With a handful of businesses closing in Carbondale recently, some citizens question whether this could be the sign of an economic trend. Carbondale restaurants such as Mississippi Flyway, El Greco, El Bajio, Whiffle Boys and Spinoni’s all closed within the past year. However, more than 30 businesses have also opened since 2012 such as Chill Yogurt, Maurice’s, Pita Alley, Ross Dress for Less and Bandana’s, which opened Feb. 12.

**Businesses close, economy hopeful**

TARA KULASH
The Weekender
Ex-Peterson lawyer likened to dictator

JOLIET — A former lead attorney for Drew Peterson managed the one-time police officer’s murder trial like a “dictator,” a current Peterson lawyer said Wednesday as he sought to persuade a judge to grant a new trial.

Peterson was convicted in September of murdering his third wife, 40-year-old Kathleen Savio, who was found dead in her dry bathtub in 2004 with a gash on the back of her head.

The former Bolingbrook police sergeant’s current legal team argues Peterson should get a new trial, in large part, because Peterson’s longtime lead attorney, Joel Brodsky, allegedly bungled the trial. Much of a two-day hearing on the defense’s request for a new trial centered on a witness who was called by the defense but whose testimony ended up helping the prosecution.

Judge Edward Burmila said he will rule on the motion when he hears a continuance motion Thursday. If he denies the motion, he would immediately sentence Peterson on his murder conviction. Peterson, 59, faces a maximum 60-year prison term.

Peterson is also a suspect in the 2007 disappearance of his fourth wife, 23-year-old Stacy Peterson, but has not been charged in that case.

A tense public feud between Brodsky and one of his former colleagues, Steve Greenberg — who still represents Peterson — spilled into this week’s hearing.

During Wednesday’s hearing, the judge asked Greenberg why he and other attorneys had been unresponsive to what they now say was a glaring mistake by Brodsky: Namely, calling witness Harry Smith who讪 stead of testifying that Stacy Peterson talked to him about how Drew Peterson admitted killing Savio.

Some jurors later said Smith’s testimony persuaded them to convict Peterson.

Greenberg said the decision to call Smith was entirely Brodsky’s and that other lawyers warned Brodsky not to do it.

“‘You were saying (to Brodsky that calling Smith) was a death knell, a stake in the heart (of your case) — and you didn’t express that to the court?’” Burmila asked.

Greenberg responded by describing Brodsky’s alleged heavy-handedness, saying about his management of Peterson’s six-person legal team, “It was a dictatorship, judge.”

“Selecting an overflow courtroom listening to Greenberg’s comment, Brodsky groaned and shook his head.”

— Michael Tarn
Associated Press

The Weather Channel® 5-day weather forecast for Carbondale, Ill.

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Wintry Mix
80% chance of precipitation

AM Clouds/PM Sun
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Sunny
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Shower
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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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Publishing Information

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The university’s law program has already answered national calls for a revised curriculum.

In a Feb. 2 New York Times article, lawyers referenced a need to change the way American law schools educate future counselors, and they shared concerns that law-school graduates are not adequately prepared to practice law.

“‘The new normal’ depends on who you talk to,” he said. “We began shifting our curriculum almost 20 years ago.”

Britton said the article’s “new normal” refers to a need for attorneys to practice law immediately after graduation, and standard lecture curriculums were not meeting the need.

“We began responding to reports in 1991 that told us we should not just be teaching the law but adding professional values and lawyering skills,” he said.

These professional development skills include legal research, advocacy, negotiation and most importantly, legal writing, Britton said.

“We started a program that adds significant legal writing to every single class we teach, because more of a lawyer’s time is spent on critical analysis and written expression,” he said.

Additionally, students complete Semesters in Practice, where they work with and practice law under licensed Illinois attorneys, he said.

“We want our students to go out immediately after graduation and do,” Britton said. “Our dean and faculty are very committed to this mission.”

There is no question there are many changes occurring in the legal profession and legal education, she said. “The SIU School of Law has not only been responsive to these changes, but it has also been out in front of the changes by providing innovative legal educational opportunities for our students.”

Fountaine said the school’s professional development program has received American Bar Association recognition and garnered national attention.

“In addition, we are expanding opportunities that build on curricular strengths in areas such as Intellectual Property, Health Law and International Law that will prepare our students to succeed in a changing legal profession,” she said.

Britton said the school’s comparatively lower tuition is a bonus for students.

“We’ve always been concerned with the cost of a law school education, and ours is the lowest in the state,” he said. “Plus, our student debt is among the lowest.”

Robert Beutickman, a first-year law student from Miami, Fla., said the school’s curriculum is exactly what law students need to succeed. He said he was a three-year law firm employee before he attended school, and attorneys at his firm often complained new graduates knew more law theory than practical skills.

“A lot of that theory is thrown out the door the first day on the job and doesn’t apply,” he said.

Britton said the school’s emphasis might be on practice, but a strong fundamental foundation should not be forgotten.

“Mastering basics like contracts, property law, civil procedure and criminal law is still important, but we have a greater emphasis on student’s expertise in practicing these skills,” he said.

Fountaine said the school strives to continue producing the best law students it can.

“We have always been focused on our students’ and graduates’ success, we recognize that the legal profession is changing and we want to continue to be innovative and ahead of the curve in this new era of legal education,” she said.

Zach Martin can be reached at zmart@dailyegyptian.com or (618) 536-3311 ext. 259
The Obama balance on foreign risks and deadly force

MICHAEL SMERCONISH
The Philadelphia Inquirer

The debate over the use of deadly force against an American who is on foreign soil and has ties to al-Qaida sounds like a hypothetical straight out of my first-year Constitution law class at Penn. I can picture the back and forth on whether such killings violated the Fourth Amendment’s protection against unreasonable seizure or the Fifth Amendment’s due-process clause.

But this is no academic exercise, as the recent release of a 16-page Justice Department “white paper” makes clear: "Targeting a member of an enemy force who poses an imminent threat of violent attack to the United States is unlawful. It is a lawful act of national self-defense." That would seem to describe the decision to kill Anwar al-Awlaki, a U.S. citizen born in New Mexico in 1971, before he could strike again.

Awlaki has been linked to Maj. Nidal Malik Hasan, the Army psychiatrist who killed 13 people at Fort Hood, Texas, in 2009; Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab, the so-called underwear bomber who attempted to blow up an airplane bound for Detroit on Christmas 2009; and Faisal Shahzad, who tried to set off a car bomb in Times Square in the spring of 2010. Awlaki also had an association with two of the Sept. 11, 2001, hijackers.

Back in law school, someone would have argued that President Obama’s decision to kill Awlaki met the requirements of anticipatory self-defense, which requires that the “necessity of that self-defense is instant, overwhelming, and leaving no choice of means, and no moment for deliberation.”

The decision to kill Awlaki fits the depiction of the commander-in-chief put forth by Jo Becker and Scott Shane last May in an almost 6,000-word New York Times story on Obama’s handling of the terror target list: “Mr. Obama has placed himself at the helm of a top-secret ‘nomination’ process to designate terrorists for kill or capture, of which the capture part has become largely theoretical.” Obama, they wrote, “approves lethal action without hand-wringing.”

That Obama doesn’t take this responsibility lightly is perhaps best evidenced by the approach to getting Osama bin Laden. In 2005, he had not considered until a friend, Shanin Specter, raised it at a recent book club. Our small group read and discussed Peter Bergen’s fine account, “Manhunt: The Ten-Year Search for Bin Laden — From 9/11 to Abbottabad.”

