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Daily Egyptian Staff

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**Mock wedding held outside Shryock**

**Event staged to increase awareness about gay marriage**

**Luke McCormick**

**Daily Egyptian**

Tuesday afternoon left the steps of Shryock Auditorium littered with cake frosting, napkins and balloon shards.

The steps were used for a mock wedding to raise awareness about a bill currently in the Illinois State Legislature. Paulette Curkin, coordinator of the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Resource Center, said House Bill 1826 would provide legal benefits to homosexual married couples, along with heterosexual couples.

One area where the bill would benefit straight couples would be seniors who wanted to get married without losing any benefits,” Curkin said.

Members of the Sahali Rainbow Network decorated the Shryock steps with balloons and set up chairs and a table for refreshments following the ceremony.

O.J. Duncan, the network’s co-director who “married” his boyfriend Matthew Dolph, said he was happy with the way the event turned out. “Now that the ceremony’s over there isn’t any brimstone falling from the sky,” Duncan said.

Stephanie DeArcangelis, a sophomore from Centreville studying creative writing, and the network’s secretary, said she hoped the event would get the issue of same-sex marriage out in the public eye.

DeArcangelis said she would really like to see a social movement begin on campus.

Stasia Creek, a doctoral student from Johnston City studying sociology, and the organization’s graduate adviser, said she had been looking into becoming an ordained minister through an online program for a while. This event was finally a good reason to get it done, she said.

Creek, clad in a black robe and rainbow scarf, said she looked forward to performing more same-sex marriages regardless of whether they were recognized by the state of Illinois.

“Ministers aren’t falling out of trees to marry GLBT folks,” Creek said.

Luke McCormick can be reached at 566-3311 ext. 254 or lmcorm2@siu.edu.
CALENDAR

Goodwill Clothing Drive
- Today and Friday
- Drop off at the Delta Zeta House, or contact Meg at mquinn@siu.edu

Blacks Interested in Business Skating Party
- From Thursday, March 26th
- Emy Brothers Skating Rink at 1700 Court Street in Marion, cost is $5.50 to get in
- Contact Alpha Phi Alpha at 773-501-556

Open Mic Poetry Jam
- 7:06 p.m. Thursday at the Student Center Big Moody Room
- Contact Corbin Brown at 773-679-6801

Voter’s Registration Drive
- 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Thursday at the Faner Building
- Contact Corbin Brown at 773-679-6801
- The calendar is a free service for minority 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) 536-3111, ext. 266.

NEWS BRIEFS

Appeals court upholds patronage convictions
CHICAGO (AP) — A federal appeals court upheld the convictions of a former aide to Mayor Richard M. Daley accused of making tens of thousands of political referrals for jobs and insurance contracts.

“The defendants were key players in a corrupt and far-reaching scheme ... that doled out thousands of city jobs based on political patronage and nepotism,” said a three-judge panel of the U.S. 7th Circuit Court of Appeals.

The court flatly denied defense arguments that the men could not be convicted of criminal fraud because they didn’t take bribes or kickbacks.

“The rule allows for a conviction of fraud on the government or anyone who can show that they were doing something that they knew was misleading,” Senior Judge Ann Williams wrote on behalf of the panel.

The long-standing Shakeran Decree bars Chicago officials from hiring most municipal employees based on politics and the city hiring practices are under court-ordered monitoring. But patronage has been part of Chicago politics since anyone can remember and the decree had been long ignored.

Daley’s former patronage chief, Robert Sorich, was among those convicted of mail fraud. He was sentenced to four years in federal prison for his part in the scheme outlined by federal prosecutors, but won a bond allowing him to remain free pending the appeal.

Tuesday’s ruling means the 45-year-old Sorich has 72 hours to report to prison, according to his attorney, Thomas Anthony Dunick. Prosecutors said a federal judge would hear Sorich’s appeal at a later date.

Following threat, St. Xavier to reopen campus
CHICAGO (AP) — St. Xavier University will reopen today after law enforcement officials determined there was no continuing threat from violent graffiti that shut down the school last week, according to university administration.

As St. Xavier returned to normal, a third school in the Chicago area announced Tuesday evening it would close after receiving a violent threat.

South Suburban College, which enrolls about 17,000 students, will remain closed through Wednesday and reopen Thursday, according to a statement posted on the school’s Web site.

The college, located roughly 20 miles outside of Chicago in South Holland, said officials searched a campus building Tuesday and planned to investigate with the help of federal law enforcement authorities, but did not offer specifics on the nature of the threat.

A college spokesman, Patrick Ruth, declined to give further details Tuesday.

The college closed Thursday after a St. Xavier student said that threat made by 4/14 and cause the Catholic liberal arts college to shut down indefinitely Friday.

While a manpower investigation into who wrote the graffiti at St. Xavier continues, and a heightened level of police presence will remain on campus, university and law enforcement officials don’t believe the threat poses an “immediate and present danger,” said school spokesman Joe Moore.

“The passage of the days cited in the threatening graffiti was critical,” Moore said.

Moore said investigation “feel very strongly that they are in fact pursuing people who may be involved with this,” but said he could not release any further details.

POLICE REPORTS

Adams, 20-year-old SJC student from Riviera Beach, FL, was arrested at 10:13 a.m. Friday on a failure-toappear warrant. Speed was transported to Jackson County Jail.

There are no suspects in the criminal damage to a vehicle parked in Lot 40 between 9:30 p.m. Friday and noon April 9.

There are no suspects in the fraudulent use of a credit card in Lentz Hall between March 18 and April 7.

Matthew Liner Speed, a 20-year-old SJC student from Riviera Beach, FL, was arrested at 10:13 a.m. Friday on a failure-to-appear warrant. Speed was transported to Jackson County Jail.

COOKING TIPS

Do you want to save money on your food bill? Try this simple cooking tip: Chop your vegetables before you start cooking. This not only saves time, but also reduces the chance of cross-contamination. Additionally, it’s easier to wash and prepare your vegetables if you have them chopped beforehand. So next time you’re in the kitchen, grab your knife and start chopping! Your wallet (and taste buds) will thank you.

