canada**

Mike Allen & Kevin Sullivan
The Washington Post

MONTREUX, Mexico (LATWP) — President Bush reversed himself Tuesday and included a ban on bids by Canadian companies for the second round of contracts to rebuild Iraq.

Bush announced the concession after a breakfast meeting with the new Canadian prime minister, Paul Martin, at the start of the second day of the two-day Summit of the Americas, which brought together the leaders of the hemisphere’s 34 democracies.

The administration had said last month that Canada, France, Germany and Russia would be among the groups barred from seeking contracts because they had refused to join the U.S.-led coalition that invaded Iraq.

Bush did not explain his about-face, but said he had told Martin in a telephone conversation last month that “Canada would be given serious consideration for contracting.”

“They want Iraq to succeed, they want Iraq to be free,” Bush said. “They understand the stakes with having a free country in the midst of the Middle East. And Canada right now is eligible for subcontracting in the first round of construction projects.”

Martin, a former Canadian finance minister who was sworn in as prime minister on Dec. 12, said the outcome “actually shows that working together, you can arrive at a reasonable solution.”

Bush initially had defended the decision, saying that “friendly coalition allies raised real, valid concerns, and therefore the contracting is being deferred.”

The administration had infuriated several key allies by putting a Dec. 5 memo by Deputy Defense Secretary Paul D. Wolfowitz saying it was necessary to exclude holdouts from the coalition in “for the protection of the essential security interests of the United States” to limit the cooperation.

On other matters during a brief give-and-take with reporters, Bush was asked about his planned announcement in Washington Wednesday of a proposal for a research and development program that would take the United States back to the moon and then on to Mars.

“I’ll be saying that tomorrow,” Bush said. “I’m going to give a speech tomorrow at the first NASA headquarters about America’s approach to space exploration. I really don’t want to give you the details because I want you to pay attention to what I have to say. But I will tell you that ‘the spirit’ is going to be one of continued exploration, it’s to land — seeking new horizons and investing in a program that sets that meets that objective.”

Bush also said the United States and Canada plan to work closely to prevent the spread of weapons of mass destruction, and to work on finding theScores of inmates from hundreds of state and federal institutions are due to be released in the coming months, and the U.S. government is looking for ways to handle the problem.

*Virginia governor to decide sniper trial’s location*

Stephen Kleeh
The Baltimore Sun

As the governor of Virginia prepares to make a decision on where to hold the trial of John Allen Muhammad and Lee Boyd Malvo, he will want to consider the interests of the United States, the people of Virginia, and the general public.

The chief prosecutor in Montgomery, Ala., recently sent two strongly worded letters to the governor and legislative leaders who will decide where to hold the trial. The prosecutor in Brunswick County, Va., has scheduled an arraignment for the snipers for May 17.

Virginia is in the process of building a new courthouse, and the governor should consider the costs involved.

If you’re going to highlight why the trials should not occur in Maryland, certainly at the top of the list is that there is no evidence of the deaths in Virginia. The chief prosecutor in Montgomery, Ala., said the trial should be held in Maryland, but that there is no evidence of the deaths in Virginia. The chief prosecutor in Montgomery, Ala., said the trial should be held in Maryland, but that there is no evidence of the deaths in Virginia.

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**Our Word**

Not designating driver is hazardous to lives of others.

Time and time again we have pleaded, begged, harassed and cried out to you to think before you get behind the wheel after a night of drinking. Unfortunately, those words have fallen on deaf ears.

We have asked people not only about their own lives, but the lives of the innocent people they are putting in danger if they decide to drink and drive. And by the look of things, many believe they will not be the ones to cause an accident—so they drive anyway. What else can be said or done? It seems people care nothing about their own lives, so why should they care about the innocent people they are putting in danger by driving drunk?

December was Drunk Driving Awareness Month, and the DAILY EGYPTIAN ran a series highlighting several aspects of the issue. From survivors’ stories to the effect it has on communities, drinking and driving was front and center. After the week-long series, the question remains:

What can be done to get people to stop drinking and driving and understand they are not only hurting themselves, but their family, the victim and their friends and family and countless other innocent people who do not wear their fates determined by someone who is impaired?

This past holiday season saw a lot of tragedy. Several people were injured or killed in accidents caused by drunk drivers. One was Ayesha Judkins. She was a junior in journalism and a former employee of the DAILY EGYPTIAN. She was the newly elected vice-president of print for the SIU chapter of the National Association of Black Journalists and a staff member of the newly revived yearbook.

