University tuition increase second-lowest in state

Erin Holcomb
DAILY EGYPTIAN
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SIUC is not the only Illinois university increasing tuition because of cuts in state funding.

The university had the second-lowest tuition increase in the state at 4.5 percent, trailing only the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, which increased its tuition by 5.6 percent. Eastern Illinois University was among the highest at 9.6 percent.

Jeffrey Doona, director of Eastern Illinois' financial aid department, said the philosophy at the university is to keep education affordable for everyone, but with a lack in state funding, that philosophy is hard to maintain.

"You wonder how higher education can stand to charge more and more every year when people can't afford it," Doona said. "I think that the cost of higher education has risen too fast.

Other state universities also recorded significant increases. Northern Illinois' tuition for 2009-10 is $10,180.48 while Illinois State bumped its tuition from $9,018 in 2008-09 to $10,209.

Officials at Illinois State University and Northern Illinois University did not respond to several phone calls placed throughout the past two weeks.

Chancellor Sam Goldman said SIUC has lost nearly $16 million from the state government since 2002 and part of that loss has been made up through tuition increases.

"In the best of possible worlds, if the states were providing us with adequate funding, we would not be doing this increase," Goldman said.

When the university drew up its budget for this academic year and sent the requests to the Board of Trustees, it asked for 9 percent of its budget to be paid for through the state, Goldman said.

"The state said, 'We're not going to give you 9 percent, but we're going to give you 4.5 percent,'" he said. "We had to make up the 4.5 percent difference.

Goldman said SIUC made up for the lost funds by increasing its tuition rate 4.5 percent. In an effort to further cut costs, Goldman said the university has also adopted a hiring freeze until at least July 2011.

Goldman said he does not know if tuition increases will continue.

"We may not even get the allocation we got this year; we might not get it next year; and if the (Monetary Assistance Program) grant doesn't show up, we are looking at an even greater headache," Goldman said. "There are so many unknowns; it shouldn't have to be that way."
He said there are about 60 students on full-ride scholarships to secondary schools through his program with two of them headed to universities. “I think it’s a story of great success,” Gitau said. “It’s starting to make a difference, one kid at a time.”

John Direy, chairman of the educational leadership department at Eastern Illinois, said he was impressed by Gitau’s program. The award helps show people the importance of international programs, Direy said, by honoring former international students and the efforts they make to give back to the global community.

“We’re very proud of Peter and all of the accomplishments he has made,” Direy said. “When you hear from people like Peter Gitau and see his life’s journey from Kenya to where he is today... I think it makes not only our universities better and our country better, but it makes our world better.”

Early releases to start within month

Christopher Wilks
The Associated Press

SPRINGFIELD — The first prison inmates to go home under Illinois’ new early release program could be out within a month, the director of the state Corrections Department said Monday.

Michael Randle said it will take two to four weeks to review the prisoners’ files, inspect the place they’ll be living and set them up with a parole agent and electronic monitoring.

Randle said it’s not clear how long it will take to release all of the roughly 1,000 eligible inmates.

Randle also acknowledged the release program is much smaller than was originally contemplated, while layoffs of guards and other personnel are continuing at the original levels.

That means the remaining guards will have to oversee more prisoners, but Randle said it can be done safely.

“I think we can manage it,” said Randle, who recently took over the department after serving as assistant director of prisons in Ohio.

“For anyone you have more inmates in a smaller area and inmates lose personal space, it becomes more difficult to manage those situations,” Randle added. “In a perfect world, I would love to have the staff, but the reality is the budget doesn’t support that.”

The union representing Illinois guards warns that prisoners are already dangerously overcrowded and that cutting staff further will erode safety.
County farmers could receive government aid

Summer storms cause massive crop loss

Jessica Wetig
DAILY EGYPTIAN
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Gov. Pat Quinn declared Jackson County a natural disaster area for farmers after excessive rain and flooding from April through July caused massive crop losses.

According to a press release from Quinn’s office, April through July produced the ninth wettest period on record in Illinois, causing an estimated 100,000 acres of corn to be abandoned. The release declared 58 counties as disaster areas, with 30 more counties being approved for disaster assistance. The designation qualifies farmers in those counties for assistance from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, including low-interest loans.

Tim W. Reynolds, farm loan manager of the Williamson County Farm Service Agency, said farmers generally wait until the end of their harvest season before determining their losses and deciding to apply for government aid.

Jeff Squibb, spokesman for the Illinois Department of Agriculture, said farmers must show a 35 percent or greater loss in crops harvested and fulfill the requirements for the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program to qualify for aid. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture Web site, the program provides financial assistance to producers of “noninsurable crops” when natural disasters lead to inventory loss or low yields.

Reynolds said assistance comes in low-interest loans, but no one has requested aid yet.

Local farms have had other forms of help.

Jarett Nehring, director of field operations for University Farms, said many farmers in Jackson County had to deal with a lot of cleanup after the May 8 storms, which enabled many farmers to apply for aid from the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Nehring said the university was still awaiting federal funds for storm damage, including damages to buildings, fences and research samples.

“Farming’s the best out of a bad situation,” said Nehring.

Rodolfo Godinez, a sophomore from Chicago studying finance, spreads paint onto the face of Eric Dau, a junior from Chicago studying business, in preparation for a capture-the-flag match Monday at the Phi Kappa Tau house on South University Avenue in Carbondale. Guillermo Flores, InterGreek Council president and recruiter for Phi Kappa Tau, said they invited Sigma Lambda Beta to play capture the flag with them because “we can spend as little money as possible and still have a good time.” The fun and games are the kickoff to a week of activities co-sponsored by the Phi Kappa Tau and Sigma Lambda Beta fraternities to support Greek unity.

