Behind the ballers
March Madness means game time for more Salukis than just the athletes

Sean McGahan
DAILY EGYPTIAN
SAN JOSE, Calif. — While the men’s basketball players clothed themselves in gear familiar to any March television viewer in the hour before their Sweet 16 matchup, dozens of Saluki students stood out in the hallway putting on less noticeable attire.

Students preparing to join the heroes of the hardwood on the HP Pavilion court included masses of brass-holding band members, quirky-faced shakers and colorful cheerleaders.

Perhaps the largest transformation, though, was turning a young blonde into a larger-than-life canine.

Kristin Slechticky, a sophomore from Pinckneyville studying accounting, had donned the Gray Dawg suit since January.

Once by one they threw the eggs into a metal trashcan in the center of the circle, shattering them with a loud thump. As one azalea member of the circle vociferously as he threw his egg, into the metal trashcan, Nielsen had words of her own.

“That’s pretty satisfying isn’t it?” she said.

The egg breaking was part of the Southern Illinois Pagan Alliance’s Ostara celebration Saturday. The light-hearted ritual celebrated the spring equinox, which Nielsen said is a time when the earth becomes fertile again, hence using eggs in the ceremony as a symbol of that fertility.

As part of the ritual, members not only broke eggs to rid their lives of negativity, but decorated hard-boiled eggs with their wills and desires to help them manifest. At the end of the ritual, the circle shared marshmallow Peeps from a basket.

Those participating were also asked to bring canned food to donate to the Good Samaritan House.

Nelsen said there is no specific belief system for pagans and practices vary. She said the group has anywhere from 75 to 90 paid members, and usually has about 20 to 30 present for events.

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She described the term pagan as a time when the earth becomes fertile again, hence using eggs in the ceremony as a symbol of that fertility.

Pagan group celebrates equinox

Alicia Wade
DAILY EGYPTIAN
A group of slightly less than 30 people, some sporting rabbit ears, stood in a circle around a small wooden floor in the Davis-McCarron Center in Murphysboro, tracing the outline of their bodies with eggs.

The high priestess of the ceremony, Tara Nielsen, instructed the group that doing this would help pull the negativity out of their lives and breaking the eggs would completely remove it.

“I mean, I can’t even see my feet,” the woman who describes herself as the high priestess of the ceremony said.

“We’re walking on less,” Nielsen said.

The Pagan group celebrates the spring equinox.

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CALENDAR

"Una Platica Por Mis Ojos" Jose Guajardo thesis show
• March 20 to 28 show, 4 to 6 p.m.
• An APA thesis show defining/refining what culture is "to artist"

Sexual abuse survivors group
• 7 p.m. today at Longbranch Coffee House
• An environmental performance activation group who use humor and turn their attention to mothering, food and how this affects us as a society and the environment.
• Free admission for community groups. We cannot accept the Women's Center

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

NEWS BRIEFS

Police: Murdered student’s body burned on grill
HOUSTON (AP) — A 19-year-old Texas A&M University student was killed by her ex-boyfriend, who then dismembered and buried her body on a patio grill, authorities said Saturday.

Investigations say Timothy Wayne Shepherd, 27, confessed Wednesday to strangling Tynisha Stewart because he was angry she had begun a new relationship. Shepherd, who is charged with murder, is being held on $250,000 bond.

Stewart, a college freshman from Houston, was last seen with Shepherd on March 15 while she was home for spring break visiting her mother. Friends have said Stewart and Shepherd quit dating at the beginning of this school year.

Authorities did not give any more details about how they believe the slaying occurred, but said nothing remains of Stewart. Although human remains generally require extreme temperatures to destroy, a police spokesman would not discuss how he believed the body could be burned to nothing.

Couple charged with trying to sell toddler
OWENSBORO, Ky. (AP) — A couple are charged with trying to sell a 1-month-old girl for $3,000 and a sport-utility vehicle.

Charles G. Hope Jr., 32, and Amber M. Revlett, 26, both of Owensboro, planned to use the money to pay off his fines for previous criminal charges, said Daviess County Sheriff’s Lt. BF Thompson. They were arrested Friday.

Thompson said it started out Wednesday as a joke between the couple and two women, but it became apparent that Hope and Revlett weren’t kidding.

"This is one of those things that worked out, and, luckily, we were able to do this before they were able to sell the child to someone who may not have contacted law enforcement," Thompson said.

