The Daily Egyptian, January 30, 2008

Daily Egyptian Staff

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Student to introduce Clinton

SIUC student will announce former president today

Madeleine Leroux  
Daily Egyptian

For Kouri Marshall, life feels like a dream. Marshall was asked to introduce former president Bill Clinton at SIU Edwardsville Wednesday as part of the campaign tour for Sen. Hillary Clinton.

The student studying public administration said he has been volunteering for the Clinton campaign since 2003, taking part in fundraising events and even throwing house parties to make campaign calls. But when he was told of the honor, Marshall said he couldn’t believe anyone knew of his efforts.

“I just didn’t know the national campaign took note,” Marshall said. Marshall said Clinton fights for people who don’t have the resources they need, such as healthcare and education, but the reasons why he supports Clinton in the presidential election can be summed up in one word.

“It’s a simple answer,” Marshall said. “Loyalty.” Although he previously worked for Sen. Barack Obama when the presidential candidate was campaigning for Illinois senator, Marshall feels life feels like a dream.

See CLINTON, Page 9

Citizens to weigh in on Ameren increase

Forum moved to accommodate more

Barton Lorimor
Daily Egyptian

State Rep. John Bradley, D-Marion, said he knows from the start Marion City Hall would not be big enough.

The Illinois Commerce Commission will host a public hearing 7 p.m. Feb. 6 at the Williamson County Pavilion instead of the Marion City Hall with Illinois government officials about a possible rate increase affecting all Ameren Illinois customers. The forum will allow the public to voice their opinions about a proposed rate increase for all Illinois Ameren electricity and natural gas customers.

Erica Abett, a spokesperson for Ameren, said the Peoria-based power company filed three requests for each of its providers, Ameren Illinois, AmerenCILCO and AmerenICP, to increase delivery charges to allocate $347 million for ongoing infrastructure repair. The increase requires ICC approval, which can be granted a minimum of 11 months after the request is submitted.

“In order to meet our customers’ growing energy needs and growing energy expectations, we have to be able to invest in our system to improve reliability,” Abett said.

In a November press release, Ameren Illinois CEO Scott Ciel said the company’s promise to keep rate increases under 10 percent was upheld in the request. The same release said an average residential customer with AmerenICP using 10,000 kilowatt-hours of electricity and gas in a year would see a surcharge of $4.17 per month.

Abett said the exact increase amount per customer depends on the amount of energy they use. Ameren provides electricity to approximately 1.2 million people and natural gas to 540,000 customers. She said the numbers overlap because some customers receive both.

The request has not been met with praise by Illinois lawmakers. Bradley said he thinks no legislator in their right mind should support Ameren’s request.

Bradley was a member of a group that spoke against Ameren’s price increase in January 2007 after a ten-percent rate increase was approved.

“It’s aggravating because they are trying to hurt their customers,” he said. “It’s one thing after another.”

Beth Bosch, a spokesperson for the company, said the Peoria-based power company filed three requests for each of its providers, Ameren Illinois, AmerenCILCO and AmerenICP.

See DOUBLE, Page 9
Academic Expectations and the International Students

1:30 p.m. Thursday at the International Students and Scholars Office-Meeting Room.

• The workshop will explore a variety of academic expectations that international students are sometimes uncertain of focusing on the nature of plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty.

MCMA visiting artist series

• Carol Godberaski, photographer

6 p.m. Thursday at loaf, room 161.

• Her recent series of black and white photographs, "Psychometry," addresses psychological issues concerning anxiety, loss, and existential doubt.

The calendar is a free service for community groups. We cannot guarantee that all items will run.

Submit calendar items to the Daily Egyptian newsroom, Communications, 1247, at least two days before event, or call (618) 536-3311, ext. 266.

CORRECTIONS

In Thursday’s story, the story "Research Park plans to expand" should have said “I'm a professor on the technology side, and on the business side I’m really naive, so I really count on Jeff to push things.” In this story, the sentence was not able to be corrected.

If you spot an error, please contact the Daily Egyptian accuracy desk at 536-3311, ext. 253.

CALENDAR

Division of Continuing Education

• The Individualized Learning Program is offering extended testing hours (Sat. available time to schedule is 6:30 p.m.) for students on Friday.

• To schedule a test, please call 536-7751.

Saluki Heritage

Interpreters informational meeting

• 4 p.m. today at the Agriculture Building, room 201.

• First meeting upcoming environmental interpretative events. Discuss new officer elects.

Illinois copes with powerful winds, blinding snow, travel delays

Chicago (AP) — A federal judge refused to release a high-profile fundraiser for Barack Obama and other Illinois politicians. From Tuesday, saying that he might face a long trial on charges of fraud.

Police are searching for two black males thought to be in their 20s in connection with the armed robbery of a student from Chicago, and the pilot phone before running off one day before the event.

