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Student government task force begins work

Wendler suggests new group to review student leaders' decisions, goals

Wayne Utterback
 DAILY EGYPTIAN

A task force formed to review SIUC's student government received a seven-point list of suggestions from Chancellor Walter Wendler during its first meeting Wednesday.

The student leadership task force met to set a goal and a plan for improving student government. The task force will review and make suggestions for improving student government, said Gary Minish, dean of the College of Agricultural Sciences and chairman of the group.

"The goal is to assist students in getting in the most desirable state of governance possible on campus," Minish said.

Among suggested objectives from the chancellor are to identify how student leaders make decisions, observe the goals of student government bodies and propose measures that will facilitate collaboration

See **TASK FORCE**, Page 11

Wendler's suggestions for the task force

1. Review current practices of student leadership in decision-making.
2. Identify the goals and objectives of student leadership and evaluate to what extent the campus is achieving them.
3. Provide possible challenges and barriers associated with student leadership that need to be overcome.
4. Determine benefits and possible measures of fostering strong student leadership.
5. Evaluate and make recommendation on the suggested ideas and alternatives posed.
6. Recommend additional goals and objectives as deemed appropriate.
7. Prepare and recommend measures capable of achieving the campus's aspirations pertaining to student leadership in decision-making that reflect the need for collaboration among the University community.



DuVALE RILEY ~ DAILY EGYPTIAN

Patrick Chase, left, watches as Cody Azotea laughs at Casey Calloway while he finishes his pie during a pie-eating contest Wednesday evening at the student pavilion on Pleasant Hill Road. To read more, see page 8.

Last of nine freshmen suspended

NAACP has asked administrators to discuss student conduct code

Brandon Weisenberger
 DAILY EGYPTIAN

University officials on Wednesday suspended the last of nine Chicago-area freshmen who were barred from campus after an Oct. 6 attack near the Recreation Center.

The decisions end a nearly weeklong round of Student Judicial Affairs hearings that brought 17 combined years in suspensions for the students who claimed they were caught in the wrong place at the wrong time.

On the night of the incident, a sophomore was beaten and robbed of \$90 to \$100, according to police. The victim received head and facial injuries during the attack, according to the police report. One student and two non-students were arrested and now face criminal charges in Jackson County.

Student Judicial Affairs found the nine students in violation of several Student Conduct Code guidelines after they were in the vicinity of a beating and accused of doing nothing to intervene or alert police. Officials also accused the freshmen of participating in the attack, though they have denied all allegations. The violations included disorderly conduct and physical abuse.

The students are now awaiting a decision on their appeals, which claim the university did not grant them due process and unjustly charged them.

After receiving "interim separations," which temporarily banned the nine students from campus because SIUC authorities considered them a threat to the university community, all of the freshmen are suspended for a minimum of one year.

One student group is attempting to get administrators to talk about the code.

Black Affairs Council coordinator Kevin Winstead said the SIUC chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People this week invited four university administrators to a meeting to discuss campus safety and the Student Conduct Code.

The group invited Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Larry Dietz, Student Judicial Affairs coordinator Terry Huffman, Associate Chancellor for Diversity Seymour Bryson and Housing Judicial Affairs coordinator Carlos Del Rio.

Winstead said the main issues are asking administrators how SIUC police can become more preventative than reactive and get discussion flowing about the Student Conduct Code.

See **SUSPENSIONS**, Page 11

New signage springing up around campus

Wayne Utterback
 DAILY EGYPTIAN

Concrete stumps and wooden frames lining campus will soon prominently display the names of buildings and directions aimed at making SIUC easier to navigate.

New identification and directional signs began being installed around campus Wednesday. Each sign costs between \$1,200 to \$1,500, project coordinator Mark Cosgrove said.

The signs are part of an ongoing \$1 million project geared at making signs aesthetically pleasing while helping people find their way around the campus, Cosgrove said.

Cosgrove said the old signs lost their function. Problems with the faded signs included inappropriate placement and dated information.

Plant and Service Operations director Phil Gatton said the old signs weren't doing their jobs anymore.

"Instead of being beneficial to visitors, it creates chaos," Gatton said.

The signs will identify buildings and provide emergency personnel with clear directions to certain areas of campus.

Chancellor Walter Wendler said the new signs would also make the campus more welcoming to visitors and potential students.

"Our goal is to make the campus as open and transparent as we can," Wendler said. "I think this is a very good invest-



LANE CHRISTIANSEN ~ DAILY EGYPTIAN

Physical plant ironworkers David Bramlet, left, and Marion Hill, along with other workers, lift one of the new directional signs being mounted into the cement foundation in front of Lawson Hall on Lincoln Drive.

ment, actually."

"It's going to have a very consistent image as far as signage is concerned," he said.

Last year, the university set up several large map signs to identify nearby buildings and handicap accessible entrances.

The new signs will have reflective let-

tering to increase visibility at night. Gatton said the signs have been crash-tested to withstand possible impacts. He said he expects the project to be finished by summer.

Wayne Utterback can be reached at 536-3311 ext. 268 or wayne_utterback@dailyegyptian.com.

This poll is brought to you by **COUNTRY.** Insurance & Financial Services

siUDE.com Question:
How do you think the Saluki football season will turn out?

Undeafated	36%
10-1	30%
9-2	21%
8-3	10%
Not sure	2%

This is not scientific and reflects the opinions of only those Internet users who have chosen to participate. The results cannot be assumed to represent the opinions of Internet users in general, nor the public as a whole.

Up next: Do you plan to vote in the upcoming election?
 a. Yes. Go Blagojevich! d. No.
 b. Yes. Go Topinka! e. Election? What election?
 c. Yes. Go Whitney!

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DEPARTED (R)
 4:30 6:30 8:00 9:50
 EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH (PG-13)
 4:15 5:15 7:15 8:15 9:35
 THE GUARDIAN (PG-13)
 4:45 7:45
 JACKASS: NUMBER TWO (R)
 5:00 7:30 9:45
 ONE NIGHT WITH THE KING (PG)
 4:00 7:00 9:50
 OPEN SEASON (PG)
 3:45 6:15 8:30

UNIVERSITY PLACE
 1-800-FANDANGO 1553# 76
 BY SUPER WAL-MART - CARBONDALE

GRUDGE 2 (PG-13)
 3:45 4:45 6:30 7:30 9:00 9:50
 LITTLE MISS SUNSHINE (R)
 5:10 7:40 10:00
 MAN OF THE YEAR (PG-13)
 4:00 6:45 9:40
 THE MARINE (PG-13)
 4:15 7:00 9:15
 SCHOOL FOR SCOUNDRELS (PG-13)
 5:00 7:50 10:05
 TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE:
 THE BEGINNING (R)
 4:30 5:20 7:15 8:00 9:30 10:10
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The Best of the 2006 River's Edge Film Festival

Sat, Oct 21, 2006 @ 8:00 pm
 Sun, Oct 22, 2006 @ 5:00 pm

\$5.00 General The Liberty Theatre
 \$3.00 Students 1333 Walnut St. in Murphysboro, IL

www.siude.com

CALENDAR

Translating India: The Many Roles of English
 • 4:30 p.m. today at the Communications Building, Room 1032
 • Presentation by Professor Rita Kothari, Fulbright Visiting Scholar

CANCELED
 • Faculty/ Staff vs. Students Basketball Game
 • This event will be rescheduled

The Abuse of Presidential Power
 • 5 p.m. today at Lesar Law School Auditorium
 • Forum discussion of legal and historical use and limits to presidential power
 • Free and open to the public

A Treat For Your Sweet
 • 5 to 7 p.m. Friday at the Student Center in the Cambria Room
 • A pamper party; pedicure for \$5, manicure for \$3, massage for \$3, facial for \$2 and eyebrows for \$2

6th Annual "Walk For Life"
 • 4 p.m. Friday at McAndrew Stadium
 • This is a free fundraiser for the American Cancer Society; donations are welcome

SIUC College Democrats meeting
 • 5 to 7 p.m. Tuesday at the Student Center in Activity Room B

"Leading Discussions in Large Classes"
 • 3 to 4 p.m. Wednesday Nov. 1 at the University Museum Auditorium
 • University Core Curriculum Sponsored Workshop

The calendar is a free service for community groups. We cannot guarantee that all items will run. Submit calendar items to the DAILY EGYPTIAN newsroom, Communications 1247, at least two days before event, or call (618) 536-3311, ext. 266.

NEWS BRIEFS

Sheila Simon hosts meet and greet at Hangar 9
 Hangar 9 will host a meet-and-greet session with Carbondale Mayor candidate Sheila Simon from 5 to 9 p.m. Sunday. St. Stephen's Blues Band will provide entertainment from 6 to 8 p.m., and Sheila and her band, Loose Gravel, will take the stage later in the evening. Free pizza will be provided and campaign T-shirts will also be available for \$10. Individual campaign contributions up to \$50 will also be accepted. Everyone is welcome.

State worker accused of raising campaign money for Gov. Rod Blagojevich on state time
 CHICAGO (AP) — The governor's inspector general recommended that a state employee be fired for allegedly raising campaign money for Gov. Rod Blagojevich while on the job, according to a published report.

The Chicago Tribune reported Wednesday it had obtained a confidential report in which the executive inspector general's office claimed that Khalil Shalabi used his computer at the Tinley Park Mental Health Clinic to arrange a dinner last month to raise money for Blagojevich's re-election campaign from the Arab-American community.

In the Sept. 29 report, Inspector General James A. Wright said that the "egregious nature" of Shalabi's actions warranted his immediate firing.

Blagojevich is moving to fire Shalabi, the governor's office said. After receiving the report of the inspector general's investigation, Shalabi was immediately put on paid leave from his \$78,000-a-year job as a director of project development at the Department of Human Services until he exhausts his rights to hearings and can be fired, governor's officials said.

"We have no tolerance for the kind of activity that was alleged in this case," the spokeswoman Abby Ottenhoff said. "When there are allegations that someone isn't playing by the rules, there's a system in place to investigate it and make sure that problems don't go ignored."

The investigation also highlighted questions about the administration's hiring of politically connected individuals. Shalabi is leader of an Arab-American Democratic group that has contributed to Democratic candidates and has given at least \$10,000 to Blagojevich in past campaigns.