We hope people will realize they are not the only ones in danger when they get behind the wheel after a night of drinking.

Ayesha Judkins did not have control of her life that night; the drunk driver did. He made the decision that he would drive drunk and killed her by her family, friends and professors.

The children in the ad look rambunctious as they sit in the back of the car.

We hope people will realize they are not the only ones in danger when they get behind the wheel after a night of drinking.

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**Guest Columnist**

Some TV exposure Bush won’t like to receive

Leslee Skenera


The children in the ad look rambunctious as they sit on the school bus, awaiting a chance to campaign for classmates.

"If elected," was the first one. "I’ll hire weapons of mass destruction as a deterrent to another country."

"I’ll employ myself an environmentalist, then get clean as standards," promised another little guy. Our allies will go from expecting us to hate him, says a pint-size specifier, "I don’t care!"

By the final speech I was ready to vote.

Not for class president!

For this ad, it is one of 10 finalists in a contest called "Bush in 30 Seconds," sponsored by the liberal blog group MoveOn.org. (To see the ads, go to www.moveon.org/backlash.)

MoveOn invited anyone, amateur or professional, to create a 30-second ad telling "the truth about President Bush’s policies," says Eli Pariser, the contest’s coordinator.

Tuesday night, the winner will be announced. It will be a cool $7 million — in TV airtime. That’s enough to make sure every voter in 20 key swing states sees it at least once, Huluqip! All 15 of the ads are so powerful that it is no surprise the Republican National Committee is trying to divert attention from them to a trumped-up controversy about the contest itself: Can a 30-second ad in a TV spot?

From October to December, the contest attracted more than 1,500 entries. They were posted on MoveOn’s Web site, where viewers could vote on them and vote for their favorite. Though the ads were supposed to be screened for TV appropriate-ness, two slipped through — disgracefully — compared Bush to Hitler.

The RNC has not shot up about it. MoveOn removed the ads as soon as they were called to its attention and issued a statement condemning them. It is said to create a more effective networking. Now the only plans you can see the most offensive ad is ... on the RNC’s Web site.

We right that at the top. As if MoveOn and its members all think Bush is Hitler. RNC chairman Ed Gillespie called the MoveOn ads "the worse and most vile form of political hate speech."

Agreed. So let’s quit trying to exploit them, shall we? And move on to our creations. Let’s take a look at what the legitimate bash/hate/ads do say.

One shows a very nice man holding his clock radio, making a speech, saying, "I’ve been winning," says "If I got to score, pass, rebound, it doesn’t really matter to me as long as we’re winning."
American politics affects people outside borders

I love going overseas, but one of the best things about a long trip is the return flight. I discovered this a few years ago when I spent a year as an exchange student in France. With its famous Carnival and glorious beaches, Brazil is by far the most beautiful and lively place I have ever been.

But you had to talk to me during my first months in Brazil; I would not have mentioned that. During that time I was fed of either Brazilian nor their government, just as they were not fond of Americans or our government.

I as there when America was attacked on Sept. 11, 2001, and I sensed the obvious targets for the sympathy that immediately followed and the anger and strong dislike that I still have most of the Americans.

One thing I always discover when I go abroad is how much I love America and how lucky I am to be an American. Another thing is I am constantly reminded of is that the doings of our government affect far more people than those that live within our borders.

Our borders and how they appear every Wednesday. These views do not necessarily reflect those of The Daily Egyptian.

BY KRISTINA HERRINDEBOER

American politics affects people outside borders

It’s January, and to 95 percent of Americans, that means pretty much one thing — cooking up a diabetic diet! A senator warned of the nation’s childhood obesity crisis, and I’ve researched virtually every method out there. From alpinism to South Beach to the Atkins craze, only to return more confused than ever and damn hungry too.

This year, I simply give up. They won’t make up their minds anyway. Some experts say eat less. Some say eat more. Some just give up on eating. Period, and instead prescribe horrible diets that require the size of baby busters with every bit of the size of a football.

But others have their hair flying over the notion of allowing between meals, creating all of the mind-bending confusion we fear, gluttonous Americans will eat.

Although you can’t wallow around feeling sorry for yourself or feeling sorry for your friends, even as much as a parent. This is to show others that they are not alone. Notice, just because their own stupid perfect body fat is low enough to prevent occasional blinding.

