Ebonics debate defined

CONTROVERSY: SIUC professors discuss evolution and origin of "Black sound."

LE'KEISHA R. GRAY
\textit{DAILY EGYPTIAN REPORTER}

It is one of the most-sung controversial language issues of the day, but its origin, evolution and its meaning is a tune seldom heard. Some SIUC professors say.

\textbf{INSIDE}

Voices give two opposing views of Ebonics debate.

\textbf{CONTROVERSY:}

When the word "Ebonics," a term comprised of the words "ethnics" (black) and "phonics" (sound) is defined as "Black sound." However, many linguists do not agree with this term. Once the Oakland, Calif., school board voted unanimously to recognize Ebonics as a second language for its school system on Dec. 19, controversy about the issue has spread.

Nancy Dawson, an assistant professor in Black American Studies, said she believes the word Ebonics is an ongoing debate is because people do not understand it fully. Taking this into account, Dawson said she believes in this society, people who use Ebonics are "stigmatized and are associated with..."

RESOURCES: Radio and television professor Leo Gher teaches three classes in the new media center.

College receives new media center

LEARNING PROCESS:

New resource will help communication students with business skills.

TAMEKA L. HICKS
\textit{DAILY EGYPTIAN REPORTER}

Thanks to the generosity of an SIUC alumnus, communications students can develop their business skills in business-related classes, the dean of the college says.

Joe Foote, dean of the College of Mass Communications and Media Arts, said that SIUC alumnus Larry G. Brown, now the president and founder of Forward Communications Inc. in Irving, Texas, donated $100,000 to the college last fall for a new media management center to expand business skills among communications students.

There are three classes using the lab, which was opened this semester.

Brown, who was born and raised in Carbondale, said it is important for him to give something back.

He said SIUC gave him a foundation and provided him with hands on experience.

"People have to take building blocks and do something with them," he said. "There is a lot more competition out there now. Television and entertainment is more sophisticated today."

The Larry G. Brown Media Management Laboratory is located at the end of the west wing of the Communications Building on the second floor in a two-room suite in room 2216.

One room of the media center contains media with more data capacity. Students are able to use systems such as Arbitron, Nielsen and the World Wide Web. Some students in the business classes

It's not as spread out like a classroom, ...there's close quarters for everyone to work together.

BERNADETTE WALLS
\textit{SENIOR FROM BIGNET}
TODAY:
- **Calendar**
  - Wednesday, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. in Room 237 of Shikhen Hall, the first floor of the Student Union Building. Room: COM 237.

WEDNESDAY:
- Mostly sunny, warmer.
- High: 28
- Low: 13

**Corrections**
If readers spot an error in a news article, they can contact the Daily Egyptian Accuracy Desk at 536-3311, extension 233 or 228.

**Calendar**
- **CALENDAR POLICY**
  - The deadlines for publicizing events in the newspaper and daily television and radio newscasts mean the event must include time, date, place, admission cost and sponsor of the event and the name and phone of the person submitting the item. Items should be delivered or submitted to the Daily Egyptian Newsroom, Communication, 301 Student Union Building, Room 315. All articles from this page. No calendar information will be taken over the phone.

