Nature’s drainpipe

TIFANY BLANCHETTE | DAILY EGYPTIAN

Agriculture professor Karen Midden explains the purpose of the rain garden located east of the Agriculture Building during the building’s Earth Day open-house tours. The rain garden, which was funded by the Green Fund, was installed in October 2012 to capture water and replenish surrounding soil while preventing flooding, said Nick Ouellette, a graduate student in horticultural science. Ouellette, who wrote the Green Fund project proposal, said rain gardens are an important answer to urban flooding problems, as they redirect water from sewers to purify plants. “The main purpose is to capture water and replenish surrounding soil while preventing flooding,” said Nick Ouellette, a graduate student in horticultural science. Ouellette, who wrote the Green Fund project proposal, said rain gardens are an important answer to urban flooding problems, as they redirect water from sewers to purify plants.

Conversion therapy causes controversy

JESSICA WETTIG MILES | DAILY EGYPTIAN

“Therapy to change a person’s sexual identity may soon be regulated throughout a new California law.”

The question of whether gay conversion therapy — a kind of therapy designed to change a person’s sexuality, typically from gay to straight — violates the First Amendment, particularly freedom of speech, reached a San Francisco appeals court Wednesday. The bill concerns individuals who are younger than 18, indentifying as homosexual, and would prevent his or her guardian from being able to place him or her in such therapy.

This therapy is implemented by parents who attempt to change their child’s sexuality. Law advocates say conversion could be detrimental to a person’s mental health because it enforces the message that something is wrong with a person. Students and staff from different campus organizations said the law brings the nation one step closer to recognizing that homosexuals should be accepted rather than fixed.

Wyatt Humrichous, an LGBTQ Resource Center worker and sophomore from Christian studying political science, said many of the questions that surround the policy concern whether it can be state regulated.

Humrichous said he supports the bill because he doesn’t think minors should be forced into conversion therapy. The therapy process is very harmful for individuals, especially during adolescence, he said.

“A person’s sexuality isn’t something that can be removed, but rather a complicated part of who they are,” Humrichous said. “I feel like I was gay from the moment I was born,” he said.

Humrichous said his sexual orientation became more apparent to him and developed as he grew up. His parents had their issues and concerns individuals who are younger than 18 would no longer be forced into conversion therapy.

Sarah Self, an LGBTQ Resource Center worker and graduate student in social work from Lafayette, La., said she became aware of her transgender identity around the age of 11. Attempts for social control through conversion therapy, however, can be very harmful to the individual, she said.

“If this was for anything else (besides sexual identity), it wouldn’t be legal,” she said.

Self said the law should have been implemented sooner. While resources center workers agreed conversion therapy should be illegal, several organization heads said the therapy has already been banned in their fields.

Social work professor Laura Drenth Zeman said social workers are not supposed to practice anything the National Association of Social Workers says isn’t within the profession’s boundaries, and that includes conversion therapy. If a parent wants to put a child in therapy under any circumstance and the child doesn’t want it, she said, social workers should respect the rights and desires of the individual regardless of age.

“The profession isn’t about social control,” Zeman said. “It’s about respecting the individual’s rights — respecting the life that they want to have.”

Zeman said the association issued a position statement in 2000 stating social workers would not practice conversion therapy. A social worker who violates these boundaries would cause malpractice liability issues, she said.

She said social workers are also required to report parents who come to them searching for help, which is an action defined as a type of abuse. Zeman said the therapy could cause mental issues comparable to sexual trauma. Because the therapist would cause the trauma, she said, a new alliance with a therapist to heal the resulting problems would be nearly impossible to create.

The child’s parental bond would also be compromised — a fundamental relationship for any individual, she said.

“It’s hard enough to be a gay adult in a lot of America,” she said. “We should try to do as much as we can to foster a nurturing environment between a parent and a child, even if a parent can’t come around and accept them now.”

Conversion therapy to change a person’s sexual identity may soon be regulated throughout a new California law.

Project seeks plausible way Great Pyramids were built

TARA KULASH | DAILY EGYPTIAN

The alien theory may be debunked. Steve Blakely, a mechanical engineer from St. Louis, could soon be the first person to provide a conceivable method the Egyptians could have used to build the Great Pyramids. It has been a long mystery to the modern world how the ancient civilization had the technology to lift 5,000-pound stones for its pyramids; one popular theory even suggests space aliens helped with construction.