Specter suggested that there was more to the president’s decision to send in Navy SEALs (rather than bombing Abbottabad) than ensuring a positive ID on bin Laden. Remembering the Times coverage, he argued that the president maintains a certain matrix for those cases in which he will personally authorize the killing of an al-Qaeda member.

Specter further theorized that part of that matrix requires positive identification of the target. When the time came for a decision to move against Abbottabad, that positive ID was missing, so bombing was ruled out.

Instead, 40 or so SEALs were dispatched to learn whether it was actually bin Laden, and if so, to kill him. Put differently, instead of risking the killing of an innocent, the United States sent 40 of its finest “canaries” into a “coal mine” with authorization to kill the 9/11 mastermind only after they established it was him.

That deference toward potentially innocent human life, even in a time of war, is in the finest traditions of the United States. And it helps define Obama’s policy toward foreign entanglements.

The approach to finding, identifying, and killing bin Laden was nuanced and principled, as is the drone program, which requires positive identification and an order to act by the commander-in-chief, at least with respect to those targeted. (It’s the opposite of an approach that would arm rebels, which would be uncontrolled and pose the risk of turning weapons against us or our allies.)

That same level of caution is evident in our decision not to risk our soldiers in Syria, Libya, and Mali, and to leave Iraq and Afghanistan sooner than later.

The totality of each of these decisions gives definition to an emerging Obama doctrine: a strong presumption against the use of force by the United States unless the territorial integrity or political independence of the United States is in imminent risk.

Obama is prepared to use force only where we control the force without delegation, and where the force used is proportionate to a defined threat. We control the force without delegation, and where the force used is proportionate to a verified threat.

In other words, he’s willing to fight as long as it takes, where the fight makes sense, and only as long as the fighting is merited.

Submissions
Letters and guest columns must be submitted with author’s contact information, preferably via email. Phone numbers are required to verify authorship, but will not be published. Letters are limited to 400 words and columns to 500 words. Students must include year and major. Faculty must include rank and department. Others include hometown.
Submissions should be sent to opinion@dailyegyptian.com.

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The Daily Egyptian is a “designated public forum.” Student editors have the authority to make all content decisions without censorship or advance approval.
We reserve the right to not publish any letter or guest column.
ST. LOUIS — Snow plows and salt spreaders took to highways in the nation’s heartland Wednesday, preparing for a deadly winter storm that promised to dump up to a foot of snow in some areas and bring freezing rain and sleet to others.

Winter storm warnings were issued from Colorado through Illinois. By midday Wednesday, heavy snow was already falling in Colorado and western Kansas. Oklahoma roads were covered with a slushy mix of snow and ice that officials blamed for a crash that killed an 18-year-old man.

National Weather Service meteorologist Jayson Gosselin said parts of Colorado, Kansas and northern Missouri could receive 10 to 12 inches of snow. Dodge City, Kan., was bracing for up to 16 inches of snow. Further south, freezing rain and sleet were already making driving treacherous.

Gosselin, 18, of Alex, Okla., died when the pickup truck he was driving skidded out of control in slush on State Highway 19, crossed into oncoming traffic and was hit by a truck, the Oklahoma Highway Patrol said. The other driver was not seriously injured.

Officials feared the winter storm would be the worst in the Midwest since the Groundhog Day blizzard in 2011. A two-day storm that began Feb. 1, 2011, was blamed in about two dozen deaths and left hundreds of thousands without power, some for several days. At its peak, the storm created white-out conditions so intense that Interstate 70 was shut down across the entire state of Missouri.

“We’re not going to see that type of storm, but it’s certainly the most impactful in the last two winters,” said Gosselin, who works in suburban St. Louis.

Jim Chojnacki, spokesman for the Missouri Department of Transportation, said it planned to have salt trucks on the roads before the storm arrived in the Show-Me State in hopes that the precipitation would largely melt upon impact. Much of Kansas was expected to get up to a foot of snow, which many rural residents welcomed after nearly a year of drought.

Jerry and Diane McReynolds spent part of Wednesday putting out more hay and straw for newborn calves at their farm near Woodston in north central Kansas. The storm made extra work, but Diane McReynolds said it would help their winter wheat, pastures and dried-up ponds.

“In the city you hear they don’t want the snow and that sort of thing, and I am thinking, ‘Yes, we do,’ and they don’t realize that we need it,” she said. “We have to have it or their food cost in the grocery store is going to go very high. We have to have this. We pray a lot for it.”

Meanwhile, a separate snow storm caught many drivers by surprise in California, leaving hundreds stranded on mountain highways. A 35-mile stretch of Highway 80 between Mojave and Bakersfield was closed Wednesday, and several school districts closed. No injuries were reported.

Schools also were closed in northern Arizona and Colorado with snow there. Mindy Crane, a spokeswoman for the Colorado Department of Transportation, said hundreds of plows had been deployed for what was expected to be one of the most significant snow storms of the season.

Just the threat of snow led to a series of shutdowns in the middle of the country. Kansas Gov. Sam Brownback closed state government from Thursday morning through Friday morning and urged residents to stay off the roads.

JIM SALTER
Associated Press

STORM MOVING INTO PLAINS Blamed for Fatal Crash

JIM SALTER
Associated Press

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(AmeriCan/Roots/Rock)

“Sunday In The Park” 2/24
BILL HARPER
(Rock/County)

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Gone Fishin’ 2013
February 21 - 24, 2013
Storm moving into Plains blamed for fatal crash

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JIM SALTER
Associated Press
After voting 4-11-9 against support of the university’s fiscal year 2014 health fee increase, the Graduate Professional Student Council heard from a Student Health Center representative during their Tuesday meeting.

Peter Lucas, GPSC’s vice president for administrative affairs, said council members felt the university dismissed Affordable Care Act-compliant insurance plans because they were too expensive.

“Our feeling is that graduate students particularly are not automatically against paying more for insurance if we get a better plan,” he said. “That was something we’d like to see, that we wanted to see the administration explore.”

Lucas said GPSC President Blaine Tisdale invited Ted Grace, Student Health Center director, to speak with the council. Grace said the health center is now considering ACA-compliant plan quotes. GPSC would look at the potential plan and decide whether to support it, Lucas said.

“We will definitely revisit the issue once we get those quotes,” he said.

Under the existing plan, the university pays its own money for students who must see a specialist, Lucas said, and the plans the health center is considering would be administered by a third party such as Blue Cross Blue Shield. Pre-existing conditions would be covered, and there would hopefully be an option for spousal and dependent coverage, he said. However, the health center is not certain yet, he said.

Grace said quotes are expected within a week.

Karsten Burgstahler can be reached at kburgstahler@dailyegyptian.com or 536-3311 ext. 268

The Weekender
Some students are taking their gaming love to the next level.

Game Mechanics Research Studio, or GaMeRS, is a Registered Student Organization that promotes video game research and development. Robert Craig, the RSO's faculty advisor and information technology computer specialist, said GaMeRS consists of three main components: game design, preservation and industry.

Craig said the RSO provides students a way to learn game design they otherwise cannot learn in class.

"My hope is that at some point game design will have a place in the curriculum," he said. "Seeing that moment will be awesome."

Craig said GaMeRS also celebrates gaming history. The RSO focuses on maintaining or restoring older games, specifically '80s-era titles, he said.

"A part of our pop culture history of that era was dropping coins in games, and that was the only place you could play them," he said.

Craig said GaMeRS has also hosted Skype interviews with such industry speakers as David Ellis of Vicious Cycle design, and Eugene Jarvis of Raw Thrills design. Jarvis said he designed arcade games Defender, Robotron, Smash TV, Crime patrol and Target: Zone.

