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Teen hit by train transported to St. Louis, condition improves

LAUREN LEONE
Daily Egyptian

A 19-year-old male was struck by a moving train Saturday in Carbondale around 2:50 a.m. while attempting to jump onto the train, according to a Carbondale police report.

Michael Assesa, of Frankfurt,

was first brought to Memorial Hospital of Carbondale but was later taken to St. Louis with life-threatening injuries.

He is not a SIUC student.

Assesa's condition has improved and he is now speaking, said the Rev. Robert Grey, Carbondale Police Department's chaplain. The 19-year-old lost his lower right leg

in the incident, the Rev. Grey told KFVS-12 Sunday.

Assesa attempted to jump onto the moving train, which was headed northbound on the railroad tracks, according to the Carbondale police.

A message about the incident was posted around 2 p.m. Saturday on Mayor Joel Fritzler's "Carbondale

for Joel Fritzler" Facebook page, stating the male had a blood alcohol content of .273, but police say they are waiting on results of the victim's blood alcohol content to determine if he was intoxicated at the time of the incident.

The message, which is no longer posted on the page, stated: "First Polar Bear casualty took place

this (Saturday) morning just after the bars closed when a 19 year old male with a .273 BAC tried to jump onto a freight train. Human bones between metal train wheels and metal train tracks usually doesn't end well. Was it worth it?"

The victim continues to be provided medical treatment.

New program to replace Blackboard next fall semester

Administration said convenience, necessity is behind system switch

TIFFANY BLANCHETTE
Daily Egyptian

SIU will be switching out Blackboard by fall 2012 for a new learning management system called Desire2Learn, intended to modernize the way instructors and students connect.

Desire2Learn is a more modern system that includes components for in-house and online classes, said JP Dunn, the Learning Management System administrator for the Center for Teaching Excellence.

The Blackboard product used by SIU is in the process of being discontinued, he said. After looking at the needs of the university, he said Desire2Learn was the product that best suited those needs.

Dunn said one of the biggest changes is that Desire2Learn is connected to the student information system, which controls student enrollment and keeps the new LMS system up to date.

"Within two minutes of a student enrolling in a course, they're in the system and the course displays on their page," he said.

Courses are also automatically added on Desire2Learn, unlike in Blackboard, which required the instructors to manually add their courses, Dunn said. The only thing instructors will have to do with Desire2Learn is turn on the course with three mouse clicks, he said.

Convenience could be the catalyst in making the switch from old technology to new.

"Several of the things that I think students will find most

useful is that 90 percent of (Desire2Learn) right now is mobile compatible," Dunn said.

Dunn said this means any mobile device can log into the courses and perform most of the functions. He said the rest of the site should catch up by the fall semester when the total transition is taking place.

Desire2Learn has a cleaner interface than Blackboard and provides a mechanism for distributing content and the advantage of password-protecting it to protect copyright and intellectual property rights, Dunn said.

It allows for the control of the flow of content, provides testing and surveys, and has discussion board and chat features, among many others, he said.

Dunn said some features can be used to easily keep students up to date with course materials while others can aid an instructor in analyzing overall student performance.

Professor of paralegal studies Timothy Ting said, "I enjoy using the polling feature and examining the statistics from student submissions. (Desire2Learn) is easier to use than Blackboard with most of its applications."

Aside from ease-of-use, Desire2Learn appears to deliver a few more benefits than Blackboard.

"So far, it has more tools than Blackboard," said Austin Mathis, a senior from Du Quoin studying paralegal studies. "It also seems more user-friendly."

Desire2Learn also has a few advanced features for the technologically inclined.

Please see PROGRAM | 3



CHRIS ZOELLER | DAILY EGYPTIAN

Creekside Apartments residents crowd a third-story balcony Saturday to drop a water heater on the pavement during Carbondale's annual Polar Bear celebration. Residents also threw beer bottles and several TVs off of the balcony. | Please see page 7 for more on Polar Bear.

Forest Service considers land proposal

SHARON WITTKE
Daily Egyptian

A proposed land swap between Peabody Energy and the Shawnee National Forest would give the Forest Service 830 acres of prime wildlife habitat and the energy company land that could be strip mined.

According to the proposal, Peabody would give two parcels of land in Pope County and one in Jackson County to the Forest Service in exchange for 384 acres in Gallatin County.

Land management experts from the Forest Service, citizens who oppose strip mining and members from local environmental organizations discussed the proposed swap during an open house Wednesday night at the park headquarters in Harrisburg.

Ron Scott, Shawnee National Forest lands program manager, said the purpose of the open house was to provide information about the proposed land swap and to invite public comments.

Scott said the National Forest Service is in the preliminary stages of an environmental assessment and he expected to hear strong opinions about the proposed land swap

during the remainder of the month. The public scoping period, or the time during which public comments are accepted, ends Tuesday.

Scott said Peabody approached Shawnee National Forest with the proposal.

He said the land Peabody is offering would be valuable to the Forest Service.

The Jackson County parcel of land lies just north of the Fountain Bluff region of the Shawnee National Forest and is bordered on the west by the Mississippi River. It is an ecologically important bottomland that would be good for wildlife habitat, Scott said.

Meg Gallagher, Peabody's director of corporate communications, said she thought the proposed swap would benefit the Forest Service and the local community.

"The exchange would provide two acres of land contiguous to U.S. Forest Service properties in exchange for every one acre that would be received," she said.

Gallagher said it was too premature to speculate about Peabody's possible use of the property it receive in the swap, but the company routinely evaluates properties for development potential

based on market conditions, geology and transportation considerations. Selling the property to another company for a different use was a possibility, she said.

All the parcels of land Peabody is offering to trade are very desirable, said Sam Stearns, a Stonefort resident and public education coordinator for Friends of Bell Smith Springs, a nonprofit citizens' group that promotes natural conservation.

He said one of the Pope County parcels is a jewel because Lusk Creek runs through it. According to the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, rare plant species such as the arching dewberry and the superb lily, and many fern and clubmoss species grow near the creek.

"It would be a valuable asset as a public property," he said.

Stearns said after carefully weighing all the issues, he'd recommend against the swap. If the proposed swap was with a logging company, he said he might have supported it.

"If it [the Gallatin County land] were used for logging, I could hold my nose and go along with the swap," he said.

Please see PROPOSAL | 3

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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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PROGRAM

CONTINUED FROM 1

The portfolio feature allows students to save documents and projects into a special area and give presentations without needing a storage device such as a flash drive, Dunn said. It can be useful in the future for gaining employment or getting into a graduate school because students can show the work they've done while at SIU, he said.

In an effort to make the switch an easy one for instructors and students, the Center for Teaching Excellence is offering weekly training sessions and will possibly be visiting classes to inform students, Dunn said. They have also set up a link for instructors to request that their Blackboard content be transferred, he said.

Desire2Learn will use the same usernames and passwords required for Blackboard access.

Many instructors also have separate websites they use for class-related tasks that require another username and password.

"I would like to see everything on one system," Dunn said. "I think that would be easiest for students, as well as for faculty, to not have multiple systems to have to worry about."