Hope told the Owensboro Messenger-Inquirer that he wasn’t trying to sell his girlfriend’s little girl.

“I love her babies, I love my babies, and people don’t have enough money to get any of my kids,” he told the newspaper.

Man sentenced after sex pact with 12-year-old
MUSKEGON, Mich. (AP) — A 37-year-old man who was accused of having sex with his girlfriend’s underage daughter under an alleged written contract with the girl and her mother was sentenced to several prison terms.

Michael Fitzgibbon was sentenced Friday to up to 15 years for each of four counts of third-degree criminal sexual conduct after prosecutors said he, his girlfriend and her mother was sentenced to several prison terms.

The case arose after the woman, afraid of losing her boyfriend while recuperating from surgery, allegedly arranged for the three to sign a contract in June, The Muskegon Chronicle reported Saturday.

In exchange for the sex, the 15-year-old testified she was to be paid and receive privileges, such as piercings, hair dyeing and permission to stay overnight with her own boyfriend.

CORRECTIONS

If you spot an error, please contact the Daily Egyptian accuracy desk at 536-3311, ext. 203.

POLICE REPORTS

There are no items to report today.

DAILY WEATHER

Thunderstorms    Mostly cloudy    Partly cloudy    Thunderstorms    Thunderstorms

TODAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY

79°   57°   77°   58°   78°   58°   78°   56°   70°   47°

COBRA CARBONDALE

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Inventors show off ideas at business center

Brandon Augsburg

The drive to invent is as old as the human race, and the inventors themselves, those ingenious tinkerers or armchair MacGyvers, have helped propel our species forward through innovation.

That drive for improvement called 25 local inventors to a pre-audition event for ABC’s “American Inventor 2” at the Illinois Small Business Development Center on Saturday. The event was a tune-up before the actual audition on March 31 at Navy Pier in Chicago.

Robyn Laur Russell, director of the center, said she was very pleased with the turnout. The inventions ranged from redneck apparel to a portable, inflatable playpen, all providing a good cross section of inventive ideas, Laur Russell said.

“I thought they were really neat,” Laur Russell said. “There was some stuff I’d never thought of before and there was some real practical stuff, but I was really impressed with the way stuff was all over the board.”

Tim Homoya and his stepson Austin Nelson, both of Energy, claimed the top spot with their peanut butter and jelly gun. Improvised from a pair of caulk guns with wide, flat nozzles, Nelson said the PBJ guns were perfect for people who want a sandwich but don’t have time to make them in the traditional way.

Homoya and Nelson wowed the judges by quickly pumping out a handful of ready-to-eat sandwiches and playing “Peanut Butter Jelly Time,” a song made famous by a dancing banana on the Internet. Homoya said they came up with the idea when Nelson visited him at work. Homoya was installing flooring and using a caulk gun to apply adhesive when Nelson said the adhesive looked like peanut butter. They decided to go with the idea, and originally created the guns without the nozzles and used them to apply peanut butter to crackers.

They are planning on traveling to Chicago for next weekend’s audition, especially after receiving $300 in travel reimbursements for winning first place, Homoya said. Each of the five winners received an inventor’s gift basket with books and CDs, and the top three inventors also received varying amounts of travel reimbursement for the trip to Chicago.

Laur Russell said 15 of the contestants indicated that they will be traveling to Chicago for the audition, where they will compete to earn a spot on the show which is set to debut June 6. There are six audition spots all over the country, and one winner will be selected from each city and given $50,000 seed money to further develop their product.

Anyone is allowed to audition, but the application process is lengthy and confusing. Laur Russell said the center will provide technical support for anyone who wants to audition in Chicago.

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536-3311 ext. 262

Don’t forget!
Monday, April 2 will be the last day to order your caps and gowns for the May 2007 ceremony.

Orders will be taken at the SIUC Bookstore and online at www.siu.bkstr.com
Earthquake kills one, triggers tsunamis

The $124 billion House legislation would pay for wars in Iraq and Afghanistan this year and by next year. Coit stayed behind to play one last song for his friend.
T.M.T.N., Rated PG    Directed by: Kevin MacReavey
Run time: 1 hour 27 minutes

For the first time in 14 years, the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles have jumped from the sewer to the silver screen, and for the most part, it’s a fun journey.