POLICE REPORTS

University

Square D Housing. Cash in the amount of \$85 was reported stolen. There are no suspects at this time.

A theft under \$300 occurred between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. Friday at the Recreation Center. A backpack was reported stolen. There are no suspects at this time.

Criminal damage to state supported property and criminal damage to property occurred at 6:33 a.m. Tuesday on West Mill Street. A light pole and a bicycle were reported damaged. There are no suspects at this time.

A theft under \$300 occurred between 8:10 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday at Washington

CORRECTIONS

In Friday's issue of the DAILY EGYPTIAN, the page 10, "International man of Mystery" should have stated that Joel Fritzier has worked and lived in three countries and that his wife graduated from SIU not ISU. The DAILY EGYPTIAN regrets this error.

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

Today's weather brought to you by....

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AccuWeather® 5-Day Forecast for Carbondale AccuWeather.com

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
52° / 35°	60° / 41°	64° / 46°	60° / 36°	56° / 33°

Illinois Weather

Rock Island 54/32 Rockford 51/32 Chicago 51/37
 Peoria 54/35
 Quincy 55/35 Champaign 54/34
 Springfield 53/34
 Carbondale 52/35 Cairo 53/35

Shown is today's weather. Temperatures are today's highs and tonight's lows.

Almanac

Carbondale through 3 p.m. yesterday

Temperature:
 High/low yesterday 69°/58°
 Normal high/low 69°/42°

Precipitation:
 24 hours ending 3 p.m. yest. 0.00"
 Month to date 2.52"
 Normal month to date 1.52"
 Year to date 39.97"
 Normal year to date 36.11"

Sun and Moon

Sunrise today 7:09 a.m.
 Sunset tonight 6:14 p.m.
 Moonrise today 4:43 a.m.
 Moonset today 5:04 p.m.

New First Full Last
 Oct 22 Oct 29 Nov 5 Nov 12

National Cities

City	Today			Fri.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Atlanta	82	55	pc	66	47	s
Boston	67	55	pc	60	44	r
Cincinnati	62	41	r	54	38	pc
Dallas	66	47	pc	72	56	s
Denver	58	32	pc	61	31	c
Indianapolis	52	37	r	57	42	pc
Kansas City	59	39	pc	66	47	pc
Las Vegas	75	53	s	81	59	s
Nashville	68	47	r	62	40	s
New Orleans	85	63	t	71	59	s
New York City	70	59	pc	65	46	r
Orlando	91	73	pc	90	71	pc
Phoenix	82	58	s	85	60	s
San Francisco	73	54	s	74	53	s
Seattle	60	47	r	58	43	pc
Washington, DC	74	59	pc	70	44	r

Legend: W-weather, s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, l-ice.

All forecasts and maps provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2006

Regional Cities

City	Today			Fri.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Bloomington	54	35	c	60	42	pc
Cape Girardeau	52	36	r	61	39	s
Champaign	54	34	c	56	39	s
Chicago	51	37	c	53	41	pc
Danville	54	35	r	58	40	s
Edwardsville	52	39	pc	64	44	s
Moline	55	33	pc	56	42	pc
Mt. Vernon	52	35	r	59	39	s
Paducah	54	37	r	64	41	s
Peoria	54	35	pc	58	43	pc
Quincy	55	35	pc	60	43	pc
Rockford	51	32	c	55	39	pc
Springfield	53	34	pc	59	42	pc

National Weather Today

Shows are noon positions of weather systems and precipitation. Temperature bands are highs for the day. Forecast high/low temperatures are given for selected cities.

Legend:
 Cold Front Warm Front Stationary Front
 Showers T-storms Rain Flurries Snow Ice

German military visit is a learning experience

Alicia Wade
DAILY EGYPTIAN

Greeted by a barrage of camera flashes as he stood at the podium in City Hall, Mayor Brad Cole fielded tough questions, from the city's relationship with SIUC to his education to whether he planned to run for a second term.

The questions didn't come from grilling reporters or concerned citizens, but rather from 33 members of German Youth Information Officers, also known as Bundeswehr.

Youth Information Officer Florian Deumeland of Bonn, Germany, said the purpose of the institution is to give out information and get into discussions with the German youth, both high school and college aged, about their armed forces.

The group is traveling the United States for 10 days to learn about different forms of government, from the big city to the small town.

The trip to Carbondale is the second for the group, which also came last year. After Cole attended seminars and visited Germany, he invited them to come to Carbondale, Deumeland said. The officers range in age from 28 to 35 and have to be ranked a first lieutenant or captain.

"I know being on these exchanges you get a lot of information, and most of it you will never use again," Cole said. "Hopefully it's informative and maybe it's interesting, and hopefully you get a look at the

“ Hopefully it's informative and maybe it's interesting, and hopefully you get a look at the real America that you don't see on television. ”

— Brad Cole
Carbondale mayor

real America that you don't see on television."

The officers were then treated to dinner at the Town Square Pavilion, where city and university officials, as well as Army and Air Force ROTC members, had the opportunity to mingle with the guests.

"We do talk about official policy that the government gives out, political guidelines and security politics guidelines," Deumeland said. "We try to explain to the public as simple as we possibly can so they understand, because sometimes a politician says something and you say, 'What? I didn't get any of that.'"

Most of the visitors, like Youth Information Officer Christian Schmitz of Bavaria, Germany, had never been in Carbondale before.

"Everywhere we go, we always see friendly people who say 'Oh God bless you. We thank you so much for serving your country,'" Schmitz said. "It's very interesting."

After traveling from Scott Air Force Base in Illinois, the group spent Wednesday in Carbondale, with hotel costs and dinner paid for by the Mayor's Office. Cole said



BRETT NADAL ~ DAILY EGYPTIAN

John Dunn, SIUC provost and vice chancellor, gets a laugh as German officers are startled by a passing train Wednesday evening at the Town Square Pavilion. The German Youth Information Officers were invited to visit Carbondale as part of a study of local governments.

they will travel to Springfield with him today.

Col. Walter Tomczak, head of the Air Force ROTC at SIUC, said being able to meet with and

learn from the foreign officers was a privilege for his cadets.

"It's a good education for students at SIUC," Tomczak said. "You don't get that chance often — not

until you get on active duty."

Alicia Wade can be reached at 536-3311 ext. 274 or alicia_wade@dailyegyptian.com.

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Objective
To obtain a marketing position with a successful company in a major metropolitan area.

Education
Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, IL
• BS in Marketing, May 2007
• Dean's list

Experience

Activities
Student Programming Council
Saluki Volunteer Corp
Habitat for Humanity

Do you have it?
Experience, get it here!

Extern '07

Information Session TONIGHT at 5:30 pm
Student Center, Ohio Room

SIU Alumni Association 453-2417
sialumni.com/extern



Brain - Chewing tough!

Check out today's challenge in the Pulse

WORLD & NATION

Eleven soldiers slain as death toll climbs

Steven R. Hurst
ASSOCIATED PRESS

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Eleven more U.S. troops were slain in combat, the military said Wednesday, putting October on track to be the deadliest month for U.S. forces since the siege of Fallujah nearly two years ago.

The military says the sharp increase in U.S. casualties — 70 so far this month — is tied to Ramadan and a security crackdown that has left American forces more vulnerable to attack in Baghdad and its suburbs. Muslim tenets hold that fighting a foreign occupation force during Islam's holy month puts a believer especially close to God.

As the death toll climbed for both U.S. forces and Iraqi civilians, who are being killed at a rate of 43 a day, the country's Shiite-dominated government remained under intense U.S. pressure to shut down Shiite militias.

Some members of the armed groups have fractured into uncontrolled, roaming death squads out for revenge against Sunni Arabs, the Muslim minority in Iraq who were politically and socially dominant until the fall of Saddam Hussein.

There have been growing signs in recent days of mounting strain between Washington and the wobbly government of Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki, who felt compelled during a conversation with

“

Had our friends listened to us, we would not be where we are today.

— Hoshiyar Zebari
Foreign Minister

President Bush this week to seek his assurances that the Americans were not going to dump him.

Foreign Minister Hoshiyar Zebari on Wednesday blamed American officials who ran Iraq before its own government took nominal control for bringing the country to the present state of chaos.

“Had our friends listened to us, we would not be where we are today,” Zebari said in an interview with The Associated Press.

Asked which friends he was referring to, Zebari said:

“The Americans, the Coalition (Provision Authority), the British. OK? Because they didn't listen to us. They did exactly what they wanted to do... Had they listened to us, we would have been someplace else (by now), really.”

It was an unusually harsh statement from Zebari, a Kurd, whose ethnic group owes much to the U.S. intervention in Iraq and for its virtual autonomy in the north of the country.

A report in Britain's Financial Times on Wednesday said the White House is now pressuring



TONY OVERMAN ~ MCT

Soldiers salute the memorial honoring Cpl. Carl W. Johnson, a 21-year-old Fort Lewis Stryker soldier killed Oct. 7 by an IED in Mosul, Iraq. The memorial service was held on Wednesday at FOB Marez in western Mosul.

Iraqi authorities to give amnesty to Sunni insurgents. That would be a surprising change for the Bush administration, which has resisted amnesty because it could potentially include fighters who have killed American troops.

At the State Department, spokesman Tom Casey said a decision on amnesty would be left to the Iraqi government.

“I wouldn't describe our position as pressuring them to do this now or at any particular moment except

at a point when they feel their national reconciliation process has gone through its appropriate steps and they're ready to move forward with it,” Casey said.

Soon after taking office in May, al-Maliki proposed an amnesty

WIRE REPORTS

EVANSVILLE, IND.

Court-martials ordered for eight soldiers

EVANSVILLE, Ind. (AP) — Eight soldiers from the 101st Airborne Division were ordered Wednesday to be court-martialed on murder charges stemming from their service in Iraq, and two could get the death penalty for allegedly raping a 14-year-old and killing her and her family.

The Fort Campbell soldiers facing the death penalty are Sgt. Paul E. Cortez and Pfc. Jesse V. Spielman. Both are accused of raping Abeer Qassim al-Janabi in her family's home in Mahmoudiya, about 20 miles south of Baghdad, then killing the girl, her parents and younger sister.