The College of Continuing Education provides programs for lifelong learning. Whether you’re looking to advance your career, explore new interest, or learn something fun, we have options for you. Check out our offerings and find out how you can continue to grow and flourish in your personal and professional life.
Baraton Lorimor
DAILY EGYPTIAN

It took the City Council 10 minutes to debate and approve how to spend $42 million during the next year.

By a 3-2 vote, the council approved the fiscal year 2009 budget Tuesday night, which goes into effect on May 1. Councilmen Joel Fritzler and Mary Pohlmann voted against the budget.

Fritzler proposed a budget amendment to exclude $60,000 used to hire the Livingston Group, which lobbies national legislation that would benefit the city. Pohlmann said she had similar concerns since she had not heard from the group since January.

The budget was approved to include Livingston, but Mayor Brad Cole said he would bring the city’s contract with the group to the May 6 meeting. He said a budget amendment to exclude Livingston could be made at that time if necessary.

Tuesday’s vote ends more than five months of work done by City Manager Jeff Doherty and Ernie Tessone, the city’s finance director. Since Doherty is set to retire June 30, this is the last budget he will be managing.

Tessone said he hopes Doherty’s successor has a few years of experience in budget organization before the city begins putting together the city’s fiscal year 2010 spending plan.

“The budget is a basic process that everyone goes through,” he said.

Nearly half of the $649,721 budgeted to be distributed among 13 community organizations will go to the Carbondale Convention and Tourism Bureau, a separate non-profit organization providing advice on how to increase tourism in the city.

Debbie Moore, director of the bureau, said her organization should receive $317,500 from the city this year. In exchange, the bureau will promote local tourist attractions such as local wineries, restaurants, museums and live performances.

The bureau’s responsibility also includes attracting conferences, both business and recreational, to meet in Carbondale.

People coming to Carbondale are associated with the university and the city government, Moore said. The bureau publishes handouts such as brochures and guidebooks to promote attractions in the area, and operates an advertising campaign in the Chicago area to bring more tourists to Jackson County.

Moore said the bureau relies on the city’s contribution to match state grants in order to expand its smaller $423,000 budget.

“Our budget is just pennies compared to major bureaus,” she said.

The council also approved an ordinance to fund Attucks Community Services with $54,841. That sum includes rent payments for the coming fiscal year and an extra $20,000 for general operation expenses.

Attucks was excluded from the expiring budget after the organization spent its rent and tax money, which is provided by the city, on other expenditures the group had not informed the council about.

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

IN HONOR OF NATIONAL STUDENT EMPLOYMENT WEEK, RECORDS AND REGISTRATION SALUTES OUR DAWG POUND!

Scarlet Becky Josh Blake Karyn
Sherelle Molly Sheila Erica Allie Jenny Michelle
Tabitha Matthew Kelsey Treena Tawny
Madaline Jennifer Isaiah Kyle Susan Kayla

Jasmine Peronica Amanda Shantae Eric
Kindle Katie Melanie ROCIO

THANKS FOR ALL YOU DO. WE LIFT OUR PAWS TO YOU!
McCain calls for summer suspension of gas tax

Republican nominee hopes to decrease excessive spending

Liz Sidoti

PITTSBURGH

Republican Sen. John McCain on Tuesday called for a summer-long suspension of the federal gasoline tax and an additional tax cut for working-class families, saying he was inspired to act by a new wave of violence reported in Iraq since March. McCain offered some immediate policy changes to help the economy — and court independent voters — but argued that changes in the White House were necessary for long-term prosperity. The nation's economic course — and court independence, too, — would have a trickle-down effect, McCain said.

In “In so many ways, we need to turn the corner on our economy,” he said. “In so many ways, we need to make a clean break from the worst excesses of both political parties. McCain offered the crowd a gas-tax holiday by suspending the 18.4 cent federal tax on a barrel of crude and 24.4 cent diesel tax. By some estimates, the government would lose about $10 billion in revenue. He also renewed his call for the United States to stop adding to the Strategic Petroleum Reserve and thus lessen its exposure to worldwide demand for oil.

Combined, he said, the two proposals would reduce gas prices, he said, by $0.30 a gallon, which would have a trickle-down effect, and “help to spread relief across the country.”

Aides said McCain’s Senate staff was drafting a bill on the proposal. It’s likely to face strong opposition not only from Congress but the states. The federal gasoline tax helps pay for highway projects in nearly every town through a dedicated trust fund. In the past, such proposals for gas holiday has not fared well as lawmakers and state and local officials prefer not to see changes in their revenue source.

McCain’s efforts to set his own economic course — and court independents — comes as the public is craving change on economic matters, especially in parts of Pennsylvania and Ohio says McCain will take the best ideas from both parties to incorporate into a plan to help people and create jobs.

The nation is facing criticism, fueled by Democrats as well as his own previous comments — that his policy strength is not economics. Democrats have accused his economic approach is out of step with people feeling the pain. And, McCain has taken heat on taxes, he twice voted against tax cuts for the middle class. Now, he has championed, but now advocates making such cuts because, he says, doing otherwise would cause the tax increase.

To immediately address concerns about gas prices and the fallout from the credit crunch, McCain offered the Labor Department should work with governors to ensure that laundromat owners and others who traditionally back student loans by banks — is the leader of last resort for student loans.

In the long-term, McCain offered plans aimed at helping the middle class and creating useful spending, he said.

— Raise the tax exemption for each dependent child from $3,500 to $7,000. Aides estimated it would cost $60 billion over one year to double the tax exemption, but argued that McCain was offering “more equitable” tax breaks by eliminating the tax and promoting all 

— Require people the option of choosing a simpler tax system with two rates and a standard deduction instead of sticking with the current system.

— Fund the Higher Education Opportunity Tax Credit.

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Administrators look at COB tuition increases

Entering freshmen to pay 15 percent more in tuition

Madeleine Leroux  Daily Egyptian

The first college at SIUC to establish a separate tuition rate is deciding how to spend the extra money.