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Saluki Express offers late night rides

Official says students rarely utilize free transportation

Madeleine Leroux
DAILY EGYPTIAN

It's Saturday night in a Carbondale bar and those infamous words are called out: "Last call!"
The sign has been given that the bar will close its doors shortly. Now it's time to wonder how to get home.

Many opt to stumble back to their dorms or apartments on foot. Some take the risk of getting into their cars after a long night of drinking, and others may even dig into their wallets and spring for a cab ride home.

But there is an additional option, frequently overlooked or unknown — the Saluki Express.

Students throughout the day coming to and from campus often use the bus transit system. But for late night travel there is only one route available: Route 8 of the Saluki Express, which runs Fridays and Saturdays from 9:30 p.m. to 2:25 a.m.

Demetrous White, Undergraduate Student Government president, said the idea of starting a SIUC "drunk bus" was discussed last year, but those proposing the idea were unaware of the late night service offered by Saluki Express. White said after finding out late night travel was offered, the topic was dropped.

"We didn't see a need after knowing that service was already available," White said.

Steve Ginn, Saluki Express assistant manager, said the service has been offered for nearly 10 years. Ginn said the late night bus route had a total of 159 riders in December, averaging out to fewer than seven people using the service each hour.

Western Illinois University offers Go West Transit, a bus system similar to Saluki Express, but during late night it's referred to as the "drunk bus." According to Erin Cline, a junior at Western and assistant with Go West Transit, the late night route offered at Western is extremely popular among students.

"It takes you all through campus and the town square," Cline said. "It's usually full, too.

The late night bus at Western runs until 2 a.m. Thursdays and 3 a.m. Fridays and Saturdays. Cline said the bus runs through the most frequented parts of town and stops right in front of the bars, making it an easy travel option.

Camille Dorris, executive director of the Women's Center, said the center has been promoting the use of night transit services since the early 1970s. Dorris said one tip for safe ways to travel at night would be to use the available night transit services.

"It's probably underutilized for night travel," Dorris said of the Saluki Express.

According to Dorris, other tips for safe night travel are to travel in groups, stay within well-lit areas and keep a cell phone at all times.

Madeleine Leroux can be reached at 536-5111 ext. 270 or mleroux@siu.edu.

Lin Wang, left, speaks to Xin Chen during their late night ride on the Saluki Express. Route 8 of the Saluki Express runs from 9:30 p.m. until 2:25 a.m., providing safe transport home for many students on the Strip.

JASON JOHNSON - DAILY EGYPTIAN
Mc Cain, Romney face setback in Florida Republican primary presidential primary

MIAMI (AP) — John McCain and Mitt Romney campaigned in a hard-fought Florida primary on Tuesday, seeking campaign momentum before the race for the Republican nomination turns into a nationwide delegate struggle for both candidates.

Tuesday's biggest test for both men came in their home states of Arizona and New Hampshire, where they are seeking to re-establish momentum for their respective campaigns after losing ground in South Carolina.

Romney has been trailing McCain by double digits in polls in Arizona, where he is trying to hold on to his advantage in the state's Republican caucuses. McCain is expected to do well in the New Hampshire primary, where he has a strong base of support.

The winner will likely come out of Arizona, where Romney has spent more time and money campaigning.

The losers will have to regroup and focus on the next big primaries, including in Michigan and Illinois, where both candidates have been struggling.

In Arizona, Romney is trying to build on his recent victories in the state's Republican caucuses, where he won handily.

In New Hampshire, McCain is trying to capitalize on his strong showing in the state's primary, where he won with a narrow victory.

The two candidates are trying to show that they can win in the state's caucuses, where they have both been strong. McCain is focusing on his strong showing in the state's caucuses, where he won with a narrow victory.

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Faculty to help 17 counties prepare for disaster

Project receives $1.3 million in federal funding

Roughly $1.3 million in federal funds could help university faculty prepare southern Illinois for disaster.

Faculty members would work under a $1,288,000 grant to help 17 southern Illinois counties prepare for natural disasters, university officials announced Tuesday. The Federal Emergency Management Agency supplied the funding, which will last until 2010, said geology professor Nicholas Pinter.

“There is a real need in this area to look at what disasters can occur, have occurred in the past and … reduce the threat, should these things occur in the future,” Pinter said.

He described the region as the “southern California of the Midwest,” referencing a history of major floods, tornados and earthquakes in southern Illinois.

Pinter said the grant would help officials meet federal requirements for disaster planning. He added that the funding would help pay for several students to help with the project.

Andy Flor is the first of these students. Flor, a graduate student from Flossmoor studying geology, said he would help gather and record data from the counties about their current emergency preparations.

Flor and other researchers will enter the data into a computer database, he said. Computer software helps develop more detailed planning and preparation for natural disasters.

“Floods are pretty obvious,” Flor said. “In these counties they pose a big risk, but there’s other things too — earthquakes, tornados.”

Harvey Henson, a geology professor, said he has studied earthquakes for the past 22 years. Under the grant, he said, it would be possible to raise a greater awareness about earthquakes.