Yet, Blakely said he’s determined to convince the first person to provide a conceivable method the Egyptians could have used to build the Great Pyramids. It has been a long mystery to the modern world how the ancient civilization had the technology to lift 5,000-pound stones for its pyramids; one popular theory even suggests space aliens helped with construction.

Steve Blakely recruited his nephew, Greg Blakely, of Anna, for the project, since Greg has a tractor and hill on his property. Blakely recruited his nephew, Greg Blakely, of Anna, for the project, since Greg has a tractor and hill on his property.

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The Weather Channel® 5 day weather forecast for Carbondale

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The Daily Egyptian is published by the students of Southern Illinois University Carbondale 50 weeks per year, with an average daily circulation of 15,000. Fall and spring semester editions run Monday through Thursday. Summer editions run Tuesday through Thursday. All intersession editions will run on Wednesdays. Free copies are distributed in the Carbondale and Carterville communities. The Daily Egyptian online publication can be found at www.dailyegyptian.com.

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.

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China rushes relief after Sichuan quake kills 180

GILLIAN WONG
Associated Press

YAAN, China — Rescuers and relief teams struggled to rush supplies into the rural hills of China’s Sichuan province Sunday after an earthquake killed 180 people and injured more than 11,000 injured and prompted frightened survivors to spend a night in cars, tents and makeshift shelters.

The earthquake Saturday morning triggered landslides that cut off roads and disrupted phone and power connections in mountainous Lushan county in Sichuan’s Yaan city area, which is further south on the same fault line where a devastating quake wreaked widespread damage across the region five years ago.

Hardest hit were villages furthest up the valleys, where farmers grow rice, vegetables and corn on terraced plots. Rescuers hiked into neighboring Baoxing county after its roads were cut off, reaching it overnight, state media reported. In Longmen village, authorities said nearly all the buildings had been destroyed in a frightening minute-long-shaking by the quake.

In the fog-covered town of Shuangliu, county farmer Zheng Xianlan said Sunday that she had rushed from the fields back to her home when the quake struck, and cried when she saw that the roof collapsed. She then spent the night outdoors on a woven sofa using a plastic raincoat for cover.

“We don’t earn much money. We don’t know what we will do now,” said 58-year-old Zheng, her eyes welling with tears. “The government only brought one tent for the whole village so far, but that’s not enough for us.”

Along the main roads, ambulances, fire engines and military trucks piled high with supplies waited in long lines, some turning back to try other routes when roads were impassable. Rescuers were forced to dynamite boulders that had fallen across roads, and rains Saturday night slowed rescue work, state media reported.

At the farming village of Longquann, where all the houses were damaged and some destroyed in the community of about 300 people, rescuers had arrived to collect the bodies of three dead, but had not yet provided other services as of Sunday midday, villagers said. Yang Shanqing, 37, said his father, brother and nephew were killed when their house collapsed.

“Now we don’t have any drinking water or power,” Longquann village Yang Yiyun, 58, told The Associated Press. “All we can do is wait for the government to come and help us out.”

Chinese Premier Li Keqiang had arrived Saturday afternoon by helicopter in Yaan to direct rescue efforts, the government’s official Xinhua News Agency reported.

“The current priority is to save lives,” Li said, after visiting hospitals, tents and climbing on a pile of rubble to view the devastation, according to Xinhua.

Xinhua, citing the Sichuan province emergency command center, said at least 180 people were killed and 11,227 injured.

The quake — measured by China’s earthquake administration at magnitude 7.0 and by the U.S. Geological Survey at 6.6 — struck shortly after 8 a.m. Saturday, when many people were at home, sleeping or having breakfast.

Tens of thousands of people moved into tents or cars, unable to return home or too afraid to go back as aftershocks continued to jolt the region. In Ya’an, residents sat in groups outside convenience stores watching the news on television sets early Sunday.

In most natural disasters, the government mobilized thousands of soldiers and others, sending excavators and other heavy machinery as well as tents, blankets and other emergency supplies. Too soldiers died after their vehicle slide off a road and rolled down a cliff, state media reported.

The Chinese Red Cross said it had deployed relief teams with supplies of food, water, medicine and rescue equipment to the disaster area.

