Legislators approve MAP funding

Students praised for efforts

Stile Smith
DAILY EGYPTIAN
EAGLE

SPRINGFIELD — Monetary Award Program grant recipients are just one signature away from secured funding for the spring.

The Illinois House of Representatives and the Senate passed an appropriations bill that would increase funding for the MAP grant to $425 million, providing $205 million immediately to allow all eligible Illinois students to receive full funding for the spring.

The only step remaining to restore the grant is for Gov. Pat Quinn to sign the bill, which is expected to happen today.

Student Trustee Nate Brown said he does not think the bill would have moved so quickly had it not been for the support of the students. (The students) made it known that they would be here on Oct. 15, and I think legislators took note of that,” Brown said. “We wouldn’t have had any of that if all of these campuses hadn’t stepped up.”

Roughly 5,000 students from all across Illinois attended the rally. SIUC was the most-represented, with about 400 students.

SIU President Glenn Poshard said he was impressed with Thursday’s rally.

“It’s the best thing I’ve seen in government in years,” Poshard said.

Aaron Mallory, a senior from Flossmoor studying electrical engineering, said students proved they could make a difference.

“Everyone says we’re the silent generation,” Mallory said. “Look at us all here. It’s beautiful to see all these people.”

Mallory said the revival of the grant would allow him to finish his last semester at SIUC and graduate.

Brown said the battle to keep the grant is not over, and students need to continue fighting in order to have funding restored on a more permanent basis.

“I think it’s a Band-Aid,” Brown said. “We need a funding tree that’s going to be dependable and much more reliable. There are going to be a lot of issues in the spring.”

Brown said students would be right back at the Capitol Building in February fighting for the grant again.

Poshard said he does not think the bill is a Band-Aid, but long-term solutions would have to be found.

“Nothing’s going to solve (the budget problem) outside of an income-tax increase,” Poshard said.

Poshard said with Illinois $12 billion in debt, the Democrats’ cigarette tax proposal and the Republicans’ tax amnesty proposal are viable options.

Brian Morgan, a junior from Chicago studying communications, said he would not have been able to return to SIUC in the spring if funding had not been restored.

“I did not expect this at all coming here today,” Morgan said. “I thought I was going to have to plead for this to be restored. I’m just really relieved.”

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Of the thousands of people gathered in Springfield Thursday for Lobby Day, nearly 400 were SIUC students who pushed for MAP grant funding, said Nate Brown, student trustee.

Roy Mazuchowski, a graduate student from Chicago, talks with Gov. Pat Quinn at the Capitol Building during Lobby Day Thursday. Mazuchowski said he came to Springfield to lobby for the MAP grant and for other social grants that provide personal assistants to students with disabilities. “Without these grants we become what the stereotype already is — that we’re welfare cases,” Mazuchowski said.

see map | 2

House, Senate authorize temporary fix for MAP

Diana Soliwon
DAILY EGYPTIAN
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SPRINGFIELD — The state will borrow against itself to secure money for Monetary Award Program grant recipients this spring, Gov. Pat Quinn said Thursday.

A last-second amendment tacked on to Senate Bill 1180 by Sens. John Sullivan and Cynthia Soto Wednesday allowed lawmakers in the House and Senate to push the legislation through both floors during Lobby Day.

With Quinn anticipated to sign the bill into law today, the amendment will authorize him to borrow from otherwise off-limits funds within the state budget.

The help is a relief but not an answer, said SIU President Glenn Poshard.

“This does not solve the long-range problem of funding,” Poshard said. “This is an immediate fix.”

Quinn and Poshard both mentioned an income tax as a long-term source of stable revenue.

The tax was not approved for this year’s budget, but will be back on the table in the next fiscal year, Quinn said.

“There’s no question in my mind that we’ve got to have an income tax,” Poshard said.

Quinn gave rally speeches and addressed where the newly allocated $425 million would come from.
Morgan said it feels good to no longer have the worries of the grant on his shoulders, but he’s still concerned with losing it in subsequent years.

Donald McNeil, chairman of the Illinois Student Assistance Commission, said the students at the rally reminded him of the passionate students from decades ago. “This was an effort we won in many ways,” McNeil said. “It’s rather unusual these days to see students … organize around one issue and let their voices be heard.”

Stev Smith can be reached at 536-3312 ext. 259.

The money will be paid back, Quinn said, and lawmakers will decide on alternative funding in the spring.

Poshard said the bill, which would allow the Illinois Student Assistance Commission to make good on the $205 million already promised to students in the spring, puts solving the crisis at the top of the agenda.

“This makes MAP funding the priority among projects that don’t have revenue streams,” Poshard said.

Quinn said he was impressed with the students’ dedication toward changing the grant situation. “SIU has a lot to be proud of with the work students and Poshard have done on this,” he said.

Diana Stilten can be reached at 536-3312 ext. 265.
Residents say developer hasn’t delivered promises

According to residents of The Pointe, a new apartment complex, the property owners continue to erect new buildings despite not providing the amenities residents were promised in their leases.

not only were none of those amenities available, but some essentials such as room doorknobs were not installed. She and other renters were also promised a private box to and from campus, a state-of-the-art exercise room and a swimming pool with a hot tub, none of which were available when residents moved in, she said.

Mariel Walker, The Pointe at SIU property manager, declined to comment.

Apartments rent for $499 to $579 per person per month, according to the brochures.

Thibodeaux said she and her roommates had to get their mail from the post office until Sept. 25, when residents finally received mailboxes.