PROPOSAL

CONTINUED FROM 1

Stearns said while harvesting timber adversely affects wildlife habitat, the damage is repairable through reforestation, or tree-planting projects.

Stearns said he couldn't support any initiatives that would lead to more strip mining in the region.

"There are concerns about the coal cycle from start to finish, but strip mining goes even beyond that. After an area has been strip mined, it can never be geologically or biologically restored to its natural state," he said.

Shawnee Group Sierra Club Chairman Barbara McKasson said her organization opposed the land swap because a nesting colony of Indiana bats was discovered during a biological survey of the government-owned land last summer. The Indiana bat is listed as an endangered species.

"There are also rare bottomland hardwood trees on that property, like cherry bark oak, that are huge, and shouldn't be cut down," she said.

MaKasson said the Forest Service is supposed to give top priority to preserving land that is habitat to endangered species.

"The Forest Service should drop the swap in Gallatin County," she said.

The Indiana bat may not be the only federally protected animal on



JESSICA TEZAK | DAILY EGYPTIAN

A natural gas pipeline spans over the Mississippi River in Grand Tower. Land along the river near Fountain Bluff, approximately 12 miles north of Grand Tower, is one of the parcels of land the Forest Service would receive if the proposed land swap with Peabody Energy is approved.

the Gallatin County parcel of land.

Herpetologist Steve Karsen studied a large map of the Shawnee National Forest during the open house and said he was contracted by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources to determine if the copperbelly water snake, which is listed as a threatened species, dwells on the Gallatin County parcel of land.

He said depending on the outcome of his research, the snake's presence could be a factor in the proposed land swap.

Richard Blume-Weaver, a Shawnee National Forest planning and resources staff officer, said his agency would be evaluating the public's comments on federally protected species as well as other concerns during the environmental

phase, which will be conducted over the next few months.

He said the findings from the environmental assessment phase will be released in a document made available to the public, possibly by next summer.

Sharon Wittke can be reached at swittke@dailyegyptian.com or 536-3311 ext. 266.

Officers checking robbery find 5 dead in Ala. home

JAY REEVES
Associated Press

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — Police found five people dead inside a Birmingham home when they arrived early Sunday morning to investigate a possible robbery, authorities said.

Birmingham Police Sgt. Johnny Williams said officers

arrived at the house around 3:30 a.m. Sunday after getting a call that a robbery was in progress and soon discovered the five victims. He told reporters that investigators are interviewing potential witnesses but so far have made no arrests.

"Someone out there knows more information," said Williams. "We know someone is going to do

the right thing."

The victims were not immediately identified, nor was the cause of death released. Birmingham authorities launched a homicide investigation and police believe more than one person was involved in the crime.

"It obviously appears to us this horrific crime was not a random act of violence," said Birmingham

Police Chief A.C. Roper.

The two-bedroom house, which is made partly of cinderblocks, was built along a busy street in west Birmingham. Vacant homes sit beside homes where some residents have lived for years. One is Beatrice Houston, who lives across the street from the home.

Houston, who is 64, said she believes a woman, her son and her

brother have lived in the house for the last year or so. She said she didn't know the neighbors' names, but started worrying when she saw groups of young men hanging around the house at odd hours.

Still, she said, her neighbors didn't cause many disturbances.

"I never had any problem with them," she said. "They were cordial. I just kept to myself."

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AWAKEN YOUR FAITH

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Green movement on campus to award \$29K

Student fee to be used for seven green projects around university

LAUREN GROPPI
Daily Egyptian

The university's Sustainability Council announced this month it will award nearly \$29,000 to seven green projects.

The seven projects in the most recent cycle of funding range from climate neutrality, a recycled art exhibition, video field lighting conversion and an Earth Day celebration.

The funding came from the \$10-a-semester green fund student fee that was student-initiated in 2009. After approval from the SIU Board of Trustees, the fees have been used to support renewable energy, energy efficiency and sustainability projects.

In the past, the council has funded projects such as restoring Thompson Woods and providing research, solar energy and recycling bins on campus.

Susannah Bunny LeBaron, chair of the green fund committee, said the council typically gets proposals which would advance sustainability at SIU, reduce the university's impact on the environment and have education outreach and research components.

She said the council of

students, faculty and staff, as well as three subcommittees, follows the definition of sustainability according to the Association of University Leaders for a Sustainable Future.

"Sustainability implies that the critical activities of a higher education institution are ecologically sound, socially just and economically viable, and that they will continue to be so for future generations," the definition states.

She said the council uses the definition as an operating guide.

"The council aims to keep higher institutions economically sound, socially just and economically viable," LeBaron said.

LeBaron said there are three subcommittees of the sustainability group: the curriculum committee, the assessment and planning committee, and the green fund committee.

Michael Jakubowski, vice president of Project Eco-Dawgs, a sustainability group at SIU, said the Sustainability Council and other green groups on campus are important and beneficial.

"To me, going green means knowing your place on this Earth," he said. "We should do as much as possible to reduce our footprint as a species. I'm afraid



NATHAN HOEFERT | DAILY EGYPTIAN

Jeff Shadowens, left, and Justin Futrell sort through recycled papers Saturday at the Southern Recycling Center in Carbondale. Tasis Karayiannis, the center's manager, said the conveyer belt takes the paper to be compressed into a 1,400-pound bale and sold.

that the consequences for living as unsustainably as society does won't be felt until it's too late. We depend on this planet for everything; the least we could do in return is respect it."

LeBaron said three of the five green fund committee members are students.

William Sutphin, a graduate student from Bartlett studying geography, said the sustainability council is very important and encourages students to be a part of it.

"By students getting involved with the sustainability council and other green projects, it helps our school become a better research school," he said. "Society is taking a green turn and studies have shown that schools that are environmentally involved draw in more students."

Sutphin said green projects on campus are a student-led initiative, which shows the university that students want the campus to be sustainable.

"The sustainability council projects provide a great opportunity for students to initiate and participate in research and create their vision of sustainability at SIU," LeBaron said.

The Sustainability Council is currently accepting applications for green project proposals for the spring.

Lauren Groppi may be reached at lgroppi@dailyegyptian.com or 536-3311 ext 259.

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412 W. Oak
501 S. University
503 S. University
606 S. University
608 N. Oakland A, B

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610 S. University

Ten Bedroom

610 S. University

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311 W. Elm*
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400 W. Oak
501 S. University
503 S. University
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OPINION

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear chancellor: Keep the emails coming

DEAR EDITOR:

I agree with Szczepanik's letter on Friday: Students should be treated like adults. However, what the letter fails to contextualize is that this sentiment is usually expressed until somebody gets hurt.

Specifically, I take issue with the line, "Whether you [Cheng] choose to admit it or not, those students referenced in your letter who received citations or required medical care are fully responsible for their own actions."

Students being responsible for their actions is a great theory, yet reality indicates this statement is only partially correct. In practice, students and universities are held responsible for students' actions.

A Google search of "parents sue campus" turns up hundreds of cases documenting universities being sued for negligence and wrongful death. Stories surrounding drinking include students who sustained injury or death after a night of partying.

