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SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

NOVEMBER 29, 2007

Saluki astronaut leaves NASA

Higginbotham takes job in private sector after 11-year career as astronaut

Joe Crawford
DAILY EGYPTIAN

The first Saluki in space has landed a new job.

Astronaut and SIUC graduate

Joan Higginbotham has left NASA after an 11-year career with the association, according to a release from NASA. The release stated Higginbotham took an undisclosed position in the private sector.

Higginbotham took part in her first mission into space on the shuttle Discovery in December 2006 and was scheduled to participate in another mission in September 2008. The astronaut visited the university and spoke at the SIU Arena during Homecoming festivities in October.

Higginbotham could not be reached for comment.

Steve Lindsey, chief of the

Astronaut Office at the Johnson Space Center in Houston, said in a statement that Higginbotham was an excellent astronaut during her 11-year career.

"She contributed her expertise to nearly every space shuttle and International Space Station mission," Lindsey said in the statement.

See NASA, Page 5

Son admits to killing SIUC employee

Says the 2006 killing of his mother was not intentional

Joe Crawford
DAILY EGYPTIAN

The oldest son of former SIUC fundraiser Nancy Martin confessed Wednesday to unintentionally killing her.

Benjamin Martin, 31, pleaded guilty to aggravated manslaughter in the case and could serve between 10 and 30 years in prison for strangling his mother at his New Jersey home, according to a release by the Gloucester County prosecutor's office. Sentencing is set for Feb. 15.

Nancy Martin, 51, was meeting with clients and visiting family when she went missing in March 2006. Benjamin Martin led police to her body at the urging of family members several days later, police said.

According to the prosecutor's release, Benjamin Martin said in court that on March 11, 2006, his mother arrived unexpectedly at his Pitman, N.J. home, which she owned. The release says Nancy Martin then drank a "substantial" amount of alcohol over the course of about 12 hours and she and her son engaged in a verbal confrontation that eventually turned physical.

See MARTIN, Page 5

“She was someone who was very passionate about her work.”

— Jeff Lorber
Nancy Martin's former supervisor at SIU Foundation

Reading program falls short of volunteers



ANTHONY SOUFFLÉ ~ DAILY EGYPTIAN

Darrian Brown, left, 9, reads though the play "Streetfair" along with Nia Allison, 8, as Corey Pettyjohn, center, a senior in advertising from Champaign, helps them Wednesday afternoon at the Eurma C. Hays Center. Pettyjohn, a member of the fraternity Alpha Tau Omega, volunteers with several of his fraternity brothers twice a week at the center.

"I Can Read!" program has too many kids and not enough helpers

Madeleine Leroux
DAILY EGYPTIAN

Children arrive at the Eurma C. Hayes Center four days a week to work on their reading skills, but a

shortage of volunteers is leaving some kids lonely.

The "I Can Read!" academic program of southern Illinois helps students in kindergarten through fifth grade enhance reading skills through one-on-

one and group reading activities.

Volunteer Margaret Nesbitt said the program, which started in 1998, has 24 kids signed up, with at least seven on the waiting list due to a lack of volunteers. More volunteers sign up for

a day to come than actually show up, Nesbitt said. Seventeen volunteers were signed up to help Tuesday, but only about seven attended the program.

See READ, Page 5

Deer season on pace from last year

Alejandro Gonzalez
DAILY EGYPTIAN

Many hunters in the southern Illinois area are locked, loaded and ready to have another go around with deer hunting season this weekend.

The second portion of the firearm deer hunting season is set to begin today and last until Dec. 2. During this season, hunters are allowed to use handguns, muzzleloaders and shotguns to harvest their game.

According to the Illinois Department of Natural Resources,

Illinois hunters killed 85,490 deer during the first portion of the deer season, which ran from Nov. 16-18. The number was slightly more than last year's opening weekend tally of 85,452.

More than 378,000 deer hunting permits were handed out this season by IDNR, which reported preliminary first-season figures to be on par with last season's.

Jackson County reported harvesting 1,838 deer during the first portion

See DEER, Page 5



Ross Cook, a sophomore from Elkhartville studying chemistry, watches for deer with his bow and arrow Wednesday afternoon in Dowell. Cook said he started hunting three years ago, but this is his first year with a bow.

RYAN RENDLEMAN
DAILY EGYPTIAN

USG identifies university problems and progress

USG President:
'State of our student
body is strong'

Allison Petty
DAILY EGYPTIAN

Rising costs of higher education may be the greatest battle for the current generation, said Undergraduate Student Government President Demetrous White.

White noted education costs were his biggest concern during a 20-minute address to USG at its regular meeting Wednesday night.

The address, which White said he modeled after the State of the Union addresses to Congress, detailed White's agenda for the remainder of his term as USG president.

He said he and the other senators have made progress in protecting women's transit and negotiating to keep student fees low, but identified issues with education costs, the Student Conduct Code, bursar billing policies and student safety as his primary concerns.

"We as students have got to get out of the mindset that we can't change things," White said. "We are all in this thing together. If we are to be successful in anything we do, it is vital that we are united."

White said he expected student fees to increase approximately \$213 next year.

That number, he said, represented a welcome drop from the \$564 fee increase passed by the Board of

Trustees last year.

White said he would look for cooperation from the undergraduate senate as well as input from students to accomplish items on his agenda.

Dylan Burns, chairman pro tempore and senator representing the College of Liberal Arts, said he agreed with White that fee increases are the organization's highest priority.

Burns said he believed USG members were effective in negotiating to keep costs down this year.

"Honestly, I don't know how much we'll ever be able to eliminate fees or say, 'No fees tomorrow! Fees are done!'" he said. "I think what we've done this semester to push that number down has been real progress, which is the best we can hope for."