I watched several cowwwers and relatives suffer through the latest low-calorie regime, and it was simple enough at first. Quit eating bread. Oh, I thought, I’ll try this lovely idea. It wasn’t so bad, and I started looking worse. I wasn’t so bad. The end through four weeks of Wonder-wax-wax before anyone pointed out that I was doing it all wrong and still eating most of the worst. Most dangerous and sexy foods in the national universe. So what reason did they have? Then I started to a-cane I hadn’t lost any weight after all. It’s amazing what tricks your mind will play on your perception of health and reality at a time. Even if you are a believer and man I was getting beautiful.

It’s a sacrifice I’ll have to make, living in this new, evolved modern world. When the world is what I want it, and for one, I am ready to have my cake and eat it too. Better love off the ice cream, though.

Our borders and how they appear every Wednesday. These views do not necessarily reflect those of The Daily Egyptian.

Matrix diet; you aren’t what you eat

Not just another pridie face

By Grace Priody

vukovic612@aol.com

January 14, 2004

FRIDAYS

The Daily Egyptian is published by the students of Southern Illinois University Carbondale. Publication offices are in the Communications Building, Room 135, at Southern Illinois University Carbondale, Carbondale, IL 62901. Water damage, feed losses, and other losses possibly exceed the value of any publications. Call subscribing at 725-9451.

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READER COMMENTARY

Letters and guest columns can be sent to voices@dailyEgyptian.com.

We reserve the right to not publish any letter or column.

Guest Columnist

Mastering the art of microwave meal-making

Jim Shea

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Law limits left-lane driving

Burke Wasson
bwasson@dailysunplan.com

Illinois motorists received a little help this year from the state’s legis­lature with preventing one of highway travel’s most annoying occurrences: drivers who block traffic by staying in the left lane.

Effective Jan. 1, it is illegal for anyone driving in Illinois on an interstate highway or on a four-lane full­access controlled freeway to drive in the left lane for more than half a mile when another vehicle is behind that person. In other words, if someone wants to pass you while you are driving in the left lane, you have to move to the right.

Although the law cracks down on left-lane driving that blocks the flow of traffic, it is not illegal to drive in the left lane for more than half a mile as long traffic is not being backed up.

An overwhelming number of Illinois General Assembly members also felt strongly about the bill in 2003, as the Illinois House approved the bill with a 99-13 vote, and the Illinois Senate voted in its favor 40-10.

Rep. Mike Bost, R-Murphysboro, who voted in favor of the bill’s passage in the House, said the bill should have been signed into law years ago.

“There are a tremendous amount of people out there who for some reason stay in the left lane,” Bost said. “I think it’s being very un­courteous to other drivers. Hopefully, we get it enforced as much as possible.”

New York ferry crash suits total $3 billion

Anthony M. DeStefano & Graham Rayman

NEW YORK — Families of those injured or killed in the Staten Island ferry disaster have filed claims for damages against the city totaling $3 billion, amid a federal criminal probe of the crash.

The city comptroller’s office said it received 160 notices of claim totaling $2.966 billion by Tuesday’s deadline, and at least five yet-to-be-told claims will push the total past $3 billion.

Jeff Simmons, an office spokes­man, said the amount represents a $1 billion increase since Dec. 1, when the city filed arguments in federal court to try to limit its financial exposure to $1.4 billion.

Under state law, relatives of those injured or killed in the Oct. 15 crash had 90 days to file a legal claim with the comptroller’s office. Filing notice is required before a lawsuit can begin.

Claimants also face a March 10 deadline to file a notice of intent to sue in connection with the city’s criminal probe of the crash.

Dec. 1 bid to limit its liability to the value of the vessel and a special insurance policy.

The federal case is expected to take about a year to resolve.

Mayer Michael Bloomberg, comptroller William C. Thompson Jr., and the city attorney Michael Cardozo have said the limitation papers were filed to protect the city’s legal and fis­cal interests. They’re sought to encourage injured parties and the survivors of those killed to seek legal settlements, a position that has angered lawyers representing some of the relatives.

Nearly three months after the ferry, which killed 11 people and injured dozens, Capt. Michael Ganas, Assistant Capt. Richard Smith and several ferry officials still face the possibility of criminal charges in the federal probe.

Under federal maritime statute, they could be culpable for the crash if it is proven that the 11 deaths were caused by their “misconduct, negligence or inattention to their duties.”
Future Business Leaders of America visit SIU campus

Monique Garcia
garciamd@dailyequian.com

For some students, public speaking is a thing to fear. They are not taken for fun, and eating something instead of a suit and tie is the norm. But for the hundreds of students who met in the Student Center last week, volunteering, learning, and taking accounting made the experience enjoyable.