The sun sets on University Farms’ field of corn off Chautauqua Street Monday. On Sept. 13, Governor Pat Quinn said in a press release that, “Federal disaster assistance is available to help Illinois farmers who suffered crop losses because of excessive rain and flooding this year.”

Joe Rodaba
DAILY EGYPTIAN

UNITY WEEK KICKOFF

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JAMES DURBIN | DAILY EGYPTIAN

Need help getting through class?

Try the Daily Egyptian!
One-state solution: Israel-Palestine

Editors note: This column is part one in a two-part series.

President Obama will be hosting a meeting today with Israel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas to talk about peace options. Israel is building settlement housing for its citizens on what would be considered Palestinian land, making them illegal and a threat to peace.

Israel does not call these settlements illegal because this territory was never occupied by Palestine. President Obama disagrees with Israel's policy, and this will probably be an issue that will be discussed between the parties in New York City.

Obama has called for a freeze to all settlement building; the Israeli government has ignored Obama on that point. The Israeli government said the reason for expanding the settlements was to accommodate the growing Israeli population, but some say it was to gain control of an area that is occupied heavily by Palestinians.

In 2005, Israel withdrew from Gaza and turned full control over to Palestinian authorities but growing attacks to Israeli cities from rockets and bombs launched from Gaza yielded heavy attacks from Israel in December 2008, killing thousands.

This type of violence will not bring peace between these two factions. Terrorism and humanity are not interchangeable, but each side depicts the other as ruthless killers and aggres- sors of the innocent.

Terrorism is terrorism; it does not matter what flag is worn on the arm of the soldier. On Sept. 6, former President Jimmy Carter wrote an interesting op-ed in the Washington Post about a peaceful solution to the conflict between the Israelis and Palestinians. Carter has championed many issues while serving as president and after with his Carter Center, a non-governmental organization focused on global peace and health issues. Probably most important is his work in the Middle East. Carter maneuvered the Israel-Egypt peace treaty signed in Washington on March 26, 1979 that brought an end to violence between Israel and Egypt.

Humanity is the key theory in this debate. President Carter called for a one-state solution under Israel.

Even if this solution was ideal, it leaves the Palestinian people to fight for power within a democracy with the Israeli citizens.

This would grant full citizenship to the approximately 3.5 million Palestinians in the occupied territories and put an end to the Jewish state. Carter wrote in the Post, "By recouping the dream of an independent Palestine, they would become fellow citizens with their Jewish neighbors and then demand equal rights within democracy. In this nonviolent civil rights struggle, their examples would be Mahatma Gandhi, Martin Luther King Jr. and Nelson Mandela."

The struggle and fight of these civil rights activists was because of serious injustices and oppression in their counties that were sanctioned by their government.

Palestinian leaders would need a structured agreement that disallows any such aggression. Israel ought to be prepared to cope with sharing power in the government with Palestinians.

The one-state solution is a good one and it might be a starting point for President Obama, but it is not the best one.

Civics is a senior studying political science.

Dear Editor:

Well, you need not look any further than just down the road to understand why higher education in Illinois is in such bad shape.

We see the state allot $100 million of pork to widen seven miles of road between Carthage and Marion while Illinois' universities get shirked off a flat budget and Monetary Award Program grants get the axe.

Do the politicians really think that seeing a few minutes of driving time and disburdening a few temporary jobs is worth squashing the educational future of Illinois?

If you ask me, the Carthage-to-Marion fiasco is the result of yet another fine year of twisted political logic from our "leadership" in Springfield and its thundering herd of brilliant legislators.

If their intent really is to deplete worthy students access to a robust higher education, they are doing an excellent job of it.

Michael T. Madigan

Professor and distinguished scholar of microbiology

Bikes belong in the street

Dear Editor:

I was riding my bike three feet from the curb when someone yelled at me, "Get on the sidewalk!" Coming back from Murphy'sons in the bike lane, I was honked at, though both times I was obeying the law.

Bikes belong in the street according to state and city law. So how come I have to put up with drivers swearing at me, honking nonstop, tailing before swerving around me and yelling things like, "Get back on the sidewalk!"

Would they pay the $80 fine I can get for riding on the sidewalk because they want me to? I sure don't want to be fined for riding on the sidewalk.

As you enter Carbondale, there is a sign posted near the welcome sign that states, "No bikes on sidewalks." This is the law.

When did you last read the pages on bike regulations in your driver's manual? Bike man- uals are available at the Department of Motor Vehicles. The driver's manual states, "Drivers must yield the right of way to bicyclists just as though they were another vehicle."

I have been fined $80 three times. The first was in the winter when I rode my bike on a sidewalk near the campus bookstore because the street was a sheet of ice. The officer suggested I get snow tires on my bike so I could ride it in the street. They do not exist. Another time I was fined for riding on the sidewalk, and I won't do it again.

I ride about three feet from the curb to avoid manholes, drains, etc., except when changing lanes and I always signal with my hands and then turning.

Bikes are allowed to ride two together. Cars should respect bicycles as another car. Please, no more swearing and insults because I am riding my bike in the street instead of on the sidewalk. I am just obeying the law.

Many bikers ride on the sidewalk, though the only place they are supposed to do so is on campus and designated bike paths. Carbondale needs to add more bike routes that are two to three feet away from the curb, which is why I bike with Critical Mass at 5 p.m. on the last Friday of every month starting at the Student Center. If you have a bike, join us. Bikes belong in the street — it's the law.

