Senate Bill might require Trustee to live in state

Trustee's Indiana residency called into question
Kate McCann
Daily Egyptian reporter

An Illinois senate bill requiring Board of Trustees members to live in state could cause trustee George Wilkins to be in violation of state law, if passed.

Proposed SB 1389, states under section 15, that "Each (board) member appointed by the Governor must be a resident of this State. A failure to meet or maintain this residency requirement constitutes a remiss in his or her capacity in the board." Illinois Sen. Evelyn Done, D-Eatonville, The Board of Trustees was formed with Illinois Sen. Ned Mitchell, D-Chicago, sponsoring the Senate Bill, which will probably be voted on early next week. Bowles predict the bill will proceed to the House floor.

"I think it will pass," Bowles said. "It's very reasonable and I can't imagine there will be any opposition." Wilkins' possible out-state residency had many people calling for his resignation last year after he was accused by Southern Illinois Hope members and some Illinois State Representatives of falsely constructing the idea that he lived in state.

Bowles, who initiated the bill, strongly states that trustees who live out of state cannot effectively execute their duties as trustees.

"It seems to me, someone who is no longer living in Illinois would not be competent to what is going on in Illinois with the University," Bowles said. "I find someone making important decisions for the University should be a resident of Illinois.

However, former Gov. Jim Edgar, who resigned as a Trustee in 1997, said last year he considers Wilkins a good board member, despite his out-of-state residency.

Edgar said that it did not bother him that Wilkins lived in Indiana, as long as he is doing his job as a trustee, according to Daily Egyptian archives.

Wilkins, a native of Wolfflake, is a licensed medical practitioner in Illinois, Missouri and Wisconsin.

He was first elected to the Board in 1979.

The Senate Indiana residency, coupled with his political affiliation, have combined forces to create a heated debate over Wilkins' status as a trustee.

In 1994, Wilkins resigned to vote in Culver, Ind., where he currently lives and answered Daily Egyptian phones calls earlier this week.

University to hire outside firm for president search

BOT and search take Horton's idea of hiring outside source
Andy Eugenes
Daily Egyptian reporter

The decision to hire an independent firm to take an expanded role in the search for SIUC's next president came from a resolution by the Board of Trustees and search committee members last week.

Recent for a proposal were finalized this week for firms interested in conducting the search.

David McCarthy, original consultant to the search committee, is no longer involved with the presidential search.

Scott Kizer, media relations director for the president's office, said the decision to hire an outside firm was "mutually agreed upon."
**CALENDAR**

**TODAY**
- Local students finding scholarly aid, 9 to 10 a.m., McHenry Library 1001, 453-2818.
- Astronomy Club meeting, 5 to 7 p.m., Science Center, Room 101.
- German Club meeting, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., Science Center, Room 245.

**FUNDRAISER**
- The Call of the Countries: Chorale 4 and Mediation: Thalab, 5 to 8 p.m., New York First Baptist Church, $5, for information call 557-0705.

**FUNDRAISER**
- The State of Illinois Arts Council, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., Michelle 453-1263.

**LOCATIONS**
- The Call of the Countries: Chorale 4 and Mediation: Thalab, 5 to 8 p.m., New York First Baptist Church, $5, for information call 557-0705.

**UPCOMING**
- Ballroom Dance Council meeting, dance lessons and practice session, every Mon., 7 to 8:30 p.m., Davies Gym. $15 student.
- Ballroom Dance Council meeting, dance lessons and practice session, every Sat., 1 to 2:30 p.m., Davies Gym. $20 student.
- Universal Illumination, 2 to 3 p.m., Davies Gym. $5 student.
- Universal Illumination, 2 to 3 p.m., Davies Gym. $5 student.
- Outdoor Adventure Club meeting, 2:15 p.m., Student Center, Room 146.