After the SIU Board of Trustees passed a 15 percent increase on tuition in the College of Business at its meeting Thursday, the differential tuition is set to be implemented in the fall for entering freshmen who have declared a business major, said Sun Min, chief marketing officer for the College of Business.

This year, all SIUC students paid $211.60 per credit hour. The board approved a tuition increase for fall 2008 to increase the amount to $232.50 per credit hour. With the approved differential tuition rates, new declared business majors will be charged $267.38 per credit hour.

Because of the university’s Guaranteed Tuition Stabilization Plan, the tuition increase can’t be applied to current business students.

Min said the tuition increased to improve the college’s student services. Increased scholarships, more academic advisers and technology upgrades will all be funded with the money, Min said.

“Student services is our focus and our goal is to create a premier student experience,” Min said.

There is no timeline set for the new services to be implemented, Min said, but a committee will be put together to decide where the money should go and how it will be split among programs. The committee will consist of administrators, faculty and staff, Min said, but students’ opinions will be included throughout the whole process.

After services are implemented, Min said students would be asked their opinions on how the money was spent.

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Y ou might be paying a higher tuition but you’re getting better services... — Sun Min, chief marketing officer for the College of Business

Tom Trost, a senior from Marion studying business management, said the differential tuition would have possibly affected his choice of major as an entering freshman. This could end up deterring students from the College of Business, Trost said.

Min said there is some concern that students might not declare a business major simply because of the more expensive tuition, but administrators aren’t worried.

“We’re confident that business students in particular know that you get what you pay for,” Min said. “You might be paying a higher tuition but you’re getting better services.”

Trost said having these services is crucial to stay competitive as a university but having a gradual increase in tuition could be better than such a high increase all at once.

Herb Howard, a junior from Chicago studying marketing, said as a consumer, all tuition and fee increases are looked at as negative, but if the money is going to services for students then it’s not a bad proposal. Nobody is going to be happy about an increase, Howard said, but it could take the college to a higher level.

Allison Nriendek, a senior from Tustenoplis studying marketing, said the tuition increase is important for the college to expand its services.

“In business it takes money to make money,” Niendiek said. “It’s kind of the same for the College of Business.”

Madeleine Leroux can be reached at 536-3311 ext. 268 or releroux@eiu.edu.

Bus h to pitch climate change strategy in speech

WASHINGTON—President Bush, stepping into the debate over global warming, plans to announce on Wednesday a national goal for stopping the growth of greenhouse gas emissions over the next few decades.

In a speech in the Rose Garden, Bush will lay out a strategy rather than a specific proposal for cutting emissions, White House press secretary Dana Perino said Tuesday. She did not disclose details of his announcement and would not say whether the president would propose any kind of mandatory cap on greenhouse gas emissions.

The president wants every major economy, including fast-growing nations like China and India, to establish a national goal for cutting the emissions-believed responsible for global warming.

In his remarks, Perino said, Bush will articulate a “realistic intermediate goal” for the United States. Bush will emphasize the importance of offering incentives to promote technology as an effective way to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, she said.

Bush’s announcement is expected to go beyond what he said in 2002. Then, he set a goal of reducing the growth of greenhouse gas emissions, while taking into account economic expansion. His critics argued that would still allow actual emissions to rise as the economy grew.

The White House search for a new climate proposal comes amid growing deterring students from the College of Business, Trost said.

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Our Word

Poor judgment, rich friends?

D o they serve lobster at a barbecue? Because something is starting to smell awfully fishy about Undergraduate Student Government President Demetrous White approving a whopping $22,160 for the Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity’s “Spring Owl” barbecue party this weekend.

This is a case of irresponsible spending. When he was first elected president last fall, he was at a Board of Trustees meeting eight hours later in Edwardsville.

But White’s methodology in helping to band out the more than $300,000 in a year’s Student Activity fees is blatantly irresponsible.

Financial committee chairman Stephen Albert justified what’s been approved by trying to get the great ideas that groups have brought forth this year.

“Is that a big price jump? Yeah,” Albert said. “Did people come up with great ideas this year? Yeah. Should I penalize them? ... Maybe tell them they shouldn’t put on events for the school?”

No. But if an organization comes to you and says they need $20,000-plus for a barbecue, both he and White need to have enough sense to say, “I’m sorry, but this is just too much. Actions such as the Student Programming Council and the International Student Council put on campus-wide events and thus have requested similar (albeit smaller) amounts of money for various events.

But when a group such as the fraternity throws a party, it’s a given that the event is only catering to a select population. Even if 500 people attend, more than $20 would have to be accounted for each person.

This is a case of irresponsible spending. White has gleaned support based on the ideology that his goal is to be fair to the students. His champion cause has been to cut the amount of fees students pay — and be mindful of the money such fees have already raised.

But signing off on whatever is put before you without considering the ramifications is a far cry from fair. As president, this earned process should have struck him long ago.

It’s too late to fix this year’s lopsided budget. Let’s hope his successor does a better balancing act.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Addressing the accusations

Editor’s note: Six to 8 is not to distort their message, this letter has not been edited.

Dear Editor:

We are the Finance Committee of the Undergraduate Student Government and would like to clear its name and dispel any rumors and accusations that have been printed about us in Tuesday’s edition of the Daily Egyptian.

The first issue we would like to address is that we are parents of President Demetrous White to be used for fulfillment of political favors or which was asked him to last semester. We were a group of new students, and you are free to question anything I have had to be by the following semester before, under Yancey.

Our last issue is with the timing of these corruption allegations. Dylan Burns has been at all the meetings in which our budget and funding recommendations have been presented before the senate.

The senate ultimately has the final say in what gets funded. If he had reason to suspect anything he has had opportunities all year long to raise his voice or debate the legitimacy of a funding request brought before the senate. Not once has he objected to our recommendations.

Who is really doing things for political gain?