Lloyd T. Rich
Carbondale citizen
A law to protect press and public

A U.S. Senate committee is considering a proposal to ensure that federal authorities exhaust all other means of gathering information before seeking to force journalists to reveal confidential sources. This is a good idea, not just because it protects journalists but because it protects citizens against an overly intrusive federal government and helps ensure that the public learns of government wrongdoing.

At issue is whether and how writers, broadcasters or other people who gather and distribute news should be threatened with jail to force them to reveal the name of a person who provided information with an understanding that their identity would remain secret.

Such a shield law can be crucial to making sure that the First Amendment works as the framers intended. The Constitution says that Congress shall "make no law" abridging the freedoms of the press. But if federal officials can squelch the release of sensitive information, even if their practices are found to fit within the Constitution, they can have a chilling effect that keeps the public in the dark about government abuses.

The proposal before the U.S. Senate’s Judiciary Committee passed the House in similar form with bipartisan support.

It defines a journalist broadly enough to be relevant at a time when newsgathering is done not just by professional journalists but also by citizens dedicated to uncovering and sharing information with the community. Yet the proposal is narrow enough that its protections won’t endanger national security or interfere with the criminal justice system.

The shield would apply to any person who regularly conducts interviews, observes events, or collects, reviews or analyzes information about local, national, or international events or other matters of public interest with the intent of disseminating that news or information to the public.

Federal officials seeking to force someone to reveal confidential sources would have to use their subpoena powers as a last resort. But they would have several ways to get such an order.

They could convince a judge that they have exhausted “all reasonable alternative sources.” In a criminal prosecution, they would show that there is reason to believe a crime occurred and that the journalist’s testimony is essential to the prosecution or the defense.

In a case of unauthorized disclosure of classified information, federal officials could show that the disclosure will cause significant harm to national security. The shield would not apply to information necessary to prevent a death, kidnapping or “substantial bodily harm” and could not be used to protect the identity of a suspected terrorist.

It would also be null if the journalist in question is suspected of committing a crime or observing one, except when the alleged crime was the act of communicating the information at issue in a case.

Sen. Dianne Feinstein, a member of the Judiciary Committee, has expressed reservations in the past about a proposed federal shield law.

Citing California’s own similar law, she has argued for narrowing the federal version to protect national security. The latest amendments to this bill balance the public’s right to know with the government’s legitimate national security and criminal justice interests.

We urge Feinstein and other members of the committee to support the measure and move it to the full Senate for its consideration.

This editorial appeared in the Sacramento Bee on Wednesday.

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Welcome all graduate assistants

Jim Podesva

On behalf of Graduate Assistants United, I would like to welcome all graduate assistants, new and returning, to SIUC.

I genuinely hope your experience here is positive. Helping maintain a positive, professional atmosphere in which you can pursue your education is one of the missions of Graduate Assistants United.

Through your negotiated union contract, for the first time, a standard 20-hour work week was put into practice campus wide.

Furthermore, during the last three years, graduate assistants have seen a 13-percent increase in their salaries and a 50-percent reduction in their health insurance premiums.

Despite these gains, the difficulties many of us have encountered in receiving our financial aid in a timely manner are reminders that there is still need for a graduate assistants’ union.

The delay in receiving financial aid refunds was largely because of the adoption of the Banner software, a suite of applications that were, in theory, supposed to simplify processes campus wide. However, the reality was somewhat different.

I did not doubt Graduate Dean David Wilson when he told me the university had learned from the experience of implementing Banner, nor do I doubt that in the future, matters will go much better.

However, the Banner debacle highlights an ongoing issue between the administration and its students: a lack of communication.

For an institution that communicates knowledge daily, we have great difficulty communicating non-academic information that potentially impacts the lives of thousands of students. While thousands wondered where their financial aid money was, no official word came from the university.

Instead of concrete information on how this situation happened and what was being done to expedite matters, we were overwhelmed, front-line civil service employees offering embarrased apologies and receiving the brunt of student frustrations.

While Graduate Assistants United cannot expedite the financial aid process, we can keep the administration accountable when situations such as this occur.

This year we will begin negotiating a new multi-year contract with the administration. Perhaps nobody is more aware of the financial mess the state and university find themselves in than he or she who relies on it for income.

While cognizant of the financial challenges the university faces in the short-term, we will not let the university’s alleged poverty be used as a stick to be beaten with during negotiations.

We neither seek nor anticipate an excessively adversarial atmosphere during negotiations, but we will not shrink from achieving the best deal we can for SIUC’s graduate assistants.

However, we need your help.

There are two ways you can help yourself and your fellow graduate assistants: membership, or joining Graduate Assistants United; and, filling out a survey on our Web site that will provide us with your input while we formulate goals for negotiations.

Even if you don’t want to become an active member, join your union. The administration is probably unaware of the universities numbers are going in, the stronger our position, it’s that simple.

The administration already knows the university would grind to a halt without graduate assistants. We teach the core curriculum, we conduct the lab sessions, we lead the discussion groups, assist with research, class preparation and much more. By joining the union we make our strength visible.

If you go to our Web site, http://www.gradunion.org, you’ll find membership information, downloadable forms, a copy of your contract, contact information and more.

You’ll also find a link to the survey. This survey takes perhaps five minutes to do, and it is important.

It is important because it is a way for you to tell us directly what your priorities are and what you think should be the priorities of Graduate Assistants United.

Please, even if you aren’t interested in joining the union, take five minutes and fill out the survey.

Again, I want to welcome you to a new academic year here at SIUC, and express to you the hope that you accomplish whatever goals you set out for yourself this year, both professionally and personally.

Podesva is the president of GAD United.