Andrew Clausen, RSO president and senior from Dwight studying electronic systems technology, said he enjoys the guest speakers Craig invites because they give him a realistic portrayal of the industry's extent.

"Any industry portrayed in a textbook is often very different than what it is in reality," he said. "It is very interesting listening to our guests, as they describe their own decisions as they go through something."

Clausen said the club exists to examine and develop video games.

"The organization offers something the university's curriculum does not," he said. "It means a lot to me. Ever since I was very young I wanted to be able to control the images inside the television, and so video games, computers have been always been a great interest to me."

GaMeRS is working on making their own video game this semester and will develop its plot and mechanics, Clausen said. However, it may be difficult because game design is not taught in any university classes, and some members are not familiar with the design programs, he said.

"It has been difficult because there isn't an existing video games program in place at SIU," Clausen said. "The club is exciting, but it may not be for all gamers."

"The club isn't for everyone, and I know that because I have friends who don't want to know anything about how games are made," he said. "They just want to play them."

Clausen said the ability to educate himself and others in Gamers is rewarding.

Alan Franklin, GaMeRS secretary and sophomore from Marion studying psychology, said the RSO could give him an edge in his dream career as a producer, computer action specialist or an artificial intelligence creator.

"I personally joined the RSO since I have always had an interest in gaming," Franklin said. "I have been considering even looking into developing a degree toward gaming as well as trying to find a job in it."

Franklin said the RSO welcomes those interested in the creative side of video game design as well as the technical side.

"If people are interested in creating video games, we'd love to have them here at GaMeRS," Franklin said.

GaMeRS meets every Tuesday at 3 p.m. in Applied Sciences C212.
Meghan Cole, director of Carbondale Main Street, said many businesses close because the owners are ready to retire.

"There are cyclical things," she said. "You're not going to have people who want to be in business until they're 90 years old."

City Manager Kevin Baity said he also thinks some businesses close because they don't change with the times, such as updating menus or décor.

Gary Williams, Carbondale's economic development coordinator, said he agrees.

"Over the years, the demographics are different," he said. "The businesses that are doing well here respond to that better."

Longbranch Coffeehouse is one example of an evolving business. Elaine Ramseyer, the restaurant's general manager, said her business has done nothing but grow in the past 14 years, from serving coffee and cookies to adding breakfast, lunch and dinner menus.

She said she thinks the restaurant also attracts many customers because it's vegetarian.

"I've continually added more offerings that would grow a business," she said. "We're kind of outside what I think is normative for restaurants here, but we also worked really hard to grow."

Ramseyer, however, shares a concern that many have with The Strip.

"For a college town, The Strip is shameful," she said. "Compared to when she was a student in the '70s, Ramseyer said downtown Carbondale is dead. She said she remembers a bigger nightlife scene with more bars.

However, Baity said all but one of the available Class B liquor licenses in Carbondale are in use.

The City Council votes to decide how many Class B liquor licenses are available, and he said there are now 16 licenses. He said the amount of licenses has fluctuated between around 12 and 18 in the past, depending on how many businesses take advantage of them.

Ramseyer said she specifically finds it ridiculous that Halloween was shut down on The Strip.

"New Orleans found a way to deal with Mardi Gras," she said. "Channel it. Deal with it. Have a band on every corner and cops on bikes. Manage it."

Ramseyer said she thinks the lack of nightlife has hurt the university's enrollment.

City Councilman Chris Wissmann, however, said he thinks the opposite has happened. He said the enrollment decline has hurt Carbondale businesses.

Fall 2012 enrollment was at 18,847 students, which was lower than fall 2011's 19,817 students.

"A lot of local businesses have been victimized by a university that's been running very ineffectively," he said.

A study released in 2011 by the Southern Illinois Research Park found that for every $1 appropriated by the state to SIU, it generates approximately $2.90 of economic activity in southern Illinois.

The university's declining enrollment means fewer student customers, he said. At the same time, current students have less buying power than generations before, as tuition and fees rise yearly.

"There was a time when you didn't really have to be a good businessperson to do well in Carbondale," Wissmann said. "Now, the number of students has dipped to the point that even very good business people have to struggle to survive."

Yet, Steve Payne, owner of Quatro's, said he has only seen Carbondale grow since he started running the restaurant in 1976. He said there was less than half the amount of businesses in the '70s compared to now.

He said one reason The Strip doesn't seem as vibrant as it used to is because students don't like to walk anymore; they prefer to drive.

"If you're a Strip business that has little parking and your model was built in a day when walking traffic was your main economic engine, and all of a sudden now it's not, you don't have any ability to conform to that," Payne said.

Businesses with a lot of parking space, such as Pinch and Cali's, will typically have more student customers, he said.

Lance Jack, a City Council member and the owner of Fat Parties restaurant, made a similar observation.

"Humans are lazy," he said.

Downtown Carbondale has quite a bit of parking, Jack said, "but many assume it doesn't. He said Americans have a mentality that every business should have a drive-thru, so many will visit McDonald's, Arby's or any other fast food restaurant out of convenience instead of a smaller restaurant.

Still, he said, downtown Carbondale has its advantage of them.

"If you're a Strip business that has little parking space, that's made us have to adapt to what's around it's made us have to adapt to what's around it."

Les O'Dell, executive director of the Chamber of Commerce, said he agreed.

"I think any new business is beneficial to the community," he said.

He said a few businesses may have closed in the past six months, but just as many have opened.

Jackson County has the lowest unemployment rate out of its surrounding counties, and Carbondale has the lowest unemployment rate in Jackson County.

Baity said the city has also seen a slight rise in sales tax revenues.

Pita Alley, a Mediterranean restaurant in the Murdale shopping center, opened 11 weeks ago. Ognis Unver, the operations manager, said he has had double the amount of customers than he expected.

He said there isn't really a rush hour because the business is consistently busy.

"People were craving something like this," Unver said.

He said the restaurant hasn't had advertised yet, so it's relied mostly on word-of-mouth.

Justin Zurlinden, owner of Vintage Soul, opened his coffee and used furniture hybrid shop a little more than a year ago. He said he's noticed business is better in August when students move in and need furniture as well as in May, when he receives a lot of furniture donations from students who move out of their Carbondale homes.

Zurlinden said he expected to sell more coffee and less furniture, but sales have been in the opposite directions. He said he actually sells more furniture than coffee.

"That's made us have to adapt to what people are looking for," he said. "This town's small businesses just have to figure out what people want and cater to that."

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Action, explosions and hot girls bombard many of the films being shown in Hollywood. Most movies produced for mainstream audiences are focused less on real societal problems and more on giving viewers enough eye candy to keep them in their seat. However, there are alternatives for students looking for more informative and unique films that challenge viewers.

The Big Muddy Film Festival is an event that has prided itself in showing innovative flicks that break tradition. This is the 35th anniversary of the show, which, started Wednesday in the Student Center Auditorium. In the past, the event has lasted 10 or more days. This time the event will be compacted to five. Silvia Dadian, the director of the event, said some changes have been made that audiences should expect at the festival.
L.A. glam, ‘raw and refined’

BOOTH MOORE
Los Angeles Times

NEW YORK — Just 1½ years after its launch, interior decorator-designer Kelly Wearstler’s fashion line is coming into its own. She brought her eclectic L.A. sense of glam to New York Fashion Week, presenting her fall-winter 2013 collection in her showroom off 12th Avenue, an expansive view of the Hudson outside the window.