“You’ve got to go out and talk to the public,” Henson said. “When we have a small tremor, public awareness is heightened and more people are interested in, ‘Why are we having earthquakes? What does it mean potentially? Is it a threat, and what do we do about it?’

Henson noted southern Illinois’ position on the New Madrid Seismic Zone made it vulnerable to the possibility of a large quake.

“It’s a backyard threat to southern Illinois,” Henson said. “We have a small earthquake every so often which reminds us of that.”

Allison Petty can be reached 536-3311 ext. 259 or allison.petty@siude.com.
The trouble with the Masons is... 

AARON WOLFE
wolfe86@siu.edu

There are only two entities that can quiet the Archbishp of Canterbury: God and the monarch (and not necessarily in that order). However, in March 2004, British Freemasons circumvented both Jehovah and Queen Elizabeth II not only to shunt Archbishp Rowan Williams up, but also make him take his words back.

How and why would a group of men who wear aprons and practice ancient rituals do such a thing, you may ask? Because Dr. Williams claimed that Freemasonry was incompatible with Christianity. On top of this, he also admitted to keeping members of the Craft away from senior posts in his diocese.

Members of the fraternal organization around the world will deny any incompatibility with the Christian faith (or any other, for that matter), but the vast majority of men who deny these claims are also ignorant of how Masonry became what it is today.

Even Mayor Brad Cole, a seven-year member of the Craft, appears to be unaware of how this mysterious men’s club found its way to America.

And if a public figure belongs to a group that wields enough power to make the head of the Church of England recind a strongly held belief, then it is worth taking the time to lift the veil on its elusive past.

This task is much easier said than done, but it is also easy to overlook: Most low-ranking masons are unaware of the significance of the ceremonies they participate in. And the majority of outsiders know little of their public activities – much less their private ones.

In their book “The Hiram Key,” writers and fellow Craft members Christopher Knight and Robert Lomas even admit that Freemasonry for them was, “little more than a social club providing an opportunity to indulge in some amateur theatricals, followed by a meal and plenty of beer and wine.”

However, Knight and Lomas also discovered that their fraternity held the key to a laundry list of esoteric secrets. Years of research and several books later, they have outlined what they believe to be the true history of more than just Freemasonry; they also believe they have discovered the secret past of the Christian faith.

And it is farther from orthodox belief than most anyone could ever imagine. In fact, the story they outline is so expansive and fantastic it makes “The DaVinci Code” look like a children’s book. Among the many shocking beliefs they claim Freemasonry has passed down are the concepts that the Catholic Church began as a fringe Jewish cult that was started by the apostle Paul, that Jesus was the leader of a fringe group of militants, and that the stories of his miracles are actually allegorical representations of his recruitment techniques.

And as for the history of the Craft, Knight and Lomas claim it is partly descended from the Knights Templar, a group of monks who purportedly unearther scrolls from the ruins of the Temple of Solomon that support its theories. These knights were, however, arrested and killed on Oct. 13, 1307. The few who managed to escape either made their way to Scotland or America, the latter being a particularly amazing feat since they would have arrived in the New World a century and a half before Christopher Columbus was even born.

Regardless of how much of this information is fact or fiction, it does raise legitimate questions as to how Freemasonry fits into American society.

In the Jan. 16-22 edition of the Carbondale Times, Mayor Cole said, in relation to the Masonry’s activities, that it “is much more than just a lunch or breakfast group. We’re not a coffee clutch or a sewing circle. There’s much more to it.”

And that’s just the problem. If only he and his brothers at Shiklah Lodge knew how right he really was.

Wolfe is a senior studying English education.

Don’t replace unused facilities

Dear Editor:

I have seen a number of articles in the DE about the proposed $25.60 increase in the Student Recreational Fee. Outrage is abundant. Finally, something that most all groups are signing to rally against – isn’t unity great? Well, I have a different sense of rage on this subject.

Why are we proposing wasting money on tennis courts and a cricket pitch to begin with? For the last calendar year, I have driven past the areas on which the facilities resided twice a day generally for a few days a week. Not once did I see these facilities fully utilized. Once I did see a group of students in a cricket match (and I recognized it as such), but this was on the high ground between the Arena and the baseball diamond. In this entire time I never saw more than three tennis courts in use.

Yet all I read is that someone besides the students need to pay for relocating these facilities. What is the point? So the university does not lose recreational capacity? Its time that the SIU student body, and the rest of America, comes to realize that we need to stop wasting resources, and money is a resource.

If we are not using something, it does not need replaced. If the managers and leaders of this university start running their departments like it’s money out of pocket, instead of inflating a budget, maybe then we would stop seeing so many fare increases.

Jim Rhodes
graduate student studying mechanical engineering

“Our security, our prosperity and our environment all require reducing our dependence on oil.”