Spc. James P. Barker and Pfc. Bryan L. Howard are also accused in the rape and murders but will not face the death penalty, the military said in a statement.

Former Pvt. Steven Green, who was discharged for a personality disorder and arrested in North Carolina, will be tried in federal court in Kentucky. Green has pleaded not guilty to one count of rape and four counts of murder.

Military prosecutors have said the five — all from the division's 502nd Infantry Regiment — planned the attack from a checkpoint near the family's home, changed their clothing to hide their identities and set the girl's body on fire to destroy evidence.

TERRORISM

Rumsfeld: Americans must not believe terror threat is exaggerated or will go away

WASHINGTON (AP) — Americans must take a lesson from history and not believe the terrorist threat has been exaggerated or will go away, Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld said Wednesday.

He described a new, more ruthless and lethal terrorist enemy, “with no territory to defend, no treaties to honor, that measures progress in terms of decades, not days.”

“With this sort of enemy, we cannot afford — and indeed could not survive — another holiday from history,” Rumsfeld said.

Contending there are those who say terrorism is “somebody else's problem, or it will go away,” Rumsfeld countered that America has no choice but to go on the offensive. And he urged patience with the Iraqi and Afghan governments as they struggle to build their democracies.

Rumsfeld's call for perseverance comes three weeks before the November elections, as members of Congress face a public growing increasingly unhappy and impatient with the war in Iraq.

NEW ORLEANS

Suicide jumper's note leads to dismembered body

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — A note found on the body of a suicide jumper led police to a French Quarter apartment where they found his girlfriend's charred head in a pot on the stove, her arms and legs in the oven and her torso in the refrigerator, a law enforcement officer said Wednesday.

New Orleans Police spokesmen confirmed that a 26-year-old woman was found dismembered Tuesday night in her apartment above a voodoo shop.

Details from the kitchen were released by a law enforcement officer close to the investigation who spoke with The Associated Press on condition of anonymity and unidentified officials who spoke to the Times-Picayune newspaper and WWL-TV.

A woman who identified herself as Priestess Miriam in the Voodoo Spiritual Temple and Cultural Center below the apartment said Wednesday that the couple had recently moved in.

“You see people and never know what's going on with them,” the woman said.

Social Security to raise benefits

Millions of retirees will see increase in checks next year

Martin Crutsinger
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Social Security checks for nearly 49 million retirees are going up by 3.3 percent next year — an average increase of \$33 per month, though rising health care costs will take a bite out of the gain.

The monthly benefit for the typical retiree will rise to \$1,044 from an average of \$1,011 this year.

The cost of living adjustment announced Wednesday by the Social Security Administration will go to more than 53 million people. Nearly 49 million receive Social Security benefits and the rest Supplemental Security Income

payments aimed at the poor.

The 3.3 percent increase compares with a 4.1 percent benefit rise for 2006, which had been the biggest increase in 15 years.

Benefit payments, which have been tied to inflation since 1975, surged by double-digit amounts in the high-inflation years of 1980 and 1981, but increases have been more moderate in recent years as the Federal Reserve has had more success keeping inflation under control.

The COLA amount is based on the change in the Consumer Price Index from the July-September quarter of this year compared with the same quarter in 2005.

Last year, prices surged in September, reflecting a big spike in energy costs after Hurricane Katrina.

But this year, energy prices, which initially leaped because of rising Mideast tensions, have been falling since late summer. Those

declines helped pull consumer prices down by 0.5 percent in September, the biggest drop in 10 months.

Falling energy prices should help retirees deal with winter heating bills, which for the first time in a number of years are expected to be lower this winter.

The average retired couple, both receiving Social Security benefits, will see their monthly check go from \$1,658 to \$1,713.

The standard SSI payment will go from \$603 to \$623 per month for an individual, and from \$904 to \$934 for a couple.

The average monthly check for a disabled worker will rise from \$947 to \$979.

Eleven million taxpayers will pay higher taxes next year because the maximum amount of Social Security earnings subject to the payroll tax will rise from \$94,200 to \$97,500. In all, an estimated 163 million workers will pay Social Security taxes in 2007.

Rice pledges U.S. will defend Japan

Anne Gearan
ASSOCIATED PRESS

TOKYO — The United States is willing to use its full military might to defend Japan in light of North Korea's nuclear test, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said Wednesday as she sought to assure Asian countries there is no need to jump into a nuclear arms race.

At her side, Rice's Japanese counterpart drew a firm line against his nation developing a nuclear bomb.

The top U.S. diplomat said she reaffirmed President Bush's pledge, made hours after North Korea's Oct. 9 underground test blast, “that the United States has the will and the capability to meet the full range

— and I underscore the full range — of its deterrent and security commitments to Japan.”

Rice spoke following discussions with Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Aso, the first stop on her crisis mission to respond to the threat posed by the North.

Back home, President Bush told ABC News that if the United States learned North Korea was about to transfer nuclear technology to others, the communist nation would face “a grave consequence.” He did not elaborate.

“I want the leader to understand — the leader of North Korea to understand that he'll be held to account,” Bush said, referring to the country's ruler, Kim Jong Il.

Signs continued Wednesday

that North Korea might be readying for a second nuclear test that could be carried out as soon as this week, while Rice is in Asia.

There were reports that North Korea had told China it was ready to conduct up to three more nuclear tests. But at the State Department in Washington, spokesman Tom Casey said, “We certainly haven't received any information from them, from the Chinese, that they've been told by Pyongyang that another test is imminent.”

U.S. government officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitive situation, said there wasn't evidence to suggest that another nuclear test in North Korea was hours or even days away.

Inside work at Morris Library almost over

Alexis Boudreau
DAILY EGYPTIAN

The clanks and bangs inside Morris Library will soon cease.

Dean of Library Affairs David Carlson said workers will do less work inside — and move outside — in the next two or three weeks, which should provide a quieter environment for library users.

The construction, which began in December 2005, has yielded much progress, particularly in the past few months.

Workers recently added the roof to the top floor.

During the week of Thanksgiving, a helicopter will land on the newly completed roof to deliver a piece of heating, ventilating and air-conditioning equipment.

Carlson said the library would be closed because of safety regulations but he will be excited to see the drop.

Two floors below the new roof will be left unfinished until they receive more funding. The seventh

and the sixth will remain incomplete when the rest of the library is done in fall 2008.

“The bids came in higher than hoped, but I’m quite sure the university will find the money,” Carlson said.

The problems are nothing new, Carlson said. The university had anticipated the budget issue from the beginning of the reconstruction.

Carlson said problems with furniture, fixtures and equipment, or FF&E, are the main budget issues halting the completion of the top floors.

Once the top floors are finished, Carlson said it would be home to conference meeting rooms and study rooms of various sizes.

Brick façade has been placed on the outside of the first three floors, and workers recently began placing metallic siding outside the fourth floor. Glass panes have been put in the window frames, sprinkler systems are being installed, and the elevator wells are prepared.

Kevin Davie, a geographic



MELISSA BARR ~ DAILY EGYPTIAN

Metal framework occupies the first through fifth floors and part of the sixth floor of Morris Library. Workers will be soon be focusing on more construction outside the building.

information systems specialist, said the library would soon have temporary heat sources roughly the same time the rest of the university’s heat is turned on. He said there would be work done on the metallic siding on the outside

of the higher floors. The rest of the brickwork is scheduled to be complete within a month.

In February, the elevator will be running for all students, Davie said.

Until then, Davie said con-

struction would be focused on the north side of the building on the new addition.

Alexis Boudreau can be reached at 536-3311 ext. 255 or alexis_boudreau@dailyegyptian.com.

Obama’s book hints that presidential run could be a family decision

Dennis Conrad
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON —They’re two adorable sisters, Malia, 8, and Sasha, 5. Their mother, Michelle, is a Princeton alumna with a Harvard law degree holding down a six-figure job as a hospital vice president.

These are the Obamas: the ones

not on a book tour, or on the cover of Time magazine or being touted as the next president of the United States.

That would be Democratic Sen. Barack Obama, who in his new book “The Audacity of Hope,” released Tuesday, devotes a whole chapter to his family — and hints that his role as husband and father will weigh heavily in any future decision about pursuing

the country’s highest office.

In 364 pages that cover everything from race to Iraq and constitutional law, Obama said the hardest part for him to write was the book’s final, 28-page chapter, “Family,” because “that touches on what’s most important to me.”

And as star-struck supporters line up for hours at bookstores this week,

many begging him to run in 2008, the book they wait for him to sign reveals how he and his wife have struggled with his rise in politics.

“What we have argued about — repeatedly — is how to balance work and family in a way that’s equitable to Michelle and good for our children,” he writes, adding that during his first congressional campaign she declared:

“You only think about yourself. I never thought I would have to raise a family alone.”

Earlier in the book, the 45-year-old Obama recalls his late father-in-law’s burial and a commitment he made:

“As the casket was lowered, I promised Frasier Robinson that I would take care of his girl.”

OUR WORD

Rest in peace

The judge who presided over the trial that brought John and Lisa Bryant to justice for their roles in the murder of SIUC student Christopher Gandy stated that he hadn't "seen anything quite as brutal or heinous as this crime."

Judge Charles Grace has been on the bench for 35 years, and he believed he needed to say that before sentencing John Bryant to 50 years in prison and Lisa Bryant to 25 years.

No one should have to perish in the way that Gandy did; whatever the events that brought him to the Murphysboro home, it doesn't matter.

Gandy was found brutally murdered in a Murphysboro cemetery in late January. The Bryants have been convicted of the murder, and another man pleaded guilty in the case.

The Bryants' story is almost as tragic; the couple leaves behind loved ones who were there for them as they received their punishment, but at least they know why their loved ones are leaving.

Gandy's mother, Edith, doesn't have that dimension of closure to take with her in the years to come. In court, Edith Gandy still needed to know why the Bryants went as far as they did. An answer to that question may never come. Hopefully, she and those who will remember Christopher Gandy can take comfort in knowing the Bryants are on their way to being put away for a long time, although both plan to appeal their sentences.

A third person, Rocky Maki, plea-bargained his way to a 20-year sentence in September.