THE LOOK

1980s glam rock, but with a comfortable L.A. spin. The colors — hues of plum, turquoise, indigo — were incredible. And so were her new foray into denim. Standout pieces included a electric blue mohair tweed jacket with silver embroidery on the shoulders, a cozy, purple mohair sweater with leather and velvet accents; a mixed-media lacquered leather and tweed dress, a pony hair T-shirt, geometric print silk pants; and destroyed boyfriend-style jeans with gold threads in the knee holes.

“When I was starting in fashion, I had difficulty translating the rawness of my interior work, the vintage furniture with the rock crystal chandelier, for example,” Wearstler said. “I found denim is the perfect material because it’s raw and refined. And that tension is what I love.”

All the jean styles are named after L.A. streets, including Sunset and Hollywood.

Wearstler’s accessories collection is developing nicely too, including leather pouches and belts with raw stone accents.

THE INSPIRATION

Italian architect Ettore Sottsass and his Memphis Group of design, known for its squiggly lines and off-kilter geometric shapes.

THE NEWS

Wearstler is introducing fine jewelry for fall, including pendants and rings with confetti-like semiprecious stones and cuffs with sculptural slabs of agate, quartz, pyrite and lapis. It’s been a year since her store opened on Melrose Avenue in L.A., and Wearstler said she is scouting space for a second store in New York’s SoHo.

THE VERDICT

The best collection yet from Wearstler with tons of covetable, wearable pieces. She has finally figured out how to bring her aesthetic to clothing without the textures and color feeling too arty-crafty.

NEW YORK — It’s been a bit hard to tell the difference between men’s and women’s runway presentations at the fall 2013 fashion shows. Nautica’s Black Sail collection had its male models in banana-yellow skinny pants rolled at the ankles. Coats with oversize fur collars featured a slight A-line flare.

Designer Patrik Ervell’s presentation last Sunday included an iridescent, emerald-green cape with a wraparound, coord-neck collar. Even Michael Kors — whose mainy clothes are typically classic American with a dose of Old World sophistication — dreamed a model Wednesday in a fuzzy, short-sleeve sweater and skinny slacks, while another wore a bright-orange, belted trench.

American menswear has officially dipped its pantleg into the expanding androgyny-loving pool of the fashion industry. That means not only will women wrap themselves in their boyfriends’ sweaters, but men may soon be donning “girlfriend” jeans as well — and their sexuality won’t be questioned. Or at least, they will be confident enough not to care.

“It’s all very urban normal,” said Tom Julian, trend-watcher and author of Nordstrom’s (see Michelle Obama’s Thom Browne coat at the inauguration) is as accepted as wearing red nail polish.

Yet since men took off their wigs, long stockings, and knee breeches around the start of the Industrial Revolution, they’ve been languishing for 200 years or so wearing shirts and trousers in navy, black, and gray shades. Now it seems that younger, heterosexual men are actually following fashion as closely as women. And with more clothing options, they have to redefine their clothes to stay in style.

Sales reflect that. As of November, total U.S. menswear sales were up 4.2 percent, to $55.6 billion, from $53.4 billion the year before, according to the market research firm NPD Group.

The industry is understanding now there is a market for men,“ said Michael D. Osman, image consultant for Philadelphia-based Henry A. Daviden, a custom-suit retailer. He has seen his fitted-suit sales go up in the last year.

Men “are starting to consume (fashion) at a similar rate as women. That’s just the market at work,” Osman said.

Besides the fact that most models now look like adolescent boys, the androgyny movement is reflective of both European runways — especially collections by Rick Owens, an American designer in Paris who is credited with creating a multilayered men’s look featuring skinny cargo pants, infinity scarves, and long, cozy cardigans — and celebrity culture. Check out the red carpet or fashion websites to see Chad accurios (not made for women) worn by male rappers.

And at the Grammys last week, many men appeared emasculated with dandy details. Drake wore a fitted tux; John Mayer showed up in a shrunken purple, velvet blazer; and crooner Ne-Yo stunned in a metallic jacket and silky cargo pants. (Ne-Yo later performed at Fashion Week at a Prabal Gurung for Target presentation wearing a pink blazer and sequin scarf!).

The NFL-loving man, on the other hand, might be slower to embrace these trends, said Daniel Abraham, creative director of Art in the Age, a men’s store in Philadelphia.

Back in New York, the Lincoln Center runways weren’t the only places where menswear and womenswear seemed indistinguishable. At Chelsea’s Milk Studios, where many emerging designers show off-site, Carlos Campos presented male models wearing wide lip color and tight, floral-printed slacks. Lucio Castro experimented with colorblocking — typically the domain of women’s wear — and Boledjam set models under hooded cloaks with three-quarter-length sleeves.

“Those days, men can wear a woman’s navy cashmere sweater and it’s OK,” said Quentin Washington, a Philadelphia-based blogger. “I saw collections like Robert Gellar, where he showed quilted, knee-length shorts over tights. I saw collections with belted cashmere sweaters. All of these pieces are women’s clothing, but they work in menswear now, thanks to layering.”

For the second season, Details magazine hosted a handful of runway presentations and an accessories show geared specifically to men.

Although the music was 1990s hip hop and slouchy men were handed bottles of Yingling and Heineken, the vibe was not gender-specific.

Not only were attende clad in ponnies and metallic high-top sneakers, but also the nine accessories brands ranged from camouflage and leather duffel bags to thin friendship-like bracelets, some with dangling charms.

“When I walked in and saw those bracelets, I thought to myself, ‘Is this really a men’s show?’ Of course I mean, I really want them,” said Maria Ambrose, 25, who walked through the show holding the hand of her boyfriend, Matt Fennel.

What did Fennel think?

“I’m not a big fan because I tend to be more rugged,” he said (while wearing fitted burgundy corduroys). “But I’m paying more attention to fashion. I mean, five or six years ago, I wouldn’t have these on, so, yes, it is an evolution.”

Slowly but surely, men aren’t letting fashion rules define their clothing choices, let alone their sexuality, said Colin Stark, development director of Details magazine.

“I think the 90s were all about the masculine form,” said Stark, on his feet a pair of blue, brown, and red Gauze tie-up shoes. “Now men have more options. They are more comfortable and they are pushing the envelope, challenging the norm.”
there are two lists Hollywood values above all. One is the list of the highest grossing films of the previous year. Last year, "The Avengers" easily topped the list with a gross of more than $623 million, with "The Dark Knight Rises" $448 million gross in second place. The list included other fan favorites such as "The Hunger Games" and "Skyfall."

The other list, one could argue, could be just as profitable. It’s the Best Picture nominee list, and just a movie’s presence on the list can bolster box office results. This year’s nominees “Silver Linings Playbook,” “Lincoln,” “Argo,” “Life of Pi,” “Django Unchained,” and “Les Miserables” have each earned more than $100 million, a record number for the Academy.

But what about the other nominees? There’s "Amour," a foreign film about growing old; "Beasts of the Southern Wild," an indie which follows a little girl who lives in the Louisiana Bayou; and "Zero Dark Thirty," which may have once had the steam to reach the $100 million benchmark but faced numerous accuracy problems. Academy members often bemoan the lower ratings the show has seen the past few years. The general consensus seems to be that the Academy must become more "hip," as evidenced by Seth MacFarlane’s turn as host, and the disaster the Academy endured when James Franco and Anne Hathaway hosted; Franco appeared stoned the entire time.