With a confusing story-line, great visuals and good voice acting, “T.M.T.N.” is a breath of fresh air in computer-animated flicks. “T.M.T.N.” picks up where the first one left off. Shredder is long gone and the turtles have broken up. Leonardo has been sent to South America to learn leadership skills. Raphael has bought a private island home for an armed crime fighter, while Donatello works tech support and Michelangelo works as a children’s entertainer.

Reporter April O’Neil (Sarah Michelle Gellar) and kids has just moved in from South America with an artifect that a wealthy businessman, Max Winters (Patrick Stewart), is collecting. It turns out Winters is interested in the artifact in order to right a wrong he committed 3,000 years ago. The rest of the plot is just confusing and convoluted, but it doesn’t harm the movie, most of which is about ninja turtles and pizza.

The turtles return with their own unique characteristics. Raphael is hard-edged and serious, Donatello is intellectual and technological. Michelangelo is a goof and Leonardo is the reserved and cautious turtle.

However, a majority of the plot is spent on conflicts between Raphael and Leonardo. The two constantly butt heads, and while two turtles are left on the backburner. While watching “T.M.T.N.”, it is easy to forget what the movie could have used a little more story-arc for.

Another problem with the story is O’Neil. In “T.M.T.N.”, she has suddenly become a mother hunter who has trained for some kung fu along the way. Add in her relationship with the scruffy alien, and her character feels like it has no direction.

Visually, the movie looks great onscreen and the turtles look awesome. The fight scenes are crisp and entertaining. The characters have a unique identity and look, though they might not be well developed story-wise. It’s a movie that looks way better than all previous chapters of the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. It’s a great perk of computer-animated flicks because it’s darker and more action-based, which is a good departure from the norm. The movie works best by not making audiences think too hard about the plot. Instead, it works best when viewed as brainless eye candy. It’s also humorous at parts and never distracting from the story.

Small flaws exist. The movie is way too long. Had 15 minutes been cut, it might have had more of an emotional impact. Some of the subplots are also underdeveloped, especially the one involving Alan and his wife. Also, the use of Sept. 11 isn’t quite justified. Charlie’s family tragedy could have been any tragedy. Using Sept. 11 might have taken away from the realism, and in a sequence involving Sandler in a waiting room towards the end, he uses largely unbroken shots to add to the realism, and in this case, it’s used in a wrong way.

As stated before, this movie would have worked without a strong cast, and it has one. Charlie Sandler can successfully cross thankless roles. But the real deal is Robin Williams and Jim Carrey in the film is Sandler, who, like Pinkett Smith in largely does admirable work, as do Tyler and a client of Alan’s (Saffron Burrows) that amp up the runtime and serve to further flesh out the story.

The question of whether Adam Sandler can successfully cross over into dramatic films has been answered in “Reign Over Me.” “Reign Over Me” is a sad movie about two flawed people who, through each other, find what they were missing and help each other to overcome their flaws. It’s not a particularly original plot, but strong acting and an interesting story keep this film afloat, and the use of Sept. 11 as a story device distinguishes the film from so many others on the subject.

Charlie (Sandler) lost his entire family in one of the planes that crashed into the World Trade Center and becomes a total recluse. By chance, he meets Alan (Don Cheadle), a dentist who happened to be Charlie’s old college roommate. Charlie doesn’t remember Alan, but Alan, whose life with his wife (Pinkett Smith) has grown to be monotonous, wants to rekindle their friendship to help Charlie recover from his grief and hopefully find some meaning in his own life.

The movie follows the two as they become friends, and how the friendship puts pressure on Alan’s personal life. There are several subplot that come into play involving a therapist (Liv Tyler) and a client of Alan’s (Saffron Burrows) that amp up the runtime and serve to further flesh out the story.

As stated before, this movie would have worked without a strong cast, and it has one. Charlie Sandler can successfully cross thankless roles. But the real deal is Robin Williams and Jim Carrey in the film is Sandler, who, like Pinkett Smith in largely does admirable work, as do Tyler and a client of Alan’s (Saffron Burrows) that amp up the runtime and serve to further flesh out the story.

The first “Hills” was not very good, but it had a brutal intensity that had been lacking in many horror films these days. The sequel strips away the brutality and keeps nothing except random gory kills. This is pretty much par for the course when it comes to modern cinema in America. If we can’t create tension in a horror film, what is the point of it? To show that the mutants are sadistic and evil? The same goal could have been accomplished via other means. To rape a woman on screen without justification is not only wrong, it is sick and misogynistic. What kind of people are we when we find these sorts of things entertaining?