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Gus Bode says: It’s time to send the DE a letter. Don’t like what our student columnists and editorial board have to say? Want to make your opinion heard on some other university policy? Do something about it.

Send letters to the editor and guest columnist submissions to voices@siudc.com, and don’t forget to include your name, year in school, major, hometown and a phone number for verification.

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**Quote of the Day**

“I used to think that awards were just shallow tokens of momentary popularity, but now I realize they are the only true measure of a person’s worth as a human being”

-Jon Cryer

*actor, who won an Emmy for Best Supporting Comedy Actor in Two and a Half Men*

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**Mission Statement**

The Daily Egyptian, the student-run newspaper of Southern Illinois University Carbondale, is committed to being a trusted source of news, information, commentary and public discourse, while helping readers understand the issues affecting their lives.
Toddler among 6 killed as storms drench Southeast

Greg Bluestein
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ATLANTA — A 2-year-old Georgia boy swept from his father’s arms Monday was among six people killed by storms pounding the Southeast, and forecasters were calling for more rain after the hurricane that submerged major Atlanta-area highways.

The boy, Slade Crawford, was found downstream of his family’s flooded mobile home, which was split apart around 2 a.m. by a surging creek, said Ed Baskin, deputy coroner in Carroll County. The parents had been rescued as their 1-year-old son clung to his mother’s arms in the county southwest of Atlanta.

“By the time we got into our vehicle, they were screaming at the back of our house,” said Pat Crawford, the boy’s grandmother, who watched as the family’s mobile home was whisked away. “We could see them, but the current was so bad, we couldn’t get to them.”

The storms were blamed for four other deaths in Georgia and one in Alabama. A Tennessee man also disappeared after he went swimming in an overflowing ditch on a dare.

Forecasters issued flood alerts for parts of Tennessee, Alabama, North Carolina, Kentucky and Georgia, where the ground had been saturated by days of soaking rains.

Authorities warned Georgia drivers to stay home or another round of storms approached from the west. Television news helicopters showed parts of major highways submerged in the heart of Atlanta.

To the northeast, crews in the tiny northwest Georgia town of Trion worked furiously to shore up a levee breached by the Chattooga River and in danger of failing. The town evacuated more than 1,500 residents, and Red Cross workers quickly set up an emergency shelter nearby.

“It’s a grave situation for us,” said Lamar Comada, Chattooga County’s emergency management director.

Many parts of North Georgia have gotten “historic” amounts of rain in excess of so-called 100-year predictions, which describe a storm with the likelihood of happening once every century, said state climatologist David Stokoe.

The downpours came just months after parts of the state emerged from an epic drought that plagued the region for about two years.

The storm system that has been hovering over the region for the last week could dump another four inches on north Georgia overnight Monday, said National Weather Service meteorologist Frank Taylor. Rains were expected to taper off starting Wednesday.

In Tennessee, rescuers searched for a chattanooga man swept into a street Sunday. After being found, he could swim across a flooded driveway alongside his house for 5. The man’s nephew identified him as 46-year-old Sylvestre Kitchen.

Firefighters rescued another man who also tried to swim the ditch. Albert Miller was found clinging to a fence in the water near the water, with empty fence posts in the driveway, said Fire Department spokesman Bruce Gardner. Miller was taken to the hospital with symptoms of hypothermia.

The nephew, 22-year-old Leslie Townsend, said Kitchens was swept away when he tried to grab onto a garden hose that Townsend threw to him.

Emergency workers in the Atlanta suburb of Lavensville found a woman dead in her van while it was swept off a road by flooding Monday, said Capt. Thomas Rutledge of the Gwinnett County Fire and Emergency Services. The woman was identified as Sedyi Buciaq, 39, who was returning home from work.

West of Atlanta, Douglas County authorities reported three deaths after the area was hit by as much as a foot of rain. A man’s body was found after his car was swept into a creek, while a woman’s body was found elsewhere after the road she was driving was washed out, said county explorer Wes Tallon. He said another woman’s body was found hours later.

He said emergency officials have rescued dozens of people stranded in their homes and cars.

“We’re using everything we can get our hands on,” Tallon said. “Everything from boats to Jet Skis to ropes to ladders.”

“We’ve never seen rain like this before — even when a hurricane came through in ’04,” said Jake King, who lives in next-door Carroll County, adding that a neighbor had water rushing through the yard. “I’ve never seen anything like this before and I’m stoked here my whole life — 35 years.”

Sheriff Todd Entz of the county said residents played a crucial role. The sheriff’s dive team recovered the body of James Dale Leigh, 22, of the Sand Valley community, from a pond where he drowned. Witnesses said he was walking on the pond’s rain-soaked bank Monday when it collapsed beneath him.

In Kentucky, rescue crews went on more than a dozen runs to help stranded people after 4 inches of rain fell on parts of Louisville Sunday, said Louisville fire department spokesman Sgt. Salvador Melen dez.

The latest rose as high as window-level on some houses in North Carolina’s Polk County, forcing emer gency officials to evacuate homes along a seven-mile stretch of road.

Flooded in more than 20 counties in western North Carolina closed roads, delayed school and forced evacuations.

Associated Press Writers Bill Provey in Chattanooga, Kate Brumback in Carrollton, Ga., Johnny C. Clark in Trion, Ga., Eri c Haines in Atlanta and Randall Dickerson in Nashville contributed to this report.

By Erik Horne

Have you ever wondered what it was like to take control of an airplane? Now you can!

JOIN US AT OUR OPEN HOUSE

WHO: Tate’s Aviation Company

WHEN: Saturday, September 26, 2009

8 a.m. till noon

WHERE: Southern Illinois Airport (Route 13 between Carbondale and Murphysboro)

Talk with Flight Instructors and pilots about learning to fly. Enjoy coffee, donuts, and soft drinks. Enter our drawing for a FREE flight lesson.