There is a line when it comes to hazing; however, if we are going to argue adulthood, then shouldn't students be responsible for their voluntary involvement in an organization that partakes in

dangerous drinking rituals? There are also cases involving drunken students who have fallen off balconies or jumped out of windows.

Cheng is in a "damned if you do, damned if you don't" situation. Beyond safety, Cheng's email has to demonstrate how the university warned students about the dangers of alcohol. After all, many lawsuits claim that universities should have been more proactive. Loosely translated: "The university should have sent more emails, had more police presence, and required more alcohol education classes."

Parents have tried holding universities responsible for students' personal choices involving drug use, eating disorders and suicides. We say we want universities out of our personal lives, but litigate if they aren't proactive?

This leads to a philosophical question about education. If the responsibility of a university is to educate, why do we fund any department outside the classroom?

The short answer is that most students benefit when the university takes an interest in personal needs. Think of the university's Wellness Center, which provides counseling, or any resource center addressing the needs of a certain population.

We have asked universities to be proactive in addressing our personal lives and now we're writing letters to the chancellor because she's too involved?

Frankly, I don't care how much students drink, nor do I wish to police their choices after they drink. What I take issue with is when a person engages in risky behavior and the rest of us pay the price. The money for litigation does not come from the chancellor. It comes from us through taxes, tuition and fees. Even when a case is dismissed there are still hundreds of thousands of dollars poured into lawyers and court fees.

I understand the frustration of Szczepanik's letter. However, I disagree with the target of that frustration. We should be frustrated with a system when it says "stay out of students' personal lives" and then claims "university negligence" when students get hurt because of personal choices made by them or by people who harmed them. Until the system makes up its mind, Chancellor Cheng, keep the emails coming.

Joshua Phillips
graduate student
from Normal
in speech communication

E-phobia makes e-textbooks impractical at SIU

The fact that entering a new homework due date in my smart phone calendar has to be a covert operation is just dumbfounding.

DEAR EDITOR:

Gadgets have been expressly banned in enough SIU classes that an implicit ban exists across the board. I've had several e-textbooks but I wouldn't dare use them in an SIU classroom.

To access course materials and take notes on a laptop could be a leap in efficiency for many students. Sadly, it would be a spectacle in most SIU classrooms. Even today, a professor interrupted lecture time to tell students to put away their laptops.

While classrooms everywhere are filled with laptops and tablets — some schools such as Northern Michigan State even issue them to all incoming students — the SIU academic culture simply doesn't allow for modern technology.

I'd bet there are students here who have never sat in a classroom without a laptop in front of them. To limit a present-day student's learning tools to a pencil and notebook to keep them

from texting or playing Minesweeper during class is like limiting an earlier generation's tools to a stone tablet and chisel to keep them from making paper airplanes, spitballs and shivs.

The key differences are texting and Minesweeper don't disrupt class, and paper and pencil, despite their potential for malice, have never been banned from a classroom.

Because of the pervasive anti-technology mindset at SIU, electronic versions of textbooks are rendered practically useless to an SIU student. Who will take the risk of buying a required textbook in a form that is going to be banned from class?

The fact that entering a new homework due date in my smart phone calendar has to be a covert operation is just dumbfounding. In addition to banning learning tools from the classroom, SIU also shuns mobile technology outside the classroom. SIUC is one of few institutions whose online coursework is not accessible via a mobile device. SIUE has that. Even the nearby community colleges have that.

To access SIU's wireless network from a laptop or mobile device tends to be an ordeal. To plug any USB drive into a Morris Library computer to save a document elicits a screen-filling onslaught of error messages.

The "waitlist" option on SalukiNet is visible, but non-functional. The student ID keycard readers have been removed from the entrances they once secured and replaced with human bouncers. There was a very temporary SIU Mobile iPhone app. It is no longer available and served no function when it was.

The point here is that I believe the university doesn't understand technology. I believe its fear stems from its ignorance. Invariably, that has proven to be a very ugly and ultimately shameful way of thinking.

Instead of hiding the toolbox from the kids so they don't damage anything, the university should encourage the use of available tools so that its students have every opportunity to build something worthwhile. Embracing the implication that studying an e-book rather than a textbook is too complicated or distracting for students at a university level is insulting at best.

The university could benefit all around by fostering a more enlightened culture.

Travis Donoho
senior from Luka
studying pre-physician
assistant studies

GUEST COLUMN

Our leaders, not Colbert, made the mockery

DICK POLMAN
Philadelphia Inquirer

Mark Twain once remarked, "Humor is the great thing, the saving thing. The minute it crops up, all our irritations and resentments slip away, and a sunny spirit takes their place." No dose of humor could leave us feeling sunny about a slimy Republican campaign that's awash in unprecedented cash, thanks to a U.S. Supreme Court ruling that has rendered the process farcical.

But Twain rightfully suggests it's mentally healthy to laugh at life's idiocies, that humor can tamp down irritations if we view them through the prism of farce. Which is why Stephen Colbert, a latter-day Twain and mock presidential candidate, is so valuable these days.

Absurdism may be the only effective way to expose the absurdities of campaign finance laws. The laws have become so ludicrous that they require a satirist to unpack them in the pursuit of truth (or, as he calls it, "truthiness"). Colbert owes the existence of his Super PAC — which is actually not his; it's called The Definitely Not Coordinated with Stephen Colbert Super PAC — to the 2010 high court decision that licensed the flood of endless (and often anonymous) big money into presidential campaigns. The court said the money could be pumped unchecked into "independent" groups — Super PACs — as long as they don't coordinate with candidates.

The court insisted that Super PAC donations "do not give rise to corruption, or the appearance of corruption." How naive. For months, the airwaves in early primary states have been corrupted by tens of millions of dollars worth of lies, in 30-second salvos, by groups such as Restore Our Future (a pro-Romney PAC) and Winning Our Future (a pro-Gingrich PAC). Winning is airing a Florida ad calling Romney "the inventor of government-run health care," which is nuts, because the Massachusetts plan is not government-run. Winning is run by close Gingrich allies, just as Restore is run by close Romney allies.

They don't need to "coordinate," because they know what the candidates want. Indeed, Gingrich's candidacy might well be on fumes today if not for Winning. And Winning would be on fumes if not for one Vegas mogul (Newt pal Sheldon Adelson) who's racking up record profits from his Macao casino. The satire writes itself. Colbert wants to obey the law. He originally christened his PAC with the name Americans for a Better Tomorrow, Tomorrow, but after receiving deadpan on-air advice from

a real federal elections expert, attorney Trevor Potter, he changed the PAC name and brought his buddy John Stewart to run it and non-coordinate it.

After the ceremonial transfer, Stewart's group actually aired an ad in South Carolina, going negative on Romney in the new Super PAC tradition. To wit: Since Romney believes corporations are people, and since Bain Capital has killed corporations, doesn't that make Romney a serial killer? When Colbert was questioned on ABC News about the ad, he deadpanned: "I don't want any untrue ads on the air that could in any way be traced to me. I don't know if Mitt Romney is a serial killer. That's a question he's going to have to answer."

Satirists start with a nucleus of truth and build on it. But Colbert, on ABC News, barely needed to exaggerate. His first sentence captured the gist of the current shell game. And the latter two sentences bring to mind a true story about Lyndon B. Johnson running for office in Texas. He told an aide to spread the rumor that his opponent enjoyed carnal relations with animals.