George W. Bush
President of the United States
in his final State of the Union Address
Coaching Cairo

Photo column by Jake Lockard – DAILY EGYPTIAN

I often went to Cairo last semester as part of The Cairo Project, a multimedia journalism course dedicated to telling the stories of the town. I chose not to spend all of my time photographing dilapidated buildings. Instead, I decided to focus my time and energy on finding people who were trying to improve the situation in Cairo.

I found coach Larry Baldwin. Baldwin spends much of his time at the high school. He can often be found patrolling the streets in his car, making sure all of his students stay on the right path.

“What I’ve always tried to do is to make a difference in someone that needed some support,” Baldwin said. “If you could say something, or just be there, just be a presence that they respect and admire, then maybe, just maybe, it might cause them to stay on the straight and narrow.”

Baldwin speaks much of his time at school and basketball practices talking to students such as Marquis Lemmon, a junior at Cairo High School. They are seen here talking about keeping up with schoolwork during an open gym at the high school. Baldwin has coached for nearly 24 years, and has been told numerous times that he should retire. But Baldwin is not ready for retirement.

“You don’t stop living just because you get sick. You just not living just because you’ve reached a certain age.”

“Coaching has been my life,” Baldwin said. “You don’t stop living just because you get sick. You don’t stop living just because you’ve reached a certain age. You continue to live. So I just continue to coach because its always been a part of my life, and I love it.”
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"We know that, particularly with underclassmen, there is a little bit more need. There are adjustment issues, so keeping it anywhere between 1-to-25 and 1-to-35 is usually better," she said.

Scally said housing administration will decide in July exactly how many RAs will be on each floor at any given time, but the number definitely will not go down.

Each tower will have two hall directors instead of one in fall 2008. Each director makes about $26,000 a year.

Scally said there are 11 major-specific floors, called Living Learning Communities, created to help students succeed and improve retention in the towers. Kirchmeier said all students, including those living in these communities, would benefit from the employee increase.

Brandy Oxford can be reached at 536-3311 ext. 255 or brandy_oxford@siu.edu.

INCREASE CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

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Other power companies in Illinois, such as Commonwealth Edison in Chicago, are filing for similar rate increases. Like Ameren, ComEd cited infrastructure repairs and system upgrades as primary reasons for a rate increase that would effect 3.8 million power customers as early as September.

During the last increase in energy costs, the Illinois General Assembly approved a $1 billion relief package for Ameren and ComEd customers that would be credited to their bills. Though a similar package has not been proposed, low-income power customers can apply for relief through the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program – an organization funded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Debbie Thies, a coordinator for the Western Illinois Outreach office of the program, said $2 million will be distributed to nearly 7,000 energy customers in Randolph, Perry, Monroe and Jackson counties until May 31. The applicant’s power does not need to be turned off, but they must be considered low-income on a chart setup by the program. For example, a person who lives alone and makes fewer than $1,276 a month qualifies.

Bosch said the forum in Matson is one of six scheduled across the state.

Barton Lorimor can be reached at 536-3311 ext. 274 or Barton.Lorimor@siu.edu.

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Rec Center offers new type of class

Christian Holt
DAILY EGYPTIAN

First there was Tae Bo. Then came the strip-tease fad.
Now, there is Zumba.
Zumba mixes Latin music and dancing with aerobic exercise to offer participants a fun workout while burning a lot of calories, said Mary Beth Borre, one of the instructors of a new class offered at the Recreation Center.
The exercise routine was started by accident in the early 1990s by an aerobics instructor in Colombia when he forgot his music to teach the class. He improvised by instead using the music he had in his car and making up moves as he went along, said Lynn Thompson-Cundiff, fitness coordinator at the Recreation Center.

Originally called “Rumbacize,” the name was officially changed to Zumba after creator “Beto” Perez was approached by American entrepreneurs.
Mary Beth Borre, a sophomore from Lombard studying paralegal studies, is one of two instructors who teach the class.
Borre said she has been interested in aerobics since she was a freshman in high school and was certified in November so she could teach the class.

Thompson-Cundiff said recreation administration decided to offer the class to provide a fresh and fun way for members to exercise.

“In looking at trends around the country, it’s been pretty successful,” she said. “You can just kind of let loose.”

Because everyone involved is fairly new to the Zumba scene, they may take some time to adjust to the original rhythms, Thompson-Cundiff said.

“It’s a fun thing. They’ll grow into it,” she said.

Thompson-Cundiff said the workout she received from her Zumba certification class surprised her. She said she didn’t expect to use her lower body as much as she did.

Katie Mitchell, a first-year law student from Stonzfief, attended a Zumba class with two of her classmates Monday night. All three students tried Zumba for the first time.

Before the class began, Mitchell and her friends were skeptical about what the class would entail. By the end of the hour, the three shook their hips with the beat of the music.

“I just expect to have a good workout and be sore the next day,” Mitchell said.

Students and members of the Recreation Center are welcome to drop in on the class on any day they have free time.