More than 260 area high school students from Mount Vernon to Waterloo attended the 50th annual Southern Illinois Future Business Leaders of America Leadership Conference last Friday in Ballroom B of the Student Center.

The event, which was from 9 a.m. through 2 p.m., consisted of various written, oral, and computer-based competitions. It also consisted of a panel of experts, a direction in which future areas leaders were elected.

Heath Hase, a senior at Anna-Jonesboro Community High School and Southern Illinois FBLA President, said the goals of the organization go beyond increasing student knowledge of business operations. Participants are encouraged to develop aggressive business leadership and self-confidence and practice community service. Along with organization-related community service, participants are encouraged to find ways they can add to their communities outside FBLA.

Hase, who is also the first high school student to sit on the Union County Economic Board, said active participation within FBLA allows students to develop character, establish organizational goals and increase their social networks.

"In addition to working with local businesses for community service, FBLA has taught me to give speeches, run a campaign and has prepared me for a possible political position in the real world," Hase said. "It's long hours at times, but I enjoy it. I will never know how I will end up or who I will meet because of my involvement.

Jamie Smith, a sophomore at Mount Vernon High School, has been an active FBLA member for two years, participating in FBLA activities as well as in a chapter in her hometown in North Carolina.

Smith, who hopes to someday become a computer programmer or analyst, attended the conference to gain experience, particularly in computer applications, and socialize with other members.

"I wasn't prepared at all," Smith said. "Most of the things on the test I haven't even learned in class. It's definitely a learning experience. I had fun, regardless, but I probably won't compete again until I finish the school year and become more familiar with the material.

Mount Vernon High School student Jamie Smith participates in a computer applications exam during the fifth annual Future Business Leaders of America Leadership Conference Friday afternoon at the Student Center. Students from all over Southern Illinois competed in events such as public speaking and accounting.

According to James Tarr, faculty co-advisor for the SIU chapter of FBLA, area FBLA chapters act as feeder programs to the college-level program. He said because of the strong chapters in the area, active membership is minimal. Tarr said the organization is not final to those who wish to pursue a future in business and experience with FBLA is not mandatory for participation at the college level.

"We have a mix of participants, some from the FBLA chapters, some who have never been involved with the organization before. Most of our participants are involved with Scholls Volunteer Corps, so we make ourselves visible through community service programs," Tarr said.

Hase said attendance for the conference increased by 100 students, and Tarr said since 1993, when the SIU chapter of FBLA was re-established, membership has increased from one member to 20 current members.
University children’s choir placed on hiatus
Leah Williams
williams@dailyEgyptian.com

The Southern Illinois Children’s Choir will no longer be able to sing the sound of music, at least for the time being.

SIUC’s School of Music temporarily placed the children’s choir on hiatus to construct the renovated facilities to accommodate the newly formed Southern Illinois Children’s Choir Union for educational programs, as well as make needed improvements to the previous facilities.

The choir was an audition-based group that included students from first-grade to ninth-grade. Members came from all over the Carbondale region. Past SICC directors had previously been SIUC faculty members.

While the choir is on hiatus, they have been asked to participate in the Off Season Summer Program. The SICC director has plans to continue the choir and will resume when possible.

The Southern Illinois Children’s Choir has a long and successful history. Since its inception in 1990, the SICC has shared the stage with SIUC Opera and other renowned performers.

The choir's director, David Brown, said, 'We are confident we will resume when possible.'
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Flu shot becomes annual gamble for health officials

David Brown
The Washington Post

This winter marks only the second year that the flu vaccine has given to tens of millions of Americans does not specifically provide immunity against the latest mutating in the populations. In other years, the flu season's flu shot — ironically, one of the most sought-after injections in years — is a routine event, predictable and public, and, and how many people may pay for the failure with their lives, won't be known for some time. That's still a year away.

"The fact is that with influenza, people are always facing backwords. You don't know how you did until it's over," said Michael Decker, a physician and vice president of American Express, one of two companies that make flu shots used in the United States.

Influenza is widespread in 38 states, slightly a week ago. Influenza and pneumonia accounted for 7.8 percent of deaths in the U.S., according to the threshold for "epidemic" activity.

The story of this season's flu shot provides a telling look at the world of global public health. It is a world where chartsing in the case of influenza, evolving infections are detected with increasing speed, and where development is also a place where charting the best-response to them still takes some time and planning. Last year's outbreak of SARS, or severe acute respiratory syndrome, illustrates the world of high-stakes, white-knuckle decisions on which the health of tens of thousands of people may depend.