**ADORATION**
- University Career Services job interview workshop, 2:15 p.m., Davies Gym. $18 student.
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**TUESDAY**
- The newly organized Faculty Brass Quintet will give the University their first organized appearance, 2:15 p.m., Davies Gym.
- Ballroom Dance Council meeting, dance lessons and practice session, every Mon., 7 to 8:30 p.m., Davies Gym. $15 student.
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Goodwill comes to Carbondale

The Goodwill store opened Thursday morning at 701 E. Main St. in Carbondale. The store, which used to be located at low prices, opened Thursday morning.

Amy Smith of Carbondale looks at children's clothes for her newborn nephew with her two daughters Britni, right, and Kala Thursday afternoon at the Goodwill store at 701 E. Main St., Carbondale. The store, which used to sell garments at low prices, opened Thursday morning.

Ebony Ball not just another popularity contest

Organizations promote academics through event

Roshanna Ohmann
Student Affairs Editor

The Black Student Congress and Black Affairs Committee are organizing the gala, asking people to gather at 6:30 at the Carbondale Civic Center. This is the first time both organizations are sponsoring the event. In previous years, BAC sponsored the annual Black History Ball. The event will include dinner, dancing and the crowning of the first ever Ebony Ball Queen.

American students, to be able to have fun in a formal environment," said Alicia Cook, event coordinator for BTO.

Sweatshop debate opens eyes across campus

Group aims to see university look into production methods

Geoffrey Ritter
Daily Egyptian reporter

Upset about working conditions and low wages in international sweatshops, a budding SIUC organization is hoping to shed light on the issue and promote investigation into what it thinks is an old, new problem for SIUC.

Sierra Rojas, a senior in international studies and founder of the newly formed BAC chapter of United Students Against Sweatshops, said he and co-founder Dominika Smirnoffsky launched the idea of creating a local chapter of the national organization in January. According to the two, sweatshop conditions have been of an affect on the SIU community than most known or some will admit:

"I think a lot of people are blind to sweatshops," said Plakota, a senior in radio-television from Mount Prospect. We want to make it known that this will not be tolerated.

Research by the national USASVS organization indicates that a study funded by the High Times Foundation shows that 35% of the world's population is employed in sweatshops. The study also found that more than 50% of the world's population, 3.4 billion people, live in conditions of sweatshop slavery.

Two suspects arrested in dorm room theft

Two Carbondale men were arrested and another suspect is being sought on charges they stole a wallet and credit cards from a Schneider Hall room, police said Thursday.

Nikole Faret and James C. Rice-Locke, both 19, were charged with residential burglary for a Feb. 5 burglary on campus. Scott was also charged with possession of crack cocaine, police found the drugs in his possession.

The two men were taken to Jackson County Jail. Both were later released.

WEA invites two speakers to weekend conference

The Wildlife Education Association is planning a conference at Touch of Nature this weekend, with two keynote speakers.

David Scott will speak at 7 p.m. Friday. He plans to focus his keynote on the book "Prairie Coppers," which he edited and is currently on the market. The book is a collection of essays written by ecologists in the Canadian prairie for more than a year with no revenue from the outside world. He will speak of his time being a resolution to the USG prior to making those changes.

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The other keynote speaker of interest to students is Lute Gammelgaard, who will speak at 7 p.m. Saturday.

Graveyard, a Sandvikanese reinvention, was on tap Monday night at the Student Union. "Graveyard," which is the book that made the term "cabin fever" popular, was described as "a book that deals with the death and rebirth of a society as well as the rebirth of the world."

"Found in 1977, the associated arts group is a nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving, promoting and further conservation of nature. More than 150 people attended the event Wednesday night."

This is the second and final year of the conference will be held in Carbondale.

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Shryock Auditorium
Tomorrow at 3 pm

Half Price with Tickets

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Hollie Molenhour rehearses a musical comedy "Candide" Thursday night at Theleod Theater. About 25 actors involved in the "Candide" that poking fun at mindless philosophies while loading the audience with laughs.