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For more information, call Tate’s Aviation Company @ 529-2359

Transit systems warned to watch for terrorists

P. Solomon Banda

The Associated Press

DENVER — Counterterrorism investigators are warning subway and train systems around the nation to step up patrols because of fears an Afghan istan-born immigrant under arrest in Colorado may have been plotting to detonate backpack bombs aboard New York City trains.

Investigators say Najibullah Zazi, a 24-year-old shuttle van driver at the Denver airport, played a direct role in a terror plot that unraveled during a trip to New York City around the anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks. He had his first court appearance Monday and re mained behind bars.

Zazi and two other defendants have not been charged with any terrorism counts, only the relatively minor offense of lying to the government. But the case could grow to include more serious charges as the investigation proceeds.

Zazi has publicly denied being involved in a terrorist plot, and defense lawyer Arthur Folson dismissed as “nonsense” any notion that his client was involved.

Publicly, law enforcement officials have repeatedly said they are unaware of a specific time or target for any attacks. Privately, officials speaking on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the case said investigators have worried most about the possi bility of backpack bombs on New York City trains, similar to attacks carried out on condition of anonymity in Madrid.

Backpacks and cellphones were searched last week from apartments in Queens where Zazi visited.

In a bulletin issued Friday, the FBI and Homeland Security De partment warned that improvised explosive devices are the most com mon tactic to blow up railroads and other mass transit systems overseas. And they noted incidents in which backpacks were made with peroxide.

In the bulletin, obtained by The Associated Press, Justice officials recom mend that transit systems con duct random sweeps at terminals and stations and that law enforce ment make random patrols and board some trains and buses.

The effects of the warning were not immediately clear Monday. New York’s transit agency said it was in touch with an FBI-NYPD task force but wouldn’t comment further.

The task force feared Zazi may have been involved in a potential plot involving hydrogen peroxide based explosives, according to two law enforcement officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the investigation.

By Mikeisión Gómez

Elissa Eubanks / McClatchy Tribune

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“We’re using everything we can get our hands on,” Tallon said. “Everything from boats to Jet Skis to ropes to ladders.”

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Transit systems warned to watch for terrorists

P. Solomon Banda

The Associated Press

DENVER — Counterterror-
Luke McCormick
Daily Egyptian
Lmccormick@siue.edu

Editor’s Note: Ten-Year Itch is a weekly column focusing on a film or album at least 10 years old and deserving of a second look.

Money is a powerful motivator, capable of making people do un-speakable things.

In Sam Raimi’s 1998 drama “A Simple Plan,” two brothers (Bill Paxton and Billy Bob Thornton) and a friend stumble upon a large pile of cash — $4 million to be exact. The men live in a small Minnesota town where every resident has a role.

Hank (Paxton) is a college graduate and is employed by the local feed mill. He is an upstanding member of the town and the most respected of this unlikely trio. Jacob (Thornton) is Hank’s brother, a dim, but loveable character who longs to run the farm the two grew up on. Rounding out the group is Lou (Brett Briscoe), whose main goal is to stay under the influence.

The three men are hunting when they discover a downed plane. After a cursory search, they discover a briefcase containing millions of dollars. After debating whether to take the cash, the men decide to snag it and have Hank hide it in his home.

What transpires is a twisting tale of greed and poor decision-making, all in the name of bettering the lives of these three men.

Hank wants to provide for his family, to give them a comfortable existence instead of one that includes coupons and a weekly paycheck. Jacob yearns to be more like his brother and plans on buying and fixing up the family farm to escape types of garnering the type of respect Hank is given around town. Lou is the group’s loose member. He is the one with the big, drunken mouth and a big spender’s mind.

In the end, nothing goes as planned. The film is a saddening and gruesome look at the things people will do for money. It is a commendable work for not taking the light road in any aspect.

These characters, even though good people, are put in tough situations because of their actions. They pay big prices for their self-shames, even if their plans do not seem too evil at the time.

Rarely do films with such superb acting, directing and writing come out of big studios anymore. With every other release being a remake or reboot, it is refreshing to know something so original and engaging came out 11 years ago.

The cast is all aces, with Thornton’s performance being the film’s greatest as he was nominated for an Oscar. Paxton also shines as a struggling family man, giving a brief glimpse at the complex character he now portrays on HBO’s “Big Love.”

It is a wonder director Sam Raimi has not returned to character-driven drama since this film. Raimi has created iconic horror films with his “Evil Dead” franchise and made one of the best superhero films of all time (“Spider Man 2”), but this film might be his masterpiece.

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“TEN-YEAR ITCH
Raimi’s not-so ‘Simple Plan’

Luke McCormick
Daily Egyptian
Lmccormick@siue.edu

Editor’s Note: Ten-Year Itch is a weekly column focusing on a film or album at least 10 years old and deserving of a second look.

Money is a powerful motivator, capable of making people do un-speakable things.

In Sam Raimi’s 1998 drama “A Simple Plan,” two brothers (Bill Paxton and Billy Bob Thornton) and a friend stumble upon a large pile of cash — $4 million to be exact. The men live in a small Minnesota town where every resident has a role.

Hank (Paxton) is a college graduate and is employed by the local feed mill. He is an upstanding member of the town and the most respected of this unlikely trio. Jacob (Thornton) is Hank’s brother, a dim, but loveable character who longs to run the farm the two grew up on. Rounding out the group is Lou (Brett Briscoe), whose main goal is to stay under the influence.