Fine arts funding that has been frozen since August will soon be allocated, White said, thanks to a compromise between faculty and students mediated by Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Larry Dietz.

The committee that allocated the money, which is collected through the Student Activity Fee, had been unable to meet because of a dispute between its faculty members and the undergraduate and graduate student governments.

Presidents of those governments must appoint students to sit on the committee under current operating procedure. White said he and Graduate Student and Professional Student Council President Steven Middleton would not appoint members until students from all academic areas could sit on the committee.

Previous operating guidelines

"We as students have got to get out of the mindset that we can't change things," White said. "We are all in this thing together. If we are to be successful in anything we do, it is vital that we are united."

— Demetrous White
USG president



BRANDON CHAPPLE ~ DAILY EGYPTIAN

President Demetrous White speaks during his state of the student body address Wednesday night in the Health Center Auditorium. In addition to his speech, USG senators voted whether they supported the Board of Trustees' decision regarding SIU President Glenn Poshard's plagiarism incident.

called for seven student members, one from each of the departments of Art and Design, Speech Communication, Architecture and Interior Design, Cinema and Photography, Theater, Music and English.

Under the new plan, White said he and Middleton would appoint seven students from the fine arts disciplines and seven students from other areas of the university.

"We have made it clear this year that if students are paying for something, they will have a say in how the money is spent," White said. "Now

two-thirds of the committee are students and they now have a decisive voice."

Later in the meeting, the senate unanimously passed a resolution in support of the Faculty Review Committee's recent finding that SIU President Glenn Poshard committed "inadvertent plagiarism" in his 1984 doctoral dissertation.

The committee released its findings Oct. 12.

David Loftus, a senator representing the west side of Carbondale, worked on the resolution with

White.

Loftus said he understood the passion of those on both sides of the controversy surrounding Poshard.

"Listen, it is unfortunate that these events had to occur, but we support our president. He has done great things for this university," Loftus said. "It's time that we put things behind us and move on."

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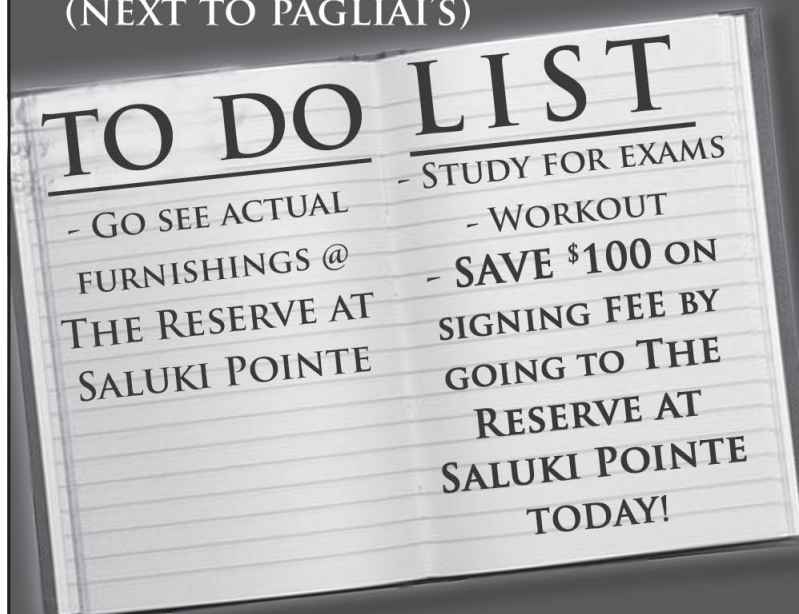
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Venezuela severs all contacts with Colombia’s government

Jorge Rueda
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CARACAS, Venezuela — Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez said Wednesday he was cutting off all contacts with the Colombian government, but fell short of announcing an end to diplomatic relations between the two countries.

Chavez’s announcement came after a series of sharp exchanges with President Alvaro Uribe set off when the Colombian leader last week abruptly ended the Venezuelan’s mediation between Colombia’s government and leftist rebels.

“While President Uribe is president of Colombia I will have no type of relationship with him or with the government in Colombia,” Chavez said.

Speaking in the southwestern state of Tachira, Chavez said he

will not have any relationship with a “president who is capable of such barefaced lies, disrespects another president that he has called a friend, one that he called on for help.”

The Venezuelan president had a similar spat in late 2005 with then Mexican President Vicente Fox. While relations between Mexico and Venezuela were reduced to lower-level diplomats, ties were not formally severed.

Uribe’s 4-year term is scheduled to run into 2010, although some of his supporters are urging him to change the constitution and run for a third term.

Uribe appeared to try to calm the dispute with Chavez earlier Wednesday, saying that presidents should put aside their “angers” and “vanities” to get on with their work.

Chavez recalled his ambassador to Colombia on Tuesday. Colombian

“**“While President Uribe is president of Colombia I will have no type of relationship with him or with the government in Colombia.**

— Hugo Chavez
president of Venezuela

Foreign Minister Fernando Araujo vowed then not to call back Colombia’s ambassador in Caracas, insisting his government’s dispute is not with Venezuela, but with the leftist Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia.

The Andean neighbors share a 1,380-mile border and \$5 billion in trade last year, maintaining friendly relations despite sharp ideological differences — until now.

Uribe, Washington’s closest ally in South America, removed Chavez and a Colombian senator from talks with the FARC rebels a week

ago, saying the Venezuelan leader had violated the conditions of his involvement by speaking directly to the head of Colombia’s army.

Chavez on Sunday said he was putting relations with Colombia “in the freezer,” calling Uribe a “liar” and accusing him of “not wanting peace.”