So basically, what we have here is a film with a crappy acting, little story, cheap scares, and horror movie cliché punctuated with dashes of gory violence and a completely tasteless rape. What on Earth would possess someone to see it? Only one thing: The Famous Jett Jackson. He is in this movie as one of the soldiers. And he lives almost the entire time. Why is anyone still reading this review? Those who know they want to see this movie will go see it, and those who don’t, won’t. But this review should serve as a warning: If we continue to pay money to see this crap, Hollywood will continue to make this crap.
Lowery may head for greener pastures

At age 34, Chris Lowery is a rising star in college sports. He’s the youngest coach in the MVC, and also the best. Fresh off a stellar run in the NCAA Tournament and another successful year at the Salukis’ helm, big bucks inevitably await this sideline strongman, and the rumor mill has speculated that he may leave SIU for a better paying job.

It may be that Lowery will listen when the money from bigger programs talks. He’s got everything going for him and might hop on the best offer tossed his way.

Or it could be that Lowery’s loyalty to SIU fans, his love for the area and his closeness to his hometown, Evansville, Ind., may keep him around. Lowery has done great things for this university. He’s engineered a solid Saluki squad and has helped to make basketball season an exciting time for the SIU faithful.

Lowery earns every bit of the $200,000-plus the university pays him and he deserves more. But he’s so good he’s out of SIU’s price range. SIU is not in the greatest of fiscal positions. Enrollment is low, state aid is low, the deferred maintenance backlog is atrocious and the bills are stacking. Two floors of Morris Library — considered one of the top research libraries in the nation — will not be renovated in the current project because of slim funds. The faculty, which is equally deserving of higher pay, fought for eight months to get SIU to budge on salary issues. Professors have been promised an increase in pay that the university might have a hard time covering.

Athletics generate a load of dollars and attention for the university. Sports are integral to SIU’s success, and solid leaders are key.

If greener pastures present themselves, losing Lowery will be tough for SIU. But the university does not have Big Ten resources and must accept the fact that all good things must come to an end.

Partly because of SIU, these two former Saluki leaders are rolling in dough and heading up powerful programs.

Lowery deserves to do what his two predecessors did — follow the money. While he ducks the question about shopping around at other universities or fielding offers from them, Lowery is adamant about being SIU’s coach “right now.”

His love for the team and the Salukis’ respect for him are apparent and impressive. But it’s also apparent that Lowery is on the market.

Athletic Director Mario Moccia acknowledged that Lowery is a hot commodity and SIU will do what it can to keep him. He also acknowledges that it won’t be the end of the world if Lowery goes elsewhere.

Regardless of his decision, Lowery should let his supporters know what he plans to do. If he’s accepting another job, Lowery needs to speak up soon so fans can begin the coping process and look to the future.

If he decides to stay, he needs to tell the fans so they can rest their nerves and count on another year of Saluki success.

Lowery has all the right to advance his career and we wish him best in that endeavor. We just hope he doesn’t forget the university and the people who helped him get wherever he’s going next.

DEAR EDITOR:

In response to Thursday’s editorial entitled “Biased media misleading citizens,” I couldn’t agree with the author more that we need a forum where we can talk about the war. I just have one question for the author: What in the [expletive deleted] is an “ultra-liberal propaganda rally?”

I scoured my dictionary of Fox News scary buzzwords, and it said that an ultra-liberal propaganda rally is a protest. Although I trust Fox News on all matters pertaining to sexual predators and Anna Nicole Smith’s drug habits, I couldn’t rest until I found out what this protest thing really was. So I looked up the word protest in my ultra-liberal Oxford English Dictionary, and it said that a protest is “a statement or action expressing disapproval of or objection to something.” So that’s what an ultra-liberal propaganda rally is! It’s nothing more than a bunch of people expressing their opinion! But why would these freedom-hating hippies want to express their opinion?

I’m sorry for all the questions, Mr. Cathlyn. If I only had your assistance while writing this letter, I’m sure that we could get to the bottom of this matter in no time. But since I can’t look back in the sweet spring of your wisdom, I will have to press on alone.