**A candid look at 'Candide'**

Musical-comedy pokes fun at mindless philosophies while loading the audience with laughs

By: Burke Brackey
Daily Egyptian reporter

"W"hen you stop, you need to just get up there and mat it up," director Timothy Fink explained prior to auditions. "Now, I went to a lot of work trying things—trying to make sure that I used the effort, and I expect you to."

The 20 actors in tonight's musical comedy "Candide" stood at attention on stage in MacLeod Theater, ready to try again.

The cast begins to step bell out their lines..." And make our garden grow!" the cast sings, their pitch luxuriating to opera-like intensity as the music blares.

No, no, no. The director tells them to do it again. And again. And again.

Directed by assistant professor of music Timothy Fink and based on Voltaire's classic fable, "Candide" follows the often hilarious adventures of the young, bastard Candide and his extended family. It's a lighthearted romp, filled with humor, satirical insights and although it's in the 18th century setting, there are several 21st century slapstick.

The play tonight is MacLeod Theater at 8, but it's just the first of our performances.

It's now Tuesday, 7:30 p.m. Three days until opening night. The cast works further direction before the pressure rises. There's a woman who looks like a gypsy, a man who appears to be a pirate and an overweight man in drag.

After eight weeks of planning and countless hours, the play is almost reality. Well, reality on stage, anyway. An estimated cost of $15,000, put by Fink and the school of music, "Candide" is a must-see, satirical look at the disillusionment of following mindless philosophies.

To elaborate, Fink explains that each revolution, such as the social and industrial revolutions—brings other, different paths; the play is an effort to see the beach. After an exhausting week of working the lines, the cast is ready to try again."

Adapting the production is SJC alumni James Moody, who returns post-requests from students to design

JEN CANDESE, PAGE 4

**The Beach': a solid adventure film, nothing more**

Garland's novel comes to life in the visually stunning but thematically impaired film

**Movie Ratings**

Academic Affairs Editor

"Take the arts and entertainment reporters to a bad story—tell a related or important event, call the Daily Egyptian at 565-3231 or e-mail editor@deq.net

"Those who are worth the effort!"
The Beach
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

"I never walk into a job that's ever the same," Moody says of his production work, and there are some people that would think that snarky, but for us that's the job in all.

"Eccentric," the play continues with a lively musical number by Candide (Caleb Yarns), conducted by Bill McMillan, Waltons (Scott Gut) and Marianne (Elyon Ellis).

"Turn on your mix, Max," Fink yells at Eller, hoping the music will die. The error is fixed, and the productions resume. It flows well for the most part, with few scenes interrupted by minor stage infections including prop misplacements, ruined lines and the like. The production's liveliness, back in the world of Hollywood, Moody is director of photography for Wheel of Fortune and Jeopardy.

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WORKSHOP

Workshop opens door to market

By DAVID O'BRIEN

EMPLOYMENT SEMINAR OFFERS INSIDER TIPS ON LANDING PERFECT JOB

Talented professionals share their secrets, tips and tricks to help you land your dream job

Three of the key steps needed to find a job include drafting, a reasonable resume; knowing what your net worth, and correctly calculating the salary prospective employer can pay, according to one of the seminar's speakers. The presentations will be held at the first Professional Employment and Internship Seminar's Friday's, 7:30 a.m., at the Student Center Auditorium.

For Smith will present workshops designed to help college students get a good paying job with the federal government. The seminar's format will include a PowerPoint presentation and a question-and-answer session.

Kevin Smith, a graduate student in workforce education and development, has participated in the study for such companies as Microsoft, Hewlett-Packard, Kraft Foods and limit, as well as the federal government.

This seminar will include in the 60 attendees receiving the free pamphlets and surveys to be filled out by the audience and a resume to be given to Smith at the workshop. The students are asked to fill out a resume that reads the resume and assigns a resume to each group of students. Smith said the students are the "chop shop." The resume is then typed on a computer and Smith then prints a printed copy of the resume and saves it to his computer. Smith also uses the computer to make this job easier for his students.