The aide said the charge wasn't true. LBJ said, "I know that. But let's make the SOB deny it." Colbert is fortunate to be plying his craft in a culture soaked in postmodern irony, but he's part of a tradition that dates back at least to Jonathan Swift. Three centuries ago, Swift was lauded and reviled in England as a satirical enfant terrible, particularly when he skewered British policy toward Ireland. Mimicking the earnest political tracts of his era, Swift in 1729 offered his "modest proposal" that the Irish solve their hunger and poverty by eating their own children. Colbert's deadpan delivery is reminiscent of Swift's deadpan prose: "I have been assured by a very knowing American of my acquaintance in London that a young, healthy child, well-nursed, is, at a year old, a most delicious, nourishing, and wholesome food, whether stewed, roasted, baked, or boiled." Many Brits didn't get the joke, and not all Americans appreciate Colbert.

Leslie Marshall, a radio talk-show host, complained the other day that Colbert is "choosing to make a mockery of both our voting process and the seriousness of an individual running for office. ... The matter of running this country, keeping us safe, working to create jobs, health care, etc., is no laughing matter."

Actually, our leaders have long made a mockery of the process without any help from Colbert. His performance art is welcome proof that humor can spotlight absurdity, on the bumpy road to truthiness.

Pulse

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Local bands perform, share aspirations at Hangar 9



ISAAC SMITH | DAILY EGYPTIAN

Troubadour Dali plays a set Saturday at Hangar 9. The St. Louis-based band shared the stage with local acts The Heat Tape and Owls and Crows.

ANTHONY PICKENS Daily Egyptian

The lights were dimmed, the music was loud and the crowd was as eager as the three bands that performed Saturday night at Hangar 9.

The Heat Tape, Owls and Crows and Troubadour Dali played for an audience that grew more packed as the night went on.

The evening belonged to The Heat Tape and Owls and Crows, two of the area's bands that have been playing for a little more than a year.

Owls and Crows began the show with their thunderous drone rock, which, along with the stage persona of singer and guitarist Clay Bonifacius, got the crowd animated. By the end of their set, the floor was packed with people.

Troubadour Dali, a St. Louis-area band, then took the stage for an ever-expanding crowd with their comparatively light alternative rock.

The night ended with The Heat Tape wowing the audience with its steady shoegaze vibe that switched to a more up-beat tempo as they closed things out on their final song.

Most of the Owls and Crows band members are from the Murphysboro area, while members of The Heat Tape are from Makanda. Though the bands are both from southern Illinois, their sound vary.

Brett Hunter, singer and guitarist for The Heat Tape, said the band Jesus and Mary Chain influences their music. He said his band normally plays at PK's and a few house parties in town.

"We're a garage punk band," Hunter said. "Our goals are to have a great time and play music."

Jordan Lopez, a senior from Sterling majoring in cinema and photography, said he supports all the local bands and enjoys The Heat Tape and Owls and Crows. He's a friend of Ben Bleyer from The Heat Tape, he said, and Owls and Crows have played in his basement.

Nick Shuman, booker at

Hangar 9, said The Heat Tape just finished a tour in Europe and will be returning to live there in about a month. He said he doesn't know when either band will return to Hangar 9 but hopes to have them back in the spring.

Meanwhile, Dan Tejaba, guitarist for Owls and Crows, said he plays a lot of psychedelic drone music for his band.

Tejaba said most of the band's style was inspired by The Doors, the Black Angels and some early Pink Floyd.

Before his performance Saturday night, he shared some of the band's visions for the future.

"We all just want to keep trying to grow," Tejaba said. "Right now we are working on our second album and it should be out in the next several weeks. I think we're just trying to keep getting better and just hope that the right ears hear us at some point in time."

Anthony Pickens can be reached at apickens@dailyegyptian.com or 536-3311 ext. 266.

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Polar Bear rages through Carbondale



STEVE MATZKER | DAILY EGYPTIAN

Matt Thompson, a sophomore from Watseka studying forestry, sprays a fire extinguisher into the air Saturday during Polar Bear outside Creekside Apartments. As partygoers lit cardboard boxes and cases of beer on fire, Thompson ran from his apartment. "I have this extinguisher I never got to use," Thompson said. "I'm gonna use it right now."



NATHAN HOEFERT | DAILY EGYPTIAN

Beer cups line a windowsill inside Stix Bar and Billiards on Saturday. Bars opened at 10 a.m. for Polar Bear weekend. The event offered drink discounts for people to celebrate the weekend party.

ELI MILEUR Daily Egyptian

A lot of things were thrown from the balconies of Creekside Apartments Saturday.

As the day waned and the hundreds of partiers who'd spent the better part of the day drinking headed into the warmth of crowded apartments, the throb of dubstep and the smell of beer as well as the shattered glass of smashed TVs strewn on the sidewalk caught the last rays of the sun.

It was the end of at least one phase of this year's Polar Bear party, Carbondale's annual bacchanalia that sees the consumption of thousands of beers, an upsurge of drinking-related tickets and plenty of acts of abandon.

Many people began the long day early.

"I just woke up really happy and knew there were experiences ahead

that would lead to even greater happiness," said Brent Harrison, a junior from Brighton studying psychology.

Joshua Anagnos, a senior from Manteno studying radio-television, said he was woken at 9 a.m. by the blaring of a vuvuzela.

By 11 a.m. Pinch Penny Pub and Cali's were swamped with partiers, and the at-capacity bars were ringed with lines of people waiting for the chance to drink Corona in the chill January air.

The revelry was by no means confined to those bars, though, and the city was dotted with all-day house parties.

Trampas Porter, Creekside resident and a junior studying management, said he heard they threw stuff from the balcony last year, so he decided he'd have to raise the stakes this year.

After several TVs were tossed

from the balcony and subsequently stomped on by revelers, Porter lugged a hot water heater to the top floor and, with the help of other partiers, dropped it onto the ground below.

Amid cheers from the crowd and chants of "one more time," one reveler proceeded to beat the tank repeatedly with a pole.

Then they threw it from the balcony one more time.

"I guess I'll have to start collecting stuff for next year," Porter said.

A few balconies down, revelers solicited flashing from passing women, and hung an illustrated sign that promised "Beer for Boobs."

At least one passerby obliged.

The balconies, with their view

overlooking Piles Fork Creek and the throngs of partiers at Pinch and Cali's, also echoed with the explosions of fireworks several times through the day, at least one of which briefly interrupted a game of bags.

As partiers departed from the bars, the sidewalks along Grand were choked with huge groups and an empty lot between Wall and Piles Fork Creek was dotted with people stumbling either from the muddy ground, inebriation or both.

The winter temperatures didn't deter a couple partiers from sliding into a large puddle in the lot, while others went ahead and got into the creek itself. One found himself stranded on a semi-submerged

couch while others tossed rocks into the water around him.

Despite the craziness, Polar Bear appeared to be a good thing, so long as people remained sensible, said Sarah Eaton, of London, who came down from Springfield with some friends.