It's disheartening to know a member of this university community had to go out in the way Christopher Gandy did. Another word for this situation is frustrating. People, such as his devoted customers who lined up to sit in Gandy's barber chair at Illusions Barber Shop in Carbondale and classmates in his architecture classes, got to see glimpses of the man Gandy was going to be.

Also, there were the fans of his rap group, the YOAP squad, which featured Gandy's brother, SIUC alumnus Jonathan Gandy.

Much is still up in the air regarding Gandy's case but not as much as in the case of former SIUC student and Carbondale resident, Larry Williams. Both men are linked in our local history, as they both died violently on the night of Jan. 28. Williams died after being shot in his car outside Fred's Dance Barn in Carterville.

Williams' case seems to have disappeared. Having yielded no suspects, it may be destined to fall into the unsolved file. So many murder investigations reach this point that the Gandys have to feel some sort of relief, if not luck, that the events surrounding their son yielded something better.

This school's most famous murder case, the Susan Schumake case, took 25 years to settle. Hope may have to spring eternal for those who knew Larry Williams, but there should still be hope.



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Miami football program more trouble than it's worth

DEAR EDITOR:

EDITOR'S NOTE: Donna E. Shalala is president of the University of Miami, which recently suspended 13 football players for their roles in a sideline-clearing brawl Saturday against Florida International University players.

An open letter to President Donna Shalala,

To be fair, you had no direct control over the thuggish assaults executed by University of Miami football players on Saturday, their disgraceful sideline celebration after the brawl and the inexplicable joy with which some of them greeted their ejection. Nor did you have control over the following outrageous comments made by head coach Larry Coker after the game:

"I think that it will affect the image of our program greatly, but in a positive way. I think that when they see the video, and they see how it was handled, they will be impressed with our players. This will not be a very big thing for the University of Miami. It was impressive in that it was handled very well."

What you did, however, have absolute control over was the response

to those deeds and words, which not only brought the University of Miami, but everyone involved in NCAA sports into disrepute. Had your actions taken place in response to the Peach Bowl brawl last season, they might have been acceptable.

In this context, your response has been an utter failure, has resulted in further damage and sends a horrendous message to other coaches and players. There was no disciplinary action taken against Coker and others on the Miami coaching staff, where firing would have been the appropriate measure. Furthermore, the "punishments" which were handed down to the players barely amounted to a slap on the wrist.

There were many potential punishments between that slap and action which would, in the words of your overheated rhetoric, have amounted to "putting players under the bus," "hanging them in a public square" or "crucifying" them. These responses could have ranged from further indefinite suspensions, to season-long suspensions, outright expulsions from the football team or loss of scholarships. Action along those lines would have represented a positive step towards ending

the "feeding frenzy" which you have, in the height of chutzpah, now derided the media for participating in.

It is also highly disturbing that you have failed to view the video of the brawl. That might impress upon you that this is far bigger than the reputation of the University of Miami and its football team. The incident, and your feeble action, represents a black eye for NCAA athletics as a whole. The brawl has become the public face of intercollegiate sports, which is deeply embarrassing for other fans, coaches, players and persons, like myself, who learned important lifelong lessons from our participation in NCAA competition.

I will leave to you the question of whether having a football team is best for the University of Miami. The conclusion that others have reached is that Sports Illustrated was correct in 1995. NCAA athletics would be far better off if the Miami program shut down.

Michael R. Davidson Ph.D.
history department lecturer

This election counts for more than something

DEAR EDITOR:

President Bush and the Republicans in Congress have been an illness to the American people since day one. The Republicans in Congress and the president have proposed eliminating the Pell Grant for students trying to pay for college; they have raised student loan interest rates; cut taxes while putting the country further into debt, \$8.5 billion, which is \$28,539.17 per person in the U.S. The Congressional Republicans are showing their true colors this time around, two Congressional leaders, one who is third in line from the presidency, were caught protecting a child predator. I am embarrassed to say they are from Illinois.

Now, the Republicans think they can bring such "great" policies to our state. I don't think so. Illinois has great hope, honor and integrity in our leaders. Governor Blagojevich and the Democrats in the past four years have raised the minimum wage and promise to raise it

again if re-elected, something the Republicans have yet to promise.

In 2002, Blagojevich promised to eliminate the \$5 billion deficit left by a Republican governor without raising income taxes, and he kept that promise. The governor extended health care coverage for every child in Illinois. And he created the Illinois Cares Rx program, which is picking up the seniors left behind by the federal Medicare prescription drug program created by the Republicans and pharmaceutical companies.

Illinois Democrats passed a law that requires insurance companies to cover women's contraceptives. There is more to being pro-choice than a stance on abortion, it's about safety and family planning. The governor signed the Illinois Equal Pay Act in 2003, a law that says a woman working the same job, putting in the same hours and working just as hard as her male co-workers is paid the same wage.

The Republicans are even aiming for our judicial system. They nominated a former Republican Party chairman with no experience as a judge to serve on the state's appellate court. A judgeship should not be given away as a reward or temp job; this court reviews laws and cases for our entire state. The Democrats nominated Bruce Stewart, a trail judge with 10 years experience on the bench from southern Illinois.

When it comes to government, Republicans just have it upside down. Democrats have the common sense and know-how to lead our state and nation. Don't forget to vote on Nov. 7.

TyJuan J. Cratic
president of SIUC College Democrats
senior from Chicago

MISSION STATEMENT

The DAILY EGYPTIAN, the student-run newspaper of Southern Illinois University Carbondale, is committed to being a trusted source of news, information, commentary and public discourse, while helping readers understand the issues affecting their lives.

WORDS OVERHEARD

“ It will be the two biggest teams that have ever been on the field, I can promise you that. ”

SIU football coach Jerry Kill
on Saturday's game against Western Kentucky, where the Coach Kill Cancer Fund will host a touchdown walk

INSIGHT



Meeting him

Photo column by Lane Christiansen

Beyond the thoughts I had coming to college my freshman year of whether I was going to survive my classes or how I was going to be able to battle homesickness, I thought about whether I would meet him. Him, meaning that one person who you get butterflies in your stomach about, the person who looks at you in your baggy Levis and ratty T-shirt and says, "You're beautiful." It is the one person you want to spend the rest of your life with.

On Dec. 26, 2005, Amber Wilson and Craig Pond were engaged after dating each other for a year and a half. They initially met through their roommates. They were not looking for a relationship with each other at the time. For six months before they dated, they were good friends.

"I just knew," Amber said when she described why Craig was the

one for her.

Being a personal friend to Amber, I insisted on taking their engagement photos. At Evergreen Park, I asked them to be how they normally are around each other and to ignore my presence. Late in the day, the sun was shining through the trees of the park, casting shadows and warm light on the two as they walked hand in hand. When they walked through the park, the love and need for each other was apparent.

It is the stories like Amber and Craig's that show another significant reason for going away to school. It also is an example of two people who stumble across each other repeatedly and eventually figure out they are meant to be. You never know whom you will run into today, tomorrow or a year from now, but when that possible companion comes near, you will know.

ABOUT US

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• Letters and guest columns must be submitted with author's contact information, preferably via e-mail. All letters are limited to 300 words and columns to 500 words. All topics are acceptable. All submissions are subject to editing.



• Phone number required to verify authorship (number will not be published). STUDENTS must include year and major. FACULTY must include rank and department. NON-ACADEMIC STAFF include position and department. OTHERS include hometown.



• Letters and guest columns can be sent to voices@dailyegyptian.com.

• We reserve the right to not publish any letter or guest column.

Ag students find fun at Fall Follies

Agbassadors hold event to bring their college together

Sarah Lohman
DAILY EGYPTIAN

Petite Cassandra Hahn was swallowed up by the oversized coveralls she wore in the chore race during the Ag Olympics on Wednesday.

With sizes ranging from around 5-foot-tall Hahn to athletically built Casey Calloway, the chores race was one of many events that agriculture students participated in during the Fall Follies celebration for the College of Agricultural Sciences.

Members of student organizations enjoyed an evening of fun, games and free food, which was sponsored by the Agbassadors, the representatives of the college.

The evening began with a hayride from campus to the center of University Farms to the College of Ag Pavilion. Students poured off the wagons wearing camouflage hats and various shirts emblazoned with the logos of the many agricultural organizations.

"We wanted to get the college together and use our facilities for what they're built for," said Amanda Barczewski, a senior from Nashville who helped plan the event.

The Agbassadors served up chili, hot dogs, hot apple cider and orange Kool-Aid. Live country music was provided by Leland Bunting, a senior from Bone Gap, near Mount Carmel, studying agribusiness economics. Songs ranged from Lynyrd Skynyrd's "Sweet Home Alabama" to a Johnny Cash medley.

Dean Gary Minish enjoyed a hot dog while mingling with students.

"They usually invite me to all the student functions and events. We've got wonderful students, and it's nice to spend time with them," Minish said.

After everyone was given ample time to eat, five contestants were rounded up to participate in a pie-eating contest. After they finished clearing the whipped topping from their faces, the Ag Olympics began.

Eleven teams of four participated in three Ag Olympic events to



A John Deere tractor pulls people to Fall Follies at the College of Ag Pavilion on Wednesday evening.
DUVALE RILEY
DAILY EGYPTIAN

"We wanted to get the college together and use our facilities for what they're built for."

— Amanda Barczewski
senior from Nashville studying Agriculture

earn points. The first event involved competitors tripping, stumbling and occasionally falling as they tried to hop to the finish line.

Next came the chore race. In the chore race, each member of the team had to don rubber boots, coveralls, a Carhartt jacket, work gloves, orange hats with ear flaps and carry five-gallon buckets as they attempted to climb over hay bales as quickly as they could. They then had to remove all the clothing, and their next teammate had to do the same. Onlookers laughed as people tripped over too large or too small boots.

The final task was called the board walk. All four members of the team put each of their feet on two parallel boards. The front and back people held strings attached to the ends of the boards. The team then had to work together to walk across a finish line as quickly as they could. In an attempt to pick up the pace, team captains shouted at their fellow teammates. Shouts of "Left!

Right! Your other right!" echoed off the neighboring sheds.