The three men are hunting when they discover a downed plane. After a cursory search, they discover a briefcase containing millions of dollars. After debating whether to take the cash, the men decide to snag it and have Hank hide it in his home.

What transpires is a twisting tale of greed and poor decision-making, all in the name of bettering the lives of these three men.

Hank wants to provide for his family, to give them a comfortable existence instead of one that includes coupons and a weekly paycheck. Jacob yearns to be more like his brother and plans on buying and fixing up the family farm to escape types of garnering the type of respect Hank is given around town. Lou is the group’s loose member. He is the one with the big, drunken mouth and a big spender’s mind.

In the end, nothing goes as planned. The film is a saddening and gruesome look at the things people will do for money. It is a commendable work for not taking the light road in any aspect.

These characters, even though good people, are put in tough situations because of their actions. They pay big prices for their self-shames, even if their plans do not seem too evil at the time.

Rarely do films with such superb acting, directing and writing come out of big studios anymore. With every other release being a remake or reboot, it is refreshing to know something so original and engaging came out 11 years ago.

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Crossword

Across
1. Bears' dummy Montmerler
6. Letter after pi
9. Preschool lesson
13. George who played Tuku
14. Castle protection
15. Fresh second
16. Holy weapon
17. Counting once more
19. ’% Beautiful Mind’ star
21. Gone off
22. Elegant tapasery
26. ’_’ Lanka
29. Certain mollusk’s protection
33. Colorful aquarium fish
35. Though you lack
36. ’.. _ Only Have Love’

Down
1. Night train
2. Half of milk’s supply
3. Cardiologist’s tests, for short
4. Fire iron of the ’40s-’50s
5. Dodge
6. Catch-22
41. Marathoner’s bane
43. Untimely loss announcer
44. ’The X’ in ’Call care’
46. Helios’ acks
50. Steal a herd
52. Gambling metaphor for a risky venture
53. Peril of ’Ghostbusters’
61. Gigantic
62. Seasick monster
63. Standing upright
64. ’Yeah, sand’
65. Stolen need
66. Sewage savings

5. Un’s military cap
7. Barbarian concert
8. Conductor Ramey’s daughter
9. Napoleon Soviet spy of the McCarthy era
10. - constructor
11. TV lawn drama
12. Obama, before he became pres.
13. Blended ice-cream drink
14. Lady or ”Silver”
15. A warranty
16. ’Stop, candy bar’
17. Long speed
18. Scattered letter, e.g.
19. Stomach problem
20. Formal words of consecration
21. Of muddling
22. Women in Canada
23. ’First’
24. ’Is it rolled out for credits’
25. ’The Dazed’ editor
26. ’Sugar’
27. ’Sugar’
28. ’Sugar’
29. ’Sugar’
30. ’Sugar’
31. ’Sugar’
32. ’Sugar’
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46. ’Sugar’
47. ’Sugar’
48. ’Sugar’
49. ’Sugar’
50. ’Sugar’
51. ’Sugar’
52. ’Sugar’

Horoscopes
By Linda C. Black

Monday’s answers:

Aries (March 21-April 19) — Today is a 5.
Taurus (April 20-May 20) — Today is a 9.
Gemini (May 21-June 21) — Today is a 6.
Cancer (June 22-July 22) — Today is an 8.
Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) — Today is a 7.
Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — Today is an 8.
Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) — Today is a 9.
Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) — Today is 7.
Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) — Today is an 8.
Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — Today is a 9.
Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) — Today is an 8.
Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) — Today is an 8.

Vengo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — Today is an 8.
You’re going full speed ahead but be careful. There’s one last bump to go over, but you know what it is.
Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) — Today is a 9.
You’re so busy, you don’t know what to do first. Approach the biggest project passionately, but heed your intuition.
Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) — Today is a 7.
What you mean and how you mean it are the critical factors. Other people can’t decide, but you can.
Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) — Today is an 8.
Your mind is racing ahead of your practical ability. Hire an artist or photographer you admire and use their style.
Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — Today is a 9.
— Big day today. Follow the practical path, but don’t be afraid to add an exotic touch. Choose your words well.
Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) — Today is an 8.
You’re feeling that it hasn’t made it perfect. Not true. But you’re close. Don’t give up.
Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) — Today is an 8.
If you think through your proposal carefully, your presentation will win support. Be prepared to answer questions.

Jumble
Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

TORNS
SECAE
ROESIE
FLABEL

Answer: AN

Jumbles: SKULK TWEAK ROSARY BARROW

Answer: What a watch repairer does — WORKS THE WORKS

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
by Mike Argirion and Jeff Knurek

(Answers tomorrow)

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Sudoku

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box in bold borders contain every digit 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit www.sudoku.org.uk.

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Cubs moving on after Bradley’s suspension

Colin Fly
The Associated Press

MILWAUKEE — The Chicago Cubs are trying to move past the latest distraction in a disappointing season.

Volunteer outfielder Milton Bradley was suspended for the rest of the season Sunday, a day after criticizing the team in a newspaper interview. Manager Lou Pinella said Monday it will be general manager Jim Hendry’s decision whether the Cubs bring back Bradley next season.

“We’re moving on from yesterday. I fully support Jim’s actions and now it’s time to look to the present and look ahead, not behind,” Pinella said. “Our goal is to finish up as strong as we can for the next 14 games, play some kids and take a look at them, and win as many games as we can. That’s all that we can do.”

The 33-year-old Bradley has two years remaining on a $30 million, three-year contract he signed with Chicago as a free-agent last offseason.

“When you manage a baseball team what you want is the least distractions that you can possibly have,” Pinella said. “You try to shi away from distractions. My job basically is to get guys to play and to play as well as possible and that’s what I try to do.”