Tarik Khesghi, a senior from Evanston studying philosophy, said the event is ridiculous and boils down to simply a lot of people getting drunk.

However, he said this year seemed tamer than previous ones, possibly a result of Chancellor Rita Cheng's efforts to put a damper on the event.

Nevertheless, he remained positive about the party.

"It only comes around once a year," he said. "It's like Christmas."



NATHAN HOEFERT | DAILY EGYPTIAN

Zac Bell, left, a senior from Virden studying exercise science, and Blane Johnson, a senior from Momence studying architectural studies, drink alcohol out of a beer bong Saturday outside Creekside Apartments. "It's all about good times with fun friends," Bell said about Polar Bear weekend.

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 507 S. Poplar 2
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503 N. Allyn
 607 N. Allyn
 408 S. Ash
 504 S. Ash 1-3
 508 S. Ash 1
 508 S. Ash 4
 514 S. Ash 1-6
 507 S. Beveridge 1-5
 509 S. Beveridge 1, 3-5
 512 S. Beveridge 1-7
 513 S. Beveridge 1-5
 514 S. Beveridge 1-7
 515 S. Beveridge 1-5
 918 N. Bridge
 508 N. Carico
 602 N. Carico
 604 N. Carico

703 N. Carico*
 908 N. Carico
 205 W. Cherry
 306 W. Cherry
 311 W. Cherry 2
 404 W. Cherry Court
 405 W. Cherry Court
 406 W. Cherry Court
 407 W. Cherry Court
 408 W. Cherry Court
 409 W. Cherry Court
 410 W. Cherry Court
 406 W. Chestnut
 408 W. Chestnut
 310 E. College 2, 3
 1201 W. College
 201 W. College 2, 3
 210 E. College
 309 W. College 1, 2, 4, 5
 310 W. College 1-4
 400 W. College 1-5
 401 W. College 5-7
 407 W. College 1-5
 409 W. College 1-5
 501 W. College 2, 4-6
 503 W. College 1-6
 507 W. College 4, 5
 509 W. College 4, 6
 710 W. College 4-6
 303 W. Elm
 120 S. Forest
 303 S. Forest
 706 S. Forest
 716 S. Forest
 718 S. Forest 3
 500 W. Freeman 1, 3-6
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 507 S. Hays 2
 514 S. Hays
 402 E. Hester 1-5, 7
 408 E. Hester 1-3, 5-7
 703 W. High W
 208 W. Hospital 1
 703 S. Illinois 202, 203
 401 S. James
 705 N. James
 805 N. James
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 612 S. Logan
 207 S. Maple
 906 W. McDaniel
 908 W. McDaniel
 506 N. Michaels
 300 W. Mill 1-4
 405 E. Mill 1-7
 409 E. Mill 1-7**
 407 W. Monroe 1
 417 W. Monroe
 1405 E. Newton
 400 W. Oak 1
 400 W. Oak 3
 402 W. Oak E & W

300 N. Oakland
 304 N. Oakland*
 505 N. Oakland
 511 N. Oakland
 514 N. Oakland
 600 N. Oakland
 602 N. Oakland
 608 N. Oakland C, G, K
 1901 N. Oakland
 613 W. Owens
 202 N. Poplar #1
 507 S. Poplar 1, 2, 4-6, 8
 1000 Schwartz
 301 N. Springer 4
 1710 W. Sycamore
 919 W. Sycamore
 404 S. University N & S
 404 1/2 S. University
 408 S. University
 1130 W. Walkup
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 504 W. Walnut
 820 W. Walnut
 400 S. Washington A
 402 S. Washington
 600 S. Washington 1-3, 5-6, 9
 406 W. Willow
 804 W. Willow

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503 N. Allyn
 607 N. Allyn
 408 S. Ash
 410 S. Ash*
 504 S. Ash 2,3
 506 S. Ash
 514 S. Ash 1, 3, 4, 6
 407 S. Beveridge
 409 S. Beveridge*
 501 S. Beveridge
 502 S. Beveridge 1
 503 S. Beveridge*
 506 S. Beveridge
 507 S. Beveridge 1-5
 509 S. Beveridge 1, 3-5
 513 S. Beveridge 1-5
 515 S. Beveridge 1-5
 918 N. Bridge
 508 N. Carico
 604 N. Carico
 205 W. Cherry
 309 W. Cherry
 311 W. Cherry 1
 405 W. Cherry
 407 W. Cherry*
 501 W. Cherry
 503 W. Cherry
 606 W. Cherry
 612 W. Cherry
 405 W. Cherry Court
 406 W. Cherry Court
 407 W. Cherry Court

408 W. Cherry Court
 409 W. Cherry Court
 406 W. Chestnut
 1201 W. College
 210 E. College
 300 E. College
 303 W. College*
 309 W. College 1, 2, 4, 5
 312 W. College 3
 400 W. College 1-5
 401 W. College 1-4
 407 W. College 1-5
 409 W. College 1-5
 501 W. College 2
 503 W. College 1-3
 507 W. College 1-3
 509 W. College 1-3
 710 W. College 1-3
 807 W. College
 809 W. College
 810 W. College
 305 Crestview
 104 S. Forest
 120 S. Forest
 303 S. Forest
 511 S. Forest
 603 S. Forest
 706 S. Forest
 716 S. Forest
 605 W. Freeman
 607 W. Freeman
 500 S. Hays
 503 S. Hays
 511 S. Hays
 514 S. Hays
 208 W. Hospital 2
 401 S. James
 611 W. Kenicott
 903 W. Linden
 610 S. Logan
 614 S. Logan
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 417 W. Monroe
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 400 W. Oak 1, 2
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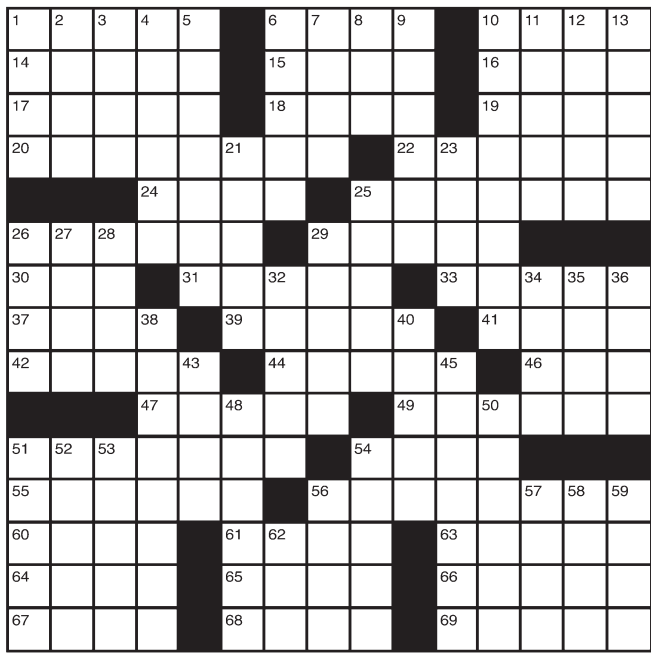
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THE Daily Commuter Puzzle by Jacqueline E. Mathews