Casey Calloway, a senior from Edwardsville studying plant and soil science, led his team to victory in his heat of the board walk but wasn't able to capture a trophy to take home. Calloway said he was nominated to be the fourth member of the Horticulture club's Ag Olympics team.

"We figured we'd make a showing at a school function. We're having fun, everyone's laughing. It's a good time," Calloway said.

After all the games were completed, the members of the top two teams were each awarded donations from several Carbondale businesses, as well as trophies.

The truly agricultural trophies consisted of ears of corn painted either silver or gold and nailed to a chunk of wood.

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DUVALE RILEY ~ DAILY EGYPTIAN

Alicia Garcia, a senior in plant and soil sciences, rushes to put on her farmer chore clothes during the chore race Wednesday evening at the College of Ag Pavilion.

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New election laws let Illinoisans sign up late, vote early

RYAN KEITH

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SPRINGFIELD — Attention Illinois voters: You have no excuse for not voting this fall.

A new state law lets would-be voters sign up later than usual and lets others vote early, under certain circumstances, if they can't make it to the polls on Nov. 7.

Regular voter registration has already ended, but people still can sign up to vote through next Tuesday.

Those who use that "grace period" option, however, can vote only in their local election authority's office or vote absentee by mail. They cannot vote at their regular polling place on Election Day or at new early voting centers established in their areas.

Voters who have already signed up can take advantage of early voting. They can show up at places designated by their local election authorities and cast a ballot now without having to give a reason for why they can't

vote on Nov. 7.

The early voting option, first used in the March primary, is limited to the county clerk's office in many smaller Illinois counties. But officials in Chicago and surrounding Cook County have established 58 early voting locations, and other counties also have announced multiple locales.

People have until Nov. 2 to vote early. They must show valid photo identification, a stricter requirement than voters face on Election Day.

Election officials hope these changes help boost voter turnout, which was an unusually low 25 percent statewide in March.

Dan White, executive director of the Illinois State Board of Elections, said Wednesday that only about 2,300 people took advantage of the grace period registration in March. About 67,000 people voted early, but that number includes absentee ballots that also would have been cast in previous elections.

Election 2006

Tough financial road ahead for county board

Brandon Augsborg
DAILY EGYPTIAN

Candidates running for a seat on the Jackson County Board this year will face tough financial challenges and have to learn the tricks of their trade on the fly.

With seven of the 14 county board terms expiring, this year's election could add many new faces. The current board has 12 Democrats and two Republicans, and challengers from the Democratic Party, the Republican Party and the Green Party are all vying for the open seats.

Retiring County Board Chairman Gary Hartlieb said the county board is the legislative arm of county government, and the most significant job of the board is financing county operations.

He said Jackson County, like many other counties in Illinois, is running out of money. Tax caps have contributed to the problem that has been growing ever worse during the past four or five years, he said.

Donna McCann, chairwoman of the board's labor committee, said regardless of what happens with the budget, the county board would continue to manage the county's finances.

Hartlieb said the board has been able to keep the budget balanced during that time period through revenue

from property taxes, sales taxes and a replacement tax, which comes from the state. He said the county also collects significant revenue from court fees.

The county board is responsible for the budgets of all the branches of county government and also provides operating revenue for agencies that provide special services to the county.

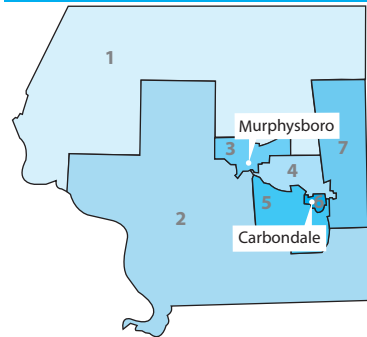
While the county budget is currently balanced, Hartlieb said the future of the budget could depend on how negotiations with worker's unions, which began Wednesday, turn out. The board negotiates contracts for county employees, such as the Jackson County Sheriff's Department and the Circuit Clerk's Office.

McCann said the board authorizes a committee to negotiate with the unions and gives the committee specific instructions to follow during the talks.

"You can only do what you're authorized to do — you're not out there jumping through hoops," she said. "We work under certain constraints."

Hartlieb said the board also provides money to outside agencies, such as the Alliance Health Care Clinic and the Jackson County Business Development Corporation. He said, if more revenue is not found, the board might have to reduce its contributions to those agencies, and that could cause some employees to lose their jobs.

Jackson County district map



McCann said members of the board serve on various committees, including the finance and solid waste committees. She said some of the committees, such as the insurance committee, deal with subjects that require a certain level of expertise.

She said county board members with expertise and experience are important for the citizens of Jackson County. She said some committees have a long learning curve, sometimes up to a year, and the county board is an elected position with minimal support.

"You're working as soon as you hit the ground running," McCann said.

Brandon Augsborg can be reached at 536-3311 ext. 262 or brandon_augsborg@dailylegyptian.com.

County board candidates

District 1

- William "Bill" Alstat – Republican (incumbent)
- James "Jim" Clark – Democrat

District 2

- Daniel Bost – Republican
- James "Jim" Kerley – Democrat (incumbent)

District 3

- Bruce Wallace – Republican
- Mary "Mickey" Korando – Democrat (incumbent)

District 4

- Chris Mueller – Republican
- Robert Lorinskas – Democrat (incumbent)
- Bradley Klein – Green

District 5

- Donald Barrett – Republican
- Lisa Budstick – Democrat

District 6

- Donna McCann – Democrat (incumbent)
- Jennifer Vaughn – Green

District 7

- Dayton Loyd – Republican
- John Evans – Democrat (incumbent)

Authorities awaiting return of suspect in Zeigler killings

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ZEIGLER — Franklin County authorities are trying to arrange the return from New Mexico of a man accused of slaying his estranged wife and one of her acquaintances in this southern Illinois town, a sheriff's official said Wednesday.

James Coulter, 45, waived extradition this week in New Mexico, where he has been jailed since his traffic-stop arrest on a Franklin County warrant

accusing him of two first-degree murder counts in the deaths of Amanda Tope and Jack Weston, both 31.

The bodies of Weston and Tope, who married Coulter months ago in Kentucky but never used his surname, were found Friday in Weston's home. Authorities suspect the two were shot the previous day.

The killings happened just hours after Tope got an emergency order of protection against Coulter, saying in her application that his recent behavior

included leaving a message written in pennies on her mother's grave.

Franklin County sheriff's Capt. Don Jones said authorities have until Nov. 3 to retrieve Coulter, jailed in New Mexico on \$2 million bond and are exploring the cheapest way to do so. Options include hiring a professional prisoner-transport service, the U.S. Marshals Service or sending a couple of sheriff's deputies to New Mexico.

Jones said he did not know when that transfer would happen.

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Witnesses in Saddam trial recall massacres of Kurdish detainees

Sinan Salaheddin
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BAGHDAD, Iraq —Two Kurdish witnesses at Saddam Hussein's genocide trial gave harrowing accounts Wednesday of surviving killing fields where guards executed hundreds of detainees at a time in sprays of gunfire.

One said he fell wounded into a ditch full of bodies. He said he climbed out and ran for his life past mounds in the desert, the mass graves of other victims in a 1987-88 military offensive against Iraq's Kurds.

Both witnesses described prisoners making their last prayers for God's forgiveness of their sins as they rode in trucks to the execution site — and said some detainees

made desperate attempts to attack guards in hopes of escaping.

The testimony came in the trial of Saddam and six other co-defendants for their roles in Operation Anfal, an offensive during which the prosecution says some 180,000 Kurds were killed and hundreds of their villages cleared. The seven face execution by hanging if convicted.

Saddam sat silently as both Kurds testified from behind curtains to protect their identities. One co-defendant, his cousin Ali al-Majid, scoffed at their accounts.

"You told us a story from which a blockbuster could be made," said al-Majid, who is accused of directing Operation Anfal and became known as "Chemical Ali" for toxic gas attacks on Kurdish villages during the offensive.

The two witnesses said they were held at the Tob Zawa prison camp in northern Iraq with hundreds of others after attacks on their towns. They each described separate massacres in 1988 of detainees who were herded onto trucks and told they were being taken to another prison camp.

The first witness said the truck he was in stopped on an unpaved road in the desert of western Iraq. A prisoner named Anwar warned that they were going to be executed, the witness said.

He "asked us to recite the Islamic prayers before death and plead for forgiveness. He said 'We are going to die in minutes, it is the forgiveness time for people who are going to die,'" the witness said in Kurdish.

"It was dark when they brought a group of people (prisoners) in front of the vehicle. The drivers got out of our vehicles and turned on the headlights," he said.

Some prisoners tried to grab an automatic rifle from a guard, but failed because "we were so weak," he said.

Soldiers then opened fire. "I ran and fell into a ditch. It was full of bodies. I fell on a body. It was still alive. It was his last breath," said the witness. "It was really unbelievable, the number of people being killed like this."

Slightly wounded, he stripped off his clothes, thinking he was more likely to blend into the color of the sand if he were naked, the witness said. He then began running again.

"As I was running, I saw many pits, I saw many mounds, and I saw lots of people who had been shot," he said. "The desert was full of mounds that had people buried underneath."

The witness said he took refuge with Kurds living nearby, then traveled north. For the next 15 years he lived in hiding, moving frequently, until Saddam's ouster.

The second witness described a similar massacre, saying he was in a group of about 500 prisoners taken from Tob Zawa. When the trucks stopped in the desert, they heard gunfire.

"We knew it was the people in the other vehicle being shot, and our turn would be next," he said. "We exchanged forgiveness, and we were weeping."

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TASK FORCE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

among all in the university community.

Wendler would only say he suggested the committee be involved with current student government groups. A large manual presented to task force members details the chancellor's expectations.

Wendler said he expects the committee's first report by March 1.

The task force will thoroughly examine the operations of Undergraduate Student Government and the Graduate and Professional Student Council.

"I charged the committee to make sure they talk to GPSC and USG," Wendler said.

The task force consists of 24 members. Minish said the task force has representation from students, staff, administrators, faculty, alumni and the community.

"It's an outstanding group of people, and it pretty much represents every college on campus and

every group we need to get input from," Minish said.

Among the members is Carbondale Mayor Brad Cole, a former USG president. Cole is an example of how student government involvement can create citizen leaders, Wendler said.