Bradley has had a rough time with the Cubs, hitting .257 with 12 homers and 40 RBIs, and being booted from the dugout by manager Jim Riggleman in the newspaper story, he told a reporter there wasn’t a “positive environment” in the organization and he could see why the Cubs haven’t won a championship in 150 years.

The mood in the Cubs’ clubhouse was jovial Monday before they played the Milwaukee Brewers. Players were measuring each other against a door frame to figure out their real heights instead of what’s listed in the team’s media guide.

Alfonso Soriano, who is out for the season after arthroscopic surgery on his left knee, got a big welcome from his teammates when he came in after being away from the team the last few days.

Soriano said he didn’t know the specifics about Bradley, but understands how tough the hometown fans can be.

“If they boo, that’s because they want the team to do good. If you’re doing good, they don’t want to boo nobody. If you’re not doing, maybe they get frustrated and they boo. That’s the way I see it,” Soriano said. “The fans are great, but you have to play good. You have to play for them.”

The oft-injured Bradley has a history of boorish behavior dating 30 years in the majors with seven teams, but Brewers manager Ken Macha said Bradley was his best player in the playoffs with Oakland in 2006.

The Salukis will open the regular season against St. Louis University before hosting top-25 Vanderbilt for their home opener. They will also head to Bradley, Calif., to compete in the Colliers International Classic.

Swinger said she is most excited for the Colliers International Classic, but is also focused on defeating regional rival St. Louis.

“Last year we played SLU here at home and we won and this year we go to their place so they will be looking for revenge,” Swinger said.

Senior guard Christine Presswood said Vanderbilt is going to be a tough game. “Vanderbilt has a good team, but we are training hard and with our fast-tempo offense we will be able to run with them,” Presswood said.

Senior Katie Wagner said she is excited to play guard for the Saluki women’s basketball team after playing four years of softball for the Salukis. She said the transition between sports has been a big challenge even though she played throughout her high school career.

“It was a huge change because there is more conditioning involved in basketball because you constantly run up and down the court, but I will approach basketball as aggressively as I do any other sport that I play,” Wagner said.

The Salukis will be in action Nov. 1 in an exhibition game against Quincy.
It took long enough. After the iteration that Bradley created for the Cubs, it’s not surprising the Cubs went bankers over his shenanigans. I’m glad they sent Bradley back to his home on 13 Dead End Drive, and if they’re lucky, they can get a Basket of Monkeys for him.

And now for a hassle:
Guards who hate Milton?
He failed in the game of life.
Go home, get a clue.

Yeah, the Cubs totally made the right decision. The Cubs aren’t living any deep sleep over Bradley being gone. If anything, they gained an hour or two because they don’t have to worry about Bradley going into another exploitive merc state and blaming the fans for his unhappiness. The fans at Wrigley have enough on their plates as it is.

Hare
Continued from 12

Aggravated battery is listed as a Class 3 felony in Illinois, carrying a penalty between two to five years in prison.
Hare was one of the Salukis’ highly touted freshmen from last season, starting in 26 of 31 games. He averaged 7.5 points and 3.1 rebounds per game while averaging 24.1 minutes. He led the Salukis with an 80.2 free-throw percentage.
Lowery did not return a message left at his office and cell phone Monday.

The Salukis will open the season with an exhibition against Henderson State on Oct. 31 in Carbondale.

Tennis
Continued from 12

Flores faltered in his singles matchup against Indiana University’s Jeremy Langer, losing in straight sets (4-6, 4-6). Flores said it was a tough road to sixth place.
“I went in just trying to play tennis. I knew that I had to give 100 percent in order to succeed, and that’s what I did,” Flores said. “It was so much more competitive; everyone plays at such a high level of intensity and skill.”

Nelson said Flores showed plenty of potential in the tournament.
“It’s great for him to get a few matches under his belt,” Nelson said. “He is just a match or two away from being an excellent player; it’s just a matter of time.”

Nelson said the tournament offered much needed competition experience, allowing the team to identify areas of the game that need to be improved.
“We will go back to the basics. We need to be able to set up the point before we can finish it — we need to make our opponents have to play us by cutting back on unforced errors,” Nelson said. “If we just continue to work hard at this, success will come.”

SIU will take next week off before heading to Chattanooga, Tenn. to compete in the Steve Baras Fall Classic, which begins Oct. 2. Flores said the combination of young talent and experienced upperclassmen will help the team improve from tournament to tournament.
“Our conference is stacked. We all know we have to improve and we’re going to practice hard and push each other to succeed,” Flores said.

WNBA
Continued from 12

Look at any college campus and the strength of women’s sports can be seen all around. There is school spirit and free tickets for a rabid and young fan base, nothing of which is to be found in the WNBA. The Saluki volleyball team is off to the best start in school history at 11-0, and if the WNBA were to fold, students would still be excited about the SIU volleyball team and attend the games.

The WNBA may need to look at softball to see what it needs to survive. Modify the game just a little bit from its male counterpart to allow it to stand on its own. Shorten the innings to eight feet and watch Candice Parker show up on ESPN: Top Ten List every night. Maybe shorten the court to promote a more up-tempo approach.

The WNBA needs to find it own niche.

So as Cookie Monster entertains thousands of fans at the downtown Philips Arena in Atlanta, the WNBA will quietly finish up its season in the suburbs. The letter of the day is D — for depressing.
TIBER | 10

SOPHOMORE forward Adrienne Griffith charges between Creighton’s Chevelle Herrig, right, and Kristina Voss, left, Jan. 16 at SIU Arena. Griffith is one of five returning team members for new women’s basketball head coach Missy Tiber. Tiber said she would implement a new up-tempo offense for the Salukis.