“I would not have agreed to live here had I known we weren’t going to have any of these things,” she said.

Chandler said the dishwashers and washing machine in his apartment broke, and it took The Pointe’s maintenance staff two weeks to respond.

“They took them two weeks to get here but 10 minutes to fix,” he said.

Chandler also said he did not have electricity for two weeks after he moved in.

“I couldn’t charge my phone, couldn’t watch TV, couldn’t turn my lights on — took them 10 minutes to fix that too,” Chandler said. “But two weeks to get here on.”

Thibodeaux said she was told to “stop complaining” and to “get over it” whenever she spoke with Walker about the various issues.

Resident Megan Maglich also said the staff at the office was blatantly rude whenever she tried to speak with them.

“I just feel extremely tricked,” Maglich said.

Thibodeaux said The Pointe staff also told residents they would not issue parking decals or new non-resident vehicles because they did not have time, but since then the office has issued parking decals.

Resident Jenna Hauptman said there is a limited guest parking problem, and her car was towed after the decal fell off.

Thibodeaux drafted a petition that listed residents’ grievances against the management and demanded The Pointe expand guest parking and grant a 10 percent rent discount until all promised amenities are available.

She collected 123 signatures without even going to all the buildings and sent it to The Pointe office on Sept. 25, she said.

“Jenna running after me asking to get their signature on this,” Thibodeaux said. “I was in some apartments for 30 to 45 minutes talking to people because they had so many complaints about The Pointe.”

The Pointe office sent residents a letter, dated Sept. 25, in response to the petition that promised construction of a basketball court and hammocks—as per the brochure—within one week.

As of Oct. 14, residents still don’t have access to those amenities, Thibodeaux said.

Nick Johnson can be reached at 564-3511 ext. 163.
Cole offers Saluki Way funds for MAP

Madeleine Leroux

Mary B. Cole has offered to channel money promised to Saluki Way to help finance the Monetary Award Program in spring 2010, so SIU President Glenn Poshard said that would be possible. Poshard said Cole sent him a letter at the end of September offering to approach the City Council about changing the agreement made with the university promising $20 million to Saluki Way and instead put that money into MAP.

Poshard said he refused because of the details of the arrangement. He said the money could not be used to help MAP.

"There’s no way we can do this," Poshard said. "Perd.

Poshard said the intergovernmental agreement was used as leverage for presentation and further donations to Saluki Way. He said to change it now would ruin the bond rating and tear up the entire structure of the project. Poshard said it would also result in the loss of hundreds of jobs in the region.

There are more than 30 companies in southern Illinois that are now involved in Saluki Way, Poshard said.

"This is the biggest project right now in the area for economic development," Poshard said. 

Poshard said, to try to fund the grant locally could tell the state it is all right to dedicate its responsibility to fund educational grants and programs such as MAP. Poshard said. "If we lose the MAP funding, it will be sold," Poshard said.

The Illinois House and Senate approved a $205 million increase for MAP Thursday, but did not specify a method of funding the increase, saying the governor needs to find the money. Cole did not return several calls for comment left at his office Wednesday and Thursday.

Nick Johnson contributed to this report.

Madeleine Leroux can be reached at 536-3311 ext. 254.

Schneider Hall to receive new lobby

Housing designs lobby with student input

Christina Spakousky

Schneider Hall. Lobby may finally receive much needed renovations, university officials said.

After the May 8 storm, damaged dormitories have been receiving repairs and renovations. Schneider Hall — the last of the Brush Towers to see lobby renovations — will be redesigned with student input, said Julie Payne Kirchmeier, director of University Housing.

Several ideas and suggestions were discussed at the Oct. 8 lobby reconstruction meeting. The meeting was the first of several scheduled during the next three months to brainstorm improvements for Schneider Hall.

Schneider Hall Directors Steven Yeagley and Tara Lippert suggested smaller meeting spaces, study rooms and group kitchens. Removing the vending area and replacing it with a study room or a group kitchen area was also discussed.

"We hope to create a place where students can socialize and connect with one another, while providing ample meeting space for student groups," Lippert said.

Yeagley said the most used features of the lobby are the pool table and the ping-pong table. An air hockey table was considered, but Yeagley said he didn’t see a need for it.

Kirchmeier said she recommended constructing a patio area to fill empty space behind Schneider. She said adding fencing and lawn furniture to the patio area would give students an additional space.

Reserve funds and grants will be used for most of the renovation costs to try to keep student fees from rising, Kirchmeier said.

Eric Spencer, the design architect and vice president of Urban Architects in Carbondale, said aesthetics will be the biggest challenge, but the plan is to open up the lobby to make it more usable. He said it would take him three to four weeks to make a rough design.

Lippert said housing would put a lot of thought into the redesign of Schneider’s lobby by comparing it to the designs of the other halls.

‘Each lobby has its own identity," Lippert said. "Mae Smith has a larger desk, and Neely has a lot of seating in the common area that Schneider may utilize for an additional meeting room instead.”

Christina Spakousky can be reached at 536-3311 ext. 258.

Murphysboro High School changes schedule to improve performance

Nick Johnson

May 19, 2010

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After two years of falling short of testing benchmarks set by the No Child Left Behind Act, Murphysboro High School adjusted its freshman and sophomore curricula to improve its scores and educational experience, Principal Vincent Turner said.

Only 44 percent of the student body met federal requirements on the ACT and Prairie State Achievement Exams — 18.5 percent below the state requirement, Turner said.

The school’s block scheduling (four 90-minute class periods), but this year some freshman and sophomore math and English courses have been shortened to 45 minutes and run an year instead of by semester, Turner said.