**Today**
- Liberal Arts series (except Music, Art and Dance) are now accepting auditions. For further information call 1-800-719-ARTS (2787). For more information call 412-746-2000.
- SAC Library Affairs - 'Introduction to Database Searching' Seminar.
- tort, 10 a.m. - 11 a.m., Morris Library 1030. Contact the Undergraduate Library at 453-2618 to register.
- SAC Library Affairs - 'Core of College Information Searching' Seminar. Bio, 10 a.m., 1 p.m., Morris Library 1030. Contact the Information Desk at 536-3319.
- Student Development - Student Life Advisor Intern Session. Juno, 9 a.m., Lenz Hall. Contact Vincent at 453-5714.
- Black Student Association general meeting. Jean, 9 a.m. - 7 p.m., Student Resource Room, Student Union Building. Contact Amy at 453-5714.
- SAEIU Meeting - Guest speaker Dr. François de la Vigne, 29 a.m. - 5 p.m., Bachelor Auditors in Princeton. Contact Amy at 536-1904 or see web page http://www.siu.edu/ saeil.
- Voices of Inspiration Gospel Choir will be in concert in the Student Union Ballroom at 6:30 p.m. and 8 p.m. until 11 a.m. Call 453-9251.
- Student Volunteer Corps - Fun and Food. Jean, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., Student School in Campbell Hall.
- Contact Lynn at 684-3145 ext. 132 to volunteers.
- SAC Library Affairs - 'Introduction to WWW using Netscape/BM' Seminar. Juno, 9 a.m. - 7 p.m., Morris Library 1030. Contact the Undergraduate Library at 453-2618 to register.
- Southern Illinois Repertory Dance Theatre - Dance Auditions (open to all levels of dancers). Jean, 9 a.m. - 7 p.m., Student Auditorium in Pullman. Contact Jean at 536-8642.
- Field Communications Alliance - general meeting for students interested in news media. Every Tuesday, 7 a.m., Illinois Room. Student Center. Contact Cesar at 457-2165.
- Southern Illinois University Southern Illinois University

**UNIVERSITY**
- Seven vehicles were broken into between 8 a.m. Sunday and 5 p.m. May 21 and two vehicles were burglarized, along with several cases of beer and equipment stolen. Total estimated value was $2,500. There are no suspects.
- An 18-year-old student reported that on Sunday, May 21, he was harassed by an unknown man near the Sam Rayburn Residential Hall. He was treated at Carbondale Memorial Hospital for a large cut on his lip and was released. There are no suspects.
- John H. Brooks, 22, of Carbondale, was issued citations at 9:11 p.m. Friday for speeding and illegal transportation of alcohol after being stopped at 3:00 a.m. east of Westwood Street. Brooks was taken to the Randolph County Jail, posted bond and was released.

**CARBONDALE**
- Jay Mottaukas, 22, of Carbondale, was arrested at 4:04 p.m. Sunday, May 21, for vehicle theft and theft of a 412 E. Walnut St., for driving under the influence of alcohol. Mottaukas reportedly was found passed out in his car with his foot on the brake and the engine running. He was taken to the Randolph County Jail and was released.

**Police**
- Kirsh Adams, 47, of Carbondale, was arrested Sunday in the 300 Block of South Lewis Lane for allegedly possessing a controlled substance. Adams was released on his own recognizance.
- Victor Lewis, 27, of Carbondale, was arrested Sunday for allegedly driving a car without a license. Lewis was charged with a domestic disturbance and was released on bail.
- Clint Rhee, 26, of Carbondale, was arrested Sunday for failing to deposit, under the possession of alcohol and requiring a customer to pay for a drink for the purchase of the drink. Rhee was released on his own recognizance.

**DAILY EGYPTIAN**
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SUPER BOWL: Celebrations of the game held at a variety of Carbondale locations.

MICAL J. HARRIS
dAILY EGYPTIAN REPORTER

Parties part of big game

Some parties offered free food while others offered a chance to get load and a little crazy, but Super Bowl XXIII gatherings on and off campus had students dancing and partying Sunday evening.

In the Boomer Residence Hall lounge, Resident Assistant Carlton Johnson set the game up on two television and channelled the grunting and grilling sounds of the Green Bay Packers and the New England Patriots through his personal stereo.

Although many bars and residences off campus offered Super Bowl parties, Johnson, a junior in architectural technology from East St. Louis, said he thought offering a similar party for his residents was a good way to fulfill his residence hall’s social program requirement.

“I figured it would be a little safer for them to stay inside the building, and this is truly an alcohol-free environment,” he said. “I thought this would be the ideal party place to come, sit down and watch the game amongst friends and other fellow residents.”

Johnson ordered pizzas and served punch as about 12 to 20 people moved in and out of the lounge, played pool and card games. He said the free food was a definite advantage over bars asking for as much as $5 to watch the Super Bowl at their establishments.

“I would personally prefer something free over something that I’d have to pay for and spend a lot of energy time and effort trying to get to,” he said.

Johnson said the gathering was alcohol-free.