Why would those hippies want to protect our war? The only answer that I can come to is that perhaps those freedom-hating hippies were angry, just like you, for different reasons. I would bet a nickel that those hippies were protesting because they too agree that there needs to be a forum where we can talk about the war. I would also bet that they realized that this forum would not just pop out of thin air, so they decided that they would make their own forum.

And what better way to do that than with a protest. The last time I checked, the best way to make your voice heard is to shout. And it looks like their ultra-liberal plan worked too because not only were they able to have their little protest, they were able to get people like you to express your opinion about the war. Watch out for those freedom-loving hippies, Mr. Cathlyn — they’re a tricky bunch.

Joshua Estabrook
junior studying special education
Music is something that has been encoded in my DNA. It's something that I am passionate about, something that I cherish and enjoy beyond belief. Attending concerts and recitals at SIUC is something that allows me to indulge in the music experience since I am not studying it in any shape or form. I did attend the March 7 "Stars of Alborg" concert and thoroughly enjoyed the performance.

To my surprise, the next day there was quite a powerful letter to the editor in the DAILY EGYPTIAN. After reading Professor Edward Benyas’ "DE utters disregards culture," it started to get me thinking. Are we ignoring too many of the events happening and cultural experiences that are occurring on our campus? By no means do I mean the DE, but a student’s impact on campus and community as a whole. In the technology and Internet age, students are caught up in the instant gratification of typing in a Web address and being able to go anywhere in the world at any time; how often do we want to participate in campus events?

It’s easy to take the route by visiting a Web site to listen to the latest music or find out about the latest happenings in the world; most likely will be taken advantage of. Granted, students have busy schedules and are cramming many activities and projects into a not always a flexible schedule. But overall, choosing to listen to a streaming version of a song online is not as beneficial to the campus community as going out and seeing a concert.

On March 20, there was a protest against the Iraq war held on campus, which 80 people showed up to. Was it a hard task to attend? Was the event not publicized enough or was it just easier to make an argument about the Iraq war on a political or activist blog? My personal belief is that most people would have been easier to protest the war from the comforts of their home on their computer. It’s not necessarily about making an effort to be out there, but more about being able to do without making a huge time commitment.

Where else but a college campus can you have anthropologists come in and speak about the Maibai Tribes, and then see someone like former White House Chief of Staff Andrew Carol speak at the Shroyer Auditorium? Not only are these events almost impossible to find in the same day anywhere else, but also this is an opportunity that not all students here are while we are here.

The message is: Stay involved! The Internet is a fantastic tool, and an amazing way to connect people all over the world. It’s meant to bring us all closer together, knowing that not all of us can travel around the world and see all different cultural aspects that everyone has to offer. But, when some great opportunity is available on campus, take advantage of it. It means missing your favorite television show, it might be worth it. The SIU campus offers many chances for you to go out to experience and understand all different things from around the world. Many of these opportunities are for free students. Take advantage of them and support these occasions.

I still enjoy hearing music on the Internet, but there is nothing like hearing a live orchestra at the Shroyer Auditorium. Get out and support these events on the SIU campus.

Rancatore is a sophomore studying radio and television.

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Hot topics such as global warming have forced Americans to pay attention to the environment, and some SIUC students may have to do the same if they want to get a job, said student Emmett T. Harrison.

Harrison, a senior from Carbondale studying architecture, led a workshop Saturday in the Student Center’s Illinois room aimed at teaching architecture and interior design students about a set of sustainable building standards known as Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design.

For a building to be LEED certified, it must meet requirements in areas such as energy efficiency, materials selection and water savings. The code, developed by the United States Green Building Council, gives buildings credits for actions such as leaving “green space” at a building site and recycling.

Cities, companies and universities are becoming increasingly interested in making their buildings LEED certified, Harrison said. “It’s the sexiest building code in America right now,” he said.

Dana Stromme, the president of the American Society of Interior Designers, said she attended the workshop because she is concerned about the environment and she believes accreditation will look good on her resume.

“You don’t realize how much energy is taken up by buildings,” said Stromme, a senior from Momence studying interior design. “As someone who actually does care about the environment, if someone is doing this for the wrong reasons, I don’t really care,” she said. “As long as the environment is being helped, I’m OK with that.”
an umbrella term, similar to how the term Christianity encompasses Baptists, Lutherans and Catholics, among others. She said one prevalent belief for pagans is in nature and balance, as well as believing that deities are accessible through everyone. At the equinox, the days and the nights are the same length,” Pedersen said. “It’s all about balance and growth — going from cold to warm and dark to light.”