The yearlong classes include an enrichment course designed to re-teach and develop course skills at an appropriate level, Turner said.

“What we find so many times in education is that students are passed along without adequately being able to retain skills needed to move on to the next level,” Turner said.

Turner said the enrichment course would also develop skills students will be tested on at the school works to improve its scores.

The scheduled changes are part of Turner’s plan to improve the schools test performance and implement research-based teaching strategies by sending teachers to professional development sessions, he said.

“What we’re going to focus on is improving,” Turner said. “And I think the schedule gives us a good opportunity to improve.”

School librarian Jeff White said the changes are not having the effect the school hoped they would, and there are mixed feelings among staff.

“One of the problems that teachers are facing is that with 45 minutes, that’s not even as long as a traditional class,” White said. “By the time you take attendance and collect homework, you’re looking at 35 minutes, and that’s not enough time to, for example, take (students) to the computer lab or do a project.”

Staffing for the enrichment courses is a concern, he said.

“Although we could offer as many enrichment courses as we would like, and those that we have are sometimes not even taught by people in that department, such as English, because those people are busy teaching other classes,” White said.

Turner said while the changes have resulted in some confusion among teachers and class overload-

from rising, Kirchmeier said.

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A cappella and hip-hop mix in new show

Travis Bean
The Associated Press

Brandon Williams is ready to premiere a play he has been working on since his sophomore year at SIU. “The Yard” will show at 8 p.m. Sunday and Monday at the McLeod Theater, 1551 S. 6th St., an SIU alumni from Peoria.

Williams said he had one act done when he graduated and finished the other two in the summer.

“Marilyn Monroe is at home and I’m like, ‘Well, you know, I’m not doing anything else, why not finish the play and put it on at SIU,” he said.

Williams said he held auditions in the first week of school and chose 15 performers out of the 60 students who auditioned.

One of the performers he chose was Cortez Johnson, a junior from Chicago studying journalism. Johnson said he knows Williams for years and helped him write the conclusion.

“The cast, there’s a lot of energy and a lot of potential,” Johnson said.

“I’ve never done a play with so many spoken-word poems,” Williams said. “I think the play’s dialogue is not rapping or singing. I call it po'Yo. I want the play to be a dialogue because the literature...”

Williams said the play goes from a sub to a cappella sub, which is similar to musicals in how they transition from dialogue to singing. He called it a cappella hip-hop musical because we’re rapping, but there are no beats to it. “It’s more spoken word. It’s interactive.”

Another performer in the play, Lester Hill, a senior from Chicago studying journalism, said Williams made tapers of how he wanted the dialogue to be spoken.

“It was kind of easy to hear yourself while you do it,” Hill said.

Johnson said Williams has his hand in the play’s dialogue not rapping or singing.

“If I want to take everything as exactly what they see... because what’s there’s educational importance,” he said. “It’s entertainment at its finest, education and entertainment.”

Johnson said it was easy to connect to the play because he lives the college experience. He plays Steve Williams in the production and gives the backdope of college life.

“I show what goes on with finances, what goes on behind the chair of the professor in the classroom and also things students deal with, such as boyfriends and girlfriends and social orientation,” Johnson said.

Williams said he wants the play to relate to students and their experiences at college.

“I want them to take everything as exactly what they see — because what’s there’s educational importance,” he said. “It’s entertainment at its finest, education and entertainment.”

Mother of Fla. teen set on fire says it’s a nightmare

Tamara Lush
The Associated Press

DEERFIELD BEACH, Fla. — Michel Brewer loves his skateboard, SpongeBob and the tree swing in his front yard. Now the 15-year-old teen, whose family calls him Mikey, has burns over two-thirds of his body and is fighting to live after authorities say five other teens — whom he was at his house to play a month ago — doused him in rubbing alcohol and flicked a lighter.

Doctors say Mikey is alive as can be expected in a blow to the boy faces years of skin grafts, therapy and surgery. Potentially fatal organ failure and infections are common in cases this severe.

Dr. Nicholas Namias of the University of Miami Jackson Memorial Burns Center said it is premature to say that Mikey is out of the woods in terms of danger from the burn.

“Even in the worst case,” Namias said on the CBS Early Show.

The investigation of attacking Mikey has been charged with aggravated battery. The one accused of flicking the lighter also faces an attempt to murder case and murder-reckless when detectives interviewed him, but two others laughed when they were questioned, Feleky said.

They are charged as juveniles, where the state attorney can decide to move to some, or all, into adult criminal court. As convicted as adults, they could serve 15 years in prison — and up to 30 years for the attempted second-degree murder charge. All have prior juvenile criminal records, authorities said.

“My son is innocent and that’s what I’m sticking with,” said Dennis Bent, father of 15-year-old Matthew Bent, who is charged.

No one answered the door at the other four teens’ homes, phone calls from The Associated Press were not answered or returned.

The horrific crime has gripped South Florida, and Mikey’s family has received supportive e-mails and phone calls from around the country.

“Everyone’s wondering: How could boys this young set one of their own on fire?”

“I still can’t believe that there are kids who are that wild out there,” sighed Kyle McCombs, a 20-year-old neighbor of the family.

“Writer called a mylar balloon that said ‘Get Well Soon’ and a card to the Brewer’s home on Wednesday.

“Where did they even get the idea?”

Kathleen Heede, a criminal justice professor and specialist in child crime at the University of South Florida in Tampa, said young teens are particularly susceptible to peer pressure and impulsive actions.