The flu shot is an annual gamble, even for: by government health offi-
cials, Fujimori said. The outcome hinges on myriad uncertainties, including biologic, industrial, and social factors. All bets must be placed amid months of uncertainty.

The FDA has, extremely strict regulations for flu vaccines, even if it made. It believes that something designed to prevent one illness might not be the right choice. In closing, D.M. Drosos: "To test approval for a dog cell vaccine, the government must consider the possibility that the flu virus might, even if it did, go public. An average of 20 flu shots is given each year in the U.S. and approximately 15 million people are vaccinated. This year, the number is expected to range from 10 million to 15 million.

The article goes on to describe the current state of flu vaccination and the challenges faced by public health officials in ensuring its success. It highlights the importance of accurate and timely data to inform public health decisions and the ongoing efforts to improve vaccine effectiveness. The article also touches on the broader implications of the flu season for public health and the economy.
Students may have seen them sitting in class taking notes or talking to each other in a small study-group channel with interactive features. They may look like regular students, but they’re not there for class credit or good grades, just to learn.

For more than five years, community members have been able to sit in on SUU classes for $25. The Community Listeners Program, which continues this spring, has become a vehicle for the University to spread its arms by allowing community members to receive education without requiring tests or homework, albeit without receiving credits.

“It is designed for persons not involved with the University,” said Flanora Rees, conference events coordinator at the Division of Continuing Education. “People may be interested in a particular class or even just doing it for personal reason.”

Community members pay a $25 fee, and with the instructor’s permission, are allowed to enjoy the same classroom experience as other students. They sit only on weekends when you’re in the home.”

Affirmative

Continued from page 1

The University of Maryland and University of Texas-Austin cases involving their affirmative action policies spurred SUU’s efforts to create a program. In 2000, the Supreme Court ruled Maryland’s Benjamin Banneker Scholarship program was unconstitutional, allowing only black students to enter its doors.

SUU officials have also been reviewing the policy to see how the University can give back to the communities or choosing to involve using a point system, for admissions students, allotting more points to black students to increase their chance of acceptance. In June 2003, the Supreme Court upheld the admission policy in the University’s law school, but declared it unconstitutional for undergraduates.

SUU’s policy was first mentioned in 1996 when former SUU President Ted Sanders asked Hallie to gather a committee to look at admission policies involving minorities, women and the disabled.

According to an item on the Board of Trustees’ December agenda, after reviewing the program, a committee reported in 1998 that the Board of Trustee’s policy on affirmative action should be removed because “when defined judicial decisions occur.”

“We are not sure to keep it [the policy] based on our own understanding of racial oppression in Southern Illinois,” Brown said.

Community members sit in on classes for $25.

The Community Listeners Program, which continues this spring, has become a vehicle for the University to spread its arms by allowing community members to receive education without requiring tests or homework, albeit without receiving credits.

“If you’re in the room, you can’t typically get in the classroom,” Amores said.

The court committee reported in 1998 that the policy has been controversial, even though some instructors have bypassed that particular rule. Amores said, a recent graduate of the Information Systems department, said the program is a bridge to other educators.

“It’s a great success for students, and it’s a great success for the University of Maryland,” Brown said.

Affirmative

Continued from page 1

In other words, learning continues after school and on the weekends when you’re in the home.”

Community Affirmative

Continued from page 1

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I'm back ... sort of

Well, I guess I'm back, in another sense. I'm starting a column and writing for a different newspaper, but I can't seem to escape the Daily Egyptian. I'll be at the St. Louis Post-Dispatch until mid-March, but I just can't bear to keep my big mouth shut. I've been detoxed from the inside pages, mainly because I won't be working for the DE for a while, but I assure you nothing will change from my old columns. Well, nothing except that I'm writing for St. Louis and will not be talking to many athletes.

So, while I can two hours away and immune to repercussions, I'll clear the air on a few things I felt about in the past semester. Please forgive me; don't usually lie on purpose, and these were not deliberate screw-ups.

I told you so I would not be writing in the DE for a while and when I told you I would miss SIU's basketball season. I just found out I would cover some of SIU's big games for the Post-Dispatch, so thankfully, I will be at Carbondale for the Bracket Buster and, hopefully, the Carbondale game.

I hope you have not stopped having Creighton simply because Kyle Korver is no longer around. Remember, for sports fans, hatred is healthy. As the emperor said in Return of the Jedi, "This isn't wandering in you now... give in to your anger."