Uribe replied hours later by charging Chavez with pushing an “expansionist project” across Latin America and saying the Venezuelan seemed to want Colombia to fall “victim to a terrorist FARC government.”



Crowds of local residents affected by Tropical Cyclone Sidr await the delivery of fresh water from the Amphibious assault ship USS Kearsarge (LHD 3) and the 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable) in Galachipa, Bangladesh, Nov. 27.
CHRISTOPHER LANGE
MCCLATCHY TRIBUNE

O.J. Simpson says he is not guilty in Vegas case

Linda Deutsch
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LAS VEGAS — O.J. Simpson stood before a judge Wednesday and firmly spoke a phrase he has uttered in other courtrooms in the past: “Not guilty.”

This time the former football star was arraigned, along with two other men, on suspicion of kidnapping and armed robbery of sports memorabilia dealers in a strange case that has ballooned to 12 charges that could send Simpson and the others to prison for life.

Simpson’s notoriety, gained from past trials on charges of murder and road rage, looms in the background of the Las Vegas episode. His lawyer said jury selection would be an “onerous” task that would probably last longer than the trial itself.

“I am very concerned that we get 12 people on the jury that can listen to the evidence that occurs in the courtroom,” attorney Yale Galanter said on the courthouse steps. “People are going to have opinions.”

Simpson’s co-defendants, Charles

“Charlie” Ehrlich, 53, and Clarence “C.J.” Stewart, 53, also entered not guilty pleas, and Clark County District Judge Jackie Glass set trial for all three men on April 7.

Ehrlich’s lawyer, John Moran Jr., said he would challenge the most recent charging document as vague and a list of potential witnesses as violating his client’s Fifth Amendment rights.

District Attorney David Roger listed 78 potential witnesses, including Ehrlich and Stewart, an odd choice since prosecutors may not compel defendants to testify.

Simpson landed in court after leading an odd raiding party in a Sept. 13 hotel room confrontation with two sports memorabilia dealers to take collectibles and family heirlooms he claimed were his.

Simpson, 60, of Miami, has maintained that he intended only to retrieve items that had been stolen from him by a former agent, including photographs, football awards and the suit he wore the day he was acquitted of murdering his wife, Nicole Brown Simpson, and her friend Ronald Goldman.

Teacher charged after naming teddy bear Muhammad

Alfred De Montesquiou
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

KHARTOUM, Sudan — Sudan charged a British teacher Wednesday with inciting religious hatred — a crime punishable by 40 lashes — because she allowed her students to name a teddy bear Muhammad as part of a class project.

The country’s top Muslim clerics pressed the government to ensure that the teacher, Gillian Gibbons, is punished, comparing her action to author Salman Rushdie’s “blasphemies” against the Prophet Muhammad.

The charges against Gibbons angered the British government, which urgently summoned the Sudanese ambassador to discuss the case. British and American Muslim groups also criticized the decision.

Gibbons, 54, was arrested at her home in Khartoum on

Sunday after some parents of her students accused her of naming the bear after Islam’s prophet. Muhammad is a common name among Muslim men, but the parents saw applying it to a toy animal as an insult.

Officials in Sudan’s Foreign Ministry have tried to play down the case, calling it an isolated incident and predicting Tuesday that Gibbons could be released without charge.

Sudanese Prosecutor-General Salah Eddin Abu Zaid said Gibbons was charged with inciting religious hatred and her case would be referred to courts Thursday.

If convicted, she faces up to 40 lashes, six months in jail and a fine, said Abdul-Daem Zumrawi, an undersecretary at the Justice Ministry. The verdict and any sentence are up to “the discretionary power of the judge,” he said, according to the state Sudanese News Agency.

WIRE REPORTS

WISCONSIN

Hunter sentenced to 69 years in prison for killing Hmong man

MARINETTE, Wis. (AP) — A white hunter convicted of killing a Hmong man as they both stalked squirrels in the woods was sentenced Wednesday to 69 years in prison.

James Nichols, 28, of Peshtigo, was convicted last month in the death of Cha Vang, a 30-year-old father of five. The slaying rekindled racial tensions in northern Wisconsin, where a Hmong deer hunter fatally shot six white hunters in 2004.

Marinette County Circuit Judge David Miron gave Nichols the maximum sentence, noting his history of violence against animals and others, his juvenile record and a previous conviction for burglary.

Nichols, a former sawmill worker, claimed he acted in self-defense when he shot and stabbed Vang Jan. 6. Prosecutors argued he took advantage of the isolation in the woods to act on his prejudice against the Hmong.

HEALTH

CT scans raise cancer risk, study warns

Millions of Americans, especially children, are needlessly getting dangerous radiation from “super X-rays” that raise the risk of cancer and are increasingly used to diagnose medical problems, a new report warns.

In a few decades, as many as 2 percent of all cancers in the United States might be due to radiation from CT scans given now, according to the authors of the report.

Some experts say that estimate is overly alarming. But they agree with the need to curb these tests particularly in children, who are more susceptible to radiation and more likely to develop cancer from it.

Government says obesity rates in the U.S. have leveled off

ATLANTA (AP) — Obesity rates in U.S. women seem to be staying level, and the rate in men may be hitting a plateau now, too, according to a new government report released Wednesday.

With more than 72 million Americans counted as obese, adult obesity rates for both sexes seem to be holding steady at about 34 percent, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported.

The rates are still too high, said Mark Swanson, a researcher who studies childhood obesity and school nutrition at the University of Kentucky’s College of Public Health.

“Until the numbers start to go the other direction, I don’t think we can consider this a success at all,” he said.