Stephan Albert, senior studying automotive technology
Vincent Handy, sophomore studying marketing and finance
Blaise Hancock, junior studying political science
Vernon Johnson, senior studying healthcare management
Ken Suzuki, senior studying political science

Get your mind right (part one of two)

Paul Flowers

hope4usa@yahoo.com

“A man is but the product of his thoughts. What he thinks, he becomes,” Mahatma Gandhi once said.

Now I know how you feel. I felt the same way when I heard this. It was one of those things that I had to wrap my mind around. But when I found out that I was in control of my life, things got scary. I learned that I was the product of institutional control, I let them control my mindset.

Yes, just one simple word, “mindset,” can change your entire outlook on the world you live in, the way you earn your living and the associations that you keep.

How positive of a person are you?

Do you spend more time criticizing or complimenting others?

Do you offer your hand to hurt or to help your fellow man/woman?

Do your friends encourage you to conform or to chase your dreams?

Does your boss want you to play the game or make new rules?

These questions and more are what you should be asking of your friends, family and occupational acquaintances. Who wants you to be a millionaire? I hope you do, because most of the above mentioned could care less.

When was the last time someone encouraged you to chase your dreams?

I’ll bet a pack of gum that you don’t have more than five folks fighting for your future financial freedom. And if you do, I’d like them on my team too.

Let’s stick to reality. Most people would rather break you down than build you up. Why is that?

All that we are is the result of what we have thought. The mind is everything. What we think, we become,” Buddha once said.

Let’s examine the mindset of an employee: He works harder than his employer most of the time he’s on the job. He is ultimately concerned with the end of the day. His mind wanders with the possibilities of freedom as the time ticks on that torturous tool, taunting him to take his time and complete his tasks. He briefly takes a look at how the employers’ clock rules his on- and off-the-job hours.

I want you to think about a few things. As an employee, your day typically is going to be a nine-to-five grind. You’ve boxed inside those four walls and I hope you’re not claustrophobic.

For parents, think about your children and how much of their time is spent working. In addition to the countless social events that last until late, yet you can’t attend because you have to work in the morning. It’s all right to feel how you do. I would have remonstrance as well. After all, it’s part of the employee mindset.

If you consider yourself an employee, like do you think you’ll be 10 years from now? Don’t worry about it now. Chances are that most readers have been employees for a while now — I am right. We’re not taught to think enterprising thoughts so let’s not start thinking for ourselves now. Renting thought: employers are bought at wholesale and sold at retail.

This example that we are setting for our future generation has been commonplace for far too long. We’ve come a long way since the days of discrimination where certain people weren’t able to have access to information. This is the information age, and if we aren’t informed, we’re not a part of the world.

Stay tuned for part two next week. Keep this copy, though — you may want to reference it.

Flowers is a senior studying biological sciences.

Words Overheard

“Just tell everybody not to worry.”

Do Shashoong,

deputy director of Beijing’s Environmental Protection Bureau on how clean the air in the city will be in time for the Olympics.
Panama was a trip with many firsts for me: the first time I used a passport, first time I held a sloth and in one trip I will see two!” Everyone it was what I made it so far enough east, west or south of America to see the Pacific or Atlantic Oceans.

Growing up in the Midwest, I have never seen an ocean except the fish in a hot tub and in the next it felt like taking a cold shower. Someone said the ocean was intimidating. I didn’t understand why until I got into the water and my feet left the ground. The current was incredibly strong, and I fought to keep away from the sharp rocks. At times I even panicked, choking on the salt water. I eventually regained my composure and my breath.

It was one of my most anticipated moments of the trip.

Practiced snorkeling in a saltwater swimming pool at the Bananas resort in Ila Grande before diving into the sea. It took some practice before getting the hang of it — you have to remember to save enough air to exhale the water left in the tube. It is a wonderful feeling to be submerged under water for as long as you please without needing to surface for air. It makes you feel like you’re Aquaman, except the fish always keep their distance. There were crabs, fish and sea urchins everywhere.

In some areas it was like being in a hot tub and in the next it felt like taking a cold shower. Someone said the ocean was intimidating. I didn’t understand why until I got into the water and my feet left the ground. The current was incredibly strong, and I fought to keep away from the sharp rocks. At times I even panicked, choking on the salt water. I eventually regained my composure and my breath. I then realized how powerful a force the ocean is.
If you are sexually active, it is recommended that you have a regular physical checkup at least once a year.

Dick Polman
McClatchy Tribune

If “experience” is truly the pivotal factor in a presidential race, then George H.W. Bush should have cruised to re-election in 1992. He already had four years at the helm, plus eight years as vice president, several years as a U.N. ambassador, and two years as ambassador to China, a couple of years running the CIA and several terms as a member of the U.S. House of Representatives.

By comparison, his opponent looked like a little boy. His security experience consisted of calling out the National Guard. And, during the Persian Gulf Debacle, Bill Clinton successfully fished the experience imbroglio with these remarks: “Experience counts but it’s not everything…We need a new approach…The same old experience is not relevant…(Mine) is rooted in the real lives of real people.”

Today, of course, the Clintons are arguing precisely the opposite. Barack Obama was wet behind the ears, and working overtime to infill Hillary Rodham Clinton’s experience credential — to the point where she falsely claimed to have dodged sniper fire in Bosnia, falsely claims that she was “instrumental in bringing peace to Northern Ireland” (Lord Trimble, who shared a Nobel Peace Prize for his ongoing peace efforts, himself said “that’s being a cheerleader is slightly different from being a principal player”), and falsely claimed that “I helped create” the federal children’s health insurance program (“demonstrably not the case,” says John McDonough, a federal official present at the creation).

Clinton actually had it right the first time. One reason Obama still stands tall in this race, despite an ostensibly thinnest resume (three years in the U.S. Senate, eight years as a Princeton associate professor), is that Americans don’t reflexively care whether a candidate has worked at both ends of Pennsylvania Avenue. And that’s lucky for him, because Obama as senator has enacted almost nothing, and at times his lack has been onerous to his ownibre, colleagues by trying to claim some of the credit for bills they helped create.