But do hosts really mean as much as the films up for consideration? Ask any Oscar nut, and they’ll tell you Bob Hope and Billy Crystal are the most memorable hosts the Oscars have had, and producers brought Crystal on board for 2012’s show in an attempt to draw ratings. However, people won’t be interested in investing three hours of their time in the awards ceremony unless they feel the movies they loved have a true stake in the proceedings. One of the show’s highest rated telecasts came in 1998, when “Titanic,” a movie audiences cared about flocked to and helped gross more than $600 million, dominated and James Cameron actually shouted “I’m king of the world!” onstage. Audiences watched because the big winner was also a cultural phenomenon. Sure, "Argo" and "Silver Linings" have been successful, and the Academy certainly shouldn’t sell out just for ratings. But when the Academy expanded their nominee list, it was to counteract backlash from omissions such as "The Dark Knight," "Skyfall" and "The Dark Knight Rises," films that received positive critical reviews, could have been good nominations that would draw a sizeable viewing audience. Of course they wouldn’t win, but if the Academy wanted to reach the masses, those throw-away nominations could liven up the show. Smaller action thriller “Looper” could have also been a unique nomination.

However, change may not be in the Academy’s nature. According to a 2012 Los Angeles Times report, Oscar voters are nearly 94 percent Caucasian, and 77 percent of voters are male. The median age is 62, and people younger than 50 constitute only 14 percent of the voting populace. Past winners are invited to join the Academy, but the official list of members is a highly guarded secret.

Earlier this year, Academy voting moved online for the first time, and voters simply couldn’t figure out how to use the system. The Academy eventually had to push the deadline back to accommodate the process. These statistics clearly show the Academy’ need to diversify. The Oscars name a Best Picture clearly each year, but Best Picture by what standards? The moviegoing populace is incredibly diverse, therefore the voting voice needs to represent that standard. Right now, Best Picture is really what one small group believes it should be, and so it really shouldn’t mean so much. Studios use the nominations as advertising tools, as they plaster “Best Picture Nominee!” on every TV spot. The public eats it up, but they should really be more discerning.

This is not to say I dislike this year’s nominees. Yeah, “Flight” should have been nominated. Yeah, “Skyfall” deserved more recognition. But “Argo” will most likely win (a change in my predictions, as the tides have turned), and it deserves it. And I’ll still obsess over the Oscars, because the films that end up being celebrated do deserve it. I just wish the Academy would be more inclusive of the complete film experience and not just the niche Oscar-bait films Hollywood puts out each winter. I truly believe the Academy would see a ratings coup if they opened their eyes.

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Tonight:

Music

Tres Hombres • 1990s hip-hop night
Hangar 9 • Whistle Pigs (hillbilly music) / Evergreen Grass Band
Newell House Grotto Lounge • Coulter, Goot, and Wall (jazz)
PK's • Raw Flesh Eaters (splatter rock)
Shryock Auditorium • SIU Wind Ensemble and Symphonic Band

Other

Gaia House Interfaith Center • Eleven Days for Food Justice, Fossil Free SIU, and SIU Geography Club present The Changing Climate of Agriculture and Food (panel discussion)

Copper Dragon Brewing Company • Boys and Girls Club of Carbondale Trivia Night at the Oscars benefit

Sunday:

Music

Honker Hill Winery • South of 70 (alternative country)
Blue Sky Vineyard and Winery • Makanda: Sunday in the Park series w/ Bill Harper (singer/songwriter)
Walker’s Bluff • Carterville: Larry Dillard and Blues Therapy
Yon Jakob Orchard • Alto Pass: Acoustic Twist

Rustle Hill Winery • Cobden: Shawn Harmon (blues)

Other

Morris Library Auditorium • Big Muddy Film Festival presents (between) / Bloom / Catechism of Familiar Things / Elderly / Fallout / Hay Aglo Y Se Va / Hermeteuncies / Many a Swan

McLeod Theater • Ntozake Shange’s For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide When the Rainbow Is Etned (live theater)

Varsity Center for the Arts • Jackson County Stage Company presents Dorothy Parker and Arnaud d’Usseau’s Ladies of the Corridor (live theater)

Friday:

Music

Crown Jewel Lounge • Swamp Tigers (rockabilly, honkytonk country)
Fat Patties • R and R (Robert Todd Phillips and Rachael Thompson)
Crown Jewel Lounge • Swamp Tigers (rockabilly, honkytonk country)
Tres Hombres • Mike Alderfer benefit w/ King Juba / Rural Kings / Bosco and White

Varsity Center for the Arts • Jackson County Stage Company presents Dorothy Parker and Arnaud d’Usseau’s Ladies of the Corridor (live theater)

Copper Dragon Brewing Company • Mike Alderfer benefit w/ King Juba / Rural Kings / Bosco and White

PK’s • Aqua Regia

Hangar 9 • BoomBox / Signal Path (electric case)

Other

Castle Perilous • strategic games

Student Center Missouri River Festival presents And Here I Am

Gaia House Interfaith Center • Justice presents Henry Mohan Goodman (culinary lecture)

Student Center Auditorium • presents Not Clear Cut / Red Interlude / Yucca Mt. Tally / Record Packed with Sex and Violence

Student Center Mississippi River Festival presents Ninah’s Dowry / Eyes of a Child / Fast Food Food / Expectations / Limita

Two 13 East • DJ Kent / Diver DuBois (drag show)

Call’s • drag show featuring Jana/Janess

Student Center Mississippi River Festival presents Solving for X / Dirig / Por Dinero / Fibershed and Janess/Janess / Dire
Saturday:

Music

- Copper Dragon Brewing Company • Brushfire / Cache River Band (country-western showcase)
- Tres Hombres • Jewels (jazz)
- Key West Bar and Grill • Plagiarists (classic rock)
- Two 13 East • unofficial Saint Patrick’s Day Party w/ DJ Kent
- PK’s • Big Idea (Americana) / Tragic Hen
- Kite Hill Vineyards • Andrea Stader (singer / songwriter)
- Hangar 9 • Spread (jam band)
- Blue Sky Vineyard and Winery • Makanda: Dom Wier (Americana)
- Walker’s Bluff • Carterville: Bill Harper (singer / songwriter) / Chris Stone (acoustic rock)
- Von Jakob Orchard • Alto Pass: Wayback Machine
- Owl Creek Vineyard • Cobden: Fiddle Rick Johnson (Americana)
- Rustle Hill Winery • Cobden: Woodenships / Ivas John Band (blues)

Other

- New Zion Missionary Baptist Church • Taste of Blackness soul-food sampler
- Student Center Auditorium • Big Muddy Film Festival presents The Employments of Time / Fibershed / Full-time Ministry / For Dinero / Reborning / See the Dirt / Something Different / Ballpit
- SIU Arena • SIU Salukis BracketBusters NCAA basketball game
- Civic Center • Black History Month and Delta Sigma Theta Red Extravaganza Dance and fashion Show

- Big Muddy Film Festival
- Poison / Escargot / Icee Man / J.R.'s of Illusion featuring Blanche
- Motown Themed Spliffs with Jodie Santana and friends
- Room • Big Muddy Film Festival
- Acting Dissent / As Goes Janesville
- Something Different / As Goes
Years ago when I started training dogs, I couldn’t have imagined doing so without a slip-lead collar, commonly known as a “choke” collar. These days, I can’t remember the last time I put one on a dog, and I may never feel the need to do so again. That’s because the perceptions for training and control have changed, and are now easier on dog and owner alike. The choke chain was never without problems. In the old days, the important thing to remember was to never leave the collar on your dog unless you were training or walking. It is, after all, a choke collar, and over the years I’ve heard from readers whose dogs died when the collar rings became caught on the tooth of another dog in play, on a piece of fencing in the yard or even a heater grate in the house. In other cases, dogs were injured and traumatized, and the owners who saved their lives by getting them free of the collar’s deadly grip were often bitten by their terrified dogs. This is what it has come down to, for me: If your dog is wearing a choke-chain collar as his everyday collar, replace it with a buckle or snap-together collar today. And then, like many trainers and behaviorists, I advise that when you take that chain collar off, you throw it away.