When I am not busy, I want to see the SIU Arena at half-time as it was last year.

I find back in November when I said Creighton would finish sixth in the conference. I was right about SIU not finishing fifth and making a run for the title, but good. God, was I wrong about the Bluejays. Dana Brooks, freshman, Samir Tasman and the improving Bryan Taylor are all right — and I mean he's might as be good as or better than they were last year. I told you so.

Man Farmer is one hot of a coach.

Glassgate Over the break, Tantram pushed a window at a police, breaking it and bringing a one-game suspension upon himself. But do not crucify him right away.

Sources have told the DE it was blown out of proportion, and it's likely Tantram just reacted to the glass, not break it. A similar thing happened to my sister's boyfriend in high school, so it is possible. As long as this doesn't happen again, I don't care. His suspension didn't hurt SIU, they blew our Illinois State... The announcers on Fox Sports Net did not even seem to know about the incident, talking only about Tubby High GPA, so hell off to SIU public relations. This blown one has been closed.

Younger Korver Isn't sure Dave Davis deserves some credit, but Drake is looking awfully good, especially by the standards it has set in past few years. Klayton Korver and the Bulldogs have beaten Iowa State and Western Illinois, hung with Creighton and beat Bradley by a whopping 33 points. SIU beat them in the fourth quarter and the Salukis should beware when the Bulldogs come to Carbondale. Drake is no longer the pushover people once knew of him.

Older Korver He's not doing great, but Kyle Korver is not exactly laying an egg in the NBA, either Philadelphia is giving him about 10 minutes a game, and he's averaging just over four points per contest. But he is not impressive, but he is fourth in the NBA in three-point percentage. You always rely on Korver for two things — three-pointers and an ugly mug. I did not think it was possible, but 76ers average is even uglier than his Creighton mug.

Final and... Congratulations to women's basketball on defeating Evansville. Darci Young scoring 20 points when she's hot — she did, and the Salukis stunk up.

To the O'ops and company — I told you I would write one positive column for every confidence you were, so if you really want to torture me, win at least four more. That would make a full week of confessions for SIU women's basketball when the season ends.

GUEST COLUMN

From the Dawg Pound

Jeffrey Nichols, senior, administration of Justice Murphyboro

Chris Todd, senior, secondary education/history Murphyboro

Thanks to our lovely ticket office that partnered with a local radio station (name being withheld) for the UNC-Charlotte game, they were able to completely sell out the lower bowl of the SIU Arena. And at the same time, they managed to dismantle our student section.

What we showed up for the game an hour and a half early, we were not allowed to get tickets for the Dawg Pound — they had already sold it out.

All of the students, about 70 or so that were here for games during break, had to sit in section LL — the upper bowl. So thanks to the ticket office, when the Dawg Pound was needed the most, it was completely disbanded for the Charlotte game.

True hardcore fans had to watch as the Dawg Pound filled up with everything but rowdy college students, which has become the Dawg Pound's staple. Section 11 looked like all the other sections, filled with old people and little kids sitting down for the entire game. What a disgrace to the students! Do we not part of our university to sit in Section L?

Also, after entering the Arena, we spoke to a member of the Athletic Department. The response he gave us was: "You could have gotten your tickets earlier." Oh, yeah, that's a good idea. SIU had been closed all week for Christmas break. Had we not asked our tickets earlier, we would have been the only two students in the whole Dawg Pound surrounded by other people not even close to our age or rowdiness.

The halftime radio show on Magic 95.1 had a special on the home court winning streak, and the commentator said a lot of the credit goes to the rowdy student section.

Well, go figure the game that you get rid of us is the game that ends the winning streak — 31 games down the drain all to sell an extra 24 tickets to some old folks. We are giving the ticket office 100% of the blame for the loss on this one.

Oh yeah... and we almost punched out some moron fan before the Charlotte game who was cussing and a shoe top with "Welcome to the Jungle" written on it.

He was walking around attempting to educe some of us on Saluki basketball. We had never seen this guy before.

Go sit, if you are reading, we know more than you, so shut your mouth.

Also, if you are going to make a sign, at least put more than three minutes of work into it, and try to make the writing so you can see it from more than three feet away.

Even with "telling us and hanging the students to dry" months that the ticket office adopted at the end of break, we still managed to get a pretty good student section for the Wichita State game.