Most voters don’t care about that personal staff. They’re not too automatically impressed by a candidate who has spent the last two decades of service on the federal dime; if that were true, Bill Richardson or Joe Biden or Chris Dodd would have made it through the primaries, or at least in the (Bill Clinton) safety zone in Pennsylvania Primary. And why, then, are those guys perceived as having experience — he’s got none, yet Obama as senator has enacted almost nothing, and at times his lack has been onerous to his ownibre, colleagues by trying to claim some of the credit for bills they helped create.

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Though current finance committee chairman Stephen Albert is a member of the fraternity, he said he leaves the room during funding requests and never discusses concerns on his own.

Katie Sermersheim, director of Student Development, said her office processes the funding requests and makes sure they meet university funding guidelines. However, USG is entirely trusted with allocating the money, and no outside source monitors how much funding is given to each organization.

Brandon Allen, a senior representing Brush Towers, vehemently defended White. Allen said Burns was using the allegations of favoritism by raising the issue during their deliberations to make sure that the fraternity’s meetings are overseen by the Student Development office.

Demetrous White or the organization’s favorites. He’s cool with everybody,” Alexander said. “We did get the most money but that’s because we threw more events this year.”

“Demetrous would, if we were trying to cut something, he would be the one to try to save a lot of the money. It doesn’t make any sense,” Allen said. “There are definitely some things that we can look at...and make sure that suspicious and problems like this don’t happen again.”

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“If no, why don’t we think there are any problems? If maybe, how can we better explore this to find out?” Charles Alexander, vice president of the fraternity and one of the secretaries in the USG office, said White is an honest man who doesn’t play favorites.

It’s not about that he’s cool with Alphas. He’s cool with everybody,” Alexander said. “We did get the most money but that’s because we threw more events this year.”

Alexander added that other groups could have received the same funding if they met the guidelines.

“Demetrous White and Dylan Burns prepare to give their speeches before a group of students in the Student Health Center Auditorium Thursday night. White has denied allegations of favoritism raised by Burns the day before student elections began.

Sermersheim said she missed most of the fraternity’s meetings this year because of health reasons. But she said no senator came to her with concerns about White or the organization’s funding process.

Sermersheim said that when USG senators were discussing various allocations, they were more concerned with initial concerns just a few days ago and he did not bring them up.

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Engineers to compete in competition

Lindsey Smith

Engineering students can race, too.
A group of 27 SIUC students will head to the University of Arkansas today for the three-day Mid-continen-
tal Conference sponsored by the American Society of Civil Engineering. There, students from 12 different uni-
versities will race paddling concrete canoes and building steel bridges.
“This competition gives us the chance to show the rest of the schools the kind of engineering students Carbondale has and what they can accomplish,” said Amanda Wedekemper, a senior from Carlyle studying civil engineering. “We get a chance to kind of show off.”
The competition features participants in three canoeing races, so the canoe has to be able to withstand the stresses of competition, Wedekemper said.
The whole thing for the concrete canoe competition is to build a canoe that can float while completely sub-
merged in water, but there’s a lot of stipulations you have to incorporate into the mix,” Wedekemper said.
Teams are also judged on aesthetics, presentations they give about the con-
cept and design of the canoe, as well as a design paper the group hands in.
The materials used to make the canoe have regulations on the type and how much of each material they
can use. They are allowed to put flota-
tion devices on the ends of the canoe in order to meet the competition’s requirements.
It may sound daunting to paddle a concrete canoe, but Wedekemper said the mix her team has developed is light and able to float. She explained that concrete is typically about 150 pounds per cubic foot, while water weighs about 62 pounds per cubic foot. The trim mix is just heavier than water and about half the weight of regular concrete.

“There’s two quarter-inch think layers of concrete and there’s a layer of fiber-glass reinforcement because concrete is really weak in tension, but it’s strong in compression. You need reinforcement material because when people sit in it, it bends,” said Wedekemper.
Wedekemper said “King Mut” has been in the works since October. It took 15 people about 10 hours to build the core of the canoe.
Ten hours is nothing, said Sarah Dimaano, who works on the steel bridge portion of the competition.
“We’re here maybe 10 hours a week, and then about 15-to-20 hours on the weekends. We were here for 15 hours yesterday putting the arch together,” said Dimaano, a senior from Mascoutah studying civil engineering.
Dimaano said time has been an issue with the bridge, as that was the weakest link for the team in the competi-
tion last year.
“Teams in the steel bridge competition are timed to see how quickly they can assem-
bile the individual pieces of the bridge. Each piece of the bridge first must be able to fit inside a 42-inch by 6-
inch box before assembly begins, said Brandon Banbury, the steel bridge team’s welder.
After that, the fun begins.
“There’s a course layout, a little imaginary river that you can go in. This year you can have a barge: some-
body out there who can walk around in the river. There’s penalties if you step outside the boundaries or step in the river,” Banbury said.
Banbury, a senior from Oswego studying mechanical engineering, said the competition is as close to real life
as a steel bridge building competition could be. Part of the competition is to keep the cost as low as possible.

“There’s construction costs. Each person costs you so much money to build. If you have to use pieces to hold it up while you’re build-
ing, those cost you money each time you move them,” Banbury said.
Once the race-
ning portion is over, the bridge’s strength is tested in two differ-
ent ways. Judges measure the deflection point after they attach a string and pull on the bridge’s frame with 50 pounds of force, Banbury said.
A 2,500 pound load of steel angles is then placed on the bridge and deflec-
tion is measured in three spots.
The teams’ scores are calculated by putting all these scores into a spread-
sheet.
SRC’s team is usually one of the most efficient, Dimaano said, which is determined by the amount of deflection divided by the weight of the bridge.
Lindsey Smith can be reached at
516-3111 ext. 255 or lsmith@siu.edu.
Colin Meloy does not seem like the type of musician to put out a live album. After all, the live album pantheon is not filled with recordings by musicians who are offbeat and overtly literary — and that is exactly what makes “Colin Meloy Sings Live!” special.

Many live albums lean too heavily upon the fact they were recorded live, most often by emphasizing applause and audience sing-alongs, instead of focusing on the music. The finished products are frequently gimmicky and fail amenably. Fortunately, “Colin Meloy Sings Live!” proves to be of different stock.