SLOVAKIA

Police arrest three people trying to sell radioactive material

BRATISLAVA, Slovakia (AP) — Three people have been arrested for trying to sell more than two pounds of an unspecified radioactive material, which officials then seized, police said Wednesday.

Specialists were examining the radioactive material, which the three were trying to sell for \$1 million, said police spokesman Martin Korch.

Two of the suspects were arrested in eastern Slovakia, the other in Hungary, he said. They were not identified.

The Czech news agency CTK, citing unconfirmed reports, said the material was enriched uranium.

UTAH

Parents plead guilty to kidnapping daughter before wedding

PROVO, Utah (AP) — A couple accused of kidnapping their daughter on the eve of her wedding pleaded guilty Wednesday to a reduced charge and a judge ordered mental-health professionals to evaluate them for actions he called “clearly irrational.”

Julia Redd, 58, and husband Lemuel Redd, 60, pleaded guilty to custodial interference, a misdemeanor, capping the legal end of a family spat over their daughter Julianna’s choice for a husband.

The plea spared them jail time. A judge immediately sentenced the parents to three years of probation and ordered them to pay \$2,000, the cost of a meal that was missed on the eve of the original wedding date, along with the mental evaluation.

NASA

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"She will be missed, but we wish her the very best in her future endeavors."

After earning a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering at SIUC, Higginbotham went to work immediately at the Kennedy Space Center in Florida, according to NASA's Web site. She earned a master's degree in space systems from the Florida Institute of Technology in 1996 and was promoted to astronaut shortly afterward, according to the Web site.

SIUC spokesman Rod Sievers said the university supports Higginbotham and is proud of her accomplishments.

"Who knows what professional opportunities presented themselves," Sievers said. "Apparently Joan felt it was time to make a move."

Joe Crawford can be reached at 536-3311 ext. 254 or jrcrawford@siude.com.



JAMES DURBIN ~ DAILY EGYPTIAN

SIU alumna and NASA astronaut Joan Higginbotham signs autographs for enthusiastic fans after her speech on Oct. 4 in the SIU Arena.

READ

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Nia Allison, 8, read two books during the after-school program Tuesday and said she liked the program, but it would be better if there were more volunteers to help.

"I like it, but I like school better," Allison said.

Corey Pettyjohn, a volunteer from Alpha Tau Omega, said more volunteers are needed in the program to handle the amount of kids enrolled.

"The kids here outnumber us by so much," said Pettyjohn, a senior from Champaign studying advertising.

Members of the Alpha Tau Omega fraternity have been volunteering since the beginning of

October, Pettyjohn said. Most organizations do things like pick up trash on highways, he said, but Alpha Tau Omega wanted to do something more fun, as well as go above and beyond the normal community service requirements.

"We wanted to enjoy what we were doing," he said. "It's something more valuable to give back."

The program runs Monday through Thursday from 3 to 5 p.m. According to Nesbitt, children from three different elementary schools arrive between 3 and 4 p.m. Children receive a snack and then pick out a book to read with a volunteer.

At 4:30 p.m. everyone assembles back in the reading room, Nesbitt said, and each child gets up and tells the group what they've read.

"We're teaching them how to

“

We wanted to enjoy what we were doing. It's something more valuable to give back.

— Corey Pettyjohn
volunteer from Alpha Tau Omega

address an audience," Nesbitt said. "It's a break from the routine of the classroom."

Part of the program's purpose, she said, is to help the kids develop a love for reading as well as instill raised expectations for each child.

"All of them can read," Nesbitt said, "but we want to enhance their reading skills."

According to Nesbitt, the program receives no grants or federal funding and will be making its first appeal to the city of Carbondale for funding on Dec. 4.

Nesbitt said any possible funding could provide adequate furniture, more equipment if necessary, pay for teachers and possibly a bigger space.

"We expect to really expand it," Nesbitt said. "We're looking forward to maybe having someone fund a summer program."

Those interested in volunteering can call the Eurma C. Hayes Center at 453-6448.

Madeleine Leroux can be reached at 536-3311 ext. 254 or mleroux@siu.edu.

MARTIN

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Benjamin Martin said he strangled his mother until he realized her arm had gone limp, but he did not mean to kill her, according to the release.

Benjamin Martin's brothers, Josh and Matthew Martin, told a New Jersey newspaper shortly after the death that their mother frequently abused Benjamin Martin.

"She tried her best," Josh Martin said of his mother. "The intent was

there, but the execution wasn't that good."

Nancy Martin earned degrees in radio-television and cinematography from SIUC in 1976.

SIUC spokesman Rod Sievers said in a statement the university hopes the guilty plea brings closure for the victim's family.

"Nancy was a valuable member of the university community and her loss was devastating to many people on campus, specifically those in the College of Science and in the divi-

sion of Institutional Advancement," Sievers said in the statement.

Jeff Lorber, Nancy Martin's supervisor at the SIU Foundation, said he remembers her as a hard worker and as someone who was excited to work for her alma mater.

"She was someone who was very passionate about her work," Lorber said.

Joe Crawford can be reached at 536-3311 ext. 254 or jrcrawford@siude.com.



News from overseas

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Bryce Arndt
Second-Year Student

STUDENT COLUMNS

Deer hunters are misunderstood

COLLEEN LINDSAY

celind@siu.edu



It was the last day of class before Thanksgiving break. During the last few minutes of class, the professor quizzed us about our vacations; were we going home and the like. As a parting comment, he noted that shotgun deer season started on the Friday before break.

For laughs, he asked if any of us were going to hunt. There was only one hand that went up in class. Everyone turned to look at the lone hunter, who happened to be a petite, feminine girl. The professor stared at me for a few seconds before asking me if I was seriously going to hunt.