Bringing us to our next point, how many times do we have to say this — for the love of God, wear some sort of SIU apparel. Whether it be maroon, white, gray, black or whatever else, at least represent the University when you sit in the Dawg Pound. We are tired of students wearing crap clothes with "things that deals with SIU or the Dawg Pound are not the Dawg Pound.

Finally, we would like to claim our new "divine player... Nothing but Lamar Owen. Man, they are a marine out there.

Our shows out to Larini for his hard work during games.

Lamar has our love — the ticket office, however, does not. That is all for this time.

SIU, do you have a sports question you'd like to see answered? Sorry, we cannot give out Joel Samburg's phone number, but we can help answer questions pertaining to schedules, recruiting, etc. If you have a burning question, drop the Daily Egyptian Sports Desk an e-mail at sports@dailyEgyptian.com. We will do our damnedest to answer any question. We will run the Q & As every Wednesday in Saluki Sportsview.
Burton has not scored in double figures in the past five games, but Wagner is fresh off a career-high 24-point scoring binge Sunday in a win against Bradley.

That ability for Callins' supporting cast to go off on any given night is a cause for concern for the Salukis.

"If you get a lot of good shooters on your team and they're on that night, it can get scary," Turner said.

"If they catch fire, then those points... . . . . . .

That ability for Cuffie's supporting players is something that had been a focal point when the Salukis faced Creighton in the 2000-2001 season.

"We can't let Creighton feel the same way if they hear about [Evansville] beating us," Turner said.

"They'll do whatever is necessary for us to be successful as a program and that's what you have to love about them," he said.

"If you bring in and with that's what you have here, we can fill the void from those points," Price-Smith said.

"We got the majority of our team back and we have a lot more depth than we did last year. So we're looking for a good indoor and outdoor season," he said.

The Salukis currently have a 20-game home winning streak against MVC opponents.

"That is the reason we are here and that's what you have here, we can fill the void from those points," Price-Smith said.

McKee added that his team has a lot of depth and will compete in all three finishes, four of which came from the shooting events.

Turner believes the team will perform well and turn a lot of heads this season.

"I think we'll be a top team in our conference. Everyone is training really hard. Everyone is doing really well at practice. I'm very, very happy. I'm very excited," Turner said.

The Salukis will host the Saluki booster this weekend, a two day event at the Recreation Center.

In December's East Start Invite, the first indoor meet of the season, the Salukis claimed thirteen top-three finishes, four of which came from the shooting events.

The Salukis received strong performances from Dunbar, senior Danielle Lavecza, junior Venisha Williams, freshmen April Heath and junior Inna Turevsky.

Dunbar believes the team will perform well and turn a lot of heads this season.

"I think we will come out on top of the conference," Dunbar said.

"I think we'll surprise a lot of people in our conference. Everyone is training really hard. Everyone is doing really well at practice. I'm very, very happy. I'm very excited," Turner said.

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Carolina crashes playoff party

you teach your kids, when you do something wrong, you’ve got to learn from it. So that’s what I did and, now and it’s paying off for us.

The Panthers have several outstanding players, including the star status of Philadelphia’s Donovan McNabb, New England’s Tom Brady, and Marvin Harrison of Indianapolis. Just as the Pacers did two years ago, the Panthers have built their team around a small group of known players.

When running back Stephen Davis went down with a quadriceps injury Saturday at St. Louis, former high school teammate and current Panthers’ fullback Curley Moses stepped in and picked up the slack. It was his former teammate, former Panthers’ guard Freeman McDaniel Jr., who made critical one-handed interception in the clutch. And the quarterback combination of John Delhomme and Smith is only starting to make a dent in the national consciousness.

With Tucker, Jenkins, Julius Peppers and Breece Butler, the Panthers have achieved what they were aiming for in acquiring White, Smith, Swain and Gilbert. The team has assembled the best defensive line in football.

The Panthers really focused on one side of the ball and tried to become a top team in their front seven,” said new Atlanta General Manager Rick McKay, who had the same role with Tampa Bay this season when the Buccaneers made the Super Bowl. “They try to dominate teams that way. And on the other side of the ball, it’s important to make four players on your defense, wear you down — To me it’s a pretty simple formula. They’re going to try to wear you down and just wear you down on offense.

Specificity sounds good to DeNicosia. "Eight is a very straightforward, low-key approach to stuff you can get by with."

"If you’re looking at this or if there’s only four teams left," he said, "you haven’t changed since the first week, so I’m still thinking there’s a full slate of games this weekend. The stakes are a little bigger, but you’ve got to be the same guy.

When you’re creating a party.