Though the audience members are vocal in their appreciation for Meloy, the frontman of The Decemberists, they are equally content to sit back in hushed reverie, instead of bursting into applause whenever a favorite song is performed.

Of course, the nature of Meloy’s music is not likely to cause many strong bursts of excitement. His song catalogue is filled with long, carnivalesque ballads, detailing the sordid affairs of rogues, knaves and wenches, as opposed to short, catchy pop numbers. Meloy understands this and plays it to his advantage in the live setting.

Early on, Meloy expresses his intention to evoke the aura of a campfire to set the mood for his musical storytelling. He then leans into his vast reservoir of story-songs, mostly from his work with The Decemberists, and occasionally throwing in a cover (“Dreams” by Fleetwood Mac, “Barbara Allen” by Shirley Collins and “Ask” by The Smiths).

Meloy also pokes fun at himself by performing “Dracula’s Daughter,” a song he claims to be his worst. Mocking his own work, he laughs, “It makes one want to retire and be, like, a college professor or something,” before cutting a few bars into the droll song, “You think you got it bad? Try having Dracula for your dad.”

And in “Wonder,” Meloy’s own lyrics perfectly sum up his unique talent: “It’s weird but mostly wonderful.”

Overall, “Colin Meloy Sings Live!” maintains an intimate and minimalist mood. Though aided by two backup musicians, Meloy’s acoustic guitar and nasally resonant voice take center stage as he paints his idiosyncratic word pictures, giving the album a very personal feel, which lacks in many live albums.

Devin Vaughn can be reached at 536-3311 ext. 275 or dvaughn@siu.edu.
Famous singer, mediocore album

Julie Engler
Dawg House

Mariah Carey
“E=MC2”

Release date: April 15
Record label: Island Records
http://www.mariahcarey.com

Einstein had no idea Mariah Carey would provide a new take on his famous equation nearly 100 years later, but the famous diva proves once again her own pop formula works.

On her 11th studio album, “E=MC2,” Carey adds her touch to a collection of pretty formulaic pop and R&B songs whose only appeal is Carey’s vocal genius.

The beats are as standard as beat tracks can get for R&B, rarely a sort of breakdown or change in pattern, and even short on fills.

Carey doesn’t use her vocals to their full-range potential, the only exceptions being the opening notes of “Migrate,” and in “For the Record” and “I Wish you Well,” where she nails such a high note it’s almost fake.

She shows what she’s capable of, but the rest of “E=MC2” is missing vocal aripeggios and those notes you thought only opera singers could hit. It’s hard to tell if she’s just trying not to show off or if she’s getting a little lazy.

What kept the album interesting are the artists who join Carey; such as Damian Marley, T-Pain and Young Jeezy. With someone else’s ideas in a track, the song takes on a blended flavor of Carey’s sweetness and their trademark songs.

On “Cruise Control,” Marley brings a spaced-out vibe that Carey appropriately follows. She tries something she’s not used to but not too bad at either, with an accent and all. On “Migrate,” T-Pain joins Carey to produce an edgier rap track than the lighter pop on the rest of the album.

Lyrically, Carey isn’t quite a poet. She’s more straightforward than artsy, even on serious tracks such as “T-Bay Bye,” a song about losing someone close. It’s consoling and inspirational, but not tear-worthy.

The rest of the album is full of love songs, fitting Carey into that stereotype pop singer mold that doesn’t appeal is as is obvious from the album’s cover and the video for “Touch my Body.” But such is the world of pop and record labels. Carey will forever be an amazing and sexy singer — the only solo artist able to pass Elvis in No. 1 singles — but it’s time for her to abandon the formula and make history in other ways, too.

Julie Engler can be reached at 536-3313 ext. 475 or julie86@siu.edu.

SUMMER JOB OPENINGS

The SIUC Division of Continuing Education has job openings for student employees in the areas of:

GENERAL OFFICE DUTIES
WEB DESIGN
GRAPHIC DESIGN

• Applicants must be available for work between May 19 and August 1.
• Must have a Fafsa on file.
• A valid driver’s license is required.
• Positions may require weekend work.
• To apply, fill out an application at Washington Square, Bldg. C.

For more information contact Melissa Prid at 618-536-7751.

Famous singer, mediocore album

Einstein had no idea Mariah Carey would provide a new take on his famous equation nearly 100 years later, but the famous diva proves once again her own pop formula works.

On her 11th studio album, “E=MC2,” Carey adds her touch to a collection of pretty formulaic pop and R&B songs whose only appeal is Carey’s vocal genius.

The beats are as standard as beat tracks can get for R&B, rarely a sort of breakdown or change in pattern, and even short on fills.

Carey doesn’t use her vocals to their full-range potential, the only exceptions being the opening notes of “Migrate,” and in “For the Record” and “I Wish you Well,” where she nails such a high note it’s almost fake.

She shows what she’s capable of, but the rest of “E=MC2” is missing vocal aripeggios and those notes you thought only opera singers could hit. It’s hard to tell if she’s just trying not to show off or if she’s getting a little lazy.

What kept the album interesting are the artists who join Carey; such as Damian Marley, T-Pain and Young Jeezy. With someone else’s ideas in a track, the song takes on a blended flavor of Carey’s sweetness and their trademark songs.

On “Cruise Control,” Marley brings a spaced-out vibe that Carey appropriately follows. She tries something she’s not used to but not too bad at either, with an accent and all. On “Migrate,” T-Pain joins Carey to produce an edgier rap track than the lighter pop on the rest of the album.

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109 Glenview
520 S. Graham
505 S. Hays
507 S. Hays #2
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408 E. Hester
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705 N. James
507 1/2 W. Main #B
207 S. Maple
906 W. McDaniel
300 W. Mill #2-3
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402 W. Oak #E,W
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To the River to River Trail Society, the land between the rivers might not be the Garden of Eden, but it is just as beautiful.