Some good dog trainers still use slip-style collars and leads, at least some of the time, and they’re still the top choice for almost escape-proof handling in veterinary hospitals. But this is a piece of equipment that’s nearly impossible for the average dog owner to use properly. When the collar isn’t used properly, it’s ineffective at best and cruel at worst. There are only two ways to put on a choke-chain collar: with the moving end over the dog’s neck (as intended), or under the dog’s neck (incorrect). By the simplest law of averages, you’d think folks would get them on right half the time, but it never seems to work that way. When the moving part of the chain is under the dog’s neck, the chain doesn’t release easily when the leash is slackened. And that means the collar is constantly tight, choking the dog. Even if the collar’s put on correctly, the choke collar is extremely difficult to use in the way that expert dog trainers have over the years. A choke-chain collar is meant to be loose at all times, except for the occasional split-second tightening to correct a dog’s behavior. But people don’t seem to know that, so I am always seeing gaping dogs in tight choke chains dragging their owners behind them. These days, my advice on choke chains is this: Don’t bother. Get the help of a good trainer to choose training equipment that’s not so hard to master — and learn how to use it. For some dogs, a buckle or snap-together collar will be all you need, or a limited-slip collar known as a “martingale.” For others, a head halter or front-slip harness will work best. The pinch collar has advocates, too. It looks horrific, but it can’t tighten down to choke a dog the way a slip-lead collar can. They’re all easier for the average person to use, and less likely to cause unintentional harm than a slip-lead collar. And that’s why after so many years of giving advice, I’ve changed my recommendation on this topic. You simply don’t need to master the choke-chain collar to teach any old dog new tricks anymore.

Q&A: Cat’s coughing may be a dangerous symptom

Q: What can I do to stop my cat’s hairballs? I give her stuff from the pet store, but she’s always hacking. — via Facebook

A: Hairballs often take the blame for a cat’s chronic coughing, but the problem could be something else entirely: heart disease, heartworms or even feline asthma. Coughing is a symptom, and you need a veterinarian’s help to figure out what’s really at the root of the problem. Only then can you hope to find an effective treatment. Even if the problem is hairballs, there are some better options for treatment. When cats groom, they pull out and swallow a lot of fur. Swallowed fur is indigestible, so when it’s in a cat’s stomach, it has two ways to go: down and out, or up and out. When it comes up to (the accompaniment of that middle-of-the-night “Ack! Ack!”) serenade every cat lover knows so well, it’s a hairball. You’ll have to tolerate a certain amount of hairballs because that’s just part of having a cat. But there are steps you can take to help ingested hair go through the system instead of come back up.

Add some fiber to your cat’s diet. A little bit of canned pumpkin — plain pumpkin, not pumpkin pie filling — added to your pet’s regular meals will help the fur ingested by grooming to pass through the digestive system, instead of being thrown up onto your carpets. Combine it with canned food for palatability, or mix it with a little water from freshly run water fountains or cups.

Canned pumpkin has an advantage over oil-based hairball remedies: Overusing the latter can decrease the absorption of some essential nutrients. Regular combing and brushing also helps, especially if your pet has long hair. The fur you catch when grooming your cat won’t end up as a hairball, or as hair you’ll be cleaning off your clothes.

— Dr. Marty Becker

Do you have a pet question? Send it to petconnection@gmail.com or visit Facebook.com/DrMartyBecker.

BUZZ

- The U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency has sent letters to California veterinarians with mobile practices warning that they are not in compliance with the Controlled Substances Act, a move that could put at risk the practice of on-site euthanasia for family pets and on-site euthanasia for horses and other livestock. According to DVM360.com, mobile veterinarians typically carry controlled substances in locked boxes. The DEA previously considered mobile veterinarians to be a common-sense exception to the law requiring registration of any premise where controlled medications are to be stored. As such, the letter of the law was generally not enforced in this instance. Officials from state and local veterinary trade groups have appealed to Congress to legislate an exemption that will allow veterinarians to care for animals as they need to.

- The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is warning about the potential for salmonella infection in pet hedgehogs. One human death has been attributed to the handling of these pets, and 20 people have been made ill in eight states. Good hand-washing and animal husbandry practices help to prevent passage of the disease from animals to humans.

- A yearlong battle between a woman who found a dog and the man who lost him was resolved in an Oregon courtroom in favor of the original owner. The husky mix jumped over the fence at his owner’s end and ended up adopted by the woman who found him. Later spotted at a coffeehouse by his original owner, the dog became the center of an acrimonious fight when the new owner refused to give him back and charged the original owner with neglect. Authorities found no evidence to back up her claim. The legal battles ended when the dog’s finder admitted in court that the original owner’s claim was legitimate and promised to stay away from the animal.

— Dr. Marty Becker and Gina Spadafori
The city of Austonio was well-planned. In founding engineers, working under the guiding principles of "Clean," "Conserve" and "Capacity," responded to a crisis that took place around 2033 that contaminated water systems and, horrifyingly!, caused Slitherburn New Braunfels to shut down.

One hundred thirty years later, by the year 2163, Austonio was in great shape, a smart mix of water storage conservation principles, extensive use of pervious concrete and hydropiconic farming across a great expanse of central Texas.

But would it win a national competition as best city?

On Monday, students from West Ridge Middle School in the Eanes Independent School District outside Austin, Texas, will show off Austonio on the National Engineers Week Future City Competition in Washington.

With the guidance of their teacher, Carol Reese, who runs Future City as an extracurricular activity available to anyone at the school, students built Austonio in the video game "SimCity 4 Deluxe."

Then, they built a physical model (complete with water, lights and moving parts, all made from recycled materials) based on the virtual one. Out of several cities the students planned and constructed, this was the one that made it through regionalals and will be presented at the national competition, which has the theme, "Rethink Runoff: Design Clean Solutions to Manage Stormwater Pollution."

It wasn’t easy. Reese says the students spent “hours and hours, working, working, working” both on the model and on the virtual city game, which students had installed on school computers and at home. They wrote essays as well about their city design projected 150 years into the future and about the theme. The hard work has paid off, Reese's students said.

Reese said the program not only teaches math, engineering and science skills, but it challenges students to take on a complex set of problems as a group and come up with innovative solutions. “It’s about creative thinking. You apply creative thinking to solve problems of the future,” Reese said.

The teaching tool that’s the foundation of the future city is just one example of how the "SimCity" franchise has been influential to ongoing generations of students, architects, city planners and even just gameters who might have never expected to have an interest in urban development.

When it debuted in 1989, an eon ago in video gaming years, “SimCity” was, even in its first incarnation, a brilliant example of digital entertainment transcending mere gameplay. Designed by Will Wright, it was about keeping the citizens of your little virtual city happy while adhering to principles of good urban planning.

Each successive version of “SimCity” has gotten a graphical facelift and lots of new options, like the ability to transform terrain, build new kinds of buildings or deal with waste management.

In 2000, the American-Statesman’s Michael Barnes wrote about the current version of the game, “SimCity 3000,” which at the time was wowing Austin designers and planners. A city of Austin architect at the time said “SimCity” games had been played as Austin Smart Growth land development was being planned. (Did that work out? You'll have to judge that for yourself.)

There’ve been countless spinoffs and Sim-knockoffs, but on March 5, Electronic Arts will release a brand called simply “SimCity,” the fifth major version of the game. It'll be out for Windows PCs for $60-$80 with a Mac version soon to follow.