“I don’t necessarily think the lack of alcohol made it less of a party atmosphere,” he said. “If anything, it’s said it was 2 plus.

People were just sitting back and relaxing while sipping on their beers. It was like a holiday.

Andre Brown
Senior from Chicago

“People weren’t drinking to get drunk or anything,” he said. “People were just sitting back and relaxing while sipping on their beers. It was like a holiday.”

Brown said football and beer were not the only attractions at the party because the main event was the video game tournament after the Super Bowl was over.

“Nobody was really into the game towards the end,” he said. “Everybody was waiting for the game to go off so they could play ‘Tekken 2.’”

INNOVATIONS: New coal byproducts help dispose smokestock ash and residue.

BRAD WEBER
DAILY EGYPTIAN REPORTER

Two SIUC faculty members are looking at alternative uses for sulfur-containing byproducts to help Southern Illinois’ struggling coal industry.

Physics Professor Vivak Malhotra and Yeojin Chung, chairman of the University Mining, Engineering Department, are mining up ingredients to find ways to dispose of 85 million tons of smokestock ash and byproducts nationwide.

By finding workable development products that can be made with coal residue, while Chung is working on the problems Southern Illinois coal companies are encountering.

Products that can be made with coal residue include fence posts, light posts and brake pads.

“Break pads made with coal residue can cost 5 percent less than existing brake products.”

Coal accounts for about half the fuel used in this country’s power plants. But because of stricter environmental laws, efficiency has been losing its market share because of the high sulfur content in the coal.

Chung and Malhotra said they are trying to find new uses for sulfur-containing byproducts so that Southern Illinois and the rest of the coal mines in the state do not lose their market share in the coal.

“We are doing a market study on sulfur-containing byproducts to see what direction we’re heading in right now, but everything looks real good at the time,” Chung said.

Malhotra and Chung were enlisted for a project of a state-funded effort by Shoell.

Both professors said they knew their work needed scaling, but said what they have done so far has been promising.

Chung said his first success was his development of the mine timbers made of fly-ash, which is residue left over after coal is burned in a power plant.

These timbers, used to support mine tunnels, have the strength of concrete, but weigh half as much, Chung said.

Chung said his project is an effective way for the Southern Illinois community to save money on transportation costs.

“All the work is in the electric generating plants. There is no transportation of (coal residue) involved if you are making your own mine timbers,” he said. “Transportation is a killer to the coal cutting because it is 6 to every 300 miles.”

Chung said he hopes that in the next few months, he will be able to showcase the fly-ash mine timbers commercially to local business in the community.

“We want to go commercial and sell to mines in the Southern Illinois area,” Chung said.

Chung now is working to eliminate waste that is found in dusty ponds.

“The ponds are full of fly-ash that is washed out of coal before it is burned,” he said.

Malhotra is testing brake pads he created that are made of sulfur-containing byproducts in a brake line.

Malhotra is looking for an industrial partner to make and test his brake pads in the real market.

“If Malhotra’s experiment on brake pads is a success, he said it could be an excellent replacement for asbestos, which has been used to make brake pads.

Malhotra said the initial results of brake pads have been favorable.

WASHINGTON
Senate Democrats propose education initiative

Senate Democrats Monday proposed a $9 billion, six-year public education initiative, including increasing students’ reading skills, expanding their “teaching literacy” and helping school systems address repair, renovation and construction projects.

The Senate, D-Del., said the Senate Democratic plan has three parts: $5 billion to pay up to 50 percent of the interest costs on state and local bonds for school repair, renovation, and modernization projects, and the money to be distributed on the basis of school-age population, need and other factors.

Dutle said Democratic plan to propose elimination of corporate tax breaks and subsidies and cuts in other non-education programs to offset the initiative’s cost and avoid any increase in the deficit, but he did not offer any details.

NEW YORK
 Pepsi pulls out of Burma

PepsiCo Inc. has decided to pull all of its brands and business out of Burma, giving a major boost to a student and civic movement against U.S. economic involvement with the southeast Asian country’s military government.