“Kids will get these ideas, and they can’t literally stop to deliberate and think, God that’s a really stupid thing,” she said.

“The second thing you have is group dynamics — kids will do things in groups that they will never do individually.”

Mikey lives with his mom, dad and sister in a working-class neighborhood of Old Town and County, about 40 miles from downtown Miami. He’s in the seventh grade at Deerfield Beach Middle School — he was held back once — and is known around the neighborhood for building skateboard ramps in his driveway.

According to the Broward County Sheriff’s Office, problems between Mikey and the kids started weeks before, when Matthew Bent, a 19-year-old and expected heir to pay $40 to it, Broward County Sheriff’s Office spokesman Jim Leffel said.

Bent has never been a problem, Leffel said.

“He’s just what game the boys fought over — or if it even exchanged hands.

Mikey called authorities Sunday about an incident last week when she was driving home. She was in school. Neither was Mikey’s father, Leffel said.

“According to the child abuse investigation, police believe Mikey and the kids started when Mikey was gone to sleep and expected him to pay $40 for it, Broward County Sheriff’s Office spokesman Jim Leffel said. He said a $500 custom bike that belonged to Mikey’s father, Leffel said.

“I don’t think what game the boys fought over — or if it even exchanged hands.

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“I don’t think what game the boys fought over — or if it even exchanged hands.

Interracial couple denied marriage license in La.

Mary Foster
The Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — A Louisiana justice of the peace said he refused to issue a marriage license to an interracial couple out of concern for any children the couple might have.

Keith Bushell, justice of the peace in Tangipahoa Parish, says it is his practice to not issue interracial marriages do not last long.

“I’m not a racist. I just don’t believe in mixing the races that way.” Bushell said on Thursday “I have piles and piles of black friends. They come to my home, I marry them, they use my bathroom, I treat them just like everyone else.”

Bushell said he asks everyone who calls about marriage if they are a true family of a race couple. If they are, he does not marry them, he said.

Bushell said he has discussed the topic with blacks and whites, also with witnessing some interracial marriages. He came to the conclusion that most of black society does not readily accept offspring of such relationships, and neither does white society, he said.

“There is a problem with both groups accepting a child from such a marriage,” Bushell told. “I’ve heard Terence McKay, both of Hammond, said they will consult the US.”

Bushell said he was asked about his discrimination complaint.

Humphrey, an account manager for a marketing firm, said she and McKay, a welder, just returned to Louisiana. She is white and he is black. She plans to enroll in the University of New Orleans to pursue a master’s degree in minority politics.

“That was one thing that made this so unbelievable,” she said. “It’s not something you expect in this day and age.”

Humphrey said she called Bushell on Oct. 6 to inquire about getting a marriage license signed.

She said Bushell told her that Bushell will not sign marriage licenses for interracial couples.

Bushell suggested the couple go to another justice of the peace in the parish who agreed to marry them.

Denver Colorado Jarvis, 15, appears in juvenile court Tuesday in Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., at the Broward County Courthouse. Joe Cavaretta | McClatchy Tribune
Repeal ‘don’t ask, don’t tell’

NATHAN BUCKLIN
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On Sunday, there was a march in Washington supporting the repeal of the U.S. Military’s “don’t ask, don’t tell” policy. During his campaign, President Barack Obama promised he would repeal the policy, but he has yet to take any action on it. The Saturday before the march, Obama told the Human Rights Campaign (a GLBT lobbying group) he would repeal the policy, but gave no further details.

Aside from being a government-mandated discrimination tool, the “don’t ask, don’t tell” policy assumes quite a bit about the nature of the U.S. Military and homosexuals. I think there is one main question that must be asked: What exactly would homosexual people in the military do that prevents them from serving openly in it?

Well, we all know homosexual people are physically stronger than normal males and have uncontrollable sex drives, so I suppose raping heterosexual service men is a good example; and since most rapes in the military are committed by homosexuals, it’s probably best they don’t serve anyway.

Aside from that, they are rough, argumentative, inconsiderate, sneaky and you just really can’t trust them. Don’t believe me? According to a report issued by the U.S. Department of Defense in 1981, “presence of such [gay] members adversely affects the ability of the armed forces to maintain discipline, good order, and morale; to foster mutual trust and confidence among service members; … to facilitate assignment and worldwide deployment of service members who frequently must live and work in close conditions affording minimal privacy, … and to prevent breaches of security.”

Because it’s pretty obvious public opinion towards homosexuals hasn’t changed since 1981, it makes sense that most people still believe this is true.

That’s why in 2007, 28 retired generals and admirals urged the president to repeal the policy.

Also in 2007, former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff (the highest ranking military office and military advisor to the president), Gen. John Shalikashvili and former Senator and Secretary of Defense William Cohen, both supported the repealing of the policy.

But of course, those peoples’ opinions aren’t really of importance. After all, they haven’t had to experience what it’s like serving with an open homosexual.

In 2006, Zagby International polled military members about their opinions of homosexuals serving openly, and 72 percent said that after serving with a known homosexual, it had no effect on their personal morale. Sixty-seven percent reported it had no effect on unit morale and 73 percent stated they felt comfortable in the presence of homosexual personnel.

All jokes aside, I truly believe that serving in the military is one of the greatest signs of respect and support someone can show for their country. I do not believe it is fair to deny anyone this right.

Being in the military also offers many advantages, such as paying for college, and I have met people who joined the service just to take advantage of this.

The government simply cannot offer this to some people, yet deny it to others.

That is, in the purest form, discrimination. Besides all of this, no one in our country should ever have to hide who they are.