RYAN VOYLES
rvoyles@ediscu.edu

The thrill of making the playoffs is exhilarating.

The news that Oscar the Grouch has forced you off your own home court if the playoffs is not so exhilarating.

That is the fate of the Women’s National Basketball Association this season and they are getting bumped out of their home courts to make room for six shows and Britney Spears concerts. The Los Angeles Sparks, one of the most dominant teams in the league, were forced to move their home games out of the Staples Center because of a Britney Spears concert and the heavyweight title fight between Vladimir Klitschko and Chris Arreola. The Atlanta Dream had to reschedule their home game because of a prior booking by the Seaside Street show.

Nothing against the WNBA, but can David Stern finally admit his pet project is not breaking into the mainstream?

The talent is there for the league, and games are somewhat entertaining to attend. So why could you load all the die-hard fans of the league in a single Volkswagen?

The problem is there is a superior product very similar to the WNBA: the NBA.

Imagine two competing barbecue shacks in town. One has a gourmet cook that everybody loves, hand-making every dish, while the other shack presents a cook who is still trying to replicate the gourmet cook — after 12 years of mediocre attempts.

Therein lies the dilemma facing the league. Some fans consider it a social issue, as if all women sports will fail if the league folds.

Former commissioner Val Ackerman told USA Today, “It’s a sad day for women’s sports. I remain as hopeful as ever. But there is a difference between people being with you in spirit and in ways that matter economically [such as] ticket sales, sponsorships, TV revenues.”

But for whom would this be sad? The WNBA collapsing would not spell the end of all women sports. People may not support women sports as much, but this should not be treated as a failure on the part of women.

RYAN VOYLES
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Women’s Basketball

Tiber picks up the pace

Ryan Simonin
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The women’s basketball team will hit the ground running when it starts its season Nov. 13.

SIU women’s basketball head coach Missy Tiber said she plans to incorporate a fast -pace offense that has given her success in her past eight years of coaching.

“I want to implement an up-tempo, fast-break system and at the same time, keep our team very disciplined,” Tiber said.

Tiber, who is entering her first season with SIU, previously coached at Tusculum College and Belmont Abbey College and has a basketball coaching record of 167-70.

She has taken three trips to the NCAA Division II tournament and has won three conference championships.

During the 2004-05 season at Belmont College, Tiber’s team finished fifth in the nation scoring, averaging 84 points per game.

Tiber said it is important to have a great relationship with the players off the court in order to have chemistry on the court.

“I had the girls over to my place a couple of weeks ago for a team dinner because I feel that it is important to build a relationship early,” Tiber said.

Junior forward Katrina Swingle said Tiber has motivated the team and has it excited for the season.

“She is confident and she knows what she is talking about and everybody is working hard for the season,” Swingle said.

The team’s schedule was released Monday and Swingle said there are some games that already have the team excited.

See TIBER | 10

Men’s Basketball

Sophomore guard Ryan Hare attempts a shot during the Jan. 21 game at Indiana State University. Coach Chris Lowery announced Monday that Hare is suspended indefinitely after he was arrested over the weekend.

Ryan Voyles
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Southern Illinois University sophomore guard Ryan Hare has been suspended from the basketball team indefinitely, head coach Chris Lowery announced Monday in a release.

Hare, 20, was arrested and charged with aggravated battery and criminal trespassing stemming from an incident Saturday, according to a release from the Carbondale Police Department.

Police were called to the 800 block of East Grand Avenue around 9:20 a.m. Saturday after a reported fight.

The victim of the alleged battery, who released the description as an acquaintance of Hare, was taken to Memorial Hospital of Carbondale and later released.

Hare was arrested at his residence Saturday and taken to Jackson County Jail in Murphysboro. His bail was set at $750, according to a representative from the jail.

See MARE | 11

Men’s Tennis

Four freshmen make debut at Hoosier Classic

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Saluki freshman Brandon Florez wanted no time in making a statement, placing sixth overall in his first collegiate tournament.

After rain shortened the Louisiana-Lafayette Invitational on Sept. 11, the men’s tennis team competed at the Hoosier Classic over the weekend in Bloomington, Ind., where Florez and three other Saluki freshmen impressed their teammates and coach.

The Salukis played all three days in the tournament, allowing head tennis coach Dan Nelson to evaluate the team in competition.

“I think we improved with each day,” Nelson said. “We took a very young team into this tournament, and we got to see what we can do.”

The Salukis were slow out of the gate Friday, but Florez impressed in singles and in doubles. He defeated Xavier’s Chris Herdinger (6-3, 6-7(6), 6-3) in singles and he and his partner, fellow freshman Chikara Kidera, defeated Western Michigan’s Michael Basa and Michael Caldwell (9-7).

Senior Anton Loevskal and freshman Orhan Spasic also won in the first round of doubles, but both pairs ended the day losing second round matches.

The team returned to the win column Saturday with victories in singles matches from junior Falk De Bernhounse — his first as a Saluki — as well as Kidera and Spasic. Florez stayed hot, winning the second of his two singles matches and positioning himself for a potential fifth-place finish.

The Salukis were not as successful Sunday as Delbenheuwer and sophomore Paolo Buys got their respective consolation bracket matches. Kidera placed third in his consolation bracket, topping Brian Stark of Xavier in a tiebreaker 6-4, 2-6, 10-6.

Kidera teamed up with Florez again to defeat Cleveland State’s Robert Fox and Yannick Goosen 8-5 in doubles action.

See TENNIS | 11

Voyles’ Views

An ode to the WNBA

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See WNBA | 11