Brendan Chung, a Pullman resident and general counsel, Edward V. Lefebvre Jr., said PepsiCo’s decision to withdraw its Burmese bottler on Jan. 15, and expected that all production and distribution of company products there would cease by May 31.

Pepsi officials, who once argued that the trade could help ease the military trip, said they acted in recognition of toughness U.S. policy toward Burma and an emphasis on reducing earnings to the wishes of many shareholders and customers.

World

GROZNY, RUSSIA
Chechen elections will lead to independence

Sensing freedom after two centuries of rule by Moscow, Chechens flocked to the polls Monday to vote in elections that will confirm their intention to end Moscow’s rule that they hope will confirm the end of Russian rule.

In the first election of its kind since the civil war, voters cast their ballots in secret and watched as the results were tallied in a referendum to confirm their intention to end Russian rule.

--- From Daily Egyptian service

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Understanding Ebonics key to self-knowledge

There is something inherent in the very soil of mainstream American that makes sense if you consider the genesis of Africans in this land. When the first documented and recorded African was brought to the shores of the 13 colonies, there was no course for English. Ebonics is one issue that remedial English 101. This wasn't even a vestige of the African's worst nightmare. He would have had to speak the language of the African American community. The unique mode of communication cannot be identified as slang any more than the dialect of the foreigner who in informal circumstances is native tongue with English words.

The origin of Ebonics is a mixture of English and languages from the Niger-Congo linguistic group. (See J.L. Lay's "Ebonics: A due to the fact that many people do not know how to comprehend and write standard English. Instead of Ebonics being a curse on educators, it is a blessing — a way to close the gap between cultural and racial differences.

In the case of the Oakland School District in California, educators are converting Ebonics — a language in which those inner-city school children are familiar with — to standard English with some success. The educators tried this new concept to raise standard test scores and graduation rates. The Oakland case is a symbol for the problems inner-city schools are facing.

It is obvious that to succeed in the professional world, people need to know how to speak and comprehend English. For students to compete in today's job market, they need proficiency in standard English. That is what the educators are trying to accomplish with Ebonics.

Many people speak a different slang or type of English when they are in informal social or family circles. For example, some people pronounce "sugar" as "suga" or "slang" — this is common in both urban areas and the deep South. This is all vernacular, but when some people do not know how to comprehend and write standard English, it becomes almost impossible for them to communicate.

To call Ebonics a race issue or a dialect is incorrect. It is a modification of the English language. It is not the first time that another language has either influenced or modified English. Many English words come from different areas and cultures. English would not be what it is today without the many influences on pronunciation, spellings and meanings. To be an isolationist about Ebonics is to be ignorant of its relevant educational uses.

Educators are utilizing Ebonics as a tool, not a foreign language. Translating Ebonics to standard English is a road to proficiency in language: not a dead-end street. For Oakland schools, Ebonics is an effort to bring together the predominantly African-American community to achieve academic success.

To ridicule and isolate people who either speak Ebonics and do not know or try to teach through it is wrong. To understand the Ebonics issue is a step to understanding today's educational and social problems.

"Our Word" represents the consensus of the Daily Egyptian Editorial Board.
Oakland decision racist, illogical

For those who thought that I would not write two cents to the Ethnic debate, I’m sorry to disappoint you. It would be the height of intellectual timid­
ity ever if I remained silent. So let me cast the chisel. The decision of the Oakland School Board was both the Spanish and a fur­
ter indication of a system­ic decline in American culture.

Language is the one factor that can either hold a culture together or tear it apart. In the United States we have a cul­
ture that is primarily based upon our ability to com­municate. Ethnicities not only break up Americans, but it is a very cruel and de­con­ducing play to under­
educate the education of a group of people that are so different.

Ethnicity is based upon a faulty and racist notion that black students cannot learn the language of American culture and cannot compete in a post-modern economy. The idea is that “We have to lower educational stan­dards to bring students instead of raising students’ levels of com­petence to a place where they can empower themselves.”

Moreover, Ethnicity takes the dialect of a distinct ethnic group and raises it to a level of Greek, Latin or Arabic. Not only is this false but it further hampers our country in an era where racial ten­sions are increasing to dangerous levels.