She also said pagans have eight seasonal celebrations throughout the year each one led by a different person. Because of paganism’s broad nature, she said rituals often focus on different methods of worship, such as goddesses or Celtic traditions.

Nelsen said there is no way to tell how many pagans are in the southern Illinois area because some practice secretly due to the fear that the surrounding community may not be accepting of that religious path. “Sometimes paganism is misunderstood or feared or completely dismissed as false,” she said. “You know we’re not evil, we’re not scary. We’re normal people.”

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Slechticky’s transformation, Harper got ready with her teammates. She said her only anxiety during warm-ups is for the team. Kristi Yamaoka, a junior from Springfield studying psychology, said she does not get nervous for herself either, despite suffering injuries when she fell from a pyramid in an MVC Tournament game in March 2006.

Yamaoka said she tries to keep the focus on the team. “Our goal isn’t really to have the most amazing stunts and try to do the hardest thing,” she said. “It’s to get our crowd involved.”

The goal of the Saluki Shakers — the dance team that accompanies the cheerleaders during routines — is similar during Tournament action, said Shaker Karissa Wolfe.

She said the Shakers are traditionally more for timeout entertainment than pep, but they can also motivate and bring a lift to the players. “The louder it is, the more energetic they’re going to be, so they play harder,” Wolfe said.

Also attempting to up the noise level was the Saluki Pep Band. Jessica Drake, who plays the melodyophone, said the band takes pride in pumping up the fans. “I haven’t heard a band as loud as us,” she said, screaming over the practice session behind her. Kansas shot 10 of 19 from the charity stripe Thursday, compared to the Salukis’ 10 of 14.

sue_falabella@dailyegyptian.com
536-3311 ext. 254

The forum is being held in conjunction with Research Day, sponsored by Phi Kappa Phi Sigma Xi/Phi Delta Kappa, and with the Illinois Junior Science and Humanities Symposium. Come to the poster sessions for all three events!

Poster session and refreshments: 1:00 - 3:30 p.m.
Prizes and award presentations: 3:30 p.m.

Sponsored by the Office of Research Development and Administration, the Office of the Provost, and SPEAR (Students Promoting Educational Advancement and Research). The forum is part of REACH (Research-Enriched Academic Challenges), SIUC’s undergraduate research program. See www.siuc.edu/reach.
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Today's Jumbles: Answer:

What the running back did as time was running out — “RUSHED” TO SCORE

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Mike Argirion

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

NOLFE

NAGIT

GAROUC

DEKOOH

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www.jumble.com

TO

A:

Yesterday’s Jumbles: Answer: Why the senator didn’t submit his report — A “PAGE” WAS MISSING

Let them return the favors. Yes, there is something they can do for you, and if you ask, they will.

Let somebody else do the difficult stuff. You can supervise. That’s your favorite job anyway, and you’re really good at it.

Aries (March 21-April 19) - Today is a 5 - The key to your success is hidden somewhere in your own subconscious. If you can remember where you put it, you’ll triumph over all. Try meditation.

Taurus (April 20-May 20) - Today is a 7 - The trouble is, what you’re learning contradicts what you already knew. What’s really true? Or does it depend on your point of view? Keep reading.

Gemini (May 21-June 21) - Today is an 8 - It’s still important for you to carefully think before you speak. You may not be in the habit, but it’s a valuable one to acquire.

Cancer (June 22-July 22) - Today is a 7 - You’re liable to be frustrated. Your progress seems to be blocked. Don’t worry, this little setback leads you to a brilliant new plan.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) - Today is a 5 - Let others carry the ball today. Let somebody else take the heat. You’re about to have a brilliant insight that will help you achieve victory.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) - Today is a 6 - Let your friends know what you need. You’d do anything for them. Let them return the favors. Yes, there is something they can do for you, and if you ask, they will.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) - Today is an 8 - Don’t offer suggestions unless specifically asked. Be polite, charming and attractive. Let somebody else lead you to success.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) - Today is an 8 - Carnal shopping will be required to achieve your latest goals. This is not your favorite pastime, but you can do it well, if you must. Do the homework.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) - Today is an 8 - Careful shopping will be required to achieve your latest goals. This is not your favorite pastime, but you can do it well, if you must. Do the homework.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) - Today is a 6 - Let somebody else do the difficult stuff. You can supervise. That’s your favorite job anyway, and you’re really good at it.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) - Today is an 8 - Carnal shopping will be required to achieve your latest goals. This is not your favorite pastime, but you can do it well, if you must. Do the homework.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) - Today is a 7 - By about now, you will have had another blinding insight. Don’t bother with trying to figure out how these things happen to you. Do believe in miracles, from first-hand experience.