The task force will begin holding focus groups in November and December at colleges around campus. The first focus group will be held before Thanksgiving break. Minish said the goal is to get input from students from all areas.

"We think this needs to be a student-driven process," Minish said. "Right now, we're going to take it out to the grassroots and go from there."

Matt Picchietti, a task force member and USG senator, said he plans to check the task force's manual for bias because former USG President Nate Brown, who now works for Wendler, compiled it.

USG senators in the spring semester voted to censure Brown

days before his presidency ended, citing his leadership strayed from representing the student body.

Around the time of Brown's censure, USG was in the midst of allocating activity fee dollars to student groups. USG failed multiple times to make the allocations, spurring unrest among registered student organizations and an audit conducted by SIU President Glenn Poshard's office.

Brown and Wendler are not part of the committee.

While some of the information in the manual details problems with student government, the manual is truthful, said Kevin Winstead, Black Affairs Council coordinator and task force member.

"Any change right now would be in the right direction as long as it comes from students," Winstead said.

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SUSPENSIONS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

He said a big concern is university officials' ability to serve "interim separations" on students, forcing them off the campus immediately if the students are considered a threat to the campus community. Too much of the conduct code is ambiguous, he said.

"Students don't feel safe, and that is the issue," Winstead said. "Students are scared."

The meeting is at 6 p.m. Tuesday in the lower level of Grinnell Hall.

Among the students suspended Wednesday was Charles Gill, whose "interim separation" was overturned Friday, allowing him back onto campus. Gill is suspended for one year, and Christian Jennings is out for three, said Derrick Reese Sr., father of one of the suspended students. Gill was the only student allowed back on campus during the hearings.

Gill declined to comment, and contact information for Jennings was unavailable.

Timothy Hart, Reshaun Scott, Vincent Mack and Aric Anthony

are suspended for two years. Brandon Gaines and DeShaun McGee are suspended for one year. Derrick Reese, the only student to be hit with criminal charges, is suspended for three years.

All students plan to appeal, and their parents are seeking a possible class action lawsuit against the university, claiming the students did not receive due process.

The students' situation has been accompanied by much discontent with the university's Student Conduct Code. Parents and students have called the code unfair because some of its violations have no definition, and it also gives SIUC officials the power to remove students from campus because they have been accused of wrongdoing.

Dietz, spokesman for the hearings, has said university officials take students' safety seriously, and decisive action is required when there appears to be a violation of the code.

Brandon Weisenberger can be reached at 536-3311 ext. 254 or brandon_weisenberger@dailyegyptian.com.

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SLUMP

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

SIU's next two games, Saturday's against WKU and a Nov. 11 tilt against the University of Northern Iowa, are crucial. Both the Hilltoppers and Panthers have given the Salukis close games in the past few years and are perennially at the top of the Gateway.

Trude said those two games should promote themselves, noting the Northern Iowa game could potentially decide the Gateway champion.

"A lot of times, an event needs to bill itself," Trude said. "These next two football games do that. They'll be phenomenal football games."

Another student deterrent could come from Mother Nature.

Trude said fierce winds and rain

might discourage students from catching top-notch college football.

"If we had pouring rain two weeks ago, we're not going to have 13,500 fans," Trude said of SIU's Oct. 7 game that drew 13,721 fans. "It'll probably be 9,000. The fact of life is people don't want to sit in inclement weather."

Pietz said, however, cooler weather is a sign of football season and should not be a reason to miss the game.

"It's football weather," Pietz said. "That's when you expect more people to come out, instead of an August 31st game when it's 104 degrees. Just put on a hoodie and jeans, and come out to the game."

Throughout the athletic department, efforts are being made to strengthen student support.

Moccia said it starts with the individual.

"You'll see a much bigger push, maybe even a more personal push," Moccia said. "Just kind of giving our students, handing them information one-on-one, like a grassroots effort."

The support is always lauded by the football Salukis. Head coach Jerry Kill has reinforced that his players play better in front of larger crowds.

Senior center Will Justice agrees. He said there's no reason to miss SIU football.

"It does get chilly," Justice said. "I guess drink a few more beers, so you don't feel it as much. Bring your coat. Stay warm. I'd just like to send a challenge out to the student body to get in the stands."

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Bears' safety Mike Brown undergoes foot surgery

Andrew Seligman
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LAKE FOREST — Chicago Bears strong safety Mike Brown is out indefinitely after undergoing surgery to repair ligament damage in his right foot Wednesday, a major hit for the NFL's second-ranked defense.

Brown limped off the field and was taken from the sideline on a cart during the fourth quarter of Monday's 24-23 comeback victory at Arizona after his foot got twisted on a running play.

"Severe blow," coach Lovie Smith said. "I think we all know what Mike means to our football team. He's a special player. He was having an outstanding game. ... That's a big blow, but injuries do happen. Mike has been in this situation before."

Smith wasn't sure if Brown, a Pro Bowl pick last season, would be placed on injured reserve.

Brown played a key role as the Bears rallied from a 20-point deficit against the Cardinals.

The comeback began when he scooped up a loose ball after Mark Anderson sacked Matt Leinart at the end of the third quarter. Brown returned it 3 yards for a touchdown that made it 23-10. Charles Tillman returned a fumble 40 yards for a touchdown after Brian Urlacher ripped the ball from Edgerin James in the fourth quarter, and Devin Hester put Chicago ahead when he ran a punt back 83 yards.

Finally, Arizona's Neil Rackers missed a 41-yard field goal with 53 seconds left, and the Bears celebrated, jumping around and pointing toward the sky. They were relieved and overjoyed. They

improved to 6-0 with a bye this week, but the good vibe was tempered by Wednesday's news.

Brown is one of their emotional leaders, and they have not played well when he has been sidelined in recent seasons.

Brown missed 14 games with a torn right Achilles' tendon in 2004, and the injury-ravaged Bears went 5-11. With Brown nursing a strained calf late last year, the league's stingiest defense looked rather average. The Bears split the final four regular-season games, and with Brown seeing limited time in the playoff loss to Carolina, the Panthers' Steve Smith caught 12 passes for 218 yards and two long touchdowns.

"There's only one Mike Brown that has those qualities as a leader," Smith said. "What we need is to have a good football player step up and fill the role. Brian Urlacher, Adewale (Ogunleye), Alex Brown — they'll take more of a leadership role."

Can the defense withstand this loss?

"It has to," Smith said. "We have to pick it up."

Brown's injury leaves the Bears thin at safety. Backup Chris Harris has missed three of the past four games with a pulled quadriceps and a sprained ankle. Brandon McGowan was suspended by the team for a week for violating a team rule but is expected to be back Monday.

Brown's injury could mean more playing time for Todd Johnson, who replaced him on Monday, and Cameron Worrell.

"The encouraging thing is we have guys who can step in and make plays for us," cornerback Nathan Vasher said.

Bye gives Rams time to get healthy

ST. LOUIS — At their bye week, the St. Louis Rams are relatively healthy. Still, coach Scott Linehan says the break will help players who are nicked up to get ready for the remainder of the season.

After a short walkthrough session at Rams Park on Wednesday, bye week officially began for the Rams (4-2). They return Oct. 29 at San Diego (4-1).

"We have the ability now to evaluate what we're doing in all three phases and get a little bit healthier," Linehan said. "The injury bug is starting to catch up to us, as far as guys missing games, time and practice."

Overall, the injuries are minor, the biggest concern being the fullback spot. Starter Paul Smith is expected to miss another month or so after injuring his face against Detroit on Oct. 1. Backup fullback Madison Hedgecock broke his right thumb in Sunday's 30-28 loss to the Seahawks but may play against the Chargers.

"Even though we don't have a lot of guys on the injury report, but we do have a lot of guys that need to get healthier so we're able to go into the last 10 regular-season games and just refocus what we need to do," Linehan said.

The break was bittersweet for some players still stinging from losing to Seattle on a last-second 54-yard field goal.

"Losing before the bye, I think it gave us extra motivation to really work hard, and to really sit back and think about things, and come back next week and just get ready to play," rookie cornerback Tye Hill said. "I think losing probably would help us coming off the bye."

IU majoring in chemistry during turnaround year

Rusty Miller
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Twelve years and four head coaches have passed since Indiana last won more games than it lost.

Pushed by a coach who has overcome brain surgery twice in nine months, and with a lineup stocked with guys not even old enough to legally drink a beer, the Hoosiers think they're ready to make a bowl run.

After wins over Illinois and Iowa, the Hoosiers are 4-3 and 2-1 in the Big Ten heading into Saturday's game at No. 1 Ohio State.

The Hoosiers haven't played in the postseason since a trip to the Independence Bowl in 1993.

Terry Hooppner, in his second year as head coach, has worked hard to discard the old, losing ways in Bloomington. He had a three-ton block of limestone, a remnant of Memorial Stadium's construction in 1960, placed near the field, and the players and coaches touch "The Rock" before each home game.

"Championship teams have a special affection, a special trust, a special bond that we usually summarize as chemistry," he said. "We are developing this affection,

this trust, this bond, and it's tangible."

Now the Hoosiers have won back-to-back Big Ten games for the first time in five years and are 2-0 on the road for the first time in 13 seasons.

"The last two weeks we've had seniors selected as the scout team players of the week," he said. "To me, that's pretty significant. It's one of those thankless, young guy-type jobs, and that's where the together thing really takes on meaning for me. That's where this bond, this trust and this chemistry comes from."



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Dawg Pound meets to discuss upcoming season

Trude: ISU fans were disrespectful

Matt Hartwig
DAILY EGYPTIAN

After a distasteful showing by Illinois State University fans at the Oct. 14 football game against SIU, the Saluki student section adopted a new set of rules and regulations.

Before the game in Normal, Redbird fans in the student section were handed small, plastic footballs. On more than one occasion, fans threw the footballs onto the field. Thousands of mini-football pelted the players in machine gun-like fashion during pregame warm-ups.

On the heels of the incident at ISU, the Saluki Dawg Pound met with SIU marketing director Mike Trude on Tuesday night to ensure similar events do not occur.