Don’t get me wrong, I often speak Ethnic in a social setting, especially when I am “pickin’ it” with my friends. I would not go as far as saying Ethnic speaking with profound eloquence on Prince, Metternich and the Congress of Vienna — this would be utter foolishness on my part.

However, if you would not go into a session of an academic conference quoting the lyrics of the Wu-Tang Clan — I would be the laughing stock of the Academy and subsequently marginalized. It is called “code switching.” Every ethnic group does this from time to time.

However, we must agree to a common language and a common culture if our nation will continue to aspire to be the beacon of hope for millions of people. Ethnicity, let me restate that in Ethnic is reflected the resilience and fitness of Ethnic cultures an end­while hostile Western Hemispheric Diaspora. It must not be allowed to melt into a pot of confusion, misinformation and ignorance.

Language is a fundamental component of the values and lifestyles of any people. Ethnic is a legitimate and codification of a people having a common pattern of memory and migration, protests and politi­
tics, history and kinship.

It is testament to the shared affirmities, history and cultural creativity of African and American civilizations. For good or ill, Ethnic is part of the life blood of jazz, rap music and, in fact, the whole course of 20th century American history.

Prince Charles himself has said that the American standard English is corrupted. Ultimately, the question of whether Ethnic is a dialect or a language both builds to the cornerstone of the chicken and egg.

The task of making a particular lan­guage an official medium of instruction has been, in nation states, a political one. The language that is adopted invariably is that of who controls the army.

The only reason, therefore, that Ethnic is not a national language is geo­political. The Linguistics Society of America has said that Ethnic is not inferior in any language, whenever.

That’s what I thought — The Upper Deck!

That’s what I thought — The Upper Deck!

That’s what I thought — The Upper Deck!

That’s what I thought — The Upper Deck!

INTRODUCING

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Beyond University Mall • 525-3272
Dawgs descend on Arena

As the "Indiana Jones" theme played, the large crowd at the SIUC men's basketball game gazed up to see the Saluki Dawg descending from the catwalk onto the SIU Arena floor.

"The Dawgs like to be the center of attention," the Brown Dawg said. "This gets you in the center of attention."

There are two dawgs: one gray and one brown. They like to be referred to as the characters and not as students in costumes. There are several students who don the costumes, but there are only two dawgs year after year.

After completing training at Touch of Nature Environmental Center, Brown Dawg repelled a distance of about 70 feet Saturday night before the SIUC men's basketball game.

Brown Dawg had to climb over the railing of the catwalk to begin the descent. There were no trees, rocks or any of the familiar sights found in most repelling locations. There was nothing but open air and the hardwood floor underneath.

"It is almost like sky diving. The hardest part is getting the courage to let go of terra firma," Brown Dawg said. "The best part is when I am back on the ground again."

For the descent, three of the seven mascots trained under Rosie O'Connor, outdoor program coordinator at Touch of Nature. She said the mascots repelled at Giant City, but the descent in SIU Arena is different than what they experienced at the park.

"Repelling in the Arena is a little more intimidating," she said. "The Makanda Bluffs in Giant City are supposed to be the same height as it is here in the Arena, but it looks a lot higher in the Arena to me."

O'Connor said the Dawgs were a little apprehensive about repelling, but she said that was a good sign.

"If you guys were not nervous about this, then I would be very nervous," she said.

She said she was surprised when she was first approached about training the mascots to repel. O'Connor said she is happy to do what she can to make it safe because none of the mascots had ever repelled before.

Safety was the first concern Nancy Esling, the SIUC spirit coordinator, had when she began to look into the possibility of the mascot repelling.

"I approached Risk Management, and at first they thought it was just another stunt from 'those crazy kids,'" she said. "When I told them I wanted to do it, too, they knew it wasn't something crazy. Then they started to look into it."

Esling said the idea came to her when she saw a game at the University of Missouri and saw the Missouri Tiger repel from the ceiling.

Unlike the SIUC Dawgs, the Missouri Tiger was a volunteer fireman, not a student, she said.

After contacting several national cheerleading organizations, Esling said she has not heard of any students actually repelling from the ceiling.