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Sudoku

By Michael Mepham

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit www.sudoku.org.uk.

Solution to Friday’s puzzle

9 2 8 5 7 3 6 4 1
4 6 5 8 1 9 7 3 2
7 1 3 2 6 4 5 8 9
2 3 7 4 9 8 1 5 6
5 8 1 6 2 7 3 9 4
6 9 4 1 3 5 2 7 8
1 5 9 3 8 2 4 6 7
8 4 2 7 5 6 9 1 3
3 7 6 9 4 1 8 2 5

Sudoku on your cell phone. Enter 725083.com in your mobile Web browser. Get a free game!

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Individuals shine at Spring Classic

Men finish third and women take second

Josh Johnston
Daily Egyptian

The Saluki track team opened the outdoor season grabbing five regional qualifying marks.

This week end, SIU hosted the annual Saluki Spring Classic at McAndrew Stadium. The Salukis men finished third scoring 82.5 points and the women finished second scoring 110.5 points.

This two-day event attracted teams from all over the Midwest including Illinois, Marquette, DePaul, Indiana State and Missouri State. Indiana State took first on the men’s side scoring 142 points and first on the women’s side scoring 122 points.

“It was a real good start for us overall,” Saluki coach Connie Price-Smith said. “We had regional performances and look for bigger and better things next week.”

One of those regional performers was junior thrower Brittany Riley, who finished first in all three of her events.

On Friday, she qualified in the hammer throw with a 62.02 meter toss, a new McAndrew Stadium record. On Saturday, Riley qualified for regionals in the discus, with a throw of 51.64 meters and also took first in the shot put with a throw of 14.22 meters.

Riley said qualifying for regionals so early in the season will not disrupt her focus on improving.

“Next week, I am going to try to do better at the hammer,” Riley said. “I finished on a 225-foot throw, so I’m going to get after it this week.”

Senior triple jump competitor Antwon Stapleton was able to not only win the triple jump competition with a jump of 15.76 meters, but he was also able to qualify for regionals.

“It feels good,” Stapleton said. “There is always room to improve and get better and that’s what we are going to do.”

Junior thrower Benston Siemens regionally qualified for the hammer and the shotput. Siemens took first in the shotput with a toss of 16.95 meters.

Sophomore long jump competitor Bianca Stuart, who took 14th at the NCAA Indoor National Championships, started the outdoor season qualifying for regionals with a first place jump of 5.8 meters.

The men won the 4x100 meter relay as freshman Brandon Love, junior Antoine Jennings, freshman Sammy Biggs and junior Derrick Fisher finished with a time of 41.76 seconds.

“They come out and they want to keep getting better and better,” Price-Smith said. “Even though they hit the regional mark there is a descending order list—the higher on that list the better chance at qualifying for nationals.”

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

BASKETBALL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16


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Kobe Bryant has been making history as he has scored 557 points in four consecutive games. He dropped 50 points on the Hornets, 60 on Memphis, 50 on Minnesota, and 65 on Portland. He matched the all-time single-season record of 1,049 points set by Wilt Chamberlain in 1961-62.

The Saluki women's tennis team hosted Indiana University-Purdue University on April 7. Senior Sabine Tsala Mvilongo won her singles match against Jaguar senior Jessica Dismore. The Salukis took down the Jaguars 6-1 and are now 6-4 this season.

The Saluki women's tennis team hosted Indiana University-Purdue University on April 7. Senior Sabine Tsala Mvilongo won her singles match against Jaguar senior Jessica Dismore. The Salukis took down the Jaguars 6-1 and are now 6-4 this season.

The Salukis shut out the Sycamores in the series finale on Sunday 2-0 as senior pitcher Cassidy Scoggins struck out seven to improve her season record to 13-3 on the season.

Junior first baseman Lauren Hass hit a solo homerun to start the inning and junior outfielder Tiffanie Dismore hit a grand slam. The damage was too much for the Sycamores to handle. Blaylock said she stayed calm at the plate and just got behind in the count and got my pitch on it. Scoggins allowed only two hits while striking out eight. The two shutouts for Scoggins in the series give her 30 for her career.