A year ago, I got the same reaction from another professor. More and more, people are condemning deer hunting as a practice only for the blood-thirsty and arrogant. The “average deer hunter” is perceived as a large, muscular guy who kills every deer in sight using his large rifle. This guy hunts from a high tree stand, camouflaged to match the tree that he is hiding beside. Whenever an innocent mother deer with fawns walks up, he ruthlessly kills her, and possibly tries for her fawns. This guy is always perceived as the wicked guy with an evil laugh. Whoever this “average deer hunter” is, I have never met him.

Deer hunters come in all sizes. I consider myself on the low end of the hunter scale (I still hunt with a youth model). My mother also hunts. Women are becoming more and more common in the deer stands.

Although there are exceptions, the average shotgun deer season hunter can take two deer, and only one of them with antlers. That is another point that I should make — during shotgun deer season, hunters may only hunt with shotguns, not rifles. As a matter of fact, throughout all the firearm deer seasons, no regular rifles can be used.

So, there goes the “long distance, able to kill a bear” theory. Not all hunters hunt in tree stands. I hunt on the ground. During any firearm deer season, hunters must wear blaze orange. Finally, most deer hunters are not

out to kill Bambi’s mom. Deer hunters serve a valuable purpose to their community. The Illinois Department of Natural Resources noted that the deer population has reached an unheard-of size. This population poses a threat to themselves and the humans that live around them.

Because of the overpopulation of deer, starvation may soon become a real problem for them. Also, any disease that is contracted by one deer may quickly affect the entire deer population. Because of these and other problems, IDNR is trying

to cut down on the number of deer living in Illinois.

One of the common complaints made against deer hunters is the argument of animal rights; however, I wonder how many of those people that voice their complaints about my hunting have eaten a Big Mac or a Subway sandwich that day. It seems surprising that they complain to me about inhumane treatment of deer and yet support the mass slaughter of animals that have been ill-treated their whole short lives.

Another support for deer hunting is that you know all about the meat that you are eating. There are no steroids, you know how old the meat is, and you know who has handled the meat and how they have handled it.

At my house, my dad processes the deer meat. So, I know exactly what he has done with the meat and what temperature it has been kept at. Before I leave this subject I want to note that there are vegetarians that do not eat meat in any form. But for those of us that like to eat meat, I think that deer is the most humane option.

So for all those that look at me funny because I hunt deer, I want to remind them that they probably violate their own rules on a daily basis. I do not condemn them for wanting to preserve life, just be fair in assigning blame. You cannot pick on the hunter if you do not want to go after the meat industry.

And good luck to all the hunters; second season starts today.

Lindsay is a senior studying journalism.

Legalize it

ANDREW O’CONNOR

andrewoc@siu.edu



Illinois is now making the move to ban salvia, a naturally growing plant that is sold as a legal, light hallucinogen. This is business as usual for American politicians.

Marijuana is the most widely used illegal drug in America and because of that, it has been the scourge of opportunist politicians, moral finger-wavers and all types of other grand-standers.

The war on marijuana (yes, war on a plant, even though it can’t really fight or talk), has cost taxpayers in the country billions of wasted dollars, prevented the development of a much needed and promising industry, and has ruined the lives of non-violent offenders and their families.

It is difficult to gauge the actual number of Americans who use marijuana. The National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws does a good job of collecting data and comparing it with private and government data. According to NORML, user numbers generally fall at about 20 million, with about 11 million people using regularly.

This is an enormous segment of the U.S. population and makes marijuana the third most used substance (behind tobacco and alcohol) and the most used illegal substance. The demographics of this group are not just your cast of characters from “Half Baked,” old Deadheads and the Method Man, this group is made up of mostly tax-paying, law-abiding citizens.

Marijuana is dangerous in the sense that any mood altering chemical is dangerous. It slows reaction time, thus making things such as driving more dangerous.

The active ingredient in marijuana that produces these effects is a chemical called THC. This chemical can come in amounts from 3 percent to about 30 percent, although certain oils and hash have even higher percentages. That can make dosage difficult especially for the novice user.

Marijuana smoke is cancerous, but not toxic; no one has ever overdosed from marijuana. The government currently has a campaign claiming one joint is as bad as five cigarettes. This propaganda doesn’t include the fact that cigarettes have filters, and only a small percentage of people smoke

doobies anymore, many opt for tobacco leaves, glass pipes, bongos or vaporizers, and, with the exception of the vaporizer (recommended for medicinal use), very little study has been done in this area.

So the bad side of marijuana is that it is hard to dose consistently, it slows reaction time and it is still smoke. Yet these facts still do not qualify it by any standard of measurement to be worse than alcohol or tobacco. Those two legal drugs each year kill more people than marijuana could ever hope to.

Then why, in 2006, did we arrest 829,000 individuals for marijuana offenses? Of those arrests, 89 percent were for possession — not sale or manufacture. There are more marijuana arrests than the combined arrests for all violent offenses in the United States. We arrest more marijuana smokers than robbers, killers and rapists.

Where is Nancy Grace when you need her?

This is all at a whopping cost to the U.S. taxpayers of \$10 billion a year. With the crisis in funding

wars of conquest, social security and Medicare, one might want to rethink spending \$10 billion harassing people who use a plant that grows naturally.

In fact, recently some people did.

Five hundred top economists, including three Nobel Prize winners, sent a letter to President George W. Bush saying if legalized and regulated like tobacco and alcohol, it could produce revenues of \$6.2 billion a year.

So instead of losing \$10 billion, the economy could make \$6.2 billion and that money could be taxed.

This does not include the amount of revenue that a legalized, industrial hemp industry could produce.