Smith said his current job is teaching at the University of Illinois and currently teaching at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Smith said he is teaching a class at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Smith said he is teaching a class at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Smith said he is teaching a class at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Smith said he is teaching a class at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Smith said he is teaching a class at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Smith said he is teaching a class at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Smith said he is teaching a class at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Smith said he is teaching a class at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Smith said he is teaching a class at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Smith said he is teaching a class at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. 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Goodwill
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

"An immediate benefit to the local community is that they can come in and shop at these prices," Spangler said. "Children's clothing is from $1 to $5—that's an immediate savings." President of Goodwill Industries Larry Nemer thought Carbondale would be the best location to open the store.

"We were told to know that this is their store," he said.

The opening of the new store in Carbondale also creates more job opportunities for the community, she said. Spangler helped hire Steve Middleten, one of the several college students working at the store. Middleten, a sophomore in engineering at the store, enjoys shopping at Goodwills, appreciates that his full-time job helps a good cause.

"More than 35 people, including Paul Kraatz, showed up for the store's grand opening. Kraatz, a sophomore in civil engineering from Johnson, spent Thursday morning browsing through some of the clothes at the Goodwill store. Kraatz said the store is well-suited to the needs of the city.

"There are a lot of people in the area that use less formal, and college students are always looking for cheap deals," Kraatz said.

Carbondale Mayor Tom LaBran was one of several community leaders who welcomed Goodwill Industries to Carbondale. "People remember the name Goodwill," Diel said. "I think it will be a very popular store."

 Ebony
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

Cook, a graduate student in media management from Carbondale, said the FTC wants to promote the academic strengths of African-American students. Most major companies are going to nanow in education and population segments, she said.

"We saw a need on this campus to focus African-American aims and success," Cook said. "It was a move to academic standing as well as our involvement with campus activities that expands to the African-American population."

President Archygrad, advisor to the FTC, said the lab is also an opportunity for the two historic African-American student organizations to work together.

"This is like a foundation to ensure unity among the black student organizations," Archy said. "I think it was about time for money to take a step to help the student population on campus."

Shelia Yells, a sophomore in elementary education from Chicago, is one of the consultants for the FTC. She said she wants to be green in order to promote a positive image for African-American students. "I decided to be a consultant because there was nothing else on campus like it," Yells said. "It's a positive event and you show other people that you can do something, and they have to do it if they want to do it.""}

Avdell Williams, assistant coordinator for the Black Student Council, said all students will be needed positive role model for the course.

"It's open for all that are interested in coming," she said. "It's not just for African-American students, but to anyone in the Carbondale community who would like to work on their activities on campus."
When the blind lead the blind

Jennifer Wlo
Daily Egyptian reporter

Lisa Belville finds it ironic that she is the newest student in a lecture hall with new students with disabilities.

Belville, who is visually impaired, was not born with the affliction, but she would rather have a choice about being blind because it is no longer important to her.

"That's the past, this is the present," Belville said. "It's easier to go with the present and the future, and that future is bright.

Belville, 29, graduated from SIUC in December with a bachelor's degree in English. She is currently working on a master's degree in education. While she focuses primarily on helping other disabled students, although Belville claims she is not a teacher, and help her actions with a different story.

Belville wants SIUC's Disability Support Services in the fall she attended the University and now works as a note-taker for a few hours, four days a week. She is paid minimum wage but said she helps her on her other jobs.

"I know what it's like to be a class and I want to be able to get the information," Belville said. "I keep my notetaking and typing skills up-to-date, so it's a useful skill.

Belville takes notes for one SIUC class on a wireless called a 'Type N' or 'voice note-taker' which connects to a computer. She sends the notes to two students who need them.

Belville is passionate about teaching students with disabilities to use new technology.