In 1990, John O’Dell founded the River to River Trail Society, a group of dedicated hikers who spend their days enjoying the vast beauty of the Shawnee National Forest.

Their intention was to create a trail from the Ohio River to the Mississippi River. With the help of then SIUC president Delythe Morris and faculty member Egon Kamarasy, it succeeded.

The group hikes most of the year, excluding the extreme months of winter and summer, although they usually do one icicle hike. Ultimately, the goal of the society is to create a safe trail people can hike on their own.

A white diamond with a blue “i”, either painted or nailed to a tree, signifies the 160-mile path between the rivers. The path begins at Battery Rock on the Ohio River and ends at Grand Tower on the Mississippi River.

The group has found success in its mission, but it wasn’t great from the start. “We didn’t know exactly how to do anything,” O’Dell said of the early years of the society. He mentioned how the group initially had trouble laying out the trail and marking it.

“It was a matter of connecting the trails that were already there,” O’Dell said. “We had a lot of luck in putting stuff together.”

The society became official in 1993 with 20 members. It now has more than 1,200. “For a hiking group, that’s a pretty good size,” O’Dell said. “Hikers are real independent. They like to do things on their own.”

On a recent trip to Cedar Creek, society members Pat and Tom Blair braved the cold to hike with O’Dell. Despite living in Dexter, Mo., the Blairs have been part of the society for five years and drive two and a half hours almost every other weekend during spring and autumn to hike.

Pat Blair said she enjoys the quiet of the forest, and despite being close to the Ozarks, would rather spend her time in southern Illinois. “The Shawnee National Forest is prettier than the Ozarks,” her husband Tom Blair said.

In addition to doing trail maintenance and cleaning trash left in the forest, O’Dell said the society is important for many other reasons. He said the society opens up a lot of opportunities for people who would not otherwise get the chance to hike such as special education children.

“It provides a healing you can’t get anywhere else,” he said.

Brandon Chapple can be reached 536-3311 ext. 254 or bchappl2@siu.edu.

Beauty between the rivers

Story and photos by Brandon Chapple

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Sarah Carr
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Nikki Clarkson
Amanda Lawson
Megan Dust

Alpha Sorority

 Sigma Alpha Sorority

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Mark Kelly wasn’t going to watch his team lose a fifth straight game.

Kelly, a junior catcher, connected with the bases loaded to score a pair of runs in the fifth inning to get the SIU baseball team on the board as it defeated Southeast Missouri State 5-4 Tuesday at Abe Martin Field.

After Kelly cut the lead to 4-2, senior first baseman Adam Hills scored on a balk by Redhawks sophomore reliever Andy Stephens and sophomore designated hitter Tyler Bullock singled to left field to scoot Kelly and tie the game at 4-4.

Kelly led the offense with three hits while going 2-for-4 at the plate.

He said he prides himself in getting the job done in scoring situations.

“In that situation, all I did was hit a fly ball and luck happened to fall,” Kelly said. “I was a breather and everyone took a deep breath and we had a lot of confidence after that.”

Kelly delivered another big hit with two outs in the next inning to give SIU (19-15) its third win in a row after defeating Southeast Missouri State 5-4 Tuesday at Abe Martin Field.

After Kelly hit a two-run double, sophomore center fielder Laegeler and senior Kelly Wilson helped put the Salukis on top 2-0.

Junior Katie Wagner said coming off a weekend break will challenge the team to regain focus but the Salukis need to come ready to play.

The Salukis haven’t lost a game since March 27 when they dropped a 9-1 decision against Eastern Illinois. The pitching rotation has thrown four straight shutouts during that streak with 27 consecutive scoreless innings, tying a school record.

Blaylock said she is looking for two good performances from Glosson and freshman pitcher Nikki Walters today, but doesn’t need one pitcher on the staff to carry the load.

“Todays feel like I’ve got a number one or a number two (pitcher),” Blaylock said. “I feel like we’ve got two starters that I can throw out there at any time and (junior Katie McNamara) is a great closer.”

Blaylock said having the veteran McNamara ready to close out games helps round out a strong rotation in the circle.

The Salukis will host Creighton beginning with a doubleheader Saturday and closing with a single game Sunday. They will also honor five seniors after the conclusion of Saturday’s doubleheader.

Megan Krenn can be reached at 536-3312 ext. 256 or megkrenn@siu.edu.

SPORT BRIEFS
Salukis stop skid, send SEMO reeling

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EXPAND CONTINUED FROM PAGE 24

‘He found himself stuck behind some very talented players in our front court and didn’t get as much playing time as he would have liked. We wish, Jordan and his family all the best,” Lowery said.

Wood spent only one season with SIU as was expected to be a significant contributor with fellow freshman Carbon Hills isn’t going to need to tie the game at 4-4.

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We\r
\r
DAILY EGYPTAN
Wednesday, April 16, 2008
23

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Sports

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The National Football League released its prime-time schedule for the 2008-09 season. What match up are you looking forward to?

“I’m wondering why the Bears and the Browns both get more than one game in prime time. The Bears are probably one of the most overrated teams in history and as for the Browns, I guess Brady Quinn is good for something.”

“The Nov. 2 game between the Colts and Patriots is the game I’ve already circled on my calendar. However, I’d love for ESPN to explain what the Cardinals and 49ers have done to get a Monday night game. I’ll need something else to watch that night.”

“Dec. 28 is looking good. Giants play the Vikings, which could potentially be for the final wildcard spot and Browns play the Steelers, which could potentially be for the division title. I love late December match-ups. There is always plenty on the line.”

Jeff Engelhardt can be reached at 536-3311 ext. 269 or jengel@siu.edu.

SPRING
continued from page 24

While the new defensive and offensive sets have been implemented, the Salukis are still in search for their next starting quarterback. Evans said redshirt freshman Chris Dieker could be the current frontrunner, but both Lennon and Evans said it was too soon to tell.

Lennon said he would like to have a solid idea of who the starter would be by the end of spring ball. What we want to accomplish coming out of spring ball is to have a No.1, No.2 and No.3 quarterback,” Lennon said. “But that can still change over the course of pre-fall, but you just want to have a depth chart to evaluate your offense.”