Bucklin is a senior studying political science.

WHAT THE HEALTH IS GOING ON?

Injurious language should not be made fashionable

Derrick Williams

“Bad boys, bad boys / whatcha gonna do / whatcha gonna do / when they come for you,” are the lyrics to Inner Circle’s “Bad Boys.”

The song is mainly recognized as theme music for the beloved television show “Cops,” which has entertained audiences for more than 20 years. Each week viewers can tune in and watch police apprehend and arrest alleged criminals.

One of the most infamous scenes from the series involves men being hauled away in handcuffs from their living quarters for domestic battery. In many cases, the men are usually wearing a white, ripped tank top.

This scene has become synonymous with the issue of domestic violence. It provides a mediated image of the prototypical abuse, where the white tank top serves as a symbolic artifact.

Many individuals have come to understand or describe these tank tops as “wife beaters,” “white beaters” or simply “beaters.”

This depiction of poor, working-class men in tank tops perpetuates the stereotype of partner abuse existing only among that socioeconomic class.

Most individuals under age 25 are unaware of the historical connection of these shirts to domestic violence. The term “beaters” has transcended into a popular name for a current fashion trend now worn by both men and women. Unfortunately, the negative term “wife beater” is still associated with the shirt.

Some have argued that calling tank tops “beaters” is no more playful language, but I am not convinced. Language serves as a foundation for developing cultural attitudes, beliefs and values.

When we use words such as “beater” that describe violent life or death situations interchangeably with clothing trends, we deny the horrors that survivors of partner abuse experience and normalize violence in our culture.

We should be mindful of our language use and consider how our words — and fashion statements — affect those who suffer from the original meaning of the term “wife beater.”

Williams is the Wellness Center violence prevention coordinator.
That Karzai conundrum: We’re likely stuck with the Afghan president, but perhaps we can change his behavior

Randy has the United States had as much good reason to exercise its veto in the U.N. Security Council as it will have Wednesday when a controversial report condemning Israel for its campaign against Gaza terrorists is slated to come up for consideration.

The report, issued by a commission headed by jurist Richard Goldstone, has been denounced by the Israeli government and criticized by U.S. officials as deeply flawed and unbalanced.

It accuses Israel of possible war crimes in the defense action launched last December.

The Israelis raised eight years of relentless rocket attacks against civilians in Israel by Hamas and other Palestinian terrorist groups.

The Goldstone commission was appointed shortly after the fighting ceased but Israeli wisely refused to cooperate with the panel because it was tainted from the start as a creation of the outrageously biased U.N. Human Rights Council, based in Geneva.

Council members include a number of authoritarian states and flagrant human-rights violators like Cuba.

The council has approved 26 ludicrous, anti-Israel resolutions in the past three years and lists Israel as the only country on its permanent agenda. This same body made no effort to stop Palestinian rocket attacks after Israeli voluntary withdrawal from the Gaza Strip in 2005.

Indeed, in a clear display of the double standard that comes into play whenever the Jewish state is the victim of aggression, the United Nations hardly took official notice of the Hamas-inspired mayhem in northern Israel.

The Israelis cannot get a fair hearing from the council, nor impartiality from any of its observers.

Goldstone, a Jewish South African and trustee of Hebrew University in Jerusalem, is a distinguished former prosecutor of the International Criminal Tribunal and points to the report’s criticism of Hamas for “serious war crimes and crimes against humanity” as proof of the commission’s even-handed approach.

Goldstone’s record and good intentions aside, this formulation is both naive and mistaken. Such symmetry fails to make obvious and necessary moral distinctions. For countries like Israel, the death of civilians is an unprecedented tragedy of war.

Prior to the Gaza incursion, the Israeli Defense Forces dropped leaflets in civilian areas and otherwise tried to warn of an impending attack in an extraordinary effort to avoid collateral casualties. For terrorist groups like Hamas, inflicting civilian casualties is a way to score points and advance an evil agenda.

They deliberately target noncombatants and mostly use human shields to protect their fighters. Regardless of the report’s “even-handed” contents, it is being used as a cudgel against Israel.

Criticism of Hamas’s methods and conduct is routinely ignored by Palestinian advocates, who see the document as a great opportunity to smear Israelis as war criminals.

In an effort to put Israel in the dock, Libya is sponsoring the move to defeat the Goldstone report before the Security Council, a forum likely to attract more attention than the discredited Human Rights Council.

What a farce. Libya is one of the world’s worst human rights abusers.

Its role in this affair provides another good reason for the United States to exercise its veto and put an end to a wretched charade.

This editorial appeared in the Miami Herald Wednesday.

Guest Column

Goldstone report on Gaza incursion unfairly condemns Israel

Trudy Rubin

MCCLAREN TRIBUNE

Sometime this week, we may learn who the president of Afghanistan is. Or we may not.

Imagine: As President Barak Obama wren- dies with whether to send more troops to fight the Afghan Taliban, it’s still unclear whether the sitting president, Hamid Karzai, won the major- ity required to avoid a runoff.

A five-man Election Complaints Commission charged with reviewing claims of massive ballot fraud has finished its work, but we’re still waiting for its announcement. If the commission waits past this week, it may be too late to hold a second round before winter weather sets in. So the Karzai fac- tor haunts Obama. Some Obama officials say Karzai’s lack of legitimacy dooms any deeper involvement in Afghanistan.

A U.S. counterinsurgency strategy is meant to create the space to strengthen the Afghan government and security forces. But if the Kabul government is so corrupt, how can we counter the Taliban?