- ACROSS**
- Bart Simpson's mom
 - Coats with frosting
 - Arrived
 - Body of water
 - Orderly
 - Prayer closing
 - Be generous
 - "Nay" voter
 - Muppets ___ and Ernie
 - Gritty residue
 - Oriental rug edging
 - Trigonometric function
 - Slim
 - Bathed
 - ___ of the crime; felony location
 - Fore and ___; stern to stern
 - City in Alabama
 - Furry swimmer
 - Gallop or trot
 - Sword fights
 - Tender to the touch
 - Miscalculated
 - West Point student
 - Fish's feature
 - Low point
 - Figure out
 - Commanded
 - Lois ___; Clark Kent's love
 - Pealed
 - Advertising flyer
 - Sound quality
 - Secondhand
 - Standard car feature
 - Garden of Paradise
 - Apple's center
 - Cruise ship stops, often
 - Little fruit pie
 - ___ over; flip
 - City in England
- DOWN**
- Velvety green growth



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews 1/30/12

Friday's Answers:

- Hurt continually
- Peruse
- Offensively showy
- Opponents
- Ridiculous
- Penny
- Have a meal
- Squelch
- Cupboards
- Make right
- Come together
- Go into
- Concluded
- City in Nevada
- Burn with liquid
- Salary
- At a distance
- Mix with a wooden spoon
- Besmirch the reputation of
- Rational; making sense
- Bean curd
- Clapton or Idle
- Mr. Aubersonois
- Often run-down housing
- Prius or Optima
- Challenge
- Thin curling plant shoot
- Subtract
- Lower in status
- Group of eight
- Valerie Harper TV role
- Cafe
- ___ with; bearing
- German mister
- Not working
- Fibbed
- Bereavement
- Old French coin

Pick up the Daily Egyptian each day to test your crossword skills

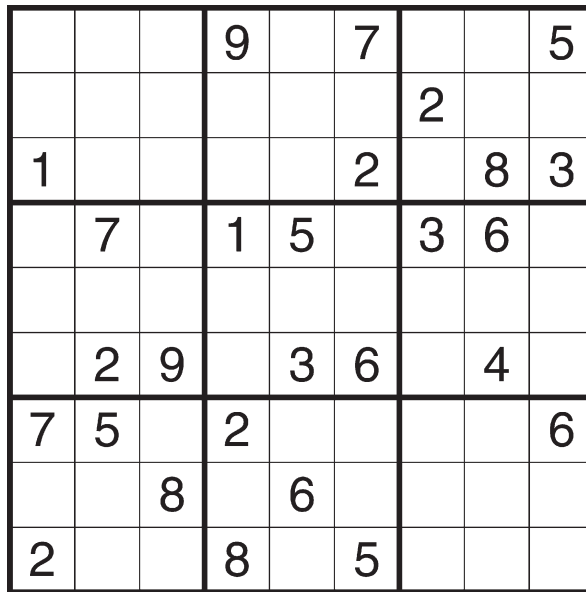
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Friday's Answers:

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7	2	8	4	5	9	1	6	3
3	5	9	6	8	1	7	4	2
8	7	4	1	2	6	3	5	9
9	3	5	7	4	8	6	2	1
1	6	2	9	3	5	4	8	7
5	9	1	8	6	7	2	3	4
2	8	3	5	1	4	9	7	6
6	4	7	3	9	2	5	1	8

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contain every digit, 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit www.sudoku.org.uk.

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

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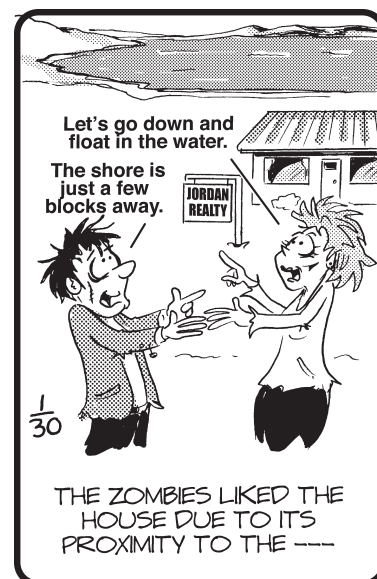
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SRAHH

DPLUED

OLEEPP



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer: **ROYALTIES**

Friday's Answers | Jumbles: BRAVE TWIRL OUTLET BIOPSY
 Answer: The prince signed the book deal so he could get — ROYALTIES

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By Nancy Black and Stephanie Clement

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Taurus — Today is a 6 — Hermit-crabbing sounds appealing. Taking care of business close to home recharges your social batteries. Get in the spotlight later.

Gemini — Today is an 8 — It's getting easier to step forward. It seems so comfortable to hide out, but there are costs. Your creativity wants to escape. Cook something up.

Cancer — Today is a 7 — The conversation is rich: The revelation you'd been looking for gets discovered by the group. You begin to understand. Defer gratification.

Leo — Today is an 8 — Tap into abundance without spending more. Get the word out, and it goes farther than expected. Remember, love's the most important part. Be patient with someone.

Virgo — Today is an 8 — Plan a fabulous adventure. A new assignment baffles. Slow down and puzzle it out. Organize for efficiency. There's fun ahead. Make a change for the better.

Libra — Today is an 8 — Home vies with career for your attention. Consider your options carefully, including an unreasonable request. Don't worry about status. Set priorities.

Scorpio — Today is a 9 — You're on top of your business game. Create new partnerships and complete negotiations. You have many reasons to be happy. Your friends are there for you.

Sagittarius — Today is a 9 — Entering a very busy two-day phase. Focus on the difference you can make. Expect changes in your career, and glitches in communication. Relax.

Capricorn — Today is a 7 — You'd rather play for the next few days. Balance finances and romance. With some creativity, you can make it all work. Hold that carrot out on a stick.

Aquarius — Today is a 7 — Build abundance with a foundation of love. Avoid going out on spending sprees. Things go smoother at home. Keep your promises, and be respectful.

Pisces — Today is a 7 — You're even smarter than usual for the next few days. You can find the solution to that old problem. The assignment changes. Stand up for what's right.

Swimmers and divers fall to Western Kentucky

CALEB MOTSINGER
Daily Egyptian

The SIU men and women's swimming and diving teams fell to Western Kentucky Saturday at home, with a 176-124 margin for the men and a 181-116 margin for the women.

"(We were) coming off a prior week where we were fighting off illness and fatigue," coach Rick Walker said. "I don't think today's performance had anything to do with preparation or their effort."

Western Kentucky halted the women's winning streak and kept them from a fourth consecutive victory.

"I had a tough week in practice," said junior distance swimmer Kirsten Groome. "We hate to lose a meet, but it's all about improvement toward the conference championships at this point."

In the early stages of the meet, Groome (10:13.75) placed first and senior swimmer Jennifer Kwok (10:18.78) placed second in the 1000-yard freestyle to put the salukis ahead in the early stages of the meet.

Sophomore swimmer Csaba Gerscak also came up with a win in the 1000-yard freestyle for the men. Gerscak said the tough week and training definitely took its toll on him, but overall he was happy with he and his teammate's performances.