Hemp can be used to make paper, food, clothes and a whole slew of other things, including fuel, and it can be grown year-round without nearly as much environmental run-off as crops such as corn. The color of money in America is green.

As the Method-Man once said, “Marijuana is just nature’s way of saying high.” Whether it is moral, economic or practical, there is no good argument for continued prohibition.

It is time to hold these politicians and grand-standers who waste billions on this fruitless venture accountable, and finally do the one thing that makes sense: Legalize it.

O’Connor is a junior studying political science.

ABOUT US

The DAILY EGYPTIAN is published by the students of Southern Illinois University at Carbondale, with fall and spring circulations of 20,000. Free copies are distributed on campus and in the Carbondale, Murphysboro and Carterville communities.

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EDITORIAL POLICY

OUR WORD is the consensus of the DAILY EGYPTIAN Editorial Board on local, national and global issues affecting the Southern Illinois University community. Viewpoints expressed in columns and letters to the editor do not necessarily reflect those of the DAILY EGYPTIAN.

• Letters and guest columns must be submitted with author’s contact information, preferably via e-mail. All letters are limited to 300 words and columns to 500 words. All topics are acceptable. All submissions are subject to editing.



• Phone number required to verify authorship (number will not be published). STUDENTS must include year and major. FACULTY must include rank and department. NON-ACADEMIC STAFF include position and department. OTHERS include hometown.



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



Hundreds of shoppers line up in the cold, early morning hours waiting for Best Buy to open. Retailers such as Best Buy hoped their “door buster” deals would drive the holiday shopping season.



ABOVE: Timothy Schlag shops for a laptop in the pre-dawn hours Friday. Schlag stated he wasn't Christmas shopping but came out early to take advantage of the Black Friday sales.

RIGHT: Ahmed Ali (center), a business student at John A. Logan, was the first to enter Best Buy when it opened at 5 a.m. Ali camped out at Best Buy for more than 24 hours to be first in line.



Holiday season starts out black



Tiffany Glasco examines wind spinners at a kiosk in the mall Friday morning. The spinners are made of fanned-out metal and create an optical illusion as they turn with the wind.



Mary Blessing (left) and Elizabeth Swift, both employees of Day-By-Day Calendar, discuss the busy day ahead early Friday morning. Blessing said the number of shoppers this year seemed to be larger than in years past.

Mezo didn't see much action between his arrival at 3:15 a.m. and 15 minutes before the doors opened at 5 a.m. However, he said he wasn't worried because he usually does much better once the doors finally open and the shoppers aren't as worried about losing their spots in line.

Local businesses hold own

Big chain businesses such as Best Buy and Macy's are not the only stores in Carbondale affected by the holiday rush.

Even local stores feel the heat when it becomes crunch time for last-minute gifts. While big box retailers thrive the day after Thanksgiving, some local mom and pop shops were looking to cash in during the weekend, too.

Doug McDonald, owner of Phoenix Cycles and Beautiful Creations, said the way he competes with other businesses during the holiday rush is by making sure he keeps his products unique and has the best customer service possible.

McDonald said he also sees the Lights Fantastic Parade, which is scheduled at 6 p.m. Saturday, as an opportunity for people to experience local shops.

“A lot of time they drive by,” he said of normal business days. “And that's exactly what they do, they just drive right by.”

Kevin Baity, assistant city manager for economic development, said there are more attractions this year than just the Lights Fantastic Parade. There will also be a Carbondale High School basketball game, SIUC football game and an SIUC basketball game.

Baity said with two teams coming from out of town, downtown stores and restaurants might see more business.

Courtney Smith, the graphic art designer at Attitude Designs, said her store is busiest the week before Christmas. At that point, Smith said, “It's all hands on deck.”

In order to compete with bigger businesses in Carbondale, Smith said her store runs holiday-themed advertisements and decorates the inside and outside with greenery.

Smith said when it gets close to the holiday season, a vast majority of her shoppers are not only students but are locals from surrounding towns.

“We also put up crazy window displays that coincide with the Lights Fantastic Parade,” she said.

Black Friday – a tradition of the season

The earliest reference of Black Friday dates back to newspaper articles from Nov. 29, 1975, and it was initially named because of the excess amount of shoppers on that day.

According to www.shoppertrack.com, Black Friday was projected to be the biggest shopping day of 2007.

Regardless if one likes or dislikes the idea of spending the night wrapped up in three fleece blankets under a tent drinking all the hot chocolate imaginable in 30 degree weather, one thing is for sure: Black Friday, for most, marks the beginning of the holiday season.

Christian Holt can be reached at 536-3311 ext. 268 or cholt@siu.edu.

*Story by Christian Holt
Photos by Stephen Rickerl*

There aren't many times when it is socially acceptable for 600 people to file into a store at 5 a.m. In America, there is one day when generations of families wait in line at the biggest department stores for the best sales of the season.

The day after Thanksgiving, also known as Black Friday, is inherently famous for being the day most stores dramatically slash their prices to lure in massive numbers of customers.

Black Friday has not only proven to be a major day of business, but for many it also marks the beginning of the holiday shopping season — regardless of how early it seems to come every year.

Big businesses rewarded for big sales

At 5 a.m., Ahmed Ali had already been waiting for more than 24 hours. At Best Buy in Carbondale, Ali, a sophomore at John A. Logan College from Yemen studying business, was first in line.

He said he had been planning his excursion for three days. While Ali and his friends, who were cuddled up in tents, were looking to score some sweet electronics for themselves, others wanted to help someone dear to them.

Fuad Alajrafi, a freshman from Saudi Arabia studying mechanical engineering, said he wanted practical things for his new home — two washing machines and two dryers.

