Beyond fun & games

**Engineering Expo gives students chance to experience engineering first hand**

Mark Lambird
Daily Egyptian

I was 10 years old. Paper airplanes littered the room, and diving seagulls scattered wildly on the floor like a game of pick-up sticks. Nothing seemed to hint at the educational nature of what was about to happen. We were part of the annual Engineering Expo hosted by the College of Engineering as part of National Engineers Week, which allows high school students to experience the field of engineering first-hand. Throughout the day, more than 400 students who attended were able to participate in hands-on activities and tours through the Engineering Building.

The six events included a paper airplane contest, using a robotic arm to put a peg into a hole, using a remote-controlled front loader to load a boulder onto a truck, building a house of cards and the ever-popular egg drop challenge.

Jermaine Nelson, chair of the department of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE), said the individual events were designed to give a taste of what engineering can be.

"Using these games we can test their ability and see how innovative the students are," Nelson said.

Nelson directed the airplane design contest. Each student passing through the stations had to build an airplane and then threw it in 10 feet of water to see how far it traveled.

To help them along, Nelson had a sheet from the IEEE that gave a design to build a plane on it.

"If they could tell me something about engineering, I could help them out," Nelson said.

See **ENGINEERING**, page 12

Ryan calls for school funding increase

Inches available by slashing current grant programs

Brenda Bonsdorff
Daily Egyptian

Gov. George Ryan called for an increase in state funding to public schools Wednesday because the state's foundation level to $5,000 per student.

The proposed increase is part of a $52.8 billion Fiscal Year 2003 Budget that includes funding for Education, Workforce Training, Human Services, Public Safety and Homeland Security.

"If no state budget for next year is going to present us with a tough challenge because of the economic downturn," Ryan said in a statement.

Under his plan, the increase will be made possible by eliminating 22 current grant programs in the State Department of Education and allocating those funds to various school districts.

Carbondale Elementary School

Mark Radak, an engineering graduate student from Tamaroa, measures how much weight a straw construction can hold. High school students participated in competitions during an expo held by the College of Engineering.

Mark Radak, Daily Egyptian

"Carbondale minister leaves legacy behind"

Rev. Sumner's work as community leader and minister lives on

Ben Bobkin
Daily Egyptian

If friends and family members of the Rev. Lloyd Sumner are asked where he left behind in Carbondale before he passed away, a multitude of different answers will be given.

Members of the Baptist church he served will speak of the choir and live radio program he started. Area college will cite the bond he served on, Carbondale's City Council, and his years as president of the local chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. And one city commissioner will recall the encouragement he received from him during his first attempt at planning a new batch on the Carbondale City Council.

Sumner left behind a legacy in Carbondale after being in the community from 1961 until his death on Oct. 5, 2000. He served as pastor of Olivet First and Will Baptist Church, as a local activist for civil rights and as a worker for the Illinois Department of Labor.

Although his church parishioners can no longer hear his deep, resonating sermon, and community members must now turn to others when racial tensions arise, school children still eat in the kindergarten program he started, and the Board of Fire and Police Commissioners he helped found continues to address the interests of citizens.

Despite Sumner's deep ties to Carbondale, his story began in Brooklyn, Ill., a neighborhood in East St. Louis where he was raised by grandparents after the early death of his mother. He began his ministry in East St. Louis, on an 18-year old before coming to serve Olivet and Will Baptist Church in 1961 at the age of 29, the youngest pastor in the church history.

Edna Mason, a lifelong member of the congregation, fondly remembers her former pastor.

"He was a person who would help anybody in trouble," she said.

Sumner also started a live radio program in 1970 that broadcast a worship service for years on WRNB AM 1420, something not seen today by any other black churches south of St. Louis or north of St. Louis.

Sumner resigned from his ministerial position in 1976, but continued preaching as a guest speaker. Although he was not a full time minister, he continued to serve Carbondale in a variety of positions.

Sumner served as president of the local NAACP chapter from 1991 to 1993, a time during which the membership doubled. After leaving the presidential post, he stayed active in the organization.

When speaking at a 1997 NAACP break

fast in honor of Martin Luther King Jr, Sumner stressed the need for black people to continue traveling the road to equality.

"We marched too long, prayed too hard, spent too little, but too powerfully and died too young to let anybody turn back the clock on our journey to equality and justice," he said in a taped tape from the event.

He also admonished his audience to practice conservatism family values.

"There is no virtue in bragging on' 'us about trips to St. Louis with his wife. "It was just one of those fast-moving days," she said. "We always had fun. We had many beautiful memories."

"Vernola, who now lives in Arizona, said her life would never be the same without her husband. "It was a happy man. She is married to her husband's love for his fellow man."

"He was a people person," she said. "He died looking at the sky and smiling, looking up to God and saying, 'I'm going to be with the Lord.'"

See **SUMNER**, page 12
Texas execution delayed amid charges of biased jury selection

UNION COUNTY, Texas — A black man who contends prosecutors deliberately kept blacks off the jury that convicted him in 1996 in the beating death of a 5-year-old white girl was granted a stay of execution Wednesday by the U.S. Supreme Court.

Justice Antonin Scalia, writing for the Supreme Court, said the prisoner Wednesday for Thomas Miller-El, whose case could be used by the "Supreme Court to establish a new standard for selecting a fully representative or non-discretionary" jury.

Disqualification in the selection of a jury is not a "technical" issue, the court said. Miller-El was convicted and sentenced to death for the 1996 beating death of 5-year-old Danica Saed. Miller-El's lawyer argued there was a "long-standing history of disqualification policy among Dallas County prosecutors. Texas authorities denied there was any discrimination in the selection of the historical data and the state of disqualification.

Prosecutor Ulric Price, one of three whites, one Filipino, one Hispanic and one black, Miller-El's lawyer argued there was a "long-standing history of disqualification policy among Dallas County prosecutors. Texas authorities denied there was any discrimination in the selection of the historical data and the state of disqualification.

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Radio station hopes Indiana State game expands listnership

Samantha Edmondson
Daily Egyptian

The SIU men's basketball team surprised Creighton's attempt at clinching the MVC title Wednesday night — fighting to the bitter end.

And just like the Salukis, the WIDB radio station experienced its own victory. Two sporty commentators will travel to Indiana State University and run play-by-play action at the men's basketball game Saturday in Terre Haute, Ind.

The SIU Arena's courtside has been home to Evan O'Donnell and Mike Eckerle during their live basketball coverage since the beginning of the season. In honor of the historic win, After heavy consideration by the graduate assistants and administration at WIDB, Eckerle, O'Donnell and Bob Petz, WIDB's chief engineer, got their wish.