Belville speaks with the commonality of her disability and how to overcome obstacles. She has spoken at John A. Logan Community College and in the science education classes at SIUC. Belville has even served on committees to move SIUC to the surrounding community more convenient to students with disabilities.

"There's actually a lot of accessibility issues on campus that need to address that involve the community and we need to do better," Belville said. "It's slowly but surely happening."

Because of Belville's work, Kathleen Flenos, director of DSS, said Belville should be considered a role model to students with disabilities.

"I think she's a role model for the public because of what she's done in the past.

"I think she's a role model to other disabled students," Flenos said. "I think she will show them that with her abilities, she can move people."

Belville was surprised to hear she was considered as a role model.

"I had no idea it was like that," Belville said. "I think it's something that I didn't necessarily think about.

"I think it's something that is important to do. I think it's something that I think is important to do."

Belville plans to start a second job this fall, but she said she will continue to help students with disabilities after the semester ends.

"I think it's something that I think is important to do. I think it's something that I think is important to do."

Belville, who is visually impaired, said "It's slowly but surely happening."
Proposed institute to help prevent and treat cancer in Southern and Central Illinois

Andrew Donaldson & Anne Marie Taylor

More than $50,000,000 Americans are expected to die of cancer this year according to the American Cancer Society. This is about 1,500,000 people dying every day. According to the School of Medicine and SIU Physicians & Surgeons, 45,000 citizens of down state Illinois will die of cancer this year.

The board was part of the proposal for the SIU Cancer Institute to be located in Springfield. The proposal for the institute was approved by the SIU Board of Trustees, Feb. 10.

The proposed SIU Cancer Institute will be used for continuing education already being done at the School of Medicine, it will also add diagnosis to treatment options at Central and Southern Illinois, said Dr. Edward Moticka, a	

temporary dean for research and facility affairs at the School of Medicine. Moticka said the SIU School of Medicine first began discussing the idea of the SIU Cancer Institute with members of the SIU School of Medicine and St. John's Hospital.

"We looked at what we could do in the in a debris to treat cancer in Southern Illinois and Coogal Illinois," Moticka said.

There is a lot of research being done on cancer therapy and the group wants to make sure these new treatments available to the region, Moticka said.

The cancer institute will be a cooperative program between the school of medicine and the Medical Center and St. John's Hospital.

"The board looked at the number of cancer cases and the availability of treatment and members in this part of the state do not get the same treatment as people in the upper half of the state," Moticka said.

In Illinois, there are only two National Cancer Institutes, and both are in Chicago, said David Tkachc, chief executive officer of the Greek Judicial Council and excluding members of the Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity.

"It's clear that evidence outside of Chicago don't get the same kind of treatment," Tkachc said. "They don't have the same kind of access.

The group is looking to build outreach clinics in Carbondale and other Southern and Central Illinois communities in the future.

"It will not be just for Springfield," Tkachc said.

As estimated, the institute will require more than $9.2 million in research and $1.2 million in operating funds for SIU to seek funding from federal sources and from state appropriations from the State of Illinois Tobacco Settlement Fund.

Moticka said they plan to apply for a grant from the National Cancer Institute.

The development of the cancer institute is divided into three phases. The first phase consists of hiring research scientists, physician faculty and staff, and finding a location. Continuing organization and operation of the institute for participation in National Cancer Institute research will be done in the second phase. The final stage of the process will complete facility and staff environment and the regional community outreach.

Moticka said the institute will have a significant effect not only on cancer sufferers, but also on the region.

"It will be a major boon to Central and Southern Illinois population," Moticka said. "It'll put our name on the map, and attract better faculty."
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Irish coach apologizes for student behavior against UConn

Dobert sends UConn's El-Amin a letter on behalf of Notre Dame's students

STORRS, Conn. (TMS) — Notre Dame's basketball coach Mike D'Antoni sent a letter of apology for the Irish fans' behavior toward the Notre Dame students.

The incident occurred during the game against St. John's, when the UConn fans chanted derisive slogans towards the Notre Dame players.