"I hope this will become another Saluki tradition," she said. "Any step we take to do something Saluki style is good."

Doing unique things to boost the crowd, like the repelling mascot, is what impressed Eric Vinson, a senior in psychology from Energy.

"I enjoyed it," Vinson said. "I think they should do more stuff like this to draw a crowd."
BUS continued from page 1

the student mass transit fees will be determined at a later date because of a surplus in fees.

"After the first year, there was a surplus of money left over," Eynon said. "The initial money set aside for the buses was too high. We sold too much student free money." Also Eynon said the board had complete authority about the student fee, including the number of students that could ride the buses.

Our main concern is increasing ridership," he said. "The ridership has not decreased, but new students are always needed to keep the buses running.

Eynon said the board should decide on the new routes within a few months so the new routes can be implemented by this summer. Eynon said the Chancellor's office will also review the routes.

The Mass Transit Advisory Board, which met Thursday, is comprised of representatives from the Undergraduate Student Government, the Graduate and Professional Student Council, the School of Business, the City of Carbondale and SIUC Student Affairs.

One student who rides the buses every day,3rd-year business minor iceberg said the board could make schedules more available to students by putting them in banks and around University Mall.

"I had a hard time finding a schedule," she said. "I could not find where the buses strike and then we are going to the next stop."

Schedules currently are available at the information desk in the Student Center.

Eynon said students who communicate with each other are those who could benefit from the proposed routes. The board has considered putting the routes to the Southern Illinois Airport during weekends to help aviation students who need to get to class.

Eynon said one of the major routes during the week is the A town.

One student in aviation management and flight said sending the buses to the airport on the weekends would help aviation students.

Angelita Gerumalo, a sophomore in aviation management from Hoffman Estates, said she has aviation students have to take cuts out of the air/ on the weekends.

"The cars is always late, and it creates me and my professor undue stress," he said.

Eynon said he rides the buses about three times a week, and it runs every Wednesday and Friday.

"I get off at 5:45 tonight," he said. "I have to wait until 6 o'clock to leave."

Also the possibility of putting - putting - putting - putting - putting - putting - putting the ads up for the board.

Eynon said the board is still doing studies on whether this is going to be cost-effective.

"Ebonics' said Eynon. "Advertising on the outside of the buses can be seen by the possibility of advertising still being in question.

Ebonics continued from page 1

with being illiterate, unintelligent and of a lower class. Thus, this is an inaccurate assessment.

Students are estranged and associated with both being intelligent, but that is not the case," Dawson said. "It is just different. This is a language and society problem that they are using a language assistant in linguistics, he said, he prefers to use the term African-American English. Because Ebonics would classify the vernacular language used by African Americans as being a student.

Hakim said Ebonics is considered a separate language because it contains a number of terms and is a list to categorize a language.

Those aspects being measured of (phonology), (morphology), (grammar), (syntax), (semantics), and then a whole complex. Because it is.

The loss of its origin, Abdul-Hakim said Ebonics is a complex matter.

Ebonics evolved from a mixture of people who spoke different languages from the Afro-Asiatic language, such as Kikuyu and Wolof, Abdul-Hakim said.

"When these languages were mixed, the Kikuyus were not mutually intelligible, so African would use words of one language and English (another) of vocabulary," of another.

Abdul-Hakim said Ebonics varies from each of the African cultures, the accep acceptance, being conson t-vowel-vowel-consonant-vowel, such as "mother" becoming "sahmer." He said the difference also includes use of double negatives, while standard English uses the verb "have.

An example of this would be "I see," instead of "I see.

Still, some professors believe that Ebonics involves more than just a vocabulary.

"It goes beyond speech, grammar and other the linguistic aspects," Dawson said. "Ebonics is a whole complex system of a cultural communication, not a whole complex language phenomenon.

Dawson said the network consists of dozens of dialects that evolve within the network. It is not longer Ebonics.

Ebonics is no passing fad, Abdul-Hakim argued. He said they are inferior or unintelligent because of social stigma related to the culture.

"If they are exposed to other languages that are in the classic form, then they can see why they speak the way they do," he said.