Blaylock said she was pleased with her team's offense in the series. "We really attacked the ball well on offense against a very good Indiana State picher," Blaylock said. "When you hit the ball hard good things are going to happen."
**Men’s Basketball**

**SIU tries to retain Lowery**

Players say coach needs to be offered more to stay

Scott Mieszala  
*Daily Egyptian*

The Salukis’ season had just come to an end, and departing senior guard Jamaal Tatum had one message for other schools trying to hire SIU coach Chris Lowery away from the university.

“I know a lot of schools are going to be trying to get him right now, but they are going to have to come with it if they want him for real, because he ain’t going nowhere,” Tatum said, and then pointed to SIU athletic director Mario Moccia, who was looking on in the back of the press conference. “Ain’t that right, Mario?”

Moccia has said he will make the best offer he can to Lowery, so the coach can then make an informed decision when the time comes.

Lowery has a 78-28 record in three seasons at SIU, including 6-2 in Missouri Valley Conference Tournament games and 3-3 in NCAA Tournament games. He’s also been named MVC coach of the year this season and in 2005.

This season, Lowery guided the Salukis to their best ranking (No. 11) and highest NCAA Tournament seed (No. 4) in school history. The Salukis also reached their third Sweet 16 in school history under Lowery in 2007.

“There’s two ways of thinking about it. You could argue that we’ve had success with different coaches, but at the same time, and the view I take, winning is very difficult,” Moccia said. “What we’re doing is incredible and Chris has beat Creighton and other teams that have infinitely more resources, so I think it’s critical that he stays.

“Now at the other end, it’s certainly not the end of the world if he leaves, but that’s why we want to do everything we can do to keep him because I think he’s that valuable to the program.”

At the same time, the other departing senior guard, Tony Young, said Lowery has meant more to him than just a coach since he returned from Illinois, where he was an assistant coach for Bruce Weber during the 2003-04 season.

“For me, it’s more personal than it is basketball. I mean, basketball-wise, he was the one that believed in me and told me what I could do,” Young said. “He made me be a leader; he made me stop cursing at everybody. He played a huge part in me becoming a person and a man that I am right now.”

Lowery’s predecessor with the Salukis, Matt Painter, coached one season at SIU, posting a 25-5 record in 2003-04 with a 17-1 record in the MVC. Painter then left for the Purdue Boilermakers to be an associate head coach under the assumption he would take the helm when Purdue coach Gene Keady retired. Painter signed a six-year contract and is now the head coach of the Boilermakers.

See **BASEBALL**, Page 14

**Baseball**

**Saluki pitching guns down Redbirds**

Kelly continues to deliver offensively going 2-for-5

Matt Hartwig  
*Daily Egyptian*

In its Missouri Valley Conference opening series, the SIU baseball team ripped through the Redbirds for its seventh win in a row.

The Salukis’ pitching staff allowed 10 runs during the three-game series as they finished off the sweep with a 9-4 win against Illinois State Sunday afternoon.

Junior pitcher Shawn Joy pitched seven innings and allowed three runs en route to his second win of the season.

“Joy said he wasn’t pleased with the way he finished the game but was happy with the overall effectiveness of his start,” Young said. “I didn’t have my changeup early but my curveball was working pretty well for me,” Joy said. “After the home run in the third, I settled down and got into a pretty good rhythm.”

The Salukis (19-6, 3-0) led 4-3 after Joy departed in the top of the eighth inning. With the bases loaded in the bottom half of the eighth, an RBI single by freshman center fielder Aaron Roberts gave SIU a 5-3 lead.

On the following play, junior right fielder Adam Hills walked, scoring freshman shortstop Michael Fingas to make it 6-3 before sophomore catcher Mark Kelly doubled home a pair of runs to increase the Salukis’ lead to 8-3.

Kelly went 2-for-5 while driving in three runs. He also upped his batting average to .481.

He said he’s trying to do whatever he can to help the team.

“I’ve been on a hot streak but hopefully I can keep this going for as long as I can,” Kelly said. “My focus has been getting him when I’m out there and driving in runs when I can.”

In Saturday’s 5-3 win over the Redbirds (9-12, 0-3) sophomore Cody Adams improved to 7-0 this season after he pitched a complete game.

See **BASEBALL**, Page 14