Lushan, where the quake struck, lies where the fertile Sichuan plain meets foothills that eventually rise to the Tibetan plateau and sit atop the Longmenshan fault. It was along the same fault line that a devastating magnitude-7.9 quake struck on May 12, 2008, leaving more than 90,000 people dead or missing and presumed dead in one of the worst natural disasters to strike China in recent decades.

“It was just like May 12,” Liu Xi, a writer in Yaan city, said in a private message on his account on the Twitter-like Weibo service. “All the home decorations fell at once, and the old house cracked.”

The official Xinhua News Agency said the well-known Bifengxia panda preserve, which is near Lushan, was not affected by the quake. Dozens of pandas were moved to Bifengxia from another preserve, Wolong, after its habitat was wrecked by the 2008 quake.

PYRAMID CONTAINED FROM 1

The initial idea was to build what Greg Blakely called a rope-ramp. He said his uncle wanted to create a ramp to move the stones up the pyramid’s side using a rope. After initial testing, though, the two ran across the problem of how to minimize rope damage.

“They got Steve thinking about it more, and then Steve just thought, well, okay, I can get into the Egyptian Pulley,” he said.

Steve Blakely said he came up with the Egyptian Pulley about three years ago, and that’s when the project blossomed.

“The more I thought about it, I realized it was better than my original idea because it’s so simple and it works,” he said.

Steve Blakely, a 1969 University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign engineering graduate, said he had the idea to sponsor a senior thesis project for his research. A group of U of I students tested to see how durable the pulley would be and if it could pull the weight. Steve Blakely said he was fairly confident the tests would work but believed the students could give him more objective results.

The students included Gabe Gaeta from Naperville, Niall Jazmoun from South Holland, Caleb Gray from Hamilton and Yi-An Liu from Taiwan, all seniors in mechanical engineering.

Gray said he took interest in the project because of its ties to ancient Egypt and its private sponsorship, a trait many other senior projects don’t have because of company sponsorships.

Gaeta said he urged the private sponsorship set the project apart.

“It’s not driven by us trying to get results that will maximize profits for a company,” he said. “It’s just us trying to take a look at a problem that’s been around for thousands of years that still remains really controversial.”

The group began its project in January and tested it April 15. They presented their results in class April 30. Steve Blakely said he and his nephew plan to attend the presentation.

The Blakelys’ next step is to build a pyramid section at a 52-degree angle at Greg Blakely’s home in Anna, he said. Steve Blakely said it would probably be about the size of a house’s foundation. It will lie against the hill’s side, he said, with the Egyptian Pulley at the top-pushing the weight. Steve Blakely said he hopes to have it completed by the end of the summer.

After the successful demonstrations the Blakelys and U of I students completed, Steve Blakely said he will be the only person to have described in engineering detail and demonstrated full scale a plausible way the Great Pyramid stones were lifted.

“If I could solve this thing, it’s more of an ego thing than a money thing,” he said. “What I’m after is to convince the public of the plausibility of this.”

As far as making history, Gray said he thinks it’s possible with further development.

“There’s a lot of other layers to this solution that will have to be worked out before this could go a lot further,” he said.

Gaeta said there are many different theories that have been pursued by others, so Steve Blakely’s success depends on whether he continues to look at ancient Egyptian technology challenges and if his findings can be explained.

“Eventually, just like any kind of theory, if it withstands all the criticism it will get it continues to be fine-tuned so there’s less and less flaws or limitations with the idea, then I can see it becoming a credible theory,” he said.

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PROVIDED PHOTO

PAGE 3
Scoping out the sun

Bob Baer, a physics department staff member, sets up the Coronado Solarmax II 90 telescope Monday on the Neckers Building’s roof deck for the semester’s last public astronomy observation. Physics lecturer April Hendley said she has attended most of the observations since she came to the university in 2011. “It’s a neat experience, and we even have a place to put your phone or digital camera to take photos through the telescope,” Hendley said.

Drop in gas prices benefits US drivers, economy

NEW YORK — A sharp decline in the price of oil this month is making gasoline cheaper at a time of year when it typically gets more expensive. It’s a relief to motorists and business owners and a positive development for the economy.