It will have gorgeous graphics _, listening dormes, scary natural disasters _, but will also emphasize online, communal play because no city is an island unless it’s an actual island.

Leon Undahl, one of the students who’ll travel to the capital to show off Austonio, had the chance to play a one-hour beta version of the new “SimCity.”

“I really liked how in this new one, it seemed more user friendly. You could get curved roads and there are brighter colors. It just looks a lot more appealing than the last one,” he said.

If you look at video game shelves, they’re typically dominated by anonymous space marines and calls of duty with big guns, which makes it refreshing that this many years since the first version, “SimCity” is highly anticipated by even the most jaded gamers. Electronic Arts appears to be making the game more social with the online play and livened up with options like a Heroes and Villains set in the Limited Edition version of the game, which allows for superheroes and organized crime if industrial zoning and aquifers aren’t your thing.

It’s encouraging, however, that “SimCity” won’t abandon its educational roots. A online community offering teaching tools and resources called SimCityEDU (at simcityedu.org) will launch alongside the video game.
Zucchini and Eggs

Minutes: 25  Servings: 4

In large skillet sauté the zucchini, onion and garlic to crisp tender. Add in the can of tomatoes, salt, pepper and oregano.

Pour the whisked eggs over the vegetables just before they are done. Cover with lid. When eggs are cooked, break them up and stir them in before serving. Top with grated cheese if desired.

Price is based on ingredients bought that are not considered a ‘staple’ of the pantry. ‘Staples’ for this column include: Soups/broths, flour, sugar, spices, sugar, eggs, milk, olive oil.

*Optional ingredients will raise price of dish slightly.

Quick Tip

Zucchini and Eggs is a dish high in fiber which will help to keep you full along with the protein from the eggs. Keep your wallet and stomach full by pairing the zucchini and eggs with a home-made mashed potato side. My dad’s version is great for one person but can be adapted to any number of people and is easily done in the microwave.

Rinse one medium potato and poke some holes in it with a fork. Microwave on high for about four minutes. Let stand until cool enough to touch; then remove skin. In small bowl mash potato. Add one tablespoon butter, quarter cup milk, salt and pepper to taste and one tablespoon sour cream. For a creamier potato add more milk.

Ingredients

- 2 tablespoons olive oil, or cooking spray equivalent
- 2 medium or 3 small sized zucchinis, quartered
- 1 small onion, diced
- 1 clove garlic, minced (optional)
- 1 (14.5 oz) can diced tomatoes
- 1 teaspoon dried oregano
- 1/4 teaspoon black pepper
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 4 eggs, whisked
- grated cheese (optional)
A heightened sense of reform has made its way into not just the classroom for black women — but on the playing field as well, according to the SIU track and field coach.

Connie Price-Smith, the Salukis head track and field coach, said conditions for female athletes have improved since the introduction of Title IX in 1972, which is a federal law that prohibits gender discrimination in federally funded schools. She said she believes more women can be successful in the realm of sports because of it.

“For a woman to succeed today she must dream big, but be careful of the choices you make because even the smallest thing can hold you back,” she said. “Don’t settle, keep striving and never feel inferior to anyone.”

— Connie Price-Smith
Head Track and Field Coach
Price-Smith, who was the first black woman to be nationally ranked in the shotput event for four seasons while she attended SIU, said successful female athletes are obligated to be positive role models in order for women’s conditions to continually progress.

“People like me, in my position or similar, have a responsibility to help those who come behind me,” Price-Smith said. “I have to be a good role model.”

Pamela Smoot, professor of Africana studies, said opportunities for black women in sports have become more available in recent years.

“At one time, there weren’t any funds for female sports,” she said. “There is now a larger number of women coaching in both track and basketball.”

Smoot said women have played a huge role in black history as well as sports.

“Black history month is a celebration of the achievements and contributions black Americans have provided to the USA,” she said. “One of those Americans, Wilma Rudolph, was someone I looked up to because of what she overcame.”

Expectations for modern black athletes are sometimes enormous and overwhelming, Price-Smith said.

Smoot said most athletes might never elevate to the professional level, which can create perception issues.

“When athletes leave our campus, they may have been stars here, but one stigma surrounding them could be ‘why didn’t you go pro?’” she said. “It can cause someone a lot of psychological (stress) to have failed expectations from so many people.”

Price-Smith said it is important for universities to have people of color in administrative positions because it allows athletes and minority students to relate to them. She said black female athletes in particular could use more support because they aren’t afforded some of the privileges men are.

“As a woman, you’re probably not going to get great sponsorships or endorsements,” Price-Smith said. “Men tend to make more money in most areas over women anyway.”

Senior Saluki sprinter Laquitsha Bejoile-Hayes said a key trait for modern female athletes is mental strength.

“You have to be mentally fit,” she said. “You have to be prepared for whatever challenges that may be thrown your way. It’s not easy to be good at, but if it was everyone would be successful.”

Bejoile-Hayes said she often fills the role of mentor on the team to get her and the rest of the team in the right mindset to compete.

She said the position.

“I love being a mentor to the younger girls. Being a peer mentor makes me want to go out and perform my best on every event because I know the girls are looking up to me,” she said. “It’s a challenge, but I feel like it’s my duty.”

Price-Smith gave a presentation on the history of African-American athletes Feb. 12 in the African American Museum. The demonstration, which was organized by the American Association of University Women in conjunction with Black History Month, covered the trials and tribulations of athletes ranging from Althea Gibson to Venus Williams.

When I did further research on her upbringing and credited her parents and coaches for her success as an athlete.

“My parents taught me how to take care of my responsibilities,” she said. “I grew up with a lot of love and my coaches brought the best out of me.”

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Aries — Today is a 7 — You're testing the limits. Your friends and family help grow your ideas and create new business. Nurture the necessary partnerships for sustainable growth.

Taurus — Today is an 8 — There's still a lot of work to do (especially around finances), but with dedication and compassion you make great progress. You can appreciate where you've gotten so far.

Gemini — Today is a 7 — Reaffirm your vision for the future, and get some well-deserved attention. Keep it grounded in reality, though, as fantasies can play tricks now. Save something away for emergencies.

Cancer — Today is a 9 — You can really complete a project that you've been putting off. Better fix something before it breaks. Avoid impetuous spending. Another's opinions are important, even if confusing.

Leo — Today is a 6 — Together, you can achieve amazing things, but you may have to be patient. Saving money is important, but your health comes first. Try a different mode of transportation.

Virgo — Today is a 7 — Make a plan before you start. Include exercise in your routine; a little makes a difference over time. Keep producing excellence at work. Pad the schedule for the unexpected.

Libra — Today is a 9 — Integrity counts double now, especially at work. Customer satisfaction pays dividends well into the future. Put in the extra effort. You're becoming more attractive and attractive.

Scorpio — Today is a 9 — Go over your options again before choosing, but choose, even if it seems difficult. There are excellent conditions for finding a great deal on the system you want. Don't waste a penny.

Sagittarius — Today is an 8 — The tension is getting higher, for better or worse. You can actually benefit greatly from the situation. You immediately see how to bend the rules to your benefit. But don’t break them.

Capricorn — Today is a 7 — Review the assignment to avoid errors. Don’t be afraid to ask a special person to help. It’s a good excuse to hang out, anyway. Keep it inexpensive with popcorn and tea.

Aquarius — Today is a 7 — Listen to others attentively, as if their words could be measured in gold. Your sixth sense is working well. Work out any kinks in communication or schedule without overextending.