We are beginning to hear pundits invoke the removal of corrupt Saigon leader Ngo Dinh Diem by the Kennedy administration in 1963.

May I suggest that everyone take a deep breath and recognize that Karzai is here to stay? In a runoff between the top two vote-getters, Karzai would garner the majority, whether the ballot is clean or not.

Even if the situation is defused by setting up a national unity government, in which Karzai’s main challenger agrees to participate, Karzai would still be the president.

Moreover, a repeat of the Diem scenario would be nuts, not to mention counterproductive.

As in South Vietnam, there are no candidates available who could survive politically and do a better job. So the administration needs to figure out how to deal with the Afghan government we have, not the one we might want.

A weak Afghan central government is not necessarily fatal to a counterinsurgency. U.S. offi- cials once thought Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki was hapless and hopeless.

After the “surge” strategy improved security in and around Baghdad, Maliki found his nerve. The problem with Karzai, however, is a tolerance for corruption that has underscored the chance for regional progress.

Nothing symbolizes this problem more than his younger brother Ahmed Wali Karzai, head of the provincial council in the crucial province of Kundahar, the Taliban heartland where insurg- ents are retaking control.

Western officials believe Ahmed Wali Karzai is neck-deep in the drug trade and responsible for handpicking provincial officials who will ensure that opium is trafficked without hindrance.

He is also believed responsible for the wide- spread vote-rigging in Kundahar. Obama officials have tried to confront Karzai.

There’s a Biden famously threw his napkin on the table and walked out of a dinner in February 2008 after Karzai denied charges of cor- ruption. Obama’s special envoy to Afghanistan, Richard Holbrooke, has reportedly shouted at Karzai, to no avail.

The crisis created by the Afghan elections offers a new opportunity to confront Karzai, perhaps with different tactics. Clearly the Afghan leader understands he has an image problem in the United States; he appeared on ABC’s “Good Morning America” this week to endorse more U.S. troops and deny election fraud.

So why not send Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, who has not burned her bridges with Karzai, to talk privately with the Afghan leader, without shouting or publicizing the details?

Clinton could tell Karzai that U.S. public support for fighting the Taliban and building Afghanistan is fading quickly.

She could stress that Americans won’t toler- ate an increase in U.S. casualties or aid if they see no results. And she could politely but firmly say it’s time for Ahmad Wali Karzai to depart for a much-deserved retirement to Britain or Dubai, and for the appointment of officials in Kundahar who aren’t beholden to the drug mafia.

Otherwise, it will be impossible for NATO lead- ers to send more troops to Kundahar.

If Karzai balks, Clinton might pull out a photo of the late Afghan president Mohammad Najibullah, whom the Taliban hurled from a lampost in 1996 after they took Kabul.

“We do not ever want such a thing to happen to you,” she could say firmly, “nor do we intend to pull troops out. But if you can’t help us, our public may leave us no choice.”

Perhaps such a stark choice at this opportune moment will jolt Karzai’s thinking. It certainly is worth a try.

Rubin is a columnist and editorial board member for the Philadelphia Inquirer.
Tiber brings winning attitude to Salukis

Adrienne Griffith moves past the defensive efforts of the University of Northern Iowa's Kim Wypiryzynski during the Salukis' 58-40 conference win Feb. 7. The men's and women's basketball teams will be introduced at 8:30 p.m. today at Davies Gym for their annual Maroon Madness event.

Mark Long
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — Torry Holt expects to feel all sorts of emotions when he sees former teammates and coaches Sunday.

He won’t rule out tears, either.

Holt, a seven-time Pro Bowl selection during his 10 seasons in St. Louis, will face his former team for the first time when the Jacksonville Jaguars (2-3) host the Rams (0-5).

Bittersweet? Showmanship?

Maybe a little revenge?

Nope. Just handshakes, hugs and high-fives.

“I have a lot of feelings for that organization, for that team and for a lot of those guys that are on that squad,” Holt said. “So whether I cry, I get charged up and run through a brick wall, or I fall down — I don’t know what it’ll be — but I’ll ride the wave of the emotions.”

Holt caught 869 passes for 12,660 yards and 74 touchdowns with the Rams. He also had 47 receptions for 630 yards and four scores in 10 postseason games.

He was one of the most consistent receivers in the league for nearly a decade, averaging 94 catches and 1,385 yards during an eight-year span beginning in 2000. He was equally impressive off the field, creating charitable foundations, working as a spokesman for awareness groups and doing just about anything asked of him in the community.

Without question, it was difficult for Holt to leave St. Louis. But he knew it was time to go.

“It probably was best for them, and it probably was best for myself to kind of move on, get a fresh start,” Holt said.

The Rams released Holt in March to avoid paying him a $1.25 million roster bonus and free up $8 million under the 2009 salary cap. He signed a three-year, $13 million contract with the Jaguars a month later. The deal could be worth $20 million with incentives.

“In their situation, it may have come down to money, and probably on my behalf it came down to money to a certain extent,” said Holt, who ranks 10th in NFL history with 981 receptions and 12th with 12,966 receiving yards. “At some point it comes to that. For me, I think overall, mentally, it was time to move on.”

Holt had grown increasingly frustrated with the Rams, who had fallen flat in recent years after being a perennial Super Bowl contender for the first part of his career.

Holt sidestepped questions about the decline of the franchise.

But he smiled when recalling the “Greatest Show on Turf,” the nickname given to the Rams when Holt, fellow receiver Isaac Bruce, quarterback Kurt Warner, running back Marshall Faulk and an offensive line anchored by left tackle Orlando Pace made them one of the most potent offenses in NFL history from 1999 through 2001.