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DISCUSSION: 7:45 p.m. With Special Guest Speaker Fran Amsley (advisor to the filmmaker)

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April 16, 2008

**WOMEN’S GOLF**

Women’s golf finishes in second at MVC tournament

Luis C. Medina

The final-round magic the SIU women’s golf team had during its 2007 championship season eluded the team in its 2008 run.

The Salukis fell 11 strokes short of their second consecutive Missouri Valley Conference Championship, finishing in second place behind Illinois State.

The team totaled 941 and a final-round best 325 to secure their first championship since 2005.

SIU shot a final round 335 to finish with a total score of 952 after shooting 310 and 307 in the first and second round, respectively.

Coach Diane Daugherty said Tuesday’s final round was tough, especially after entering the final round within striking distance of first place.

“We were really right in there at the turn,” Daugherty said. “We were nine down and got back to within three, but we didn’t finish strong. We finished strong the last two days, but not today.”

See SHORT, Page 22

**MEN’S BASKETBALL**

SIU looks to expand roster after departures

Wood, Armstrong granted releases

Jeff Engelhardt

The SIU men’s basketball team has two more scholarship openings after two players were granted releases Tuesday.

After the once-hailed recruits saw increased time on the bench this season, freshmen Braddock Wood and redshirt sophomore Jordan Armstrong were released from their scholarships.

The players’ absences from the roster give the Salukis room for new recruits to sign national letters of intent with the team as early as today.

Wood and Armstrong had limited playing time last season and next season’s incoming freshmen are expected to make immediate contributions.

The Salukis have a couple of high school seniors Kevin Dillard, Torres Roundtree and Anthony Booker, while Ryan Ham is expected to sign today.

Frank Henry-Aha, a junior college player, is also expected to sign a letter of intent.

Armstrong was on the team for three seasons and played in 21 games during that span. Though Armstrong never played significant minutes, coach Chris Lowery said in a press release that Armstrong was a positive influence and wished him the best of luck.

See EXPAND, Page 22

**SOFTBALL**

Salukis return from hiatus

Megan Krampfer

After unexpectedly spending a few days off, the SIU softball team will return to action today for the start of their spring home stretch.

The Salukis will begin their home stand with a doubleheader today at 3 p.m. against Evansville and will also look to expand their win streak to a season-high nine games.

The last time the Salukis (23-15, 9-3 MVC) saw competition was April 9 when they faced Evansville on the road. A weekend series at Drake was canceled because of snow showers.

Senior shortstop Becky Wegmann said it was nice to get a few days off for players with aches and pains to rest but the team sometimes struggles when it comes time to head back on the road.

See EXPAND, Page 22

**FOOTBALL**

Salukis ready for spring showcase

Freshman wide receiver Marc Cheatham jumps for a pass during practice at McAndrew Stadium Tuesday afternoon.

The Salukis will play their spring game Saturday at McAndrew Stadium.

Jeff Engelhardt

Spring has given new life to a new-look football team that will display its new look. The Salukas are set to take the field at 1 p.m. Saturday for their spring scrimmage.

New coaches, new playbooks and new quarterbacks are just some of the changes fans can expect to see at McAndrew Stadium.

Coach Dale Lennon has been busy teaching the Salukas the 3-4 defense and a new offensive philosophy with more passing. Lennon said he is excited to see what the team will do in simulated game situations.

“You just want to look like a football team,” Lennon said. “It’s really that very first dress rehearsal for next year.”

The game will not be the normal hard-fitting action fans are used to on fall Saturdays, but Lennon said fans could expect a series of drills, challenges and game situations pitting the defense against the offense.

Lennon said there would be plays that very first dress rehearsal fans can make variations to the defense against the offense.

The mixture of challenge, pass coverage and calling audibles is perfect for what Jordan said is any linebucker’s dream situation.

“Before, when the defensive play was called with coach (Jerry) Kill and the team as early as today.”

Armstrong was on the team for three seasons and played in 21 games during that span. Though Armstrong never played significant minutes, coach Chris Lowery said in a press release that Armstrong was a positive influence and wished him the best of luck.

See EXPAND, Page 22

Megan Krampfer

After unexpectedly spending a few days off, the SIU softball team will return to action today for the start of their spring home stretch.

The Salukis will begin their home stand with a doubleheader today at 3 p.m. against Evansville and will also look to expand their win streak to a season-high nine games.

The last time the Salukis (23-15, 9-3 MVC) saw competition was April 9 when they faced Evansville on the road. A weekend series at Drake was canceled because of snow showers.

Senior shortstop Becky Wegmann said it was nice to get a few days off for players with aches and pains to rest but the team sometimes struggles when it comes time to head back on the road.

See EXPAND, Page 22

Salukis ready for spring showcase

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“Before, when the defensive play was called with coach (Jerry) Kill and roundtree and Anthony Booker, while Ryan Ham is expected to sign today.

Frank Henry-Aha, a junior college player, is also expected to sign a letter of intent.

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Lennon said there would be plays called to see if the offense can move the ball or the defense can stop it, followed by a live two-minute drill where the offense will try to move the ball up and down the field.

The scrimmage will also include practice in redzone situations and what Lennon called the first downs challenge, which requires the offense to move the ball from its own five-yard line into better field position.

One of the players hoping to help the offense in the scrimmage is freshman wide receiver Jeff Evans. Evans played only six games last season because of injuries but still managed to gain 149 yards for 12.4 yards per catch.

Evans said extra passing in the offense has been fun and the coaches have been patient with him while they learn new terminology.

“As receivers, we love to go out there and catch the ball so that makes it a lot better for us,” Evans said. “It’s all new stuff but football is football.”

One guy who will try to stop Evans and the offense during the scrimmage will be linebacker Brandon Jordan.

Jordan was one of last season’s top defensive performers with 97 total tackles and two forced fumbles.

“It’s like blitz in a gap,” Jordan said. “It was called with coach (Jerry) Kill and the team as early as today.”

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See EXPAND, Page 22