Freshman swimmer Pamela Benitez won the 100 (52.55), 200 (1:52.13) and 500-freestyle (4:56.61), her sixth, seventh and eighth victories of the 2012 season.

Senior swimmer Matt Parsons

followed up with a win in the 200-yard freestyle to help SIU earn its fourth victory in the first six events.

With sophomore Isabela Castro's first-place finish in 200-yard butterfly (2:04.55); senior swimmer Justin Wolfe's victory in the 50-yard freestyle (20.57); and senior swimmer El Badrawi's first-place finish in the 100-yard freestyle (46.06), the Salukis put up several good numbers but were unable to bring home the victory.

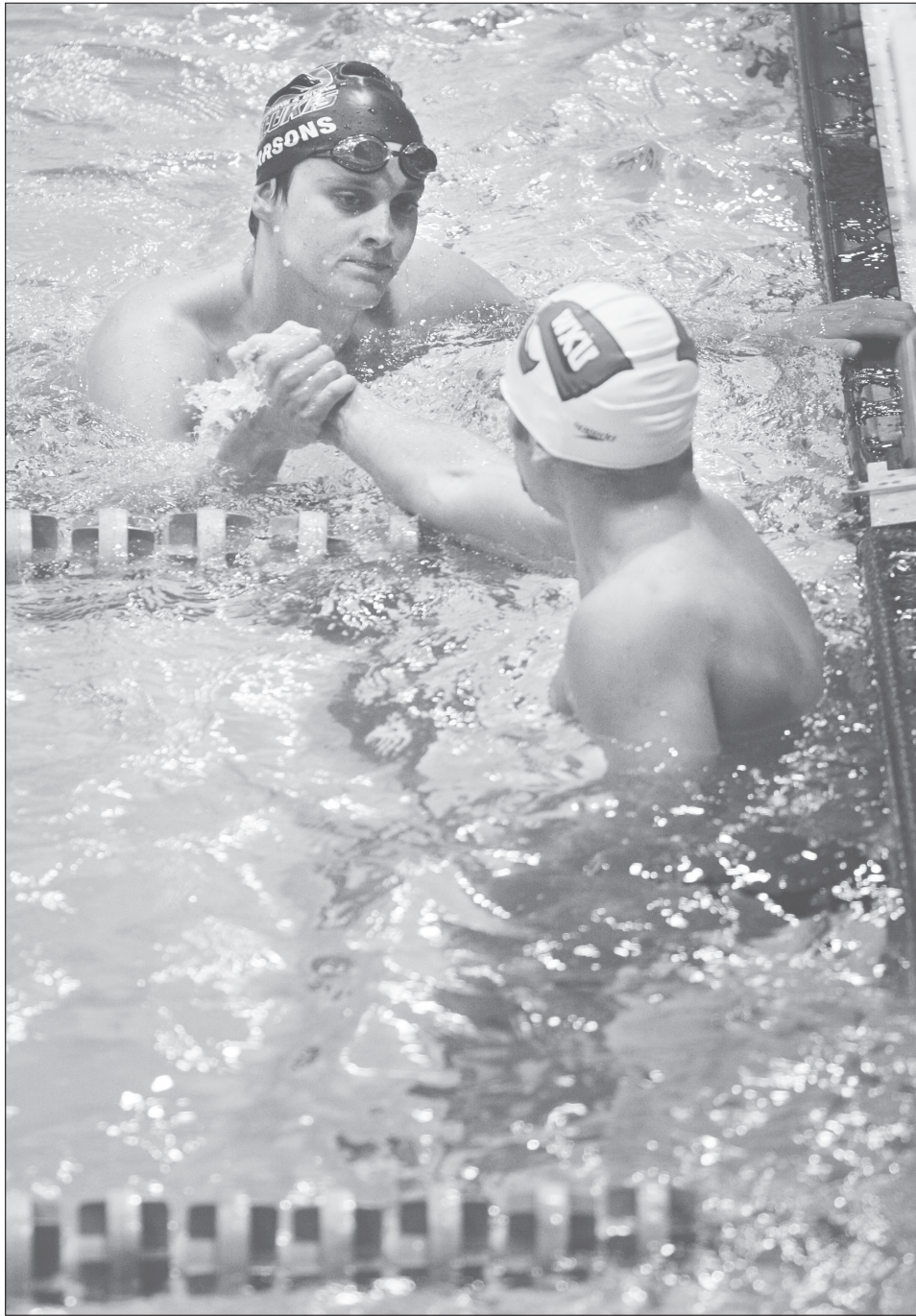
Sophomore swimmer Brittany Weigel, 2011 MVC co-diver of the year, blew the competition out of the water on the one-meter dive with a score of 281.81. Senior Justin Ruskowski (299.63), freshman Kegan Skelton (297.75) and senior Nathan Day (297.45) finished within three points of each other, more than 30 points ahead of the competition.

Both Weigel (237.60) and Day (329.48) emerged victorious on the men and women's side of the three-meter dive.

At the end of the day, the individual placements from the 32 races throughout the meet were not enough to put the Saluki's ahead of Western Kentucky in the point margins.

"I would need to win if were a basketball coach and I had to have a certain win-loss column," Walker said. "It's all about personal improvement for the tournament and I couldn't be happier with everyone's effort."

The Saluki's travel to Muncie, Ind., Friday to take on Ball State, then back home Saturday to host Evansville at the Edward J. Shea Natatorium for the final home meet before the MVC Conference Championships.



Senior Saluki swimmer Matt Parsons shakes the hand of his opponent, David Rayner, after the 200-yard freestyle event Saturday at the Edward J. Shea Natatorium. Parsons placed first in the event with a final time of 1:45.54.

PAT SUTPHIN
DAILY EGYPTIAN

James, Heat escape with 97-93 win over Bulls

TIM REYNOLDS
Associated Press

MIAMI (AP) — The odds had to overwhelmingly be in Chicago's favor. Down by a point with 22.7 seconds left, with Derrick Rose heading to the line to shoot a pair of free throws.

The reigning NBA MVP. He was a perfect 29 for 29 from the foul line in the fourth quarter this season. As if this moment needed extra significance, it was coming against the Miami Heat, the team that downed Rose and the Bulls in last season's Eastern Conference finals by taking the series' last four games.

Rose missed the first. Missed the second, too. And missed a potentially game-tying jumper with 3.7 seconds left to boot, as somehow the Heat held on for a wild 97-93 win on Sunday. LeBron James — the player who Rose supplanted as the league MVP — scored 35 points for Miami, which never trailed yet never could relax until Chris Bosh sealed it by making two free throws with 0.1 seconds left.

"This is so surreal right now knowing that I had a chance to win the game," said Rose, emotional at his locker afterward. "And this time it didn't work out."

Bosh scored 24 points and added 12 rebounds for the Heat (15-5), who got 15 points from Dwyane

Wade and pulled within one game of the Bulls (17-5) in the East.

"Like the playoffs in January," Wade said.

Richard Hamilton and Joakim Noah each scored 11 for Chicago, which got 10 apiece from Ronnie Brewer and Carlos Boozer.

"A highly contested basketball game," said Heat coach Erik Spoelstra.

Oh, that doesn't even begin to tell the story of this one.