“We were at a special place in our goal is to get better,” Tiber said.

Tiber has orchestrated major turnarounds before.

NCAA Division II Tascumbia College posted an 8-21 record and suffered eight straight losing seasons before Tiber took over the program in 2005. Tiber revived the program as the team posted an 86-34 record in her four seasons. In the 2007-2008 and 2008-2009 seasons, her team won the South Atlantic Conference and played in the NCAA Division II tournament.

Tiber said the success started with a fast-paced offense, which she has introduced to the Salukis.

“We need to create turnovers to create fast breaks,” Tiber said.

“We like to shoot threes and layups in transition. We run a half-court, motion-based offense, so we screen and move a lot and try to get people open for shot,” Tiber said.

Tiber said the Salukis embraced the new offense because it allows for different players to score and creates high-scoring games.

Tiber didn’t need to teach the newest Saluki her offense — senior Stephanie Neptune was there for both NCAA Division II tournament appearances.

Neptune said she transferred to continue playing under Tiber.

“She’s the best coach I have ever had,” Neptune said. “She works us hard and tries to bring the best out of us; she wants us to be as good off the court as we are on the court.”

Neptune said the team was responsive to the new style of play.

“It’s just a concept of getting used to the new system; they have to get ready to run, run, run,” Neptune said.

Another new face to the basketball team is senior Katie Wagner. Wagner is a former softball player who is now a guard for the basketball team.

Wagner said she is excited to play in Tiber’s new offense and expects the up-tempo style to lead to plenty of wins.

Tiber said she expects the Salukis to start the season strong.

“I have been a coach for eight years and I have never had a losing season, and I expect that to continue,” Tiber said. “I have had back-to-back NCAA tournament appearances and back-to-back 20-win seasons and two straight championships. I don’t expect that to change, either. I want to put a product on the court that makes southern Illinois proud.”

The SIU men’s and women’s basketball teams will both take the floor for the first time in front of fans at Maroon Madness, which will follow the SIU volleyball team’s match with Drake at Davies Gym. It is expected to begin at approximately 8:30 p.m.

Derek Robbins can be reached at 536-5311 ext. 269.

Holt expects emotional reunion when Jags host Rams


“Terry recently had a conversation with me and when we were good,” said Holt, the sixth overall pick in the 1999 draft. “We had a lot of good players who are no longer there and are on other teams and are playing well. But that’s the way this game is, that’s the way organizations are. You have to replace guys and move on, and hopefully these guys you draft and bring in come in and play well.”

“I think in their situation, a lot of that hasn’t panned out for them,” Holt’s production dipped last season as St. Louis struggled to score points. He finished with 64 catches for 796 yards and three touchdowns, his fewest receptions and yards since his rookie season and the lowest TD total of his career.

Holt acknowledges that he’s lost a step — no surprise since he’s 33 years old — but he believes he makes up for it with precise routes, good hands and knowledge of the game.

He leads the Jaguars with 22 receptions for 336 yards and has extended his streak of consecutive games with a reception to 158. The streak is one of Holt’s most prized marks.
**Saluki Insider**

Rash Limbaugh has officially been dropped as a possibility to be owner of the St. Louis Rams. With his removal, is there anybody you would like to see take over St. Louis?

**RYAN VOYLES**


**FOOTBALL**

**CONTINUED FROM 12**

The home team has won the last 12 matchups, dating back to 1997. The Salukis have historically struggled in Cedar Falls, where they have not won since 1983 — the year they won the national championship.

Lenson said he does not put too much stock into SIU’s past results.

“I think that everything that has happened in the past is in the past. We just need to focus on the game at hand,” Lenson said. “That’s the excitement about the challenge ahead of us. We get a brand-new chance.”

A certain force on the outside should help SIU with that new chance.

Backs' senior outside linebacker Chauncey Mixson is expected to return to the field this Saturday. The preseason all-conference linebacker has been out since SIU’s season-opening loss to Marshall Sept. 5 with a broken jaw.

Mission was cleared to practice this week, and has been working with the No. 1 and 2 defensive units.

Fellow linebacker Brandon Jordan said to expect the Mission of old Saturday.

“Right now, it’s about a 98 percent chance he’s going to play, so he’s gonna play,” Jordan said. “He hasn’t been playing these last couple weeks, but he’s been running and lifting, so I don’t think his injury is going to be an issue at all.”

There are no question marks surrounding Deji Karim though.

The accolades continued for Karim, as he was added to the short list of Walter Payton Award candidate Thursday. The award is given to the nation’s top running back in the Football Championship Subdivision.

**VOLLEYBALL**

**CONTINUED FROM 12**

Drake beat one team that bested SIU as it defeated Illinois State 3-2 in Bloomington.

“We need to not get ahead of ourselves, not let emotions get in our way and try not to make mistakes,” said junior outside hitter Sydney Clark. “If we keep our energy up, we should be able to get a win.”

On Saturday, SIU plays against Creighton. Last season, Creighton swept SIU as the Salukis won one game out of seven against the Blue Jays. The Salukis have not beaten the Blue Jays since 2003.

Creighton (6-11, 3-4) lost in the last match it played against Drake (25-18, 25-15, 25-26, 25-21). The Blue Jays have not had much success against teams that have defeated SIU. Creighton is 1-3 against those teams, losing against Missouri State, Northern Iowa and Illinois State.