The class is free and offered Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 5:30 p.m. until 6:30 p.m.

Christian Holt can be reached at 518-531-2461 or chrholt@siu.edu.

ATTORNEY GENERAL REFUSES WATERBOARDING LEGALITY

Lara Jakes Jordan
The Associated Press
WASHINGTON — Attorney General Michael Mukasey said Tuesday he will refuse to publicly say whether the interrogation tactic known as waterboarding is illegal, digging in against critics who want the Bush administration to define it as torture.

In a letter to Senate Judiciary Chairman Patrick Leahy, Mukasey said he has finished a review of Justice Department memos about the CIA’s current methods of interrogating terror suspects and finds them to be lawful.

He said waterboarding is not part of what Mukasey described as a “limited set of methods” used by interrogators now, the attorney general said he would not rule on whether it is illegal.

“I understand that you and some other members of the (Judiciary) Committee may feel that I should go further in my review, and answer questions concerning the legality of waterboarding under current law,” Mukasey wrote in his three-page letter to Leahy.

“I understand the strong interest in this question, but I do not think it would be responsible for me, as attorney general, to provide an answer.”

The attorney general added: “If this were an easy question, I would not be reluctant to offer my views on this subject. But, with respect, I believe it is not an easy question. There are some circumstances where current law would appear clearly to prohibit the use of waterboarding, and other circumstances would present a far closer question.”

The letter does not elaborate on what the other circumstances are. Mukasey’s letter was sent on the eve of his appearance at a Justice Department oversight hearing chaired by Leahy. By the time the attorney general refused to define waterboarding as torture because he was unfamiliar with the classified Justice Department memos describing the process and legal arguments surrounding it.

He promised then, however, to review the memos if confirmed and return an answer to the Senate Judiciary Committee. Tuesday’s letter represents that response.

In remarks prepared for the much-anticipated hearing, obtained Tuesday before Mukasey’s letter was released, Leahy said he expects the attorney general to answer senator’s questions.

In years past, the Justice Department’s “secret legal memos” have sought to define torture down to meaninglessness,” said Leahy. “I trust that today, Attorney General Mukasey will answer our questions and speak not as merely the legal representative of this president, but as the attorney general for all Americans.”
Truckers create better country tunes

Devin Vaughn
DAILY EGYPTIAN

‘Brighter Than Creation’s Dark’

By Truckers

Release Date: Jan. 28, 2008
Label: New West Records

www.drivebytruckers.com

4 out of 5 stars

Sometime long ago, country music lost its way. Simple songs by honest people gave way to bloated, over-produced numbers that bordered on self-parody, such as “Save a Horse (Ride a Cowboy)” and “Honky Tonk Badonkadonk.” It’s no wonder why today the term “country” is enough to make your average audiophile smirk in derision.

Fortunately, with “Brighter Than Creation’s Dark,” the Drive-By Truckers are able to restore a little dignity to one of the most American of art forms.

Steel guitar-tinged and heartbroken, “Creation’s Dark” spans across 19 tracks and 75 minutes of blue-collar woes and rural dilemmas without ever cartooning its subject matter in the fashion of latter-day country artists.

The traditional, rather than other contemporaries in alt-country, like Wilco and the Old 97’s, the Drive-By Truckers take on a more classic country-rock approach in the same vein as the Band, while displaying the markings of southern rock bands like Lynyrd Skynyrd.

The album’s sentiments range from reflective, “Is there vengeance up in heaven?” to raucous, “I got an itch that needs scratching but it feels all right. I got the need to blow it out on Saturday night,” (from “Two Daughters and a Beautiful Wife”), to raucous, “I got an itch that needs scratching but it feels all right. I got the need to blow it out on Saturday night,” (from “The Righteous Path”)..

Thematically, "Creation's Dark," hardly ever lifting its gaze from the barroom floor, meanders between whiskey-soaked wanderlust and disillusionment, focusing on the stories of down-and-out country boys who have seen better days, with songs like "Daddy Needs A Drink" and "That Man I Shot."

And despite the presence of three guitarists, the Drive-By Truckers never seem cluttered in their instrumentation. Even as they alternate between four vocalists, the group maintains a very unified aura.

If "Creation's Dark" is flawed, it is only because its extensive running time might wear on the patience of the average listener and its dreary laments might become a bit stale after never managing to look toward the lighter side of life. But flaws aside, ‘Creation’s Dark’ is a tightly constructed and touching elegy for hope for other things lost along the lonely roads of life that brings a refreshing vigor into a waning art form of Americana.

Devin Vaughn can be reached at 316-3131 ext. 275 or devn68@siu.edu.
### The Best Rentals in Town

**Available Fall 2008**

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A recently reunited New Kids on the Block revealed their newest ballad on their Web site: http://www.nkotb.com. What do you think about the ‘90s boy band that proclaimed to have all the “right stuff” getting back together?