Trude said he was upset the Redbird fans didn't stop with the plastic football assault. He said fans stationed behind the Saluki bench crossed the line with their heckling.

"The fans went above and beyond offensive," Trude said. "They were mocking coach Kill's wife and even started a seizure chant."

The fans were referencing the

Salukis' only home loss of 2005, which came against the Redbirds when head coach Jerry Kill left the game after suffering a seizure.

Saluki fans were offended by the ISU student section as well, which led to discussion about what would be expected out of the Dawg Pound.

Brad Weier, a junior Dawg Pound member from Troy studying radio-television, said the Redbirds gave their school a bad image. He said people knock the Salukis' reputation but added the Dawg Pound never crosses the line.

"We heckle opposing fans and players," Weier said. "We just don't do it to that extent."

The Saluki Dawg Pound is the student section comprised of roughly 400 fans who pay \$10 every year to get priority seating at SIU athletic events.

In response to the ISU game, Trude said he would kick out the entire Saluki student section if they didn't celebrate with class. He said the school wants to continue its reputation as the best student section in the Missouri Valley Conference but wants to do so without being overly offensive.

Toward the end of the meeting, both the men's and women's basketball coaches spoke to the crowd. Men's basketball coach Chris Lowery said he loves the rowdy nature of the student section. He said it provided the

home-court advantage that powered a 66-3 home record since the start of the 2001-02 season.

Because of the men's success, the women's basketball team wants a share of the wealth now, too.

Women's basketball coach Dana Eikenberg said fans truly make a difference. With her team on the way up, she called on the Dawg Pound for support. Eikenberg said she would buy 700 dollars worth of pizza for the student section if it was filled to capacity for the Nov. 12 game against University of Missouri.

Trude said the Dawg Pound is one of the most infamous student sections in the MVC but also one of the classiest, thanks to a close watch from security.

To maintain a respected student section, Dawg Pound members are trying to avoid a situation similar to the ISU game.

Genae Welch, a senior Dawg Pound member from Dallas studying psychology, said the Athletic Department is quick to stop any unruly fans.

"We don't want to look like a bunch of unclassy idiots out there," Welch said. "If people act like morons, it looks bad on the entire program."

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CHANGE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

Parts of Mohamed's summer routine have carried over to inseason training and teammates as well. Mohamed's favorite route, a nine-mile loop, is now a common team route during practice.

"He kind of takes you out into the country, running towards Murphysboro, and the first time the guys go run it, they're like, 'Where the heck are we going?'" Sparks said. "It's a long loop that Mohamed's freshman year. We only did it once a week or even once a month. Now he does it three or four days a week."

Mohamed and the team run four or five miles in the morning and seven or eight miles in the afternoon four days a week.

Aside from regular workouts, the team partakes in a 90-minute run, which tracks 15 miles once a week. The team also does abdominal workouts and push-ups, but Mohamed said he doesn't lift weights.

"Lifting weights is just going to make you heavy, and you don't need that as a distance runner," he said.

The Salukis have the weekend off from competition before heading to Lincoln, Neb., on Oct. 28 for the Missouri Valley Conference

Championship.

Mohamed should be a top challenger for the MVC individual title, despite the fact that he's only a sophomore.

"It's exciting to see him do that now, as opposed to what oftentimes will happen as a kid before their senior year. (They) will realize that and start to work before their senior year," Sparks said. "For Mohamed to realize that going into his sophomore year, it's really exciting to see, as a coach, the maturity he has."

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Competitors put the pressure on Burton

Jenna Fryer
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Jeff Burton couldn't do anything right for five long seasons. Now he can't do anything wrong.

Burton has overcome late-race problems the past two weeks to widen his lead in the Chase for the championship standings, leading his rivals to wonder openly if the

Nextel Cup title is his to lose.

"You can't break him. He's just there every week doing a great job," Dale Earnhardt Jr. lamented.

"If he keeps running great races, you're not going to be able to catch him. That's a really good team, and they're doing an awesome job," Kasey Kahne said.

So are these guys ready to hand over the championship? Or are these just mind games — the racer's

version of trying to rattle a guy's cage?

If that's the goal, Burton said it isn't working.

"I just don't understand how somebody saying something good about you can be a head game," he said. "I just don't get into that. I take it as a huge compliment when somebody says something good about me or our race team. And that's all I take it as, as a compliment."



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Saluki Insider

Saluki Banter

A brawl during a college football game between the University of Miami and Florida International University has caused national outrage. Miami suspended 12 players for just one game with community service, while FIU kicked two players off the team and suspended 16 others indefinitely. Which punishment was the correct punishment?



JORDAN WILSON

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"This isn't even counting the 12 other FIU players who were suspended for one game and the community service and anger management courses they will all have to take part in. Miami is giving the impression they just don't care about this whole melee. FIU's punishment is a lot better but still seems a bit strong."

"Neither is the correct punishment. Hearing Jerry Kill talk about this made me realize the severity of it all. He said he'd leave SIU if something like that happened. The punishment should be more severe. Kick everyone who threw a punch, kick or cleat off the team."

BRIAN FELDT

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"Florida International's punishment was the correct punishment. It seems like the correct punishment, but Miami has always had a rogue program. Supposedly, Butch Davis cleaned up the program a little bit, but it is all falling back under Larry Coker."

SALUKI "Quote of the Week"

Jerry Kill

"The only stat that makes a difference to me is if we have a W or an L. And the other stat that matters is if we turn out good people or turds. That means a lot to me right now is what kind of character. I know they aren't all angels, but that is important to me."



- Head coach Jerry Kill on what is important to him in coaching a college football team.

Do you have questions for the Saluki Banter that you want answered?

E-mail de_editor@dailyegyptian.com

Government skeptical but cautious of threat against NFL stadiums

Lara Jakes Jordan
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — A Web site is claiming that seven NFL football stadiums will be hit with radiological dirty bombs this weekend, but the government on Wednesday expressed doubts about the threat.

The warning, posted Oct. 12, was part of an ongoing Internet conversation titled "New Attack on America Be Afraid." It mentioned NFL stadiums in New York, Miami, Atlanta, Seattle, Houston, Oakland and Cleveland, where games are scheduled for this weekend.

The Homeland Security Department alerted authorities and stadium owners in those cities, as well as the NFL, of the Web message but said the threat was being viewed "with strong skepticism." Officials at the NCAA, which oversees college athletics, said they too had been notified.

Homeland Security spokesman Russ Knocke said there was no intelligence that indicated such an attack was imminent, and he said the alert was "out of an abundance of caution."

"The department strongly encourages the public to continue to go about their plans, including attending events that involve large public gatherings such as football games," Knocke said.

The FBI also expressed doubt about the threat.

"While the credibility of the threat is questionable, we have passed the information on because it has been carried in some open source reporting," said FBI spokesman Richard Kolko. He said the FBI was discussing the threat with the NFL as "part of our routine discussions this week."

The nation's alert level remains at yellow, signaling an elevated risk of an attack. The threat level for airline flights is at orange, a higher level, where it has been since a foiled plot to bomb U.S.-bound commercial jets was revealed on Aug. 10.

NFL spokesman Greg Aiello said stadiums around the country "are very well protected through the comprehensive security procedures we have in place, including secure facility perimeters, pat-downs and bag searches."

Officials were made aware of the Web posting on Monday. The threat was timed to be carried out Sunday, Oct. 22, marking the final day in Mecca of Ramadan, the Islamic holy month.

"The death toll will approach 100,000 from the initial blasts and countless other fatalities will later occur as result from radioactive fallout," according to a copy of the posting that was obtained by The Associated Press.

The bombs, according to the posting, would be delivered to the stadiums in trucks. All but one of the stadiums — Atlanta — are open-air arenas, the posting noted, adding: "Due to the open air, the radiological fallout will destroy those not killed in the initial explosion."

Explosions would be nearly simultaneous, the posting said, with the cities specifically chosen in different time zones.

The posting said that al-Qaida would automatically be blamed for the attacks and predicted, "Later, through al-Jazeera, Osama bin Laden will issue a video message claiming responsibility for what he dubbed 'America's Hiroshima.'"

Tony Wyllie, the vice president of communications for the Houston Texans, said the team had been in contact with the NFL regarding what security precautions should be taken for Sunday's game against the Jacksonville Jaguars.

In Indianapolis, where the Colts were preparing for a home game this weekend, head coach Tony Dungy said, "I've been waiting for this to happen for a couple of years now, and you try and handle the security and put it out of your mind."

"We'll let the security people do their job, and we'll do our job," Dungy said. "We've got a lot of confidence in NFL security and our own security here."

VOLLEYBALL SCHEDULE

(Home games listed in bold)

Date	Opponent	Time
Oct. 20	Illinois State	7 p.m.
Oct. 21	Indiana State	6 p.m.
Oct. 27	Northern Iowa	7 p.m.
Oct. 28	Bradley	7 p.m.
Nov. 3	Wichita State	7 p.m.
Nov. 4	Missouri State	7 p.m.
Nov. 10	Evansville	7 p.m.
Nov. 17	Creighton	7 p.m.
Nov. 18	Drake	7 p.m.
Nov. 24	MVC Tournament	TBA

SWIMMING AND DIVING SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent	Time
Oct. 21	Drury	TBA
Nov. 3	Missouri Dual Invitational	TBA
Nov. 4	Missouri Dual Invitational	TBA
Nov. 17	Northwestern Invitational	TBA
Nov. 18	Northwestern Invitational	TBA
Nov. 19	Northwestern Invitational	TBA
Nov. 30	U.S. Open (at Purdue)	TBA
Dec. 1	U.S. Open (at Purdue)	TBA
Dec. 2	U.S. Open (at Purdue)	TBA
Jan. 13	Northern Illinois/Evansville	TBA
Jan. 20	Western Kentucky	TBA
Jan. 27	Missouri State	TBA
Feb. 8	MVC Women's Championships	TBA

FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent	Time
Oct. 21	Western Kentucky	6 p.m.
Oct. 28	Missouri State	1:30 p.m.
Nov. 4	Youngstown State	noon
Nov. 11	Northern Iowa	3 p.m.
Nov. 18	Southern Utah	3 p.m.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent	Time
Nov. 5	Christian Brothers (ex.)	2:00 p.m.
Nov. 12	Missouri	2:00 p.m.
Nov. 17	Murray State	7:05 p.m.
Nov. 21	Saint Louis	7:05 p.m.
Nov. 24	San Francisco	7:05 p.m.
Nov. 25	Kentucky or Delaware	TBA
Nov. 29	Austin Peay	7:05 p.m.
Dec. 2	Weber State	3:00 p.m.
Dec. 5	South Alabama	7:00 p.m.
Dec. 9	South Dakota St.	6:00 p.m.
Dec. 16	Indiana	7:00 p.m.
Dec. 19	Tennessee Tech	7:05 p.m.
Dec. 28	Wichita State	7:00 p.m.
Dec. 30	Missouri State	TBA
Jan. 4	Illinois State	7:05 p.m.
Jan. 6	Indiana State	2:00 p.m.
Jan. 11	Bradley	TBA
Jan. 13	Northern Iowa	7:35 p.m.
Jan. 18	Creighton	7:05 p.m.