He said he will keep one set for himself. “The other set, I will send to my grandmother in Saudi Arabia,” Alajrafi said.

Local businesses bank on big business crowds

Waiting for hours at Best Buy didn't have to be a miserable experience. Two local businesses were asked by the manager to come and sell food and refreshments during the waiting hours.

The owner of Espres-go, more commonly known as Blue Moose, and Jami Jennings from Marion set up a stand with coffee, croissant sandwiches, hot chocolate and bagel sandwiches to help keep people warm.

Stuart Smith, a 1992 SIUC alumnus, took full advantage of Jennings' presence.

With six shots of espresso and three sugars, Smith was sure he would be good to go for the night.

Smith also said he commended Jennings for being out in the cold because he was sure she wouldn't make much profit.

Jennings said she was there until her 23 gallons of milk ran out.

Winston Mezo of Winston's Bagels also attempted to thwart consumers' hunger pains.

He said this was the third year he set up shop outside Best Buy. He said he appreciated the extra business after being shut down for most of Thanksgiving break.

Why is it called ‘Black Friday’?

Retail stores write their profits in black and their losses in red. For most of the year, stores report mainly losses. The holiday shopping season is the time stores are most profitable (or in the black).

Source: theblackfriday.com







Shoppers race through the mall Friday morning. Retailers try to encourage shoppers to start their holiday shopping early by offering large discounts on popular items.



Less than an hour after its 5 a.m. opening, the checkout line at Best Buy stretched halfway around the store. One employee estimated it could take nearly two hours to get through the line.

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\$ FOR SALE \$

Autos

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 Auto Sales, 605 N Illinois Ave,
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WANTED TO BUY: vehicles, running or not, trucks & cars, \$25-\$1000, 218-6289 or 439-3247.

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1998 TOYOTA CAMRY 115K mi, runs well, spoiler and tinted windows, \$5200 obo, 214-455-8806

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STEVE THE CAR DOCTOR Mobile Mechanic, he makes house calls, 457-7984 or mobile 525-8393.

Homes

SPACIOUS COUNTRY HOME, perfect for single, couple, or Grad, appli, trash/lawn incl, outside pets only, avail at the end of Dec, 457-5170.

CARBONDALEHOUSING.COM
 for all your housing needs,
 renting begins Jan 14th.

Mobile Homes

1994 MANSION, 3 bdrm 2 bath, newly remodeled, located in quiet park, c/a, w/d, fire place, \$23,500, 618-984-2266 or 618-218-0590.

MOBILE HOME FOR sale, 1 or 2 bdrm, recently remodeled, lg covered porch, shed, close to SIU, \$3,500, (815)751-3390.

Furniture

PILLOW TOP QUEEN MATTRESS SET. Still in plastic, Cost \$900 sell \$195, Marion 618-559-5044.

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\$100 EACH, WASHER, dryer, stove refrigerator, window a/c, 90 day guar, Able Appliances, 457-7767.

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Pets & Supplies

AKC REGISTERED DALMATION, born 7-31-07, 14 weeks old, 1 male available, CUTE, first shots, wormed, ready for you to love, \$425, call 618-924-4160.

Miscellaneous

NEWSPAPER END ROLLS available for sale at the Daily Egyptian front desk, room 1259, Communications Building, limited supply avail.

HALF CARAT, WHITE GOLD, princess cut engagement ring, \$600, 618-559-2665.

Auctions & Sales

SILENT AUCTION
 Dec. 2, 2007, 2pm to 5 pm
 Newman Catholic Center

\$ FOR RENT \$

DUPLEX, C'DALE, 2 BDRM, 1 1/2 mi from SIU on busline, lg backyrd, small pet ok, \$475, incl water & trash, 618-893-2683.

Rooms

SALUKI HALL, CLEAN rooms, util incl, \$215/mo, across from SIU, sem lease, call 618-529-3833.

1/2 MI FROM campus, clean facility, private parking, free internet, only \$235/mo, util incl, 549-2831.

Roommates

ROOMMATE TO SHARE, 4 BDRM house, near SIU, w/d, d/w, cathedral ceilings, avail Jan, 549-3973.

FOUR ROOMMATES, SEARCHING for one, C'dale, Mill Str, across from campus, equipped kitchen, 2 bath, w/d, furn, all female, 618-993-5904.

NICE HOUSE AT 606 West Mill, across from campus, 5 females, need one more, call Clyde Swanson at 549-7292 or 924-7215.

LOOKING FOR A roommate, 504 Mill, across from Pulliam Hall, 847-525-5812.

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1 BDRM FULLY furn, across from campus, parking space, laundry on site, avail Jan 1, 2008, \$525/mo, call 309-370-1681.

GREAT BARGAIN! WAKELAND APTS, NEWER 1 bdrm, w/d, avail Dec-Aug, RENT REDUCTION!, behind communications, 900 S. Elizabeth, 314-807-0558.

1 BDRM, 5 min to campus, fully furn, internet, cable, sewer, trash & 24 hr maint incl, avail Dec 31, 203-4525.

\$490,1 BDRM, FURN apt, free internet, cable, trash & water, pets allowed, close to SIU, 217-725-4976.

27 VILLAGE DR. #2, C'dale, 2 bdrm, 1 bath, w/d, d/w, spacious, rent neg, water and trash pd, pool accessible, 618-713-6809 or 217-840-1137.

FURN, 1 BDRM APT, \$380/mo, incl cable, internet, water, trash & parking, avail Dec-May, 618-315-4180.

Apartments

STUDIOS AND 1 Bdrm Apts, be the first to live in these newly remodeled studio apts, all near SIU, many amenities, 457-4422.