PULSE

Wednesday, January 30, 2008

529-1082 • 206 W College Suite 11 • Carbondale

Alicia Wade

Sounds to me like they’ve been woah oh oh — hangin’ tough.

Danny Wenger

birth of them-elves?

Madeleine Leroux

New Kids on the Block had a bunch of hits. Chinese food makes me sick. And I think it’s fly when girls stop by for the summer…

Alicia Wade

Alicia Wade

Sounds to me like they’ve been woah oh oh — hangin’ tough.

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birth of them-elves?
Girls and Sports

by Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein

The Duplex

by Glenn McCoy

By Linda C. Black

Today's Birthday (01-30-08)

Your friends. Don't pass along a rumor, it's too likely to be false. During the next few weeks, check and double-check everything before publication.

By Mike Argirion

THE Daily Crossword

Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

ACROSS

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5 Spacious imitation

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‘Goliath’ a giant epic for The Mars Volta

Julie Engler Daily Egyptian

The Bedlam In Goliath
The Mars Volta
Release date: Jan. 29, 2008
Universal Records
www.themarsvolta.com

For a “record that did not want to be born,” The Mars Volta’s fourth album has a resonating vitality. “Bedlam In Goliath” is complex, lengthy and organized, comprising 12 tracks that run a little over an hour. Omar Rodriguez-Lopez, producer and bandmastermind, had Prigden, lyrics/vocals, are masters of prog-rock/metal who are at their worst interesting to hear, and this album proves what they can be at their best.

The music starts out with a belch of high-pitched screaming, ridiculous but signature to The Mars Volta. Then the band takes us through several layers, starting with textured vocals. At times, Omar plays a meowing-wah of a guitar, such as in the beginning of the seven-minute monster of a song “Goliath.” Other times it follows the scale of the vocals and reaches new heights and depths with arpeggios and solos, such as the grungy second-half of the same song.

Keyboard noises are foreign and minimalistic. Songs, such as “Tournequip Man,” feature the strange noises that seem to have been transmitted in from another realm.

At times, The Mars Volta only seems to be in-sync musically for a few moments before breaking into other worlds. Sometimes the band seems to have the timing wrong, or sometimes it seems someone missed the cue. It’s this planning to sound like nothing was planned that makes “Bedlam” such an interesting listen.

The album follows a storyline, an idea the band stayed away from with “Amputectture.” This time, it’s about superstition and the invisible world affecting the tangible world. In a curio shop in Jerusalem, Omar finds the “Soothsayer,” an Ouiji-like “talking board” he bought for Cedric. But it brought bad luck: The band’s engineer loses composition to a drummer leaves and equipment is destroyed. So, they buried it, and picked it up where they left off. Along with visual contributor John Frusciante (Red Hot Chili Peppers), “Bedlam” also features bangs ranging from new drummer, Thomas Prigden. The lyrics that tell the story are important but sometimes discernable. It goes from screaming to singing to a computer-altered fuzz. But no matter what they sound like, it’s about something dark and deep, some first-hand experience with something else. “You touched the band that’s touching sin, I need a brand new skin, follow me into oblivion,” Cedric sings on “Tuyen.”

Compared with “Deloused In The Comatorium,” the band’s debut in 2003, there are some great similarities, but not enough. Prigden reaches another level with his drumming. The Mars Volta was never capable of five years ago.

‘Purple’ Loeb stripped and strong

Alicia Wade Daily Egyptian

The Purple Tape
Lisa Loeb
Release date: Jan. 22, 2008
Furious Rock Productions
www.lisa-loeb.com

Thanks to a massive hit song off of the “Reality Bites” soundtrack, Loeb became a household name in 1994 when her cat-eyed glasses and song “Stay” hit MTV and radio. After years away from the musical limelight, the airy singer and songwriter has released a remastered version of her demo tape known as “The Purple Tape.” The album features 10 songs and a companion disc that contains interviews with Loeb dissecting her songwriting process and reflecting on each song.

“The Purple Tape” is probably more to die-hard Loeb fans tastes, especially with the interviews explaining the inspiration behind her songs. Some of the tunes were polished and put on Loeb’s first full-length album “Tula,” released in 1995.
But casual listeners who only know Loeb from her “turn the radio on, turn the radio up!” days should appreciate this acoustic nump for what it is — solid tunes with honest lyrics.

“Snow Day” kicks off the album with an examination of isolation with a background of a lone, high-pitched strum of an acoustic guitar. The mid-tempo she uses for the song helps it not to be a drone of sadness, but rather a reflective, active song that deals with serious emotions.
Loeb’s child-like, yet full voice comes in strong with a vibro-tune that, without over-production, expresses her melancholy lyrics with a loneliness sound.

“It’s a sinking feeling,” she yearns. “Pulls me through the sea of chaos. When will you come rescue me, find solace, and then take me there?”

This song sets the tone for the rest of the album, showing that while some tracks may be more shrilly sounding and foot tapping, the core of each track is deeply personal emotion.