“They record doesn’t show it, but Creighton is a tough team,” head coach Brenda Winkler said. “They have beat some teams they normally wouldn’t beat, and they are in every match that they play.”

Creighton beat Wichita State 3-1 (26-24, 25-18, 25-23, 25-20). Wichita State was ranked No. 25 in the nation at the time of the match.

**MISSOURI VALLEY CONFERENCE STANDINGS**

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SIU hopes to improve to a 15-4 record with a 5-4 record in conference. SIU is tied for fourth place with both Drake and Creighton.

Senior middle blocker Marina Medic said she wants to beat both teams, to create some distance in the standings.

“We should be able to beat them both, they’re both a little iffy,” Medic said. “They have beat some good teams, but also lost to some poor teams. We’re in a four-way tie for fourth and beating them will allow us to create some distance, so I hope we can do it.”

Derek Robbins can be reached at 536-3313 ext 269.
**Football**

**Clash of the conference titans**

Dajir Karim runs through the Illinois State Redbird defense during the SIU 43-33 victory Saturday. Karim said the Salukis are aware of how important this weekend’s game is for winning the Missouri Valley Conference. The Salukis face the University of Northern Iowa at 4:05 p.m. Saturday in Cedar Falls, Iowa.

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The Salukis have been hearing “Hell’s Belle” as they prepare to enter the UNI Dome.

The AC/DC classic is among the songs the No. 5 Salukis (4-1, 3-0 Missouri Valley Football Conference) have used during practice to prepare for the deafening crowd noise they will hear against No. 2 Northern Iowa at 4:05 p.m. this Saturday at the sold-out UNI Dome.

Head coach Dale Lennon said practicing with music would help the team face the raucous atmosphere they’ll face this Saturday.

“We’ll need to keep the focus on the field and not let any external factors influence us there,” Lennon said.

For the second straight season, Northern Iowa and SIU will face off as conference favorites. Last season, the Salukis defeated the Panthers 27-24 in Carbondale with kicker Kyle Daugherty’s field goal as time expired. Despite the loss, Northern Iowa tied SIU for the regular-season conference title.

“Our No. 1 goal here is to go into this game and compete like we did before against them,” said junior quarterback Chris Dieker. “This game is finally here; the whole team is excited for this. But at the same time, we need to do the same preparations we would for any other opponent.”

SIU will need to overcome recent history if it wants to put itself at the forefront of the conference.

See FOOTBALL | 11

**Volleyball**

**SIU looks to snap first losing streak**

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The SIU volleyball team has one thing on its mind this weekend: redemption.

The Salukis are coming off of their first losing streak of the season, dropping both matches last weekend to Missouri State and Wichita State in straight sets.

SIU will look to bounce back at home against Drake at 6 p.m. Friday and Creighton at 7 p.m. on Saturday at Davies Gym.

“I hope we can bounce back. We should be able to, but there’s never any guarantee,” said junior outside hitter Jennifer Berwanger. “We’re tired of losing; we don’t like it very much. We’ll bring our best, that’s for sure.”

SIU opens the weekend against Drake on Friday. Last season, SIU swept the season series against Drake. The Salukis won 3-2 in Des Moines, Iowa, and they swept the Bulldogs 3-0 in Carbondale.

But the Salukis should not expect the same Bulldogs.

Drake (13-7, 3-4) has already surpassed its number of wins it had in the 2008 season, where it went 12-20 and 5-14 in conference last season. The 32 wins had been the most since 1998, when it won 13 matches.

Drake’s conference losses have come against the same teams SIU has lost against. Wichita State, Northern Iowa and Missouri State have all beat Drake in straight sets this season. Drake has also lost to Indiana State, which SIU defeated 3-1 in Carbondale.

See VOLLEYBALL | 11

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**Swimming and Diving**

**Salukis dive down south**

SIU swim team looks to improve its undefeated season

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The Salukis have their toughest test of the season on deck as they look to add another victory in a perfect season.

The Salukis will travel to Kentucky and Tennessee to swim in non-conference meets on Saturday.

The SIU men’s swim team heads to Lexington, Ky., to swim against University of Kentucky and Cumberland.

Female swimmer Anika Simonis said the team is tired and has had only two days of rest, but it plans to keep the winning streak going.

“We are swimming against a great team in Kentucky, and we just need to maintain and continue what we’ve been doing,” Walker said.

Senior swimmer Tim Silkaitis said the meet in Kentucky is going to be a bit different. Silkaitis said because it is a tri-meet, there will be more time to rest.

“Last weekend we had [few] breaks in our events and since this meet in Kentucky has more teams, we will have a chance to rest in between events,” Silkaitis said.

The women’s team will head to Nashville, Tenn., to compete in a dual meet against Vanderbilt.

“Vanderbilt has a really good team, and they are in a faster conference,” sophomore swimmer Jennifer Krook said. “We have a team that’s better than Vanderbilt in a couple of years, and we are excited to go back.”

Kentucky, even though the meet is a non-conference competition, it doesn’t change how the Salukis compete, Krook said it doesn’t matter who they play because they treat every meet the same.

The men’s and the women’s swim teams remain undefeated going into this weekend. The men’s team has won four meets this year, and the women’s team has won three.

Walker said this year’s team has a different mentality than previous squads.

“One of the things that is different about this team is they have started to act like a team,” Walker said. “Everybody understands their roles and there has been no complaints, only hard work.”

Walker said the team has been working hard but he wants to see it continue to improve.

“[I’ll like too see us] a little sharper,” Walker said. “We need to be more aggressive into the turns and the starts.”