D'Antoni wrote in the letter that he was appalled by the behavior of his fans and that he would take steps to ensure that such behavior does not happen again.

In the letter, D'Antoni apologized to the Notre Dame students and expressed his regret for the incident.

The Notre Dame students had been targeted by the UConn fans, who had been taunting them with racist remarks.

D'Antoni's letter was well-received by the Notre Dame community, who praised him for his action.
**Softball: Salukis invade the South**

The Kerri Blaylock era begins today at the Mardi Gras Classic in Louisiana.

**Corey Curran  
Daily Egyptian Reporter**

While pitching is the Saluki softball team's strength, junior pitcher/designated hitter Erin Stremstifer believes the Saluki offense may be the surprising ingredient that steers them to the next level this season.

The Saluki pitching staff returns all three of its pitchers from last season and added hardened freshman pitcher Marta Viehaus, who is fully solid and that led the Missouri Valley Conference in ERA (1.39) but lost two games to Jacksonville State.

However, it was Stremstifer who was the downfall, as SIU hit a meager .248 last season. Stremstifer was the only Saluki to bat over .300, pouring in a .306 mark.

But things can change, especially when the Saluki hitters have to take batting practice against their daunting pitching staff day in and day out.

"He has bat looking really good lately," said Stremstifer, who led the team with a 1.35 ERA and posted a 15-9 record last year. "Everyone has only shown when they can take lumps in practice against us."

This year, however, the Salukis will have a chance to prove how far their offense has come today through Sunday as they open the spring season at the Mardi Gras Classic in Monroe, La.

The Salukis, seeded as the preseason No. 22 in the MVC behind Illinois State University by only one point, will face the nation's top-five teams, including nationally ranked five-year head coach Kent Blaylock with a successful start to her head coaching career.

"The Classic is setup in a round robin format No. 1 through No. 5, so we're going into the South Florida series, will also be a couple of really good team in the country, while the University of Missouri is expected to hit for more power with an MVP and 'B' pool and four teams in each pool. The Salukis are in pool 'B' with the University of Southern Missouri, the University of Tennessee-Martin, and Sam Houston State University.

After the Salukis play through the round robin portion of the tournament there will be championship play among the two pools based on their record after pool play.

"The Classic will be good because we're going to be real competitive with a lot of the teams," Blaylock said. "There will be a couple teams that are the cream of the crop, but we're going to prove what we're capable of doing.

Southern Mississippi, which the Salukis play Saturday morning, is the team to beat in the country, while the University of Wisconsin and Louisiana Tech University of pool "A" are two premier teams.

SIU is at a slight disadvantage because this will be its first games of the season, while most of the teams in the Classic have a couple games under their belts already.

However Stremstifer, one of the only SIU players who will see infield action along with senior pitcher Carson Winters and junior center fielder Martin Viehmann, Roncalli said the Salukis will not have any early-season jitters.

"We want to start the year off right and dominate," Roncalli said. "We want to go down there and show everybody that we're a good team.""
Freshman forward Jermaine Deanman attempts a basket over the hands of a Northern Iowa defender.

**Unguarded loss**

**Lack of depth in guard rotation causes SIU women's basketball loss**

**Christine Bolin**

*Daily Egyptian Reporter*

All it took for Drake University to secure a win against the SIU women's basketball team was about four minutes.

With nine minutes left in Thursday night's 71-51 loss against the Bulldogs (16-5, 11-2), Saluki freshman guard LaToya Graves reduced the lead to nine.

But the single-digit deficit did not last long for SIU (6-17, 3-11).

With four minutes left, Drake guard Kristin Sinta and forward Erin Richards hit back-to-back three-pointers, turning a 21-point lead into a 14-point advantage.

The Salukis take their fourth game in a row against the Bulldogs, who broke a season-high 13 points and four boards down the bench.