An image of Loeb perched on a stool at an open mic night at an out-of-the-way coffee shop, many of these tracks invoke, especially on “Airplanes,” the final song on the album.

It’s easy to imagine Loeb whispering her song in her light voice into the metal head of a microphone, emoting what it was like for her as a child in the heartfelt slow tune.

“And father, that’s a hard word,” she sings. “The things that you’re needing, the things that you’re missing, the things that don’t show.”

Her bare description of loneliness, awkwardness and growing up are easy to relate to and present in most of her songs. This makes “The Purple Tape” a wonderful and touching listen for anyone who has ever felt the pains of simply being human.

While it may not appeal to all due to its lack of production, polishes and rocking-out factor, “The Purple Tape” is the journey of a talented singer and songwriter before fame. Loeb shows that sometimes demo tapes deserve a remaster.

Lisa Loeb can be reached at 5136-3312 ext. 275 or alicia@siu.edu.

Find out “WHAT’S UP” in the news with...
Senior leadership by example

When Brenton Siemons hits his first throw, it seems as if his teammates follow in stride. This is the final year the Pittsfield native will compete for SIU. The fifth-year senior studying accounting is one of the track and field team’s most accomplished athletes. Siemons posted 17 top-5 finishes in the 2006-07 season, finishing the year by winning indoor and outdoor shot put titles at the Missouri Valley Conference championships.

Throws coach John Smith said replacing an athlete like Siemons is going to be difficult. “Losing Brenton is going to be hard,” Smith said. “He’s the kind of guy you want going into a conference meet.”

Track and field was not always Siemons’ sport. At Pittsfield High School, he played golf for three years before his friends talked him into joining the track and field team. In his junior year, he was a state qualifier in the discus and shot put events. Now he is one of the Salukis’ most consistent point scorers.

Siemons started the 2008 portion of the track and field schedule strong with victories in the weight toss and shot put events at the Saluki Booster and Illinois Invitational. Siemons’ performance at the Saluki Booster helped him win the MVC Athlete of the Week award Jan. 22.

Smith said Siemons is an “ice breaker.” Siemons is not a vocal leader; instead he is the type of athlete who leads by example. Smith said Siemons’ soft-spoken personality has not changed since he came to SIU, but his skill has improved on a year-to-year basis more than any other athlete he has seen.

“He’s one of the best I’ve ever coached,” Smith said.

Even though Siemons is doing well in his events, his main focus is in the classroom. He said he used to find it difficult to concentrate in the classroom, but has shifted his sights toward the importance of graduation.

“Everyone, all I could think about is the next meet,” Siemons said. He might pursue a master’s degree in accounting and said he would like to finish his Saluki career on a high note.

Siemons said he enjoys his events, and that helps him to be successful. “When you have fun, you don’t get burned out,” Siemons said.

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But it comes at an important time, he said, as the team makes a conference run crucial to its postseason ambitions.

Shaw was relatively quiet for the first half of the season, but has credited the intense practices with his spark on the floor.

"Our intensity in practice has gotten better by leaps and bounds," Shaw said. "I was warned at the beginning of the year, honestly, just because you can tell after being there for three years that our intensity wasn’t where it needed to be at.

This is the second meeting of the season for the two teams that last met on Jan. 15 in Evansville when the Salukis walked away with an 80-67 victory.

Coach Marty Simmons said coming into Tuesday night’s game the Purple Aces wanted to keep Falker off the block but struggled on both ends of the floor.

Leading the Purple Aces (6-14, 1-9) was senior guard Shy Ely with 16 points and five rebounds, and junior guard Jason Holinger scored nine points.

With the win, the Salukis now sit in third place in the MVC behind Drake and Illinois State. Lowery said the positioning could benefit them as the season winds down.

"Being 6-4 in the league — anything can happen from here on out," Lowery said. "Being in third place really allows us to creep in the weeds and allow people to know we’re still here."

The Salukis will travel to Cedar Falls, Iowa, to take on Northern Iowa on Saturday. Tip off is set for 7:05 p.m.

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After drawing criticism for lack of senior leadership, Falker has played two consecutive games with the intensity that made him a preseason Wooden Award candidate.

Lowery said he credits the intensity to the practices that have been carrying over to the games, which has given the team new life.

"Now is the time for us to make a move," Lowery said. "Being in third place allows us to really kind of creep in the weeds and allow people to really know that we’re still here. Now were not the hunted anymore. We’re hunting people, so it’s good for us mentally right now.

Falker sat out most of the first part of the second half, but with 12:30 left to play he came back in and gave the Purple Aces another wake-up call.

Evansville cut the lead down to nine, but Falker’s first play off the bench was a powerful block that led to a Saluki fast break. The Salukis went on to consistently feed the ball down low to Falker where he would draw a foul every time and convert from the charity stripe.

Not all of Falker’s contributions showed in the final stat sheet. Falker was active on defense as he played from beyond the 3-point line to underneath the post.