CROSS COUNTRY SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent	Time
Oct. 28	MVC Championship	All Day
Nov. 11	NCAA Regional Championship	All Day
Nov. 20	NCAA Championship	All Day

MEN'S BASKETBALL SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent	Time
Nov. 2	Quincy	7:05 p.m.
Nov. 5	Henderson State	4:05 p.m.
Nov. 10	Washington, MO.	7:05 p.m.
Nov. 19	Murray State	2:05 p.m.
Nov. 23	Arkansas	Noon
Nov. 24	Marist or Minnesota	12:30 p.m.
Nov. 26	ESPNU Classic	TBA
Nov. 29	Louisiana Tech	TBA
Dec. 2	Saint Louis	TBA
Dec. 9	Western Kentucky	TBA
Dec. 17	Indiana	8:00 p.m.
Dec. 20	Central Michigan	7:05 p.m.
Dec. 23	Saint Mary's	11:00 a.m.
Dec. 29	Illinois State	TBA
Jan. 1	Wichita State	TBA
Jan. 4	Drake	TBA
Jan. 6	Northern Iowa	TBA
Jan. 10	Bradley	TBA
Jan. 13	Missouri State	TBA
Jan. 15	Drake	TBA

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FOOTBALL

The mid-season student slump

Numbers show student game attendance dwindles between weeks three and four

Jordan Wilson
DAILY EGYPTIAN

Sitting behind his desk in the depths of Lingle Hall, SIU Athletic Director Mario Moccia sifted through a pile of papers.

"That's what I'm concerned about," Moccia said, pointing his right index finger at a column of figures in tiny print.

Moccia's apprehensions stem from 2004 and 2005 attendance figures that show a sharp decline in the number of students who attended SIU home football games from week three to week four.

With the Salukis' fourth home game of the year approaching Saturday against Western Kentucky University, Moccia and other members of the athletic department are searching for a solution to the fading fan support.

They're looking for the origin, too.

SIU ticket manager Brad Pietz is puzzled why the student body shies

away from McAndrew Stadium in the thick of the football season.

"It's kind of odd as the season goes along, student attendance declines," Pietz said. "If anyone out there has any idea, let me know."

In the Salukis' third home game of 2004, they attracted 3,136 students. In their next game in Carbondale, the No. 1 nationally ranked Salukis hosted the No. 4 team in the nation, WKU. The game, a 38-10 SIU victory, engrossed only 1,844 students.

A year later, the No. 5-ranked Salukis rallied to score two fourth-quarter touchdowns for a come-from-behind victory over No. 15 Youngstown State. Again, the student turnout was depleted in SIU's fourth home game; there were 1,107 fewer students in the stands than the week before.

SIU marketing director Mike Trude said one of the best aspects of SIU football games may also be a downfall — tickets are free to the student population.

Trude said some students feel a



MELISSA BARR ~ DAILY EGYPTIAN

SIU home football game attendance for students has declined in past years between weeks three and four. Consistently, attendance has dropped by more than 1,000 people.

free ticket devalues the product. In other words, something free must not be worth going to.

The Salukis' track record dismisses that.

SIU (5-1, 2-1 Gateway) has spent 46 straight weeks as a top-25 team in Division I-AA. Yet student support has consistently fizzled toward the end of the season — from the third to

the fourth home game to be exact.

The thinning student support may be something selective to SIU, Pietz said.

Pietz said other schools don't have comparable student dropouts, as late-season games tend to be rivalry games that draw large crowds.

See SLUMP, Page 14

FANTASY

Greatest show on turf, part II?

BRIAN FELDT

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Too much focus in this year's fantasy blabber has been devoted to Rex Grossman and the Chicago Bears, Donovan McNabb and his Eagles or injuries that have plagued fantasy teams everywhere.

There are two fantasy studs that have been overlooked all season. They have been doing the job and getting excellent fantasy numbers but little fantasy attention.

Quarterback Marc Bulger and wide receiver Torry Holt have been overlooked this season despite putting up very good fantasy stats.

Although the Rams lost in week six, Bulger and Holt most likely led their fantasy teams to victory by hooking up for three touchdowns.

Bulger and Holt hooked up three times against Seattle for touchdowns, giving Holt a league-leading seven TD's this season.

They are ranked two and three in Yahoo! Sports' fantasy rankings and have been top fantasy players for years — but without the hoopla surrounding them.

Bulger has thrown a total of seven touchdowns this season and is still without an interception on his 2006 resume, while Holt has found the end zone in four straight games.

Bulger and Holt, both Pro-Bowl nominees, should be able to keep their fantasy success going, too.

After their bye week in week seven, the Rams have games against San Diego, Kansas City, San Francisco, Arizona, Oakland, Washington and Minnesota still left on the schedule, which should be good news for their owners.

Phillip Rivers seems to be adjusting to his new role as starting quarterback for the San Diego Chargers nicely.

After a poor first game, where Rivers threw for only 108 yards and a touchdown, some fantasy owners were willing to give up on him.

Since week one though, Rivers has played just as advertised.

He has thrown for at least one touchdown in every game this season, including two in each of his last two games, and averages 212.8 passing yards per game. And for leagues that penalize for interceptions, Rivers has only thrown two, a respectable number.

True, there are better fantasy options at the quarterback position, but Rivers is a very solid backup and a good choice if you play in a keeper league.

Rivers also has an abundance of weapons to use. He has arguably the best running back in the league in LaDainian Tomlinson, arguably the best tight end in the league in Antonio Gates and two decent receivers in Keenan McCardell and Eric Parker.

Rivers does a good job of spreading his passes evenly among all four but focuses mainly on L.T. and Gates, who can catch pretty much anything thrown his way.

CROSS COUNTRY

Regimen change fuels success

Scott Mieszala
DAILY EGYPTIAN

Mohamed Mohamed recently began logging more miles per week on foot than most college students put on their cars.

Mohamed, a sophomore on the SIU men's cross country team, has been the Salukis' top runner in every event he's raced this season. He attributed his success to his new offseason training regimen.

"I think that's the biggest thing that contributed to my success," Mohamed said. "I've never trained that hard. Previous summers, I've put in 40 to 50 miles a week, and then last summer, I stayed here in Carbondale and

trained all summer and did about 90 miles a week."

The change in Mohamed's running habits was sparked by a case of pneumonia, which he came down with after the indoor track season. The illness prevented him from training for a month.

Mohamed even contemplated redshirting for the outdoor track season but opted not to. He said he was back to form by the end of the season, finishing second in the conference in the 10K.

"Having that pneumonia made me realize how much I could lose not doing what I needed to do," Mohamed said. "It made me that much hungrier to work harder than everybody in the conference."

Mohamed said he laid the foundation for his success with his new-found offseason training program.

Head coach Matt Sparks agreed. "Just like any sport, it's not necessarily what you do when practice starts; it's the work you do in the preseason that will make or break

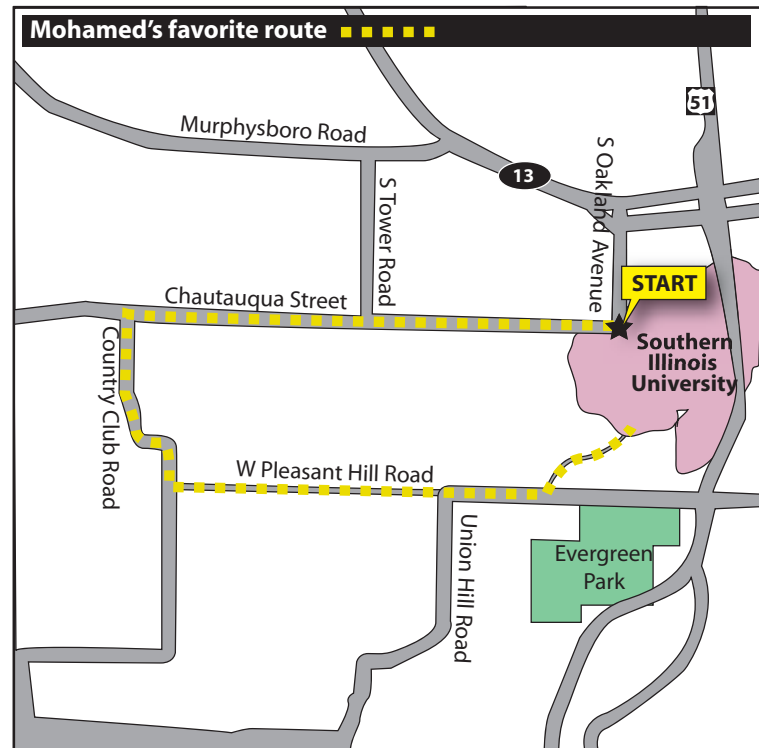
your season," Sparks said. "That's what's turned him into a guy that was, a year ago, barely an All-MVC performer to a guy that's going to challenge for a win at the conference meet."

See CHANGE, Page 14



KELI BILLINGSLEY ~ DAILY EGYPTIAN

Mohamed Mohamed runs the 8K during the Saluki Invitational on Oct. 7 behind Abe Martin Field. The Salukis won team championships in both the men's and women's divisions.



Check out our web site

For more fantasy, check out the DAILY EGYPTIAN Web site, www.siuDE.com.