"I felt like we really had a chance to take the whole game to get back in it and make something of it," head coach Julie Beck said in her post-game radio show. "We played as hard as we could tonight."

For the Salukis, junior forward Terin Hathaway had a game-high 16 points and 10 rebounds.

The SIU women's basketball team takes on Creighton University Saturday in Carbondale. Tipoff is at 3:00 p.m.

**Day one ends well for SIU**

**Women lead, men in second after first day of tourney**

**Javier Serna**

*Daily Egyptian Reporter*

SIU men's and women's swimming teams both got off to a good start in day one of the Missouri Valley Conference Swimming and Diving Championships in the Recreation Center Thursday.

The men's team, which is in second place after six events, broke three MVC records, starting out with Chrysanthos Papacharysanthos' time of 20.15 in the 50 freestyle, starting an 18-year-old record.

The Salukis went on to break MVC records in the 200 freestyle relay squad and the 400 medley.

The women Salukis experienced just as much success, finishing the day in first place and in addition to breaking the MVC record in the 50 freestyle, winning the 200 medley relay.

Day two of the MVC championship continues today, with the preliminaries starting at 11 a.m. and the finals at 6 p.m. in the Recreation Center.

**Ugly win beautiful for SIU**

Salukis survive poor shooting to beat Northern Iowa to move within one game of first in Valley

**Jay Schramm**

*Sports Editor*

Pretty, no.

But then again, basketball games are rarely compared to beauty contests and they don't hand out Missouri Valley Conference championships based on style points.

So the 51-46 win by the SIU men's basketball team over the University of Northern Iowa Thursday night at the SIU Arena was pretty satisfying to the 4,260 fans who braved a wet night in Southern Illinois to watch the Salukis climb within one game of Indiana State. Unlikely for first-place SIU.

With the win, SIU (16-9, 10-4 MVC) has won four straight and swept its three-game homestand.

However, the Salukis faced a stiff challenge Saturday at red-hot Creighton before hosting Indiana State in a possible battle for first-place next weekend.

Although the Salukis could never break the game open, SIU head coach Bruce Weber took solace in the outstanding rebounding and defense his team showed.

"I thought our guys had a lot of discipline," Weber said. "We gave them very few free looks. It wasn't pretty but it was a big win for us."

"Our whole theme coming into this homestand was taking care of business, and they did it in Northern Iowa (12-12, 5-9 MVC) hasn't won since a Feb. 3 defeat of the Salukis in Cedar Falls, Iowa, but could do SIU a favor if it can pull a shocker at Indiana State Saturday. The Panthers lost their fourth straight, as UNI shot a miserable 35 percent from the floor and 4-of-19 from behind the three-point arc.

"I thought we had some good looks from three in the first half and we couldn't get those down," Panther head coach Tom Crean said. "The opportunities were there, but overall I give a lot of credit to SIU."

A Joe Breakenridge bank-shot with 34 seconds left cut SIU's lead to 51-46, but the Panthers wouldn't get any closer.

Martin Coon led UNI with 13 points and Austin Midendorf scored 11. Panther star Robbie Sieveding was limited to four points on 2-of-11 shooting.

The first half was plain ugly. After Weber called a timeout to design a play at the end of the half, sloppy SIU half-handling left Kent Williams forced to throw up an off-balance three-pointer at the buzzer. It went in, giving the Salukis an improbable 27-17 halftime lead.

Kyle Collum was the only Saluki in double figures with 10 points. Three other Salukis — Williams, DeRICK Tilmon and Jermaine Deanman — added eight points to SIU's cause.

Tilmon also recorded a key block on a driving Sieveding when it was 47-41 SIU. Tilmon and the rest of the Salukis are feeling good about themselves going into the big game against Creighton, which beat SIU at the Arena Jan. 8.

"When you lose to somebody you never forget that," Tilmon said. "The game Saturday is a big game for us. We've just got to come out and play good defense, fake off of that and try to keep this thing going like we want it to."