If an Evansville player was open from beyond the arc, he closed in on him. If the ball went down low, he ran up behind the player to cause a loose ball.

Falker said he was focused on breaking any double team that Evansville threw at him.

"You just got to try to put your all into it sometimes because they’re walling you and trying to make you go one way," Falker said. "And a lot of times the pass is through them or around them so you just got to try to make the pass at all costs."

Falker finished his night with 16 points, going 8-of-10 from the free throw line and recorded four blocks. Falker stepped out of the game to the fans’ applause for the final time with 5:45 remaining and a 20-point Saluki lead.

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SiU defense stifles Aces

Seniors pave the way for 59-39 victory

Megan Kramper

For a majority of the season, coach Chris Lowery said he needed his seniors to step up.

Tuesday night, they showed him how to do it.

Senior forwards Matt Shaw and Randal Falker combined for 32 points and 19 rebounds to help the Salukis defeat the Evansville Purple Aces, 59-39.

The victory put the Salukis (11-10, 6-4 Missouri Valley) back over .500 for the first time since Dec. 15.

Shaw and Falker were the keys for the Salukis, with Shaw scoring a double-double with 15 points and 19 rebounds and Falker scoring 16 points and four blocks.

While the Purple Aces kept the score within 10 for most of the game, the Salukis broke the lead open with seven minutes to play with a six-point run, including a dunk and a 3-pointer by Shaw.

Free throws were vital for the Salukis as they went 64 percent from the line, including an 8-for-10 performance by Falker.

Lowery said the Salukis’ offense could have been better Tuesday night, but defensively the team gave the Purple Aces a hard time.

“It was good to see that we totally dominated them and physically wore them down like we normally do when we were playing hard,” Lowery said.

The Salukis have credited intense practices to recent success and Lowery said he wants to see the type of play early.

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Falker shows defensive prowess early

Jeff Engelhardt

If the block didn’t do it, the steal probably did. If the dunk that followed the steal didn’t do it, the next block did.

Any one of those four plays from Randal Falker let Evansville know the senior forward was in no mood for their double-teams on defense or layups on offense.

Falker set the pace for the Salukis (11-10, 6-4 MVC) as they took a 14-3 lead and never looked back to secure a 59-39 victory.

The senior forward started the game with a blocked shot, followed it with a steal, tossed in a layup and capped it off with one more block to send a clear message.

In the first half of play, Evansville could have been better Tuesday night, but it was the way he scored that kept Evansville looking for answers.

Instead of just posting up, Falker would back out and cut to the hoop, which led him to receive passes with his momentum taking him to the rim.

When Falker wasn’t scoring he was setting up teammates for an open look.

Falker set a pick for a Bryan Mullins layup, had a quick assist out of a double team for a Wesley Clemmons’ jumper and another dish for a Tyrones Green layup.

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Football

Step in a new direction

Assistant coach Stepps bridges the gap

Jeff Engelhardt

It has been anything but an “off” season for the SIU football team this year.

Coaches have changed, top seniors have left, new strategies will be put in place and the team is catching up on recruiting.

But in the midst of all the commotion, one lone assistant coach will return with a squad coming off one of the best seasons in SIU history. Cornerbacks coach Travis Stepps is the last coaching connection from the coach Kill era that brought the program back to national prominence.

Stepps is in the unfamiliar position of being the only connection between the current players and new coaching staff.

Stepps has been with the program for four years and has produced some of the best defensive players for SIU during his time. He has coached All-Americans Alexi Mosseland and Craig Turner while earning two All-American bids himself when he played at Pittsburgh State.

The offseason will bring different challenges for Stepps as he tries to change from previous coaching approaches to new ones while helping current players make the transition as well.

Stepps said change is part of the game and he is ready to make adjustments with the players.

“It’s going good so far,” Stepps said. “I have run across a lot of these guys before either playing or coaching and they have come in here and worked hard which didn’t surprise me at all.

SIU officially announced the hiring of five new assistant coaches in addition to outside linebackers/defensive line coach Eric Schmidt.

The new coaches include Kyle “Bubba” Schwickert, Tom Dosch, Jared Nessland, Phil Longo and Scott Fuchs.

Schwickert and Dosch were on Leannon’s North Dakota staff during the 2001 national championship season.

Stepps said the new staff has already worked on getting to know him and the current players on the team.

“They have come in and try to get to know the kids on a personal basis and understand what they are about,” Stepps said. “They are getting to understand what we have here and are still trying to build a foundation with players.”

Leannon has met with all the players on a one-on-one basis to get to know the team on a personal level. Leannon attended the annual football banquet and said the atmosphere of emotion and celebration the players showed got him excited to coach the group next season.

The head coach said the few times Leannon could relax, he has stayed busy on the recruiting path with his coaching staff.

Stepps said recruiting has gone well during the transition and that the success of last season has enticed players to come to the program.

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