"I let my team down," Rose said.

It had a little of everything. James leaped over — yes, over — Chicago's 5-foot-11 John Lucas for an alley-oop dunk from Wade in the opening minutes, saying afterward he never saw the Bulls' guard in his path. Wade missed nine of his first 10 shots, airballing the last of those. James missed a pair of free throws 5.1 seconds after Rose misfired on his tries in the final moments. There were skirmishes, hard fouls, pushing and screaming and shoving. Even an inadvertent whistle in the final moments that ultimately didn't hurt Miami, although the Heat strongly believed the whistle took away their advantage.

As for that notion that this was "just another game" ... nope. Not even close.

"The way I see it, every time we play the Bulls it's going to be like that," Bosh said. "It's always going to be an atmosphere where nobody

wants to lose and that's how the playoffs are."

This wasn't the playoffs. It only seemed that way.

The Bulls trailed by 12 points midway through the second quarter, though never let Miami pull completely away. Not even in the fourth quarter, when it seemed like Miami was on the cusp: James connected on a long jumper to close the third quarter, then he and Shane Battier set each other up for 3-pointers on the first two possessions of the fourth for an 82-71 lead.

Chicago called time-out, and Rose willed the Bulls back. A floating jumper made it 84-82, and a knifing layup that he made seem simply effortless knotted the game for the fourth and final time with 6:55 left.

The Heat answered with a 10-2 run, before Chicago rallied again, Rose's three-point play with 49.1 seconds left cutting the lead to 94-93.

On the play where he missed the free throws, Rose then lost the ball on a drive, but drew contact from Miami's Udonis Haslem and went to the line. Rose's first hit the front of the rim and bounced away, and his second rimmed out. James grabbed the rebound and was fouled by Noah — only to miss both free throws himself.

"I couldn't believe he missed both," Wade said of Rose. "I

couldn't believe LeBron missed both, either. Averaged itself out, I guess."

After James' second miss, Wade said he knocked the ball away and Bosh appeared to emerge with control, but an inadvertent whistle led to a jump ball. James — who talked Bosh out of taking the tap himself — outleaped Taj Gibson, getting the ball to Mario Chalmers, who made one free throw for a two-point lead.

Chicago wound up getting one last chance with 9.9 seconds left, calling time out. Naturally, it went to Rose, who weaved his way into the lane — but came up short. Bosh got the rebound, and Miami began celebrating.

"The ball was on our side this time," said James, who defended Rose in the fourth quarter — and in the postgame, saying last season's MVP deserved credit for the comeback instead of simply having all the blame for misfiring down the stretch.

The Bulls played without forward Luol Deng and guard C.J. Watson, both sidelined with wrist injuries. Watson may be back in Chicago's lineup as early as Monday, and Deng — who has a torn ligament in his left, non-shooting, wrist — is "very close" to a return, Bulls coach Tom Thibodeau said.

Insistence that this was "just another game" notwithstanding,

Miami started quickly. Wade appeared a bit more emotionally charged than usual after joining his teammates in the pregame huddle, and the Heat ran out to a fast early edge.

Maybe it would be more accurate to say they "jumped" out to that lead.

Wade set James up for three dunks in the first 7 minutes, the last of which is probably going to be replayed for quite a while. James appeared to be forgotten as he hovered on the weak side of the floor, so he darted toward the basket. Wade tossed a lob his way — and the two-time MVP went over Lucas for a dunk that put Miami up 16-7.

"I never saw him," James said. Said Lucas: "When he gets that running jump, what can I do?"

More than two hours later, that play — so wild that the NBA quickly tweeted video of the slam — almost seemed forgotten. The Heat celebrated, and the Bulls lamented.

Just like in last season's East finals.

"Derrick has always been someone who's his biggest critic," Noah said. "He takes losses very hard. He wouldn't be the competitor that he is if he weren't. At the end of the day, we have his back. I'll go to war with him any day. I've never been around a competitor like that in my life."

Moccia discusses potential pairings

BracketBuster match-ups announced later today

JOE RAGUSA
Daily Egyptian

ESPN's BracketBusters, played during three days in February each year, adds a wrinkle to the scheduling process for hundreds of college basketball programs.

"BracketBusters is a pain," Athletic Director Mario Moccia said.

The BracketBusters pairings will be announced today, and since SIU hosted a BracketBusters game last year, the Salukis will have to go on the road this time around. Moccia said he has a general idea of which team the Salukis might be paired up with.

"Eastern Illinois looks good to me. Austin Peay looks good to me," Moccia said. "(University of Missouri-Kansas City) looks good to me. Ball State, Bowling Green, Miami of Ohio, those are the schools within (our RPI range)."

The Missouri Valley Conference is one of 16 conferences that participate in BracketBusters, which pairs teams with similar Ratings Percentage Index (RPI) to play each other in an effort to give teams a chance to play top non-conference opponents before the NCAA Tournament selections in March,

according to the BracketBusters website.

Rating Percentage Index is a way to measure a team's record against the quality of the teams they've played, and SIU is 228 out of 345 teams according to Real Time RPI. Missouri-Kansas City is the closest to the Salukis with an RPI of 226, while the other teams range from 176 to 284.

Last year, SIU was matched up against University of Wisconsin-Green Bay and won 61-60 by a last second layup from then-junior forward Mamadou Seck. But UW-Green Bay wasn't on the list of the five teams Moccia suggested to ESPN for their BracketBuster game.

"The individual schools have no input in who they get," Moccia said. "You ever seen The Matrix? It's like the illusion of control. They let us fill it out and every year we're like 'Hey, we didn't get our top four choices, again.'"

Moccia said BracketBusters lets the athletic directors suggest five teams they'd like to play, but it's used more as a guideline and SIU rarely gets its first or second choice. UW-Green Bay wasn't on Moccia's list because he said they had to travel several hours to reach Carbondale.



PAT SUTPHIN | DAILY EGYPTIAN

Junior freestyle swimmer Kirsten Groome swims the 1000-yard freestyle event Saturday against Western Kentucky University at the Edward J. Shea Natatorium. Despite her first place win in the event, the Salukis lost to the Hilltoppers with a score of 181.5-116.5. | Please see page 11 for more on Swimming and Diving.

"It's not California, but it's not Indiana or Missouri. You try to stay as regional as you can," Moccia said. "Six hours is the longest we want to put our team on a bus."

According to the BracketBuster website, the home team has to play at the away team's arena sometime in the next two seasons. The Salukis traveled Dec. 11 to Western Michigan this season because they traveled to

Carbondale for BracketBusters in 2010, and SIU will travel to UW-Green Bay next season.

"We said we're not coming back to Green Bay next year (this season), we're going to come back the year after that," Moccia said. "They weren't happy about that, but it's within our right to do that."

Sports information director Tom Weber said the BracketBuster game is still part of the 29 game limit the NCAA imposes on

basketball programs, but Moccia said it's hard to plan for because they don't tell the individual programs who they're playing before today's announcement.

See Tuesday's edition of the Daily Egyptian for more on who SIU will face off against in BracketBusters.

Joe Ragusa can be reached at jragusa@dailyegyptian.com or 536-3311 ext. 269.

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