O'Donnell, a junior in television production, said it is a gamble to convince universities to allow a student radio station to cover a game at their institution. Factors like press space and competition with other well-known radio stations often come into play.

"It's a crapshot," said O'Donnell, WIDB's sports director. "Indiana was great about letting a student radio station come, but the directors around the MVC have been lukewarm."

Competition is welcome by venture SIU sports broadcasters like Mike Rej, Commentator for Magic 95.1.

"It's a lot of work and time that we spent," Rej said. "It's a dream. He said he's happy where he is today. The road show will give the students the hands-on experience they need to advance to the profession, he said."

"Some people try to view video or go to games and run the play-by-play action in their minds," Rej said. "Experience is the best teacher for that."

Eckerle, a sophomore in radio- television, said competing with Rej would be a dream. He said even if they get five people to listen to the away broadcast, it will cause these people to return to the Arena and go to more games.

"We had 300 fans on our website at the beginning of one of our football broadcasts, which is a great thing," said Eckerle, WIDB's marketing manager. "In that aspect, we hope to give Rej a run for his money."

As students can listen to the game on WIDB.net, O'Donnell and Eckerle will be broadcasting via a cell phone, increased advertising through sponsors will provide funds to acquire better transmission technology.

WIDB hopes to use an industry standard piece of equipment called a "hot box" for future away games. This allows an easy connection to send the broadcast in return clear and efficient manner to the students. O'Donnell said it costs roughly $3,000.

"But he said on technical terms, the "hot box" will increase the quality of the broadcast as well as the number of reports aired."

"We will get more listnership and more advertising, so hopefully we can get it — knock 'em down," O'Donnell said.

Eckerle and O'Donnell agree the broadcast is significant for both WIDB and the student population. Local radio stations reach most of Housing television programming.

But he said on technical terms, the "hot box" will increase the quality of the broadcast as well as the number of reports aired.

"It will be a nice feeling," Eckerle said. "I love doing radio and to be that professional or milestone for WIDB."

Reporter Samantha Edmondson can be reached at sedmondson@dailyEgyptian.com

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Including University and State Employees

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Keep an eye out for our "HousingGuide", appearing March 19, for a list of available housing in the area.

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WIDB radio personnel Mike Eckerle and Evan O'Donnell will broadcast their first away Saluki basketball game at Indiana State Saturday.

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"It's a crapshot. Indiana was great about letting a student radio station come, but the directors around the MVC have been lukewarm."

Eckerle said he doesn't usually get nervous as students listen to the broadcasts on WIDB.net, in the Student Center, or on Channel 5 in Housing television programming. However, he is excited to be a part of the first road sports broadcast.

"It will be a nice feeling," Eckerle said. "I love doing radio and to be that professional or milestone for WIDB."

Reporter Samantha Edmondson can be reached at sedmondson@dailyEgyptian.com
Man arrested for driving wrong way

A man was arrested in the early Wednesday morning after he spotted his allegedly driving 70 mph down West Main Street in the wrong direction.

John Kenneth Krizek, 24, was arrested at 3 a.m. on east Main Street across from Burger King and charged with driving under the influence, speeding and driving the wrong way on a one-way road.

Police allegedly spotted Krizek going south on east Main Street from Lewis Lane to Kinney Avenue, where he switched to the northbound lane of Main Street. Police made the stop shortly afterward.

ON CAMPUS

CSSA to celebrate Chinese New Year

The Illinois Sheriff's Association will award $1,000 scholarships throughout Illinois for the 2002-2003 academic year to be eligible, students must be a permanent Illinois resident attending an Illinois college and must be enrolled in a full-time schedule during the 2002-2003 school year.

Applications will include an essay question and can be picked up at any local sheriff's office, office, high school, college advising center or contact CSSA at 557-7746.

Allan Higginbotham, professor of food science and nutrition at Southern Illinois University Carbondale, is researching a chemical that causes the body to become less efficient and still produce body fat.

"This means that it will take more to maintain the same body weight," Higginbotham said. "For as long as I can remember, I've always been a food label reader."

Higginbotham's interest led him to the ABC television show where he began teaching nutrition courses this month.

"The reason I was first interested in food science was because I was interested in what goes into food," he said. "For as long as I can remember, I've been a food label reader."

Higginbotham's research, sponsored with a grant from the Office of Research, Development and Administration, will closely study leptin, a protein hormone that was discovered in 1994. The hormone leptin is produced in proportion to how much fat a person's system, and brain receptors sense the leptin, which works as part of a cycle that helps people maintain weight.

Higginbotham said the research will explore how different foods affect the body's relationship with leptin.

"We're looking at how diets affect the ability to respond to the hormone leptin," he said.

Protein plays an important part in body weight and the low-protein diet can cause a person to eat more to make up for the deficiency. Higginbotham's research will also determine if protein can cause a person to eat less.

He said using lab rats makes the research easier because human subjects can't always be trusted to follow a limited dietary regimen.

"They're easy to control, and you know what you're feeding them," he said.

Higginbotham said he is concerned about obesity levels, which have risen in recent years.

"Obesity overall is up," he said. "There's really alarming amount of obesity, especially in children."

Crag Webber, Higginbotham's graduate assistant, said working on the project will broaden his research experience and still leave him room to measure something related to his animal science major.

"I wanted to do something different, but stay in the sciences," Webber said.

Higginbotham's journey to SIU didn't go straight from academic studies to a professor position. As a food science major and graduate student and graduate assistant at the University of Alabama and the University of Georgina.

After completing his undergraduate work, Higginbotham moved to Jacksonville, Wisc., and earned his PhD at the University of Wisconsin. Higginbotham's first teaching post.

Before he began his doctorate studies, Higginbotham worked for seven years in the food industry, where he helped solve packaging problems and develop new food products that spoiled before their expiration date.

The social climate of Southern Illinois strongly resembles his native Alabama, Higginbotham said.

"This part of Southern Illinois is very similar to the South," he said. "There's a lot of good food, friendly people."

Allen Higginbotham, a nutrition professor, is extensively researching a chemical connection in the brain to obesity.

Higginbotham recently moved from Alabama and recently moved in his first week of teaching at SIU.

"It's been an exciting start," Higginbotham said.
ROTC surprises self with win

ROTC places second in annual basketball tournament

Ginny Skalski
Daily Egyptian

Nobody expected SIUC to fare well at the annual ROTC Flyin' Irish Invitational at the University of Notre Dame — not even the team itself.

SIUC's ROTC team only began practicing for the national tournament a week and a half before taking the trip to South Bend, Ind., so the team was surprised when it placed second in the tournament out of 56 teams Feb. 10.

"I thought we would do good and thought we would make it to the playoffs, but if someone would have told us we'd get second place I would have told them they were crazy," said Air Force ROTC member Rick Mitchell.

The team was made up of nine members of SIUC's Air Force and Army ROTC, and was put together late in December, but the members could never find time in their schedules to practice.

Although they were registered for the tournament, which Mitchell says the ROTC hails as one of the biggest events outside of boot camp, the team only played together twice before traveling to the tournament.

Upon arrival, other teams initially poked fun at them for sporting faded blue jerseys, which the Recreation Center loaned to them. A couple of the jerseys had the same numbers, so the team had to improvise and create different numbers with some white medical tape.

Other teams at the tournament had coaches, uniforms and even cheerleaders, according to team member Jeff Nichols, a sophomore in administrative justice from Murphysboro. But the men from the University's ROTC team were motivated, and after playing the first three teams in the tournament, the team won its division.

"None of the teams really knew who Southern Illinois was," Nichols said. "They didn't know what to expect, they underestimated us, which worked to our advantage."

At the end of the tournament SIUC was 6-1 and team member Mark Fraser was awarded most valuable player. Although Fraser's team members insisted he deserved the recognition, Fraser said he was part of an incredible team that played as hard as he did.

"Anybody on my team would have got it because they all played hard," said Fraser, a senior in university studies from Las Vegas. "I just had a few more points than they did."

Army ROTC member Fraser was impressed with the Air Force ROTC members that were part of the team. The Army and Air Force ROTC compete against each other every year in football, so Fraser wasn't sure what to expect when he had to play with members of the Air Force ROTC.

"Everybody was professional," Fraser said. "It's easy to pull together when everybody is used to being a team."

The team lost its final game by six points to Milwaukee's Marquette Army, but Nichols and Fraser both insist the team could have won if they had more time to rest before the championship game. During the three day tournament, SIUC played seven times.

"Once we got to the final game our attitude was we wanted to win," Nichols said. "We didn't care how tired we were, we were just going to play our hardest and have fun at it."

Reporter Ginny Skalski can be reached at gskalski@dailyEgyptian.com

The Saluki Air Force and Army ROTC teamed up to win second place out of 56 teams in the ROTC Flyin' Irish basketball tournament on Feb. 10. Shown, from right to left are: Jeff Nichols, Jared Williams, and Shane Sandstrom. Not present are Paul Kelly, Rick Mitchell, Scott Snyder, Tony Hurt, Damian Carpenter, and Mark Fraser.

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Knight's Inn liquor license a step in the right direction for minority inclusion

The City Council approved a class D liquor license for the Knight's Inn Saturday despite the Liquor Advisory Board's recommendation of denial.

As the president of the Black Affairs Council, Kevin Baford knew that granting the local hotel a liquor license wasn't the easy issue. He is all too aware that blacks have few entertainment options in Carbondale, and the Knight's Inn will target a minority audience for the club it expects to open in mid-April.

Members of the Daily Egyptian continue to push and report on the fact that blacks do not feel welcome in this community. Many black students do not feel comfortable at their own-owned and operated bars that dominate Carbondale nightlife. There are no places for them to go, rather certain venues such as Fred's Dance Barn and the Sports Center have entertainment geared toward black on certain nights.

Census figures reflect that the black population comprises nearly one-quarter of Carbondale's residents. Blacks make up roughly 12 percent of students at SIUC. The approval of the license is a little boost in creating a more accommodating atmosphere for a sizable segment of the community and University.

However, the success of such a venue is ultimately in the hands of the students and community members who frequent it. Too often in urban areas and even in this community, violence has erupted among black patrons for them. Security is a major concern for Jacob Boetang, owner of the Knight Inn, who plans on having bouncers trained by the Carbondale Police Department, as well as surveillance cameras. We urge patrons to respect this establishment, and we discourage those who would bring in alcohol and/or violence. If this club is a success, the city will be more likely to offer similar businesses a chance.

The Daily Egyptian is pleased with the city's decision. We are glad to see the board open the club even if the liquor license was not granted. We are glad that a community member stepped up to address the problem and offer a solution.

Meanwhile, this is an important little step, it is only a little step. The problem with blacks not feeling welcome in this community will not be solved with the creation of one entertainment venue.

Baford, who spoke before the council in favor of granting the license, described the opening of a club as a sort of catch-12 during a recent visit with the Daily Egyptian editorial board. While blacks do need their own bar, he insisted that there should be other opportunities for social interaction among minorities.

The BAC has been pulling for the creation of a multi-cultural center, e.g., patrons would enjoy more than booze and music. Re-socialization facilties, in tutoring and mentoring could be fun for all ages, as well as aid in the social well-being and advancement of Carbondale's students and citizens.

We encourage the City Council and other community members to take proactive stances in the creation of more enlightened social outlets for the nearly 45 percent of Carbondale's population that is white.

America Bless God

ANDREA PARKER saved19@hotmail.com

After the tragedy of Sept. 11, "God bless America" has become the catchphrase to make the citizens of this country feel proud in a time of war. I can understand that. We need to say something that can lift our spirits, right? But there is just one problem with that phrase; it needs to be rephrased to "America bless God." Reason #1 being that God blesses America every single day, but how often do Americans bless or even acknowledge God?

Of course, saying God blesses America seems like the patriotic thing to do when tragedy comes. We come to a conclusion, as humans, that we cannot win a battle by ourselves, so we call on the Lord. We ask him to bless us. But where was the phrase before 9/11? When was God's name mentioned so lovingly among the majority of Americans? I would hear God's name mentioned in vain plenty of times, or aGod or someone sneezed. Other than that, besides in church, saying God's name or blessing his name in public would cause people to look at you funny.

How often do we bless God when we get up in the morning for just waking us up? Do we bless God for the food we waste, for the homes we don't clean, for the many outfits we don't allow from our closets, for the cars we speed in, for the freedom we take for granted or for the money we spend lavishly? I think if we were honest with ourselves, we would admit that we don't bless God like we should. We won't put him into our daily lives or make an effort to give our Creator praise. Instead, Americans spend much time blessing other things. Oh, we acknowledge celebrities every chance we get. We want to know who the Oscar nominees are, what the stars are wearing, who Tom Cruise is dating, which "hot babe" appeared on the cover of Glamour or if Britney Spears is really a virgin.

We often spend time blessing ourselves for our "great" accomplishments. My story appeared on the front page, I graduated magna cum laude, I always have a boyfriend on Valentine's Day, I always get straight A's, I'm a tenure professor. But compared to the power of God and what he has done by creating the whole world in six days, parting the Red Sea, healing the sick and raising the dead, our good works just don't compare. I'm concerned about how popular "God bless America" will be to this nation if we do catch Osama bin Laden, and the terrorist attacks on America fade away. Will we go back to the politically correct society where using the name of the Lord would be offending somebody else, thus infringement on their rights? He will never bless America just don't compare. I'm concerned about how often to do we bless God where we get need

I think if we were honest with ourselves, we would admit that we don't bless God like we should.

Andrea is a senior in Journalism. Her views do not necessarily reflect those of the Daily Egyptian.
The New Gospel

The new gospel to be written by African-Americans in the 21st Century is as enslavement. No longer the helper saved, the movement must teach that they must branch into the trenches of capitalism. What has always been debated regarding capitalism is its relation to the class system. For if one wishes to participate as a Rockefeller, then one must accept the inevitable oppression it bestows.

The ascent to America for African-Americans was not as citizens, but as cargo. To even call them enslaved is to give them the claim of being human. This would not have been possible if they could have taken place. Even before the humanizing process could begin, the trade of all American slave, The Civil War, had triumphed. The resolution of this costly war was that African-Americans were enslaved with poverty. Of course, it would take another 100 years of dedication before the rise to dead sum at the rich and powerful. The separation and "good old boy net." Great. No one knows better how to break sizing as comes begin; the bloodiest of. This marks the present disposition of

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Her,,

security was being tduc:nted. An activist of the '60s and ondaiy compared to the class whose job s::rns who climbed from the pits of far =pted the spirit of the rebels' aics. Rather, it was the cold- races since the beginning of civilization. To even development. Rather, it was the cold- races since the beginning of civilization. The American Dream can never happen. It was the cold- races since the beginning of civilization. The American Dream can never happen.

The elites arc wise though, and they can perceive bravely from what thcics invite their creativity. They live in contradictions of justice and pay to their god. They are not known for how to break the back of enragements, but the elites, because they have been manipulating enough since the beginning of civilization. They will evolve the African-American select few with grander and worldly riches. The spiritual unity will fall into classes and service their select masters. All that is left is the shadowy remnants of slaves who climbed from the pits of poverty. At this point, capitalism will fall in promise to America. What we emerge is oppression differentiated by class, but not by color. The American Dream can finally exist with the freedom of choosing classes and service their select masters with the promise of economic change. The future will forever be the beacon of perfection, while our class system demands separation and injustices.

Cadle Blues

A poem by D. Neill MILLER, a graduate student in social sciences.

HappySad

By Chris HODGSON

Cadle Blues

And I can't be satisfied
Get the Cadle Blues

Living on the east side of the tracks
When daytime turns to darkness, and windows
Rumble the ball of Mandoic Destiny
Oh say can you see

I got the Cadle Blues
And I can't be satisfied
Get the Cadle Blues
And I can't be satisfied

Living on the east side of the tracks
When daytime turns to darkness, and windows
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Oh say can you see

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Get the Cadle Blues
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The world needs a hero

I often find myself tuning out the novel reality of a student's speech in a lecture hall as I snap my books for a sword to the vendor outside the gates of a mythical slumber, laden with flow-breaking dragons. Beyond the fiery gates, evil stands alert with its wide leafy wings ready to unfold. But before mighty winged monsters, contract, before boiling hell fires are unleashed, a hero's sword is seen sweeping through the wind, crying out for the breath of the hero. And right at this moment of annihilation — SMACK — "Whoa, Dave, class is over!" I've always wanted to be a hero. A hero has big muscle, says or does anything wrong and always gets the girl in the end. Yet, feeding the Cadle Blues basement to save them from eating cigarette butts is the C.O. - - - - come. Real heroes, devoted to popular belief, can't be found fighting the critics at the bottom of the sky walk - c - playing the mythical dragon of new dreams. They are much more tangible.

Forget anything you know about Superman, Batman, and Spiderman; true heroes can't be written, drawn or dreamed. They are real, like you and I. They use the past experiences of life, use the starless firefighters who gave their lives in the service of others doing things that are not possible. Last September, in a true hero's approach, they forced their way into the birthplace of Lucifer with heavy hearts and the assurance that, for them, tomorrow would never come. They stubbornly assaulted through the 19 floors of the smoking towers, having angels in their pockets and a devil by their side, they always managed to find the strength to inquire about the welfare of 4-8 and every person they came across, no matter how exhausted. This God-like display of heroism was not lost, on the crowd, as it is by the0rmes. They stood and shed tears of vast pride at the site of their homes turning the corners of the endless

WITH strong words of their captains echoing through their thoughts, "Cade be very careful, because freedom are going to die today. Sometimes in this job, good-bye is really good-bye," they briefly marched through the smoky wreckage, relaxing of and in the tall clouds, and a half of a list of stars. Our heroes sit, gone now. Over the course of a hundred years, a stream of American firefighters has marched.

A Tout Le Monde

By Dave MUSSEr

olivebday.com

Relax — it's just a word

Dear Editor:

I am writing in response to Andy Steinberg's letter of Feb. 15 commenting on the behavior of some students who didn't want to address our representatives. I believe he is completely correct in his response.

Sincerely,

Chloe Leopold

We share in the goal to bridge cultural gaps on campus

Dear Editors:

I commend those responsible for the recent symposium held at the Student Center which addressed the subject. I agree that a need for dialogue and presentation was the proper way to go.

Sincerely,

Student Government

LETTERS

LETTERS and COLUMNS must be typewritten, double-spaced and submitted with author's photo ID. All letters are limited to 300 words and paragraphs may not exceed 500 words. Any topics are accepted. All are subject to editing.

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

- Letters take precedence over columns in the Daily Egyptian newsroom.

- LETTERS taken: e-mail (editor@eiu.edu) and fax (545-8245).

- Phone number required (not for publication)

- Letters are limited to 300 words. You MUST include your name and major. FACULTY must include rank and department. NON-ACADEMIC STAFF must include position. Others must include author's hometown.

- Bring letters and guest columns to the Daily Egyptian newsroom, Communications Building, Room 107.

- The Daily Egyptian welcomes all content suggestions.

- Letters and columns do not necessarily reflect the views of the Daily Egyptian.

READER COMMENTARY

Crystal Moore

more@eiu.edu

The New Gospel

The world needs a hero

Cadle Blues

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A night with David Trampler, a Carbondale cabby

STORY BY ARK THOMPSON

He rolls his own - no filters. He keeps his smoke in a noisy box that decks the world line, embossed in thick, red ink.

When the key is in the ignition, he's not just David Trampler. He's cabby No. 4, and he knows Carbondale better than people who have lived here their entire lives.

"I literally have a map of the entire city in my head," Trampler says.

Trampler has been driving in Carbondale for about eight months. The former Northeastern Illinois student used to drive a cab in the northeast suburbs of Chicago but moved back to the area last year.

"This job suits my personality," Trampler said. "It's essentially dealing with different people. You're spending a little amount of time with people in a more intimate setting so there's more opportunity to get into interesting conversations.

A passenger in the backseat perks up and says, "Yeh, when we get drunk we start selling out lives."

But sometimes those conversations are halted - to a boiling point - and Trampler is left in the middle of the pet.

"I once gave a ride to a civilian who was very hard line against any say-so about the Christian dogma," Trampler says. Then I picked up someone who happened to be a Baptist preacher who was going to the other side of town and was obviously had to be so time, so I couldn't deep the atheist off.

"He didn't say a word and you just park this cab and come into praise the Lord!" Trampler recalls the pence selling a bag and says, "If you don't like what he's saying, he will.

"So when I get off, he just had myself left to keep things from getting colder.

Cab drivers are in frequent contact. They rest the cab for 164 a night. They pay for their own gas, and if they get up high, they can eat into their profits. Whatever money is turned in at the end of the night is take-home cash.

Last year, Yellow Cab Co. had to put an increase in rate approved by the city of Carbondale. It used to be only $1.30 to ride to a Yellow Cab, but after Sept. 11 that changed to a basic fare of $2.20 to make up for the jump in gasoline prices.

The city of Carbondale set up a 30-point system and a basic fare structure. If someone gets a ride in a cab and stays within the same point, it's a flat rate of $2.20. For every extra crossed its 40 cents tacked on to the flat rate. Riding in a Yellow Cab is a business exchange.

"We dispatch the rides in the economized fashion," Trampler says. Being a cab driver is immediate gratification. Cab drivers get paid daily; they're on wait on a bi-monthly paycheck.

"The harder you work, the better you get paid," Trampler says. This job isn't easy. During dealing with different people.

A golf term for hitting the ball into the water, also cabbie jargon for a no-show.

"I wait five minutes," Trampler says. "Some-day-shift cabbies wait only there."

A cabbie usually gets three waterholes during every shift. If Trampler gets water-hole-tied three times by the same party, he refuses to pick up at that address ever again.

"Some of these people need to realize that this is my job," Trampler says. "If they make me wait, the next person has to visit, eat or west, right left or one-way or four-way."

Trampler, in conversation with the passengers and has to be alert for that as well.

"And somewhere in the Twilight Zone you've got to keep half an ear on the radio," Trampler says.

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Flashlight

Trampler keeps a flashlight under the seat. He pulls it out and turns it on. In a confounding part of town, he can't see the house's address or numbers. The sun has left and Trampler has to walk with the cool, dark hint. He's looking for No. 5.

The flashlight dances on the front of houses and apartment. It catches glimpses of televisions flickering in living rooms, lonely chain on porches and trees screen doers.

"There's right, we must be close," Trampler says. Then they emerge.

Cabby No. 4 David Trampler stands outside the Yellow Cab stand last Thursday evening. Trampler has been driving in Carbondale for about eight months. Before that he drove it cab in Chicago's westside suburbs.

destination and continually think about where to turn, eat or west, right left or one-way or four-way."

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Cabby

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

because he was on the clock. The student understood but insisted on taking Trumpier to breakfast.

"Last night, I took him to breakfast and I ended up getting paid $100 for about two hours of work," Trumpier said.

Sometimes the ride isn’t so rewarding. Last night, Trumpier made a pick up at Pinch Penny Pub. Two men said they were headed to Malmo.

They went for a couple of miles, under the thick canopy of night, down a one-lane road into Union County. Trumpier says:

"The two guys were talking about dogs, he says.

"Have you fed the dogs?" asked one of the guys.

"No," said the other.

"Those dogs are really big, I’m not getting out of this cab until you feed these dogs," the first man replied.

"Sometimes I get a hunch," Trumpier says. "It’s a feeling on the back of my neck. I mean, sometimes, I’m completely alone and in the middle of nowhere with these people.

The day shift starts at 7 a.m. and goes until 3 p.m. The night shift picks up at 6 p.m. and goes until the next morning.

After all the drama, confusions, drunkenness and waiting — a full 13 hours later — Trumpier is ready for sleep. And at the end of the night, which is actually the morning, No. 4 gets home when he becomes just David Trumpier again.

He heads for a Milwaukee’s Best, smokes a couple of cigarettes and finally closes his eyes.

Reporter Arin Thompson can be reached at atompson@dailyEgyptian.com

SIUC researchers conducting study on trumpeter swans

Keva Gaston

Daily Egyptian

SIUC researchers are fighting to save an endangered species of trumpeter swans.

"This first ever study in its kind was initiated to document the swan’s natural history", says Faye M. Babineau. Researchers are observing and studying their requirements and needs.

In addition, researchers observed flock movements, preferred habitats, mating activities and nesting of the swans.

"No one else has studied this population’s winter habitat. There has been some study by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on winter conditions of them," Babineau said.

"Because of the market hunting, trumpeter swans in the Midwest were nearly eradicated by the early 1900s. In the 60s, a reintroduction program began in the Midwest.

The population is now approximately 2,400 swans. Although, few swans are migrating and this time of year is considered a potential breeding and reproductive phase for the future population.

There is a small population of 71 trumpeters in the Midwest. The only trumpeter swan in Southern Illinois is a small population of 60s; the population is approximately 2,400.

Babineau said that in the study, the researchers hope to gain an understanding of what habitats are important for winning trumpeter swans and how the swans utilize different habitats while they are in Southern Illinois.

"We have an opportunity to help form intelligent, informed decision-making plans which will actually aid the species," Babineau said.

The field work in the study, with the Cooperative Wildlife Research Laboratory of SIUC, is collaborating with Jennifer Triplette, field technician, and Alan Wool, principal investigator, for the project. The Consolidated Coal Company granted Babineau access to use one of its mines to do the research. The swans have been using the Burning Star mine coal mine for a 6,000-ton reinforced concrete strip mine, every year for approximately eight years. The mine provides researchers with open water and large fields with little human disturbance.

"We have a tremendous wildlife population at all of our mines, this in particular. It has always been something Gowan has proudly said, and the swans are just the icing on the cake," said Gene Smout, project engineer for the Consolidated Coal Company.

The study will continue each winter until December 2003 with funding from the Federal Aid Project Wildlife Restoration through Illinois Department of Natural Resources.

The Cooperative Wildlife Research Laboratory of SIUC also provided additional funding and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources provided aid in the capturing and radio collecting of the swans.

"My hope is that understanding these swans may aid future efforts to establish a self-sustaining migratory population of trumpeter swans," Babineau said.

Reporter Keva Gaston can be reached at kgaston@dailyEgyptian.com

24TH ANNUAL BIG MUDDY FILM FESTIVAL

www.bigmuddyfilm.com

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 22

MONDAY 25

TUESDAY 26

WEDNESDAY 27

THURSDAY 28

FRIDAY MARCH 1

SATURDAY 2

SUNDAY 3
Indiana State

Schools/ · · · • · 

California has committed $53.3 billion to education, and we need you to fulfill our promise to students. Whether you’re seeking your first teaching experience, or a first-class teaching degree, California is your answer. We’re seeking graduating and experienced teachers to lead our six million students into the future. And we’re hiring in all areas of the state, for many types of teaching positions.

California has a uniquely diverse population, and we’re looking for teachers who embrace these differences and use them to enhance the learning environment. Because the Classroom Reduction Act of 1956 reduced class sizes to 20 students per teacher in grades K-3, we have a renewed need for teachers in those grades. We also have a great need for teachers who specialize in math, science, ESL/bilingual education and special education at all grade levels.

Bring your teaching degree to California

Our commitment to education translates into real benefits for teachers: Starting salaries of $34,000 to $44,000 for first year teachers; up to $19,000 in grants for education loans; no-money-down mortgages with low interest rates; and other incentives for teachers in areas of high need.

We need you in California. It’s easy to get here. For more information, call toll-free 1-888-CalTeach (888-225-8322) or visit our website at www.calteach.com.
Graduation time already? Art Carved Jewelry Company began showcasing its line of 2002 graduation rings for seniors. Katie Johanesen, a representative for the company, waits as Maria Byrd looks over the numerous selections to choose from at the University Bookstore earlier this week.

Yes, it's hot outside ... U.S. has its warmest winter on record

Seth Borenstein

Washington Post News Service

Washington (KRT) - Early winter in the United States was pretty much missing this year. The past three months were the warmest November- through-January on record, according to U.S. temperature data.

The average U.S. temperature over those three months was 59.4 degrees - a whopping 4.3 degrees more than the three-month average for the previous 106 years, according to the National Climatic Data Center in Asheville, N.C.

The old record for that period, 58.3 degrees, was set only two years ago.

"There were a lot of places where winter didn't show up for quite a long time ... east of the Rockies," said Kerri Trenberth, head of climate analysis at the National Center for Atmospheric Research in Boulder, Colo., where it hit 65 degrees last week.

November isn't technically part of winter, which begins in December, but it marked the beginning of a shift in the weather pattern that is keeping Arctic air away. More than two-thirds of the nation recorded extremely warm-than-normal temperatures for November.

A lot of the cold air has been bottled up in Canada, said climate scientist Richard Heim.

"This is one manifestation of global warming," said Trenberth, one of the world's leading climate scientists. Others, including Heim, say that while global warming is real, it's difficult to blame it for the temperature change over such a short period.

Whatever the reason, all 48 contiguous states were warmer than normal in November, December and January. For 23 of those states, it was the hottest or second hottest month ever, the climate data center reported. In another seven states, the November-through-January period was ranked among the five warmest.

The mild weather generated the lowest-ever demand for heating energy for the three-month period.

Heim said:

"With meteorologists going back over 107 years of data, officials have set up a 0-to-100 scale for weather-related energy demand that takes into account temperature in major population centers. The biggest November-January demand was in 1976-77, rating 100 in the past three months rated a zero."

"There's less of a need to use natural gas, electricity and heating oil to heat houses," Heim said.

On top of all that, last month was the warmest January on record globally, 1.2 degrees above normal, and slightly warmer than last December, set in January 1998, according to the climate center.

But don't get too used to the early blooming crocuses and golf games. Much above-normal temperatures are forecast for most of the nation - from the Rockies west, much of New England and north of central Florida - for Monday through next Thursday, according to the Climate Prediction Center in Camp Springs, Md.

STUDENT LEADERS WANTED

Applications are now being accepted for the Student Programming Council 2002-2003 Board of Directors

Director Positions Open:
Black Entertainment Comedy Concerts
Family Fun Homecoming Films
Lectures Marketing SPC-TV
Special Events Travel Visual Arts

Executive Positions Open:
Director of Administration Executive Director
Director of Programming Membership
Director

Deadline for Applications:
Wednesday, February 27th

Interviews will be held:
Friday, March 1st & Saturday, March 2nd

Applications are available in the SPC Office.
For information call SPC 618-339-3391

The Best Haircut under the Sun

Head Quarters
605 S. Illinois Ave.
618-529-1622

Take a stroll on the strip!
BENTON HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT JENNY MIKASEN tries her skills at card stacking during the ‘House of cards’ contest at the engineering expo Thursday.

Hasin Sevim, district dean of the College of Engineering, said the event’s main purpose is to introduce students the broad fields of engineering. “To get the students’ attention, we use mini-games,” Sevim said. “All of the games are geared toward problem solving.”

This year was better because it was better organized and the college’s high school outreach program attracted more people. We run [a program] through 22 high schools, Sevim said. “Their participation this year has really had a positive effect on the event.”

Repurpose Madeleine can be reached at mambird@dailyEgyptian.com
Roommates
BRAND NEW Apt. w/ot. m. for rent in campus, new ship, close to U, new stove, new fridge, new m. $464-9279.

FEMALE NEEDED to share with 2 males in 2 Bedroom house in quiet country setting, close to U, new appliances, new m. $475-3902.

FEMALE ROOMMATE WANTED for 2 Bedroom apt. w/ot. m. in campus for summer sem., $330/mo. July 15 to Aug 14. 487-2268.

STRIPED, FEMALE TO SHARE a room to home, clean a q., w/t, c. p. car, pet considered, lets call 529-6437.

Sublease

NEEDED MAY-AUG. 1 Bedroom apt. close to the rec center, near Hester, m. $400/mo., 457-5740.

QUICK 2 ROOMS, very nice, close to campus, call now, please hurry to 529-3375.

Apt

MAY/AUG 2002

3-4, 2 bdrms, 2 baths, m. $450-460/mo. Free Rental List at 324 W Walnut

3 LARGE BDRMS, 2 bdrms, 1 bath, w/d, m. $520/mo. Call 457-4088.

4 LARGE BDRMS, 1 bath, 1 bath, m. $500/mo. + deposit. Free Rental List at 324 W Walnut

GEORGETOWN, NICE, FURN. Up to 2 bdrms, 2 baths, all utilities inc., pet ok. 457-3386.

APARTMENTS FOR RENT

1 & 2 Bedroom, fully remodeled apartments. 457-4442.

1 & 2 BED RM APARTMENTS, furnace, air, m. $425-450/mo. 2 bedroom, 345-1090. 1 bedroom, 345-1490.

1 & 2 3 & 4 BDRM APARTMENTS, kitchen, new, new, new, 1-2-3 BDRMS, 1-2 BATHS $390-490. Free Rental List at 324 W Walnut

4 LARGE BDRMS, 2 bdrms, 1 bath, m. $450/mo. Free Rental List at 324 W Walnut

APARTMENTS

1 & 2 Bedroom, brand new, new, new, new, new, all utilities inc., m. $490-540. 345-8375.

2 LARGE BDRMS in Town Square Apartments, 1 bath, 1 bath, nice, m. $490/mo. 345-8088.

2 LARGE BDRMS, first floor apt., m. $490/mo. 345-9089.

2 LARGE BDRMS. FIRST FLOOR, quiet, private, m. $550/mo. 345-9089.

APARTMENT FOR RENT

3 Bedroom, 1 bath, ready to move in, m. $500/mo. 345-9089.

APARTMENTS FOR RENT

Downtown, 1 bedroom, 1 bath, m. $500/mo. 345-9089.

APARTMENT FOR RENT

1 Bedroom, m. $450/mo. 345-9089.

APARTMENTS

1 & 2 Bedroom, new, new, new, ready to move in, m. $450-500/mo. 345-9089.

2 Bedroom, 1 bath, m. $425/mo. 345-9089.

BRIGHT AND SPACIOUS APARTMENT W/4 BDRMS, 2 baths, kitchen, living room, m. $500/mo. 345-9089.

WEDGEWOOD HILLS NEW 2 BED room, 2 bath apartment, m. $529. 457-3386.

DUPLEX

DUPLEX for rent, close to campus, m. $450/mo. 345-9089.

DUPLEX

GREAT LOCATION in Cozy Historic District, 1 bedroom, 1 bath, m. $450/mo. 345-9089.

DUPLEX

DUPLEX, 1 bedroom, 1 bath, m. $425/mo. 345-9089.

KING - SIZE, 1 bedroom, 1 bath, m. $425/mo. 345-9089.

DEPANMENTAL STORES

DEPARTMENT STORE, 1 bedroom, 1 bath, m. $500/mo. 345-4522.

DEPARTMENT STORE

DEPARTMENT STORE, 1 bedroom, m. May-Aug, 600. Call 457-9144.

DEPARTMENT STORE

DEPARTMENT STORE, 1 bedroom, m. $390/mo. 457-9144.

DEPARTMENT STORE

DEPARTMENT STORE, 1 bedroom, m. $450/mo. 457-9144.

DEPARTMENT STORE

DEPARTMENT STORE, 1 bedroom, m. $500/mo. 457-9144.

DEPARTMENT STORE

DEPARTMENT STORE, 1 bedroom, m. $425/mo. 457-9144.
### Home Rentals

**Available Fall 2002**

#### Studios

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**3 Bedroom Luxury Townhomes**

- 501 S. Ash
- 301 S. Ash
- 201 S. Ash
- 101 S. Ash

**4 Bedroom Luxury Townhomes**

- 502 S. Poplar
- 402 S. Poplar
- 302 S. Poplar
- 202 S. Poplar

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**Housing Guide**

It's time for the Daily Egyptian's annual Housing Guide

- Run Date: March 19th, 2002
- Deadline to place insertion order: March 7th, 2002

Don't miss out on your opportunity to be a part of such a successful section of the paper

Contact Erin, our class display advertising representative for more information or to reserve your space at 536-3311 ext. 231

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CABARET

by John Kander & Fred Ebb
Directed by Bill Klaude
Feb. 22 & 23 at 7:30 PM
March 1 & 2 at 7:30 PM
March 3 at 2PM

For ticket information, call 453-3007

INTERNATIONAL FILM SERIES

Catfish in Black Bean Sauce
Directed by Chi Muoi Lo
Sunday, Feb. 24 and Monday, Feb. 25, 7:00 pm
Life Science II Auditorium (Rm. 1059)

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THE BETTER WAY TO PREPAY
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BY JAMES KERR

IT'S AMAZING HOW MUCH YOU CAN ACQUIRE IN THE LAST HOUR.

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Daily Horoscopes

By Linda C. Black

Today's Birthday (Feb. 22): Scattered into a new environment requires more change, but eventually you'll get it just right. That's what you'll find more and more related to your life. True love can be expensive, though. Spend more than you can afford. Work together and build together so that you can get what you want. To get the attention, check out your rising in the coming days, the most challenging.

Taurus (April 20-May 20): Today's 5-7-8 has been away from the weekend. Get some money from the weekend. It's always an amazing that you find yourself in a situation where you're not alone. That's right. It's a matter of how good you feel, but still.

Gemini (May 21-June 20): Today's a 7-8-9-10. The week's moving along. Let's not forget that after today. Your objective is not to be the only one with the things you buy and buy a book through your deal, use your skills to raise your income and your sta-

Cancer (June 21-July 22): Today's a 7-8-9-10. Get those letters written and bills paid. Use to schedule a lecture, how.

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to be seen four ordinary words.

Letter: 

KING
CUT
INJTR
GAROUIC

ACCESSE: 2

Yesterday's jumble: BLACK, VYING MYSELF, JUMBLE

Answer: What the been turned into when made asked.

SMACK

Dormant Life

by Shane Pangburn

Hey Kids! I'm Here to Take You to the Muddy Maple Festival!

HACK!

by Nick Day

It's not real leather! Did you know that? Huh?

You owe me, Frank.

Let's Save Decatur

day by Seth Dewhirst

could we get a little privacy here?

Daily Horoscopes

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Today's Birthday (Feb. 22): Scattered into a new environment requires more change, but eventually you'll get it just right. That's what you'll find more and more related to your life. True love can be expensive, though. Spend more than you can afford. Work together and build together so that you can get what you want. To get the attention, check out your rising in the coming days, the most challenging.

Taurus (April 20-May 20): Today's 5-7-8 has been away from the weekend. Get some money from the weekend. It's always an amazing that you find yourself in a situation where you're not alone. That's right. It's a matter of how good you feel, but still.

Gemini (May 21-June 20): Today's a 7-8-9-10. The week's moving along. Let's not forget that after today. Your objective is not to be the only one with the things you buy and buy a book through your deal, use your skills to raise your income and your sta-

Cancer (June 21-July 22): Today's a 7-8-9-10. Get those letters written and bills paid. Use to schedule a lecture, how.

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to be seen four ordinary words.

Letter: 

KING
CUT
INJTR
GAROUIC

ACCESSE: 2

Yesterday's jumble: BLACK, VYING MYSELF, JUMBLE

Answer: What the been turned into when made asked.
Men's track and field ready for MVC Championships

Samantha Robinson  
Daily Egyptian

The track and field regular indoor season has come to a close, and the Saluki men's and women's head coach Cameron Wright said, "We're looking forward to the upcoming competition at the conference level. This season ended with a bang when Young broke the SIU indoor 60-meter hurdles record. This season was one of the best for the Salukis, and we are looking forward to the upcoming outdoor season to see how we can improve our performances.

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Saluki softball attempts to build on early momentum

Women compete in Florida Atlantic Invitational

Jens Deja
Daily Egyptian

"Fresh off a 4-1 showing at the Mississippi State Bulldog Classic, the SIU softball team embarks on another tournament against tough competition.

The Salukis head to Boca Raton, Fla., to take part in the Florida Atlantic Invitational and will face off against host FAU, Georgia Tech, Florida International and Rutgers during the three-day tournament, which starts today and runs through Sunday.

SIU head coach Kent Blaylock said she really isn't sure what to expect out of her team for the upcoming weekend.

"I don't know how many of our team can beat them, and I think that's what I'm looking for.""

The best of the teams is FAU in the Florida Atlantic Invitational and will face off against host FAU, Georgia Tech, Florida International and Rutgers. The Salukis are hoping to repeat their 4-1 showing at the Missouri Valley Conference Pitcher of the Week award, which was given to junior Katie Jordan, who has a 2-0 record with a 0.00 ERA and 13 strikeouts in 16.1 innings pitched.

The Salukis pitching staff is led by freshman Amy Hansen, who has a 2-0 record with a 0.00 ERA and 13 strikeouts in 16.1 innings pitched.

The Salukis offense is led by senior Elissa Hopkins (10-for-39) and freshmen Maria Damico (5-for-13) and Kelly Cock (4-for-10, four RBIs).

Senior catcher Katie Fontana said she is looking forward to a great start, which will be crucial for the Salukis' success.

"I'm going to go out and just do the same thing I do every other day," Blaylock said. "I'm not going to change anything. But I'm gonna go out and win."

"I think the Salukis have a definite advantage over the rest of the field. The lack of pitching last year was due in large part to the absence of pitchers Jake Alley and Luke Nelson. Alley was academically ineligible, while Nelson was slowed by an arm injury.

The return of Alley and Nelson has bolstered the pitching staff and SIU has a definite advantage over the rest of the field. The lack of pitching last year was due in large part to the absence of pitchers Jake Alley and Luke Nelson. Alley was academically ineligible, while Nelson was slowed by an arm injury.

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Salukis swim off to ideal start in the MVC Championships

Both men's and women's teams sit in first place after day one

Jena Deja

After the first day of competition at the Missouri Valley Conference Swimming and Diving Championships, the SIU men's and women's teams are right where they want to be — in first place.

The men scored 480 points on the first night of the three-day meet to lead both Southern Illinois and Evansville 10 points. Following SIU and Evansville are Evansville (179), Northern Iowa (91) and Bradley (69.5). The Saluki women led Evansville by a score of 230-201. Following them are Evansville (190), Illinois (161.5), UNI (113) and Bradley (67).

The women's head coach Rick Walker was exceptionally pleased with his team. He said the team is performing even better and is working towards being a better team in the MVC.

"In reality, we only have one victory, but I'd actually go off of the fact that those girls came out ready to swim and dive," Walker said. "It was a complete team effort and we have to do that in order to win this meet. Anything they do, it's going to be important for the Salukis as they attempt to grab the lead for the first time since<br>

Salukis hit the road one last time

Dawgs need win at Ind. State to keep faint MVC title hopes alive

Jay Schwab

Roan Roberts hasn’t liked what he's seen in his teammates’ eyes in recent road games. "I could just tell when I looked at my teammates on the bench when we were going on where their minds are at," Roberts said. "On the road, it doesn’t seem as分开ly as it is on the same page. You’ve got guys doing things they normally don't do, and the energy just isn't there...we’ve got to fix it."<br>

With Saturday's game at Indiana State (9:05 p.m., Fox Sports) the final road test of the Salukis' regular season, Roberts has a world of time to start playing at a higher level on the road than it did in last week's loss at Southeast Missouri State and Illinois State. Saluki head coach Bruce Weber said his team has a job to stop fretting over missing shots and refs and focus on making the blue collar plays it takes to win.<br>

"I think we have to go in with a different mentality," Weber said. "You’ve got to make the Salukis take care of business, as the Braves take another shot at the MVC title. The Salukis have lost two of their last three games, but Weber said he’s "in a great mood" about the Salukis' chances in the MVC Championships this weekend.

"It’s a great game," Weber said. "We’re going to be playing our best game on their home floor."<br>

"You’re going to have to stop worrying about what the heck you’re going to do, and just go out and have fun," Weber said. "If you win, you win. If you lose, you lose."<br>

Although the Salukis have struggled in recent road games, Weber is confident his team can pull off a road win Saturday night. "We’ve got a great shot at winning this," Weber said. "We’ve got a great chance at winning this."<br>

Cameron Cook, a red-shirt freshman Saluki, launches his hopes towards his run at the 50-yard freestyle in the preliminary rounds of the MVC Championships on Thursday morning. The championships are taking place at the Natatorium in the Recreation Center, and will last until Saturday evening.

Salukis women upset Northern Iowa for two a in row

Todd Merchant

For the second night in a row, SIU Arena was home to a thrilling, come-from-behind victory for the Saluki basketball team.

This time, however, it was the women's turn.

The Salukis women upset Northern Iowa Thursday night, 63-55, in front of 230 fans, keeping alive their slim hopes of advancing to the Missouri Valley Conference tournament.

Although SIU was out-scored by its warring counterpart 54-51, the Salukis ended a two-game losing streak and pulled off a stunning victory over the fifth-place team in the MVC.

The Salukis scored two of their first three points on a three-pointer by senior guard Tiffani Littrell at the 15:45 mark of the first half, and the Salukis never trailed, leading 34-33 at the 11:45 mark of the second half.

"We had a great game," SIU coach Bruce Weber said. "We had a great game and we played with a great sense of urgency."<br>

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