Abdul-Hakim said, "There is no sense of self respect for their own language."

Both Abdul-Hakim and Dawson said that if African culture is to become successful in the main- stream, "By knowing the difference, you must know the history, and then you can ascertain whether or not you are using it (standard English)," Abdul-Hakim said.

He said society should be aware of Ebonics' existence and why it exists.

"The most important thing is that Ebonics is a language or a codification of a people with a common history, and not to use it appropriately, protests and politics," Onooghese said.

Onooghese said if one speaks well of the African culture in America, it's taken an unprofessional turn where one classifies the African culture because language is an important component part of a culture.

Abdul-Hakim said blocks should know the difference between the language and standard English to become successful in the mainstream.

By knowing the difference, you must know the history, and then you can ascertain whether or not you are using it (standard English)," Abdul-Hakim said.
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Packers facing long road to next year’s Super Bowl

NEW ORLEANS—Sure, the Packers were back again Sunday night, but that is history now. Next question: Will the Pack be back again next January? A look at the Green Bay Packers’ roster suggests they have as good a chance as anybody, but they face issues Vince Lombardi never did and told him the St. Louis Rams were interested in making their coach Ditka when he was fired by the Bears. and reported to former Saints special teams coach Dunny Abramowicz, a former Bears wide receiver, and Vainisi said that once Ditka saw that they were good friends and spoken to former Bears special teams coach Dick Vermily, the former Philadelphia Eagles coach who’s past the NFL’s past successful franchises, and last year, they had dreadful attendance. They sold only 40,000 season tickets in the last three years, compared to 200,000 in Superdome, and Benson was looking for a big name to help boost interest.

Benson said last Friday that Vainisi and special teams coach Bobby April would be retained as the next coach’s staff. Ditka also has spoken to former Bears special teams coach Danzy Abramowicz, a former Saints wide receiver, and Benson said the Saints would have no problem with the change.

"I’m going to climb the mountain one more time," Mike Ditka, Saints coaching prospect (s: salary) quoted as saying in Monday’s New Orleans Times-Democrat. "I’ll be climbing the mountain one more time,” Ditka was quoted as saying in Monday’s Chicago Sun-Times. “I might fall on my butt, but it’s going to be fun.”

Mike Ditka said that once Ditka began talking about the job with Benson, “I’m sure his adrenaline was flowing and he got excited about coaching again. I don’t think there’s any question he’ll be able to handle the heat.”

"Look at free agency. Mike Ditka would be a hard guy to say no to if he was recruiting you to play for him. He’s a charismatic guy, and he’ll also challenge you. Players still respond to that. He’s not going to have any problems with that, and he knows how to win. That’s proven."
**Saluki Sports**

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### Sports Talk

**Donna Colter**
**DE Sports Reporter**

The “other” Salukis are winning

I am a little curious to know how many students are aware of the success the Saluki women’s basketball program has been to many games, and let’s just say the attendance has been very lackluster.

I have asked a few students here and there why they don’t watch women’s basketball. Their excuses are that it is not exciting.

That’s just the kind of attitude that should attend a game, and you may change your minds.

Where, as a student, will you find an athletic program that has 24 consecutive winning seasons? I think you will find there are not too many that exist.

Coach Cindy Scott has put a program together that is worth taking the time to watch.

So, what is successful, you might ask?

How about three conference championships, seven conference championship games, four NCAA tournament appearances, one NCAA tournament appearance, and four NCAA tournament appearances?

One NCAA Tournament appearance in 1987 resulted in the Salukis beating fourth-ranked Louisiana State University to advance to the Midwest Regional.

The Salukis’ basketball program has made it past the first round of the NCAA tournament, and its average attendance is 1,500.

In the height of the Olympic fame of the USA women’s team and also the formation of the Women’s National Basketball Association, I am surprised the student body of this school has not woken up.

We tend to be a school full of tradition, and the success of the women’s program is a tradition for us. So why isn’t it a tradition for the student body?

Many of the women who are out there playing the sport are the pride of SIUC, as will be the case Saturday also marked Kansas’ senior “Walking in there was like facing a b－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－footer