AVAILABLE NOW, 1 BDRM, ACROSS from SIU, hi speed DSL internet, satellite TV, parking, water & trash, no pets, 529-4763.

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DEC - AUG, 2 BDRM, AVAIL, w/d, parking, trash, pets ok, spacious, clean, close to campus, call 457-4621.

C'DALE AREA, BARGAIN RENTS- WHY PAY MORE, 1 bdrms (under \$300/mo), call 684-4145 or 684-6862.

1 & 2 bdrm apt, 2 full bath, w/d hookup, 1 1/2 mile east of University Mall, 751-9052.

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M'boro, 1&2 Bdrms, pets ok, some util incl, avail now and Jan, \$250/mo & up, call 687-1774.

TP & MP RENTALS 2 & 3 bdrm houses and apts, close to campus, affordable, 457-8302.

CLEAN, QUIET STUDIOS, water & trash incl, parking, no pets, laundry, \$290-\$320/mo, call 529-3815.

TWO BDRM, WALK to class, \$575/mo, water incl, avail 12/17, 708-502-3395.

1, 2, 3 & 4 BDRM, apts & houses, rental list at 324 West Walnut, walk to SIU, 549-4808, 9 am-4 pm.

SAVE \$ FOR THE HOLIDAYS! 1 & 3 bdrms, across from campus, Mill Street, 549-0895.

NICE 1 or 2 BDRM, \$400-\$500/mo, some util incl, no pets, water and trash incl, 549-2831 or 529-2432.

NICE 1 BDRMS, 605 W. Oak, 322 W. Walnut, carpet, a/c, \$300/mo, available now, 529-1820.

LG SINGLE APT, avail NOW, from \$295 to \$375/mo, very nice amenities, in C'Dale, call now for details, 618-529-5295, semester leases avail.

2 BDRM APT, really nice, walk to campus, large living room, available soon, please call, 457-4422.

SPACIOUS FURN STUDIO, near Campus, starting from \$285, 549-6990
 www.lincolnvillageapts.com.

1, 2, & 3 BDRM APT, town house, duplex, house, avail now and Aug, many extras, quiet mature environment, (no Ameren), 549-8000, www.universityheightsrentals.com

NICE, CLEAN, 1 BDRM apt, close to SIU, parking, a/c, 405 1/2 N. Poplar. 708-212-0985.



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Check out the website for more info.

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Requirements:

- Must be enrolled for at least 6 credit hours.
- Must be registered for Spring 2008.
- Must have an open morning or afternoon work block schedule
- Experience working with Photoshop, InDesign, Flash, & Dreamweaver
- Communication & Graphic Design majors preferred, all majors welcome.

The Daily Egyptian is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Pick up your application at the Daily Egyptian Reception Desk, Communication Bldg. Rm. 1259. Monday through Friday, 9am-4:30pm (618)536-3311

NICE CLEAN 2 bdrm 1203 W. Schwartz, a/c, yard, 2 blocks from siu, great neighborhood, water & trash paid, \$450, 529-3581.

700 SOUTH POPLAR, 1 blk from campus, sublet, avail immed, \$300/person obo, please call Clyde Swanson, 549-7292 or 924-7215.

NEWLY RENOVATED SPACIOUS 2 bdrm apt, w/d on site, apt located in C'dale, quiet neighborhood, close to SIU campus, students pref, make inquiries, 319-670-0305.

M'BORO, 1 BDRM, carpet, air, no pets, \$295/mo, 687-4577 or 967-9202.

DIDN'T GET ONE of Alpha's places last year? Get on Alpha's waiting list, send us your application by Jan1, and secure this year's rent rate, 457-8194
www.alpharentals.net

BROOKSIDE APTS, QUIET living w/ spacious 1, 2 & 3 bdrms, all util incl, c/a, on site laundry, low security deposit, on-site management, call about our specials, 549-3600.

NICE NEWER 1 OR 2 bdrm, 516 S. Poplar, carpet, a/c, 529-1820 or 529-3581.

2 bdrm, spacious, clean, quiet, c/a, water & trash incl, no dogs, \$500/mo, avail now, call 529-4301.

CARBONDALEHOUSING.COM for all your housing needs, renting begins Jan 14th.

M'BORO/C'DALE, TOWNHOUSE, 2 bdrm, 1.5 bath, garage, \$495, water and trash incl, lease, dep, no pets, 549-3733.

1 BDRM APT, WATER & trash incl, very quiet area, \$350/mo, HOUSE 2 bdrm \$450/mo, trailer contract for deed, call 534-9363 or 534-9361.

NICE, QUIET, 1 & 2 bdrm, unfurn, perfect for grad or professional, lease to 8/08, dep, no pets, 529-2535.

ONE BDRM APT, 1407 W. Sycamore-C, quiet area, 618-924-1764 or 529-2054.

PRIVATE HOME, FULL size, all util, internet, cable, quiet, serious student only, no pets, 618-924-1764.

3 BDRM 2 BATH, close to campus, W/D, C/A, unfurn, no pets, avail Dec. 15, 618- 203-4211.

MOVE IN TODAY, clean 1 bdrm, close to rec, \$250/mo, you pay utilities carpet, a/c, no pets 529-3581.

Townhouses
NEW 2 BDRM, 1 1/2 bath Townhouse, w/d, d/w, behind Rec, 312 E Hester, \$625/mo, 618-967-2044.

WEDGEWOOD HILLS, NEW 2 bdrm, 2 1/2 bath, w/d, deck, shed, leasing now & aug, \$900/mo 549-5596.

NEW 2 BDRM, 1.5 bath, fully loaded, