Boulder competition brings new funding

LUKE NOZICKA  
Daily Egyptian

A cool October morning, chalk and good people are what kicked off the first annual Holy Boulders: The First Testament bouldering competition. The event took place Saturday in Pomona and was one of many happenings the southern Illinois climbing community is doing to raise $185,000 for 80 acres of land consisting of natural sandstone boulders.

An estimated $5,500 was raised this weekend through the competition and the screening of Reel Rock 8, a climbing film, at the Varsity Center for the Arts Friday. The competition was broken down into beginner, intermediate and advanced for both men and women, and consisted of 115 competitors out of 165 in total attendance.

In 2001, local climbers started climbing the Holy Boulders without knowing the land was private property.

“I had been looking for climbing areas in southern Illinois for a few years at that point already, like three years,” said Aaron Brouwer, the local climber who first discovered the boulders.

Brouwer said he would overlay satellite images on different quadrants and topographic maps in order to find the Holy Boulders. After locating this place, Brouwer started talking to the landowners, Ray and Frieda Tripp, and established a good relationship with them. Led Faber, president of the Illinois Climbers Association and regional coordinator for the Access Fund said as long as the climbers did not get in the way of the Tripps’ hunting, they didn’t mind them using the land.

“They’re just real good country folk,” said Faber.

In 2012, the local climbers had noticed for sale signs on Tripp Lane, and sought out a way to preserve the land.

“As soon as we saw the for sale signs we contacted the Access Fund,” said Faber.

The Access Fund is a national advocacy organization founded in 1991, with a mission to keep open and conserve U.S. climbing areas.

After hearing the proposal, representatives of the Access Fund pursued the acquisition.

Right now the Access Fund is technically the owner, Faber said.

“The plans are to transfer the property to the Illinois Climbers Association when the Illinois Climbers Association is able to ramp up their operations,” Faber said.

“We’ve got like a two to three year window to really come up with a firm plan, we don’t necessarily have to have the whole $185,000 but we have to either be in a position to take it over or we’ve got to know who is taking over the property,” Faber said.

SIU climbing club freshman Matt Angust said most people do not realize all the beautiful places around southern Illinois.

“If this were to go to a private owner, I’d just be broken hearted,” he said.

Aside from the climbing areas, the Illinois Climbers Association has 35 acres listed for sale to help offset the cost. Donations, fundraisers, the SIU climbing club, the U of 1 climbing club and St. Louis climbing gyms like Climb So iLL and Upper Limits are doing things to help keep this climbing region open.

“As long as we can raise this money, this place is ours,” said Dave Hug, president of the SIU climbing club.

Competition Director Phillip Carrier, a board member of the Illinois Climbers Association said as of now, the southern Illinois climbing community has grossed around $65,000.

Start your pumpkins

SARAH SCHNEIDER  
Daily Egyptian

A 120-pound pumpkin painted red and decorated with “Joy Story” characters hurtled down Mill Street Saturday, slowing only when it bounced off a makeshift wall. When the pumpkin on wheels got back on track, it pushed a pumpkin about a third of its size past the finish line.

Ell Jacobs’ pumpkin was a little beat up after the first heat.

“I have some fixing to do,” he said as he looked over his bruised pumpkin sponsored by his family’s business, Jacobs Air Conditioning and Heating.

Jacobs fixed the pumpkin enough to race in the winner’s heat and took home the first place prize at the first-ever Carbondale Pumpkin Race.

The event was spearheaded by Rotary Club of Carbondale-Breakfast member Marcia Stinnett, whose son helped put on a similar event in Oswego based off the popular Manhattan Beach, Calif race.

A member of the Rotary Club dressed as the Cat in the Hat read the rules, which were few, before the heats started at the blocked off section of Mill Street.

“Pumpkins must travel unassisted on wheels inserted onto axles that penetrate completely through the melon. No caster wheel. And no support frame or chassis will be allowed,” the rules read.

About 30 pumpkins were entered in the race, but not all of them made it past the first heat.

If a cheater was found, their gourd was smashed in front of the jarring crowd by "the judge," former SIU women’s golf coach Diane Daugherty, who wore a judge’s robe.

“The judge has no mercy," Daugherty said to the crowd when she found the first cheating pumpkin racers.

LUKE NOZICKA  
Daily Egyptian

Mill Hunter, 5, right, releases her Disney princess themed pumpkin Saturday at the first-ever Carbondale Pumpkin Race as her dad Vernon Hunter watches. Hunter’s pumpkin raced down the Mill Street underpass to take second place in her heat. The event was organized by Rotary Club of Carbondale-Breakfast, Carbondale Main Street and the Carbondale Convention and Tourism Bureau.

Please see BOULDER | 3
Please see PUMPKIN | 3
The Weather Channel® 5-day weather forecast for Carbondale

**Today**

- **Mostly Sunny**
- 0% chance of precipitation

**Tuesday**

- **PM Light Rain**
- 80% chance of precipitation

**Wednesday**

- **Few Showers**
- 30% chance of precipitation

**Thursday**

- **Scattered Thunderstorms**
- 50% chance of precipitation

**Friday**

- **Partly Cloudy**
- 10% chance of precipitation

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**About Us**

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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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**Buzzfeed chases viral-video magic**

**ANDREA CHANG**

Los Angeles Times

Jonah Peretti, founder and chief executive of the wildly popular website BuzzFeed, is trying to choose his favorite online videos.

"Drunk vs. Stoned" was pretty fun," he finally says, singling out a BuzzFeed video in which a stuffer tests whether it's easier to function on alcohol or on marijuana by getting really drunk and, on a different night, getting really baked. The three-minute video, featuring side-by-side comparisons of dancing, ball catching, drawing and Legos building, has scored more than 3.1 million views since its debut two months ago.

Buzzfeed itself is riding high these days. "Drunk vs. Stoned" was just the latest monster hit in its arsenal of viral social content, which altogether enables viewers to watch content on smartphones and tablets, which can be shared on social media platforms.

"We would rather someone get to a post because a friend suggested it to them," said Doree Shafrir, BuzzFeed's executive editor. "No one wants to share something crappy, because then they look like idiots. We're very cognizant of that."

Launched in 2006, BuzzFeed is dominated by light-hearted, frothy fare: the funniest cat GIFs of the week, scandalous Miley Cyrus photos, 19 Reasons Why Pants Are the Enemy.

But Peretti, who also co-founded the Huffington Post, is determined to turn BuzzFeed into more than just a site known for funny lists and has been vocal about his ambitious plans to grow the company into an all-around media juggernaut for the mobile age. Peretti said during a recent visit to L.A., where he discussed his plans while sipping a stack of yellow stickers printed with "omg," "Iad" and "taze." "We wanted to do for video what we did with other kinds of content."

"Video was a huge missing piece," Peretti said during a recent visit to L.A., where he discussed his plans while sipping a stack of yellow stickers printed with "omg," "Iad" and "taze." "We wanted to do for video what we did with other kinds of content."

The video space has seen radical change in the last few years thanks to smartphones and tablets, which enable viewers to watch content online when and where they want. The massive potential for social mobile video was exemplified last year by "Gangnam Style," the over-the-top, dance-happy music video by Korean pop star Psy that attained new heights of virality. In December it became the first video to hit 1 billion views on YouTube.
Wildfire smoke a health risk for millions of Americans

TONY BARBOZA
Los Angeles Times

Los Angeles — Wildfire smoke poses a growing health risk to millions of Americans, even for those who live hundreds of miles from the flames, a new report by an environmental group says.

About two-thirds of Americans, or nearly 212 million people, lived in counties that two years ago contended with wildfire smoke linked to respiratory problems such as asthma, pneumonia and chronic lung diseases, according to a report released by the Natural Resources Defense Council.

The group used satellite imagery of smoke plumes from the 2011 wildfire season — one of the worst in recent years — to take a nationwide snapshot of air quality. The analysis found that the extent of the country affected by smoke drifts far downwind because smoke drifts far downwind of fire perimeters, spreading health effects across state lines.

Some of the most harmful components of wildfire smoke are fine particles, which can lodge deep in the lungs and lead to a host of respiratory and cardiovascular problems. Particularly vulnerable are children, the elderly, pregnant women and people with heart disease and other conditions.

In one study cited in the report, University of California, Irvine researchers found that Southern California’s 2003 wildfire season resulted in 69 premature deaths, 778 hospitalizations, 1,431 emergency room visits and 47,605 outpatient visits.

Wildfire smoke is a very artistic type of climbing, said U of I alumni climber Melissa Blank.

Every problem has individual points, and climbers have five hours to complete ten problems said Carrier. Once the five hours are over, the top ten scores will be added up to determine placing. Kristi Ganz, a graduate student in social work from Libertyville won the women’s advanced division.

“This competition has nothing to do with speed, it is solely based off of completions,” said Hug.

The SIU climbing club helped the Illinois Climbers Association cut trails, kill poison ivy, scrub off all the moss and lichen and raked around the boulders in preparation for the event. Carrier said this weekend was a huge success and they will definitely be doing it again next year.
Seth Richardson

SIU’s most promising research and business ideas from the previous year were on display Friday at the Technology and Innovation Expo.

A crowd of about 130 faculty, staff, inventors, inventors and students gathered at the expo in the Dunn-Richmond Economic Development Center to view new technology and business ideas developed by university faculty and students.

“The Dunn-Richmond Center houses the business incubator for SIU, where business endeavors are given support,” Kyle Harfst, executive director of the center and one of the coordinators of the event, said TIE is the premiere way for university faculty to showcase their research.

“The presentations today are discoveries that take place within the university, not once a year,” he said. “One of the goals of this expo is to try and make people aware of the opportunities for the marketplace. Someone invents something in the lab; how do we get it into the coal mines or into Cairo?”

Faculty research from the event included a method for increasing Internet bandwidth, a non-invasive pediatric catheter and small microfibers for high-resolution imaging.

Y. Paul Clough, a professor in mining and mineral resources, won the award for University Seam/Spin-out of the Year for his research in cleaning up to 99 percent of dust particles from air in coal mines.

His research is being implemented in the coal mines across the country in collaboration with the federal government and there are five coal companies currently using his technology, and China and India have expressed interest in the research, Clough said.

He said he was ecstatic to learn about the award and encouraged other students and faculty to be proud of their work.

“I’ve been telling several people, we need to be creative and we don’t need to stick to the ideas about what we want to do about it. I think we should talk about the correct stories to the people about what your technology can do. You don’t need to be shy about it if you’re honest about what technology can do.”

SIU Chancellor Rita Cheng said the expo was great way for university inventors to connect with business leaders.

“SIU is a huge economic driver in southern Illinois,” Cheng said. “Every opportunity we can have to bring together the region and the university to talk about innovation and the future is really an important component.”

City Manager Kevin Beefart said he hoped technology from the expo could eventually provide the local economy with a boost in industry.

“Eventually what we’d like to see is that some of these technologies they’re patented and go into production, then they can move offshore, not everyone find a home where they can stay here where the research or technology is developed.”

A big example of a successful company coming from the Dunn-Richmond Center is Thermagautica, a company developed by Geology Professor Ken Anderson. The company utilizes Anderson’s research in liquefying coal and turning it into polymers such as plastic.

“Eventually what we’d like to see is that some of these technologies they’re patented and go into production, then they can move offshore, not everyone find a home where they can stay there where the research or technology is developed.”

Cruz said that many more than 300 jobs have been created from ideas from the incubator.

“SIU has given me a lot over the years,” Clough said. “I would like to give back to SIU everything I have in me.”

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The White House Comedy Routine

KATHLEEN PARKER
WASHINGTON POST

While the nation’s attention has been riveted on the Keystone Congress, the executive branch was busy developing its own comedy routine.

Picture the cast (you know the characters) shrugging their shoulders in unison: “Who, me?”

This would be the response to the glitch-rich health-care rollout, for which no one seems responsible. “Beats me. I thought it was working!” This would also be the response to the casing-shredding scandal, which soon could become an international showdown. “Who knew?” Hint: He used to work at the National Security Agency (NSA) and now lives in Russia.

Not least, the shrug also would be the response to a White House rumor that a certain Republican House leader said to President Obama during a government shutdown meeting, “I cannot even stand to look at you.”

Who made that decision?

The contractors testified they did not know who made the decisions or who was responsible for correcting problems.

One can blame the computer guys, of course. Or demand the head of Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius, under whose supervision the Affordable Care Act falls. But ultimately, the responsibility for the system inadequate for the immense demand.

And that is just the executive branch.

Meanwhile, the “rollout,” a term forever tarnished by the ineptitude displayed since Oct. 1 when Americans were finally going to be able to sign up for “affordable” (translation: I buy; you pay) health insurance, has been an embarrassment.

Who made the decision? The House Speaker John Boehner (R-Ohio) was the demon source, which late was clarified to impugn Pete Sessions (R-Tex.) who denied it.

In fact, no one said it, according to a White House official, who attributed the untruth to a “miscommunication” during a report by White House Deputy Chief of Staff Rob Nabors to Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nev.). Of course, Reid told the entire Senate Democratic caucus, identifying Sessions as the evildoer. Durbin did not name Sessions in his post.

Voilà! A rumor is born. Roll cameras. The White House regrets the “misunderstanding.”

Meanwhile, the “rollout,” a term forever tarnished by the ineptitude displayed since Oct. 1 when Americans were finally going to be able to sign up for “affordable” (translation: I buy; you pay) health insurance, has been an embarrassment.

Even if one is inclined to grant the benefit of the doubt (because technology can be a beast), evidence suggests that the “glitches” were the result of poor judgment and bad decisions. But whose?

Four contractors hired to set up the computer system testified during congressional hearings that system testing began just two weeks before the launch date — and the test failed.

Part of the problem was a decision not to allow customers to browse anonymously, as most people doubtless would prefer. Privacy and all that (cheerle, cheerle). Instead, people had to fill out forms before they could take a peek at the merchandise — an unmanageable burden to a system inadequate for the immense demand.

She may be giving the evil eye to a photographer as she arrives at a European Union summit in Brussels, but it perfectly captures sentiments she has expressed upon learning of a report that the NSA had been listening to her cellphone conversations.

Not only Merkel but as many as 35 world leaders may have been target of our eavesdropping, according to Britain’s Guardian newspaper. They are not amused.

Consequences, which include potential damage to a transatlantic free trade agreement, are yet to be fully imagined. What we cannot avoid registering is that we look like not the glimmering city on the hill but a ship of untrustworthy fools.

We reportedly eavesdrop on our allies and force citizens to buy insurance through a system we can not manage. We concoct character-smearing rumors and attach them to our political adversaries. And that is just the executive branch.

Most important, we have damaged our bonds of trust with nations we need to keep as friends. Any one of the above would make for a very bad week in governance. Combined, they suggest an uncomfortable conclusion to the world we purported to lead: The lights are flickering in the city on the hill, and our ship of state is foundering.
Chen Yuzhang, 6, of Carterville, jumps down an inflatable slide Saturday during the Safe Halloween event in the Murdale Shopping Center parking lot. “The slide and blow up jungle gym is my favorite,” Yuzhang said. The event was free for kids and included hayrides, candy, inflatables, games and food.

SUSAN KING
Los Angeles Times

Chen Yuzhang’s dance card is quite full these days. “I have done four sitcoms in five weeks!” said the 72-year-old actor, who first demonstrated his comedic chops as Cheech and Chong’s nemesis Sgt. Stedens in the 1978 stoner comedy “Up in Smoke.”

Just last week, he appeared in the L.A. Theatre Works production of Chekhov’s “Uncle Vanya” at UCLA, and on Sunday he’ll be narrating Edgar Allan Poe’s “The Tell-Tale Heart” at the “EEK! At the Greek” Halloween concert with the Symphony in the Glen Orchestra.

Keach brought poignancy to his role as a veteran plane named Skipper in “Planes,” Disney’s animated hit — he’ll be back for the sequel — and he has a storied supporting role as the boorish former business partner of Woody (Bruce Dern), an elderly man who believes he’s won $1 million in a sweepstakes, in Alexander Payne’s “Nebraska,” opening Nov. 22.

“I’m sort of the bad guy,” Keach said with a smile during a recent interview at his publicist’s office in Beverly Hills. “The actor’s schedule is already easy. I always wanted to combine classicism with pop art,” he said. “It is always a struggle to convince agents and producers that you could do that. They wanted you to be this or that way. They don’t want you to do both.”

Between all of the acting projects, Keach managed to find time to write his autobiography, “All in All: An Actor’s Life On and Off the Stage,” which was just released.

Keach doesn’t shy away from discussing in the book the darkest period in his life — when he became addicted to cocaine. In fact, the opening chapter chronicles his arrest in 1984 at London’s Heathrow Airport for smuggling more than 1 ounce of cocaine in a can of shaving cream that had a false bottom.

Edmond Rostand’s “Cyrano de Bergerac” and Shakespeare’s “Hamlet,” “King Lear,” “Macbeth” and “Richard III.”

His dedication to theater is legendary. As a drama student at Yale, Keach was so disappointed in the school’s “archaic approach to theater” that he started his own acting class. Needless to say, his professor “despised me with justification.”

Four years ago, while appearing at L.A.’s Ahmanson Theatre in the play “Frost/Nixon,” Keach suffered a minor stroke. He was back onstage in just 10 days.

“That’s how minor it was,” Keach said. “I wanted to get back onstage as soon as possible.”

Keach is one of those rare actors who has combined a life in the theater while maintaining a career in film and TV. But it hasn’t been easy.

“I always wanted to combine classicism with pop art,” he said. “It was always a struggle to convince agents and producers that you could do that. They wanted you to be this or that way. They don’t want you to do both.”

The story starts with Adele (Adele Exarchopoulos), a 15-year-old high school student in the midst of figuring out life. It soon intersects with Emma (Lea Seydoux), a college art student. The younger girl wants to teach kindergarten, the older is an emerging painter of some significance. Adele’s family is working class. Emma’s the intellectual elite.

They are both beautiful but in different ways — Adele, completely unaffected. Emma, her hair streaked blue, quite aware of her effect. In matters of self, Adele is unsure. Emma is certain.

It begins with a glance on a busy street. The moment quickly passes, only to be picked up again later. Although both of their stories are explored, the film is driven by Adele’s journey. It is arguably the more difficult. It is certainly the most painful.

Keichiche, whose work has long interwoven sexuality and literature, sets the agenda in one of Adele’s classes. The professor is dissecting “The Life of Marianne,” Pierre Marivaux’s prescient 18th century novel on what women want. They’ve come to the part where Marianne realizes there is something missing in what she feels, an empty place. The students struggle to define exactly what that emptiness might be.

‘Nebaska’s’ Stacy Keach
is busy in any genre

ALEX KIRK
Los Angeles Times

Keach’s story of sexual awakening and real love stretches over 10 years. Loosely based on Julie Maroh’s superbly illustrated graphic novel and adapted for the screen by Kechiche and Ghalya Lacroix, it traces the life cycle of a relationship beginning to end. The telling is beautiful and explicit. The truth of its emotionally raw, romantic drama is eternal and universal.

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The purpose of a hidden camera movie is simple: expose the way people treat each other when they think they’re in private.

Movies like Sacha Baron Cohen’s “Borat” or Johnny Knoxville’s new “Jackass Presents: Bad Grandpa” (Rated R, 92 Min.) do not have the same narrative restrictions classically-scripted movies do. They are tied together using minimal plot that drives the movie forward when the camera isn’t focused on an awkward situation. The whole point is to give an insight into the way Americans think and respond when confronted with an uncomfortable moment.

“Bad Grandpa’s” plot can be summed up in one sentence: Irving Zisman (Johnny Knoxville) has been saddled with getting his grandson across the country to the kid’s deadbeat father. Knoxville and director Jeff Tremaine choose to take the character right through the heartland, from Human City to St. Louis and all the way to North Carolina.

When “Bad Grandpa” deviates from “Borat” is the type of people confronted. Knoxville rarely makes the situations personal. Cohen as “Borat” spends time with specific individuals to show audiences racism and other troubling issues still alive in parts of the country. Instead, Knoxville is content just eliciting weird looks and laughs out of his victims. At first it is amusing to see people along the street exposed to the weird things Zisman does — there is a great gag before the title reveal that sets up the movie as something more provocative. But once the movie settles into its loose storyline Knoxville becomes way too comfortable with the responses he gets. Instead of using his persona to reveal how people treat senior citizens he just makes some poop jokes.

Only once or twice does “Bad Grandpa” really surprise. Otherwise, Knoxville just plays it safe. Watching innocent civilians’ responses, typically laugh, gets old pretty quick. Knoxville rarely tries to engage bystanders to reveal their true nature, and the one time he makes a pass at a subculture — “Toddler and Tiara”-style beauty pageants — was already revealed in the trailer. Maybe it’s not right to expect more from the guys behind “Jackass.” After all, they were responsible for shooting a porta-potty up in the air with one of their cast inside. Poop is their game.

But what is the point of at least piecing together a narrative if you don’t have something you want to say? “Jackass” would have been fine with a fourth installment of their prank movies. In fact, it would have made plenty of money. Creating characters tells the audience you want them to make a genuine connection with the movie, but Zisman never seems like anything more than Knoxville in old-age makeup. His personality isn’t different enough.

Despite the relatively safe nature of the movie, Knoxville has several good gags up his sleeve that will keep his target audience, and maybe even a few older folks, entertained. The interlude scenes between Zisman and his grandson establish somewhat of an interesting relationship, but even the emotional scenes are played for laughs.

Even though “Bad Grandpa” doesn’t provide any solid breakthroughs for the hidden-camera genre, it’s funny enough to keep the audience interested. But a little more differentiation between a movie with a plot and a practical joke flick could have really made it stand out.

Knoxville toes the line in ‘Bad Grandpa’
Anger spreads in Europe over reports of surveillance; US assurances dismissed

In the recent German elections, Angela Merkel was swept back into the chancellor's job with a campaign that focused on her as a “safe pair of hands.” To everyday Germans, the most common way to see those hands was in daily images of her with her cellphone, texting, making calls or just holding it. 

Some German politicians emerged this week that the United States had been monitoring her phone, it was unquestioningly personal. In the words of an editorial Thursday in the Süddeutsche Zeitung, newspaper, “An attack on her cellphone is an attack on her as a citizen.”

New details emerged Thursday that the United States had been monitoring Merkel’s cellphone use since 2009. The chancellor’s office demanded a “no spying agreement” between the nations, and the Foreign Ministry summoned the U.S. ambassador for a dressing-down. There was little mention of the White House’s denial Wednesday that Merkel’s phone is currently being monitored, even as the Obama administration sought again Thursday to calm the anger.

White House press secretary Jay Carney said President Barack Obama was “obviously aware” that privacy was an especially sensitive issue in Germany, given the history of the Stasi, East Germany’s secret police force. Merkel grew up in East Germany.

“This is something that he knows from discussions with the chancellor, with whom he has a long and strong relationship, and he is certainly aware of her past and he is aware of Germany’s past and East Germany’s past,” Carney said.

The unusual upshot over National Security Agency surveillance programs spread, with Italy joining a now-sizeable list of nations that are demanding to know exactly whom and what the United States has spied on, and complaining that confidence were shattered when the NSA reportedly swept up the communications of top leaders.

The Guardian newspaper, which has broken many stories about the NSA surveillance based on documents it obtained from former NSA contractor Edward Snowden, reported Thursday that one of the documents described how U.S. officials had turned over hundreds of telephone numbers that were used for surveillance purposes.

“The document notes that one unnamed U.S. official handed over 200 numbers, including those of 35 world leaders,” The Guardian said. The numbers were immediately “raided” for monitoring by the NSA, the news outlet said.

By Thursday evening, the European Union, the World Health Organization and the head of the parliamentary committee on intelligence, called the alleged monitoring of the chancellor's phone an outrage.

“Who spies on the chancellor spies on the citizens,” he said.

“Checking on the chancellor’s phone in such quantities is unacceptable,” Luxembourg Foreign Minister Jean Asselborn said.

“An attack on her cellphone is an attack on her as a citizen. There must be an immediate end to all such activities,” the EU’s foreign affairs chief Catherine Ashton said.

Meanwhile, the uproar over NSA surveillance has brought itself back into compliance. In a statement, the chancellor’s office said, “It is not in question that Angela Merkel and her administration have always cooperated with the federal government, with the national government in the battle against terrorism. We would therefore like to see a return to business as usual until the scandal is sorted out.”

More details emerged of how Merkel learned her phone allegedly had been monitored, apparently for years, by the United States. German news media reported that Merkel’s “party phone number” had been found in Snowden’s leaked documents. By “party phone,” the news accounts meant the phone assigned to her by her political party, which is the phone she’s known to use as her command center. 

Some Germans said it was about time that Merkel reacted strongly to word of the NSA program. Throughout the summer, many Germans had expressed dismay that Merkel appeared to give their powerful ally a pass, until her own communications allegedly were tapped. Internet data sites are filled with comments wondering why it was not more of a priority for the chancellor.

“Merkel is embarrassingly late with her reaction,” Berlin Internet privacy activist Anke Domscheit-Berg said. “In the past few months, Chancellor Merkel did very little to make the U.S. government answer all those questions that should have had highest political priority. Now she gets a taste of what it feels like when foreign secret services spy on your personal communications.”

The German allegations came the same week as similar charges from France and Mexico, and fast on the heels of angry allegations from Brazil.

The seed of this anger is the broad-based surveillance the NSA is charged with, allegedly looking through billions of electronic communications. The French allocations charge that the NSA looked at 70 million communications in a single month, an accusation that U.S. intelligence officials have denied.

NSA surveillance programs for traditional and cellphone communications have been the subject of bitter German commentary since they were first revealed in June, especially among residents of the former East Germany, who are only two decades removed from the time of the Stasi. Earlier reports had alleged that 500 million electronic communications from Germany had been captured and stored in NSA databases.

European politicians have been getting louder in recent weeks about how without full disclosure and ways to ensure that surveillance activities have ceased, a proposed trade agreement between the United States and the European Union is, at best, on hold.

The German newspaper Die Zeit called Obama’s denial “halftruthed” and said it raised questions.

“Was Merkel’s mobile the target of NSA surveillance in the past?” the paper wrote. “It is time for Obama and the U.S. Congress to be ruthlessly transparent about the macabre practices of the NSA or allow themselves to be shown strongly. They promised it months ago, but until recently very little has happened. With each new revelation trust is eroded further.”

Study to look at causes of surging ozone pollution in Texas

When ozone pollution skyrocketed in the tiny town of Buda, Wyo., in 2008, it was relatively easy to identify the culprit: as oil and gas drilling, the only major industry in the rural area.

Today, a similar situation in San Antonio, Texas, will be more difficult to resolve. The city has violated federal ozone standards dozens of times since 2008, but with so much industrial activity in and around the city, including the Eagle Ford Shale drilling boom south of San Antonio, local officials are waiting for the results of a state-funded study to pinpoint the source of the pollution.

San Antonio’s ozone problem is so serious that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has declared the city a nonattainment area for ozone, a hazardous air pollutant that can cause serious respiratory problems. If that happens, the growing city would likely be saddled with additional air quality regulations, including stricter restrictions on vehicles and industrial plants.

The EPA’s ambient air quality standard for ozone is 75 parts per billion (ppb). Since 2012, San Antonio’s ozone monitors have detected concentrations as high as 87 ppb.

The ozone study will include an emission inventory of all pollution sources in the region. The final report, due in December, is expected to determine how much of the problem is caused by drilling in the Eagle Ford, arguably the nation’s largest oil and gas development.

Peter Bella, natural resources director of the Alamo Area Council of Governments, the group behind the study, said it’s premature to blame shale drilling for the city’s ozone problems. AACOG serves 12 counties, including five in the Eagle Ford shale.

“It’s a long process to try and figure out what the heck’s going on,” Bella said. “We don’t know what we have to do, out of a sense of fairness and accuracy, to complete our emissions inventory (of the Eagle Ford) and place it into the context of the rest of our inventory.”

Elena Craft, a health scientist at the nonprofit Environmental Defense Fund, said San Antonio has a tough road ahead even if it brings itself back into compliance.

Voice of America reports that the city has 70 million communications in a single month, an accusation that U.S. intelligence officials have denied.

The EPA is expected to tighten the ozone standard in the next few years, making it much harder to keep San Antonio out of nonattainment.

“We go from nonattainment to nonattainment, it is something of an admission that state and local folks weren’t able to make the requirements and reductions to maintain compliance,” Bella said. “In a certain sense, it’s saying the federal government is taking on the state’s problems.”

Ozone levels in San Antonio began rising in 2007, with the steepest increase seen around 2011, just as the Eagle Ford boom exploded. The heaviest drilling in the 400-by-50 mile shale play lies 50 miles southeast of the city, and the wind often blows from the northeast.

But of the three ozone monitors San Antonio uses to collect data on ozone compliance, the monitor closest to the shale play also records the lowest ozone concentrations. And the culprit could even be farther away, because studies have shown that emissions from power plants can travel hundreds of miles.

Still, drilling in the Eagle Ford is an important issue.

Previous studies show that emissions of ozone-forming chemicals from sources other than oil and gas have dropped significantly since 2007 despite the city’s population growth, said Steven Smeltzer, AACOG’s ozone program specialist.

“Rather than just examining emissions reductions, this study attributes to the improvement new vehicle standards and voluntary reductions by local industries.”
Pick up the Daily Egyptian each day to test your crossword skills.
The Saluki swimming and diving team struggled against challenging opponents during the weekend.

The University of Kentucky Wildcats and the University of Missouri Tigers traveled to SIU with the best competition the Salukis have seen so far. The meet took place Thursday night and Friday morning at the Dr. Edward J. Shea Natatorium.

SIU head coach Rich Walker said the team wanted to face challenging opponents to prepare its swimmers for easier competition. “We wanted this challenge,” Walker said. “It’s tougher than anything we will go through all year because it is multiple events coming at them really quick.”

Walker said the team did much better than what the scores say. He also said some of the swimmers are sick and others are getting sick, so the intense match made their performances suffer.

“The scores do not reflect how close the meet was,” Walker said. “We had a lot of close races, but when we are at the end of that, the points are going to be skewed.”

Not everything went wrong for the Salukis however, as senior Pamela Benitez, sophomore Till Pallmann and senior Oleg Rabota all came away with multiple top-three finishes. “I felt really good (Thursday), especially for my 100 freestyle sprint in the relay,” Pallmann said. “(Friday) I was really tired, but I am still satisfied I could swim fast, even though it wasn’t as fast as I expected.”

Rabota won both the 200-yard freestyle and the 200-yard butterfly races and said he appreciated competing against bigger schools. “(We) can see what they do and see what we are doing wrong and what we are doing right,” Rabota said. “It is better to swim with the big swim teams compared to the slow swim teams.”

Benitez found herself towards the top of the leaderboard with multiple top three finishes. Benitez finished the 500-yard freestyle in first place, with a time of 4:57.68, which was only two hundredths of a second better than the second place finisher, Kendal Casey from Kentucky.

Walker said Benitez is a team player, and that it was great to see her challenge two bigger swim schools and win a couple of races. “It means everything to the team,” Walker said. “I think more importantly for her, it is a confidence booster.”

The diving teams were both fairly successful against the tough competition. Sophomore Kaizan Zhang earned a final score of 334.25 in the women’s three-meter dive, putting her in first place. Zhang also finished second in the women’s one-meter dive with a score of 309.00. Her teammate, senior Fengting Chen, finished right behind her in third place in both the 1-meter and 5-meter dives.

On the men’s side, Junior Kegan Skelton finished fourth in the one-meter dive with a score of 280.55, and finished third in the three-meter dive with a score of 324.80. The SIU swimming and diving teams will travel to Springfield, Mo. Nov. 2 to challenge conference rival, Missouri State University.

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Salukis fight against first game nerves

SYMONE WOOLRIDGE Daily Egyptian

The SIU women’s basketball team began its season with an exhibition game against Division II Maryville University, which proved to be a constant battle until the very end. With a new coaching staff and a fairly young team, the Salukis ended their Friday night with a win as the women defeated the Saints 67-60.

Sophomore forward Dyana Pierre scored 10 points in the first half, completing her night with 10 total points and 12 rebounds.

Neither team led by more than five points throughout the first half. With the score tied at 34 in the final seconds of the first half, junior guard Mercedes Griffin launched a 3-point buzzer beater to put the Salukis up by three heading into halftime.

The women had taken six 3-point attempts in their first nine field goals. Coach Stein said nerves might have caused the long-shot attempts. “Six 3-pointers, are you serious?” Stein said. “No, we want a layup.” Nerves are expected to come from first-year athletes, but the upperclassmen said they experienced it as well. Junior guard Cartaesha Macklin said being nervous is something that happens before every game.

“No matter what division we play or who we play the nerves are always there,” Macklin said. “Once I really get started, it’s just something that I need to get out.” Macklin said the Salukis started off well offensively and defensively, and she ended her night with 10 points and three steals.

Sophomore guard Rishonda Napier said her team has a lot to work on before the end of the season.

“Being able to get the nerves out really helped but we all have things to work on,” Napier said. “Things like defensive rotations, finishing plays, finishing defensive plays, boxing out, and fouling.”

Collecting only five wins last season, the Salukis are hoping to correct last year’s mistakes. This year, the women are working to tighten their defense.

The Salukis committed 13 fouls in the first half and nine in the second. Stein said the coaching staff is pushing the Salukis to play closer defense on the opposing team.

Please see BASKETBALL | 11

LEWIS MARIEN | DAILY EGYPTIAN

Junior guard Cartaesha Macklin drives to the basket Saturday during an exhibition game against the Maryville University Saints at SIU Arena. Macklin contributed nine points, three rebounds and three steals as the Salukis defeated the Saints 67-60. SIU will continue exhibition play as they host the Lindenwood University Lions Nov. 2.

Braves end Salukis’ winning streak

TYLER DIXON Daily Egyptian

The exciting ride the SIU volleyball team had been on the past few weeks was cut short with a loss to Bradley University Saturday.

The Salukis were on a four-game winning streak, going into Friday's match at Loyola University, where they won in four sets, but were swept by the Braves on Saturday.

Friday’s match was the first time SIU played in conference newcomer Loyola gym, and it was a match to remember.

The first set was controlled by the Salukis as they won 25-20, but the second set had a tie and five lead changes. SIU was finally able to fight and get the 25-18 set win. In the third set, the team had its lowest sideout percentage of the match at 51 percent and the Ramblers had their highest at 64 percent. Loyola took the third set 25-20 to force a fourth set.

The Salukis fought hard in the fourth, came away with the set victory 25-20 and the match win three sets to one.

After Friday’s match, the winning streak reached five games, the longest of the season for the Salukis.

Coach Justin Ingram said his team was clicking during the winning streak. “I think there were some things we needed to get out.”

Senior outside hitter Jessica Whitehead continued her stellar season with 17 kills in the win. Whitehead was ranked 34th in the country before this weekend with 4.08 kills per set.

Whitehead said she doesn’t concern herself with the rankings.

Please see VOLLEYBALL | 11

Salukis share the stage with faithful fans

TYLER DIXON Daily Egyptian

Close to 300 Saluki fans of all ages flooded the court Thursday for the first annual Fan Fest at SIU Arena.

Those in attendance were able to stand on the court and play with their favorite Saluki players. Each player was at a station and the fans could go to any one they chose. Stations included everything from an inflatable bounce house to one with the hoop lowered to six feet, allowing anyone to dunk like the real Salukis.

Coach Barry Hinson said his team was “deemed” to meet the cheerleaders, and my son wanted to meet the basketball players, Snow said.

Power Gym in Herrin, where the SIU cheerleaders practice tumbling. “My daughters wanted to meet the cheerleaders, and Todd Bryson said it was good for his son to be able to get on the court like his grandfather.”

Bryson said of his son Adrian. “He enjoys this.”

Macklin has caused the long shot attempts. “Six 3-pointers, are you serious?” Stein said. “No, we want a layup.”

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Please see BASKETBALL | 11

SARAH GARDNER | DAILY EGYPTIAN

Annie Snow, 6, left, Angelynn Snow, 8, second from left, and men’s basketball coach Barry Hinson, right, talk to Brown Dawg Thursday during Fan Fest at SIU Arena. Dan Snow, of Herrin brought his four daughters and son to the event, which featured an official introduction of this year’s players, and family-friendly activities for Saluki fans of all ages. Snow is the owner of Snow Power Gym in Herrin, where the SIU cheerleaders practice tumbling. “My daughters wanted to meet the cheerleaders, and my son wanted to meet the basketball players, Snow said.

Please see FANFEST | 11

DAILY EGYPTIAN
MONDAY | OCTOBER 28, 2013 | dailyegyptian.com | PAGE 12