Pisces — Today is a 7 — Don’t waste hours on communications that go nowhere. Minutes spent making extra copies of your data can save you time and money later. Take a break from a circular conversation.

Sherbert
By Ryan Wiggins: sherbertwiggins@yahoo.com

Look guys! I’m pretending to fall into this hot lava!

Uh-oh guys, I’m getting awfully close!

Look guys. I’m in it. It hurts.

Pooch Café

Well, you can’t do anywhere at the moment, the storm has got us snowed in.

Great! Trapped at the scene of my identity implosion with a presence-ripped inbound and a herd of sight-seeing poodles.

Wanna eat all the melting ice cream from the freezer?

All right, let’s make a deal. Not to share perspectives and come to any mutual understanding.

Blundergrads
By Phil Flickinger (www.blundergrads.com)

Remember what college was like before we got jaded?

This thing: revolutionized lectures for me.

I mean, just think about the impact Steve Jobs made on educa—

Are you playing angry birds?

Argyle Sweater

This way now! And Nurse, get me a PINS/60 RIV... STAT!

FLYING MCCOYS

“T’hey said they understood our wish to work harmonium with puppetyy, but would we consider playing doge next Thursday?”

Pop Culture Comics

Will we be sinking. We have to throw something overboard, something big.

F Minus

IF WE'RE LUCKY, MY ROOMMATES WILL BE OUT, AND WE'LL HAVE THE PLACE TO OURSELVES.
ACROSS
1 Middle Ages century opener
5 Request before a snap
10 "Survivor" ailer
13 Something to assume
15 Foofaraws
16 You can dig it
17 European auto club device
18 "You can dig it"
19 Floor application
20 Pronouncement of Pontius Pilate
21 Device commonly used in "The Twilight Zone"
23 "Citizen Kane" studio
24 One-time ring king
25 Raise objections
27 Balkan primate?
31 Vegetation
34 Butts
35 Julio's "that"
37 Mythological do-gooder
39 Word-of-mouth
40 "Star Trek" rank: Abbr.
41 Greenhouse square
42 Matter to debate
43 Mosaic orchestral group?
45 Who's who
47 Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle
48 One of the Bobsey twins
49 __ double take
50 "Come here __?"
51 __ Heartbeat": Amy Grant hit
54 Losers
56 Expected result
57 South Pacific 18-wheeler?
60 Counterterrorism weapon
61 "Heartbeat": Amy Grant hit
62 One handling a roast
63 Jeff
65 Indian tunes
66 Makes, as a visit
67

DOWN
1 "Real Time" host
2 Coop sound
3 Dos y tres
4 Batting practice safety feature
5 Bufalo
6 Magic charm
7 Craters of the Moon st.
8 __ cit.: footnote Abbr.
9 Native Alaskans, historically
10 Water cooler gatherers
11 Muff mix sin in
12 Hat
13 1943 war film set in a desert
14 Play thing?
15 Yodel
17 Ecosystem
18 Play thing?
19 Overlook
20 "Star Trek" rank: Abbr.
21 Puts down, as parquetry
22 Bolt
24 Indian tunes
25 Letter opener?
26 __ roast
27 Coll. senior "s" test
28 Old-time news source
29 Biblical twin st.
30 School with the motto "Lux et veritas"
31 It's measured in Hz
32 Roman moon goddess
33 Relating to childbirth
34 Like some clocks
35 First few chips, usually
36 __ Heartbeat": Amy Grant hit
37 Musical number
38 __ roast
39 Org. in old spy stories
40 "Star Trek" rank: Abbr.
41 HP product
42 Overlook
43 Animal skin
44 Tankard filler
45 Puts down, as parquetry
46 Harper's Weekly cartoonist
47 Like some clocks
48 One of the Bobsey twins
49 __ double take
50 "Come here __?"
51 __ Heartbeat": Amy Grant hit
52 "Heartbeat": Amy Grant hit
53 __ roast
54 Uttar Pradesh tourist city
55 __ roast
56 Eggs, in old Rome
57 Bangladesh capital, old style
58 Eggs, in old Rome
59 Not pos.
60 Overlook
61 __ roast
62 One handling a roast
63 Jeff
65 Indian tunes
66 Makes, as a visit
67

ACROSS
1 Proddy song that foreshadows?
9 Native Alaskans, historically
11 Mufin mix stir-in
16 Kids, "Hi there! It's a little bit funny, this feeling inside!"
17 "Left Eye" Lopez
19 What star did you to from stage
20 Elton John's "That's Show Me I'm Only"
22 "Scream Tone Funk of Your __" Elton John
23 "Do They Know It's Christmas?" co-write Motive
24 Like released today's statement
25 "Mack the Knife" Bistro
26 "Born to ... Social Distortion"
27 Jay-Z friend or
29 Friends Ask "Truer others. of it All"
30 "Icicles Carry" ... Tuesday
32 System of
34 Metallica "Trapped Under ..."
35 Iconic American composer Porter
36 Onstage solo solo
38 Course of record contract
41 Should be held off "1900 Degrees Fahrenheit"
46 "Rock, Roll __"
48 First Brit. "Roll Over"
49 "Tuxedo" Allen ... Farm
50 First Brit. "Roll Over"
51 Certain dance music
52 What comes out if club gets too hot for?
54 "This Great Black Night" Weeping
56 Rachel from Skid Row
60 "Liar" Vol. i
61 Jackpot
62 Elton John's "Stuck in Christmas"
64 Weekend-long Festival need
67 Used for tuning

DOWN
1 Stress record deal w/it project
2 What tour accountant better be good at?
The basketball term “sixth man” refers to the team’s best substitute, and football’s 12th man is associated with the home team’s boisterous crowd.

However, the Saluki softball team has a 10th man, and his name is Scott Wright.

Wright is the team’s groundskeeper. His job is to repair softball field damages after practices or games along with watering, rechalking and ensuring its sand is smooth. He has worked as a maintenance laborer in the physical plant department, has been a university employee for 14 years and has served as softball’s groundskeeper for five.

Before he took the groundskeeping job, Wright worked as a campus tree-trimmer and landscaper. He said he didn’t know if groundskeeping was the right job for him, but he loved it after the second day.

He said there are very few things people can do to the field that he can’t fix.

Wright plays a key role in the softball team’s success, which is something Coach Kerri Blaylock said she doesn’t take lightly.

“His out here every day,” Blaylock said. He’s out here all the time making sure our grass is always good and I’m an outfielder, so for the grass to be moulded all the time is something you never see.”

Wright said maintaining a great relationship with coaches and players is to becoming a great groundskeeper.

“While you have a softball team that’s out practicing just like the baseball players do, you know they’re going to tear up the field,” he said. “It is one heck of a challenge to figure out a way to keep this field pristine throughout the entire season and not just the first two weeks.”

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Wright said being a groundskeeper is a lifestyle that calls for long hours, and is not for everyone.

He said he works from 4 a.m. to at least 8 p.m. or 9 p.m. every day.

“On a rainy weekend, it’s pretty common for me to be here at about 3:30 in the morning to get started,” he said.

Wright said he works hard to keep the Salukis’ softball field looking as good as possible, and his hard work is getting noticed throughout the Missouri Valley Conference.

“We’ve been close with Wright since her freshman year and said she appreciates Wright’s dedication to the softball field.”

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He said his most memorable moment was last year’s MVC tournament.

“Last year when we hosted the Missouri Valley Tournament, the games were televised and both the umpires and television crew told me it was the most well-run tournament that they had ever officiated or ever worked in their careers,” he said.

“Ts that the highlight for me.”

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