Desamours is starting to get the point

Women’s Basketball

Adam Seeholing

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**Saluki Insider**

**SPORTS CALENDAR**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Wednesday | Basketball: Creighton @ Northern Illinois
            | Swimming: No event

**ON THE AIR TONIGHT**

- **College Basketball**
  - 6 p.m.: Cincinnati @ Marquette - ESPN
  - 8 p.m.: North Carolina @ Maryland - ESPN

- **Pro Basketball**
  - 7 p.m.: Atlanta @ Indiana - Fox Sports Midwest
  - 8 p.m.: Philadelphia @ Dallas - ESPN

**MVC STANDINGS**

### Men's Basketball

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<thead>
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### Women's Basketball

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**MVC STANDINGS**

### Women's Basketball

- **Scoring**
  - Player, School: PPG
  - Schneiderman, UNI: 7.4
  - Martin, SMS: 7.2
  - Deren, Creighton: 7.1
  - Gruber, USD: 7.1
  - Sommerville, Bradley: 6.9

### Assists

- Player, School: RPG
  - Helmers, Wichita St: 5.5
  - Young, Bradley: 4.3
  - Jackson, Creighton: 3.9
  - Andrews, SMS: 3.9

**MVC STANDINGS**

### Men's Leaders

- **Scoring**
  - Player, School: PPG
  - Gilbert, Bradley: 20.2
  - Brooks, S. Illinois: 18.7
  - Moss, Illinois St: 17.2
  - Gilgoff, Bradley: 16.8
  - Arnold, Illinois St: 15.4
  - Sommerville, Bradley: 15.4

### Rebounding

- Player, School: RPG
  - Schneiderman, UNI: 7.4
  - Martin, SMS: 7.2
  - Deren, Creighton: 7.1
  - Gruber, UNI: 7.1
  - Sommerville, Bradley: 6.3

**MVC STANDINGS**

### Women's Leaders

- **Scoring**
  - Player, School: PPG
  - Damrow, Illinois St: 20.5
  - Holloway, Illinois St: 19.5
  - Gray, Evansville: 17.6
  - Foster, UNI: 12.7
  - Rhodes, Illinois St: 15.3

- **Rebounding**
  - Player, School: RPG
  - Damrow, Illinois St: 12.2
  - Holloway, Illinois St: 10.6
  - Gray, Evansville: 9.7
  - Newburger, S. Illinois: 8.6
  - Williams, Bradley: 8.3

### Assists

- Player, School: RPG
  - Damrow, Illinois St: 9.5
  - Holloway, Illinois St: 9.3
  - Evans, Illinois St: 8.3
  - Gray, Evansville: 7.3
  - Berry, UNI: 4.2
Salukis set for MVC championship run

Women's track looks to improve last year's second-place finish

Drew Stevens
drewstevens@salvepblion.com

The SIU women's track and field team won a combined seven individual titles and nine individual runner-up finishes at last year's indoor and outdoor conference meets.

Despite that successful finish, this season should leave the previous campaign in the dust. Last year, the Salukis finished second in the indoor pre-championship coaches yet still after being picked to fifth to begin the season. Having lost four-year star and All-American Lauren Gaffney, the Salukis return as a team with mixed experience and youth led by senior Keri Dunbar and juniors Roderick and junior Katelyn Toussaint.

Lawrence Johnson, assistant women's track and field coach, said he expects the Salukis to duplicate last season's success or better.

"We really expect big things out of [Dunbar and Toussaint]," Johnson said.

"They should step to the forefront this year in all the sprinting and help us out as it relates to the Missouri Valley Conference championship," Johnson added.

Johnson also expects significant contributions from freshman Leslii Murillo in the hurdles, junior sprinter Whitney Coflin and junior Katie Fisher in the high jump.

Dunbar, a 2004 NCAA national qualifier, finished with MVC-led times in the 55-meter dash and 55-meter hurdles at the East Coast Invite in December and was named MVC female track Athlete of the Week.

"It was really important for me, coming into my last year, and ending out, my junior year," Dunbar said.

"I did really well. It was important for me to keep what I had from last year and so I'm working really hard in the practice." Toussaint, a junior from Beloit, Toledo, set the school record in the 800-meter sprint as a freshman.

Dunbar's and Toussaint's competitiveness and team-first attitude make them special athletes — a factor their peers hope will help the team grow more than the lofty modifier of awards earned last season.

"Neither one of them likes to lose," Johnson said.

"They prepare really hard and they love to win and he successful. They're really team players, and you don't find that a lot in track and field."

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