Over the past three weeks, the price of oil has fallen by 9 percent to $89 a barrel. That has helped extend a slide in gasoline prices that began in late February. Nationwide, average retail prices have fallen by 27 cents per gallon, or 7 percent, since Feb. 27, to $3.52 per gallon. Analysts say pump prices could fall another 20 cents over the next two months.
On the men’s side of the field competition, SIU sophomore thrower Bradley Sauer threw 59.20 meters in the men’s hammer throw final to place second. Sauer was just three inches short of taking his first hammer title of his career. Behind Sauer in the hammer throw was sophomore Curtis Wideman, who placed third with a 57.31 meter toss and junior Brian Cooper who threw the hammer 55.95 meters and placed fifth overall.

In the triple jump competition, SIU junior jumper Dougie Palacios placed second in the finals after he posted a 14.88-meter jump to fall just .18 meters behind winner Wayne Northover, a sophomore jumper from Cloud County Community College.

The Salukis travel Friday to compete in the Drake Relays in Des Moines, Iowa.

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Jack Robinson can be reached at jack.robinson@dailyegyptian.com or 536-3311 ext. 282.

### MVC women’s golf standings

The Saluki’s finished day two of the Missouri Valley Conference Championship at Sunrise Beach, Mo. yesterday. They were just one stroke out of first place behind Wichita State after day one. Unexpected, weather played a factor in the team’s tournament score. Monday’s weather was a sunny 74 degrees, and golfers responded well in the conditions. This is the Dawgs’ standing going into the final day of the tournament.

#### Player Leader Board

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### Team Leader Board

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Pick up the Daily Egyptian each day to test your crossword skills.
The Saluki track and field teams took home two titles and three runner-ups from the Kansas Relays to add to the Salukis’ impressive outdoor season.

The Kansas Relays, one of the outdoor season’s premier meets, featured several ranked teams, including Nebraska — which holds the country’s No. 20 men’s team and the No. 22 women’s team — and Kansas, who boasts the country’s No. 1 women’s track and field team.

SIU held its own during the Thursday-Sunday meet and won two events the third day, including senior distance runner Lucas Cherry’s fourth career in the 1600-meter run, with a time of 4:24.80. The Salukis also won two events in the second day, which included junior thrower Kim Fortney placing second in the women’s discus throw and the women’s 4x400-meter relay claiming second place.

“I just think we let it slip away a little bit,” Blaylock said. “I wish it wouldn’t have gotten so far with a couple of defensive mistakes.”

SIU bounced back in game two after a tough extra-innings loss in game one to defeat the Bluejays 6-1. “You’ve got to give the kids a lot of credit for sticking in there, hitting the ball hard and coming up with a huge win in the second game,” Blaylock said.

SIU used a five-run fifth inning and strong pitching performances from sophomore pitchers Alyssa Wunderlich and Kacie Bertelsen to claim Saturday’s second game. Wunderlich (7-9) nabbed the win after she allowed one run on three hits with five strikeouts and three walks in 2.2 innings.

“Except for one inning, Bertie threw by far the best game she has all season,” Blaylock said. “I thought she got careful. She wanted to throw strikes and get out of the game, instead of sticking with her plan.”

SIU picked up seven hits in the game, but no Saluki recorded multiple hits.

“Wunderlich allowed no runs on two hits, two walks and two strikeouts in 7.2 innings. “I could have done much better.”

Sophomore outfielder Meredith Wilson went 3-4 with two RBIs to lead the Saluki offense, and senior outfielder Morgan Wunderlich went 3-5 with two runs scored and sophomore outfielder Kalyn Harker went 2-4 with a run scored.

In Sunday’s series finale, Creighton shut out SIU 5-0 to pick up the series win. The Salukis recorded just three hits against Creighton’s ace pitcher, junior Becca Changstrom, and just one Saluki made it to third base the entire game.

“I thought Changstrom did a good job against us today,” Blaylock said. “We had trouble making adjustments against her.”

The Bluejays scored one run in the second inning and the third inning to push out an early 4-0 lead and put the game away. Lang (10-12) took the loss and allowed three runs on five hits with three strikeouts in 2.1 innings.

“I just think we let it slip away a little bit,” Blaylock said. “I wish it wouldn’t have gotten so far with a couple of defensive mistakes.”

The Salukis will be back in action today as SIU hosts Evansville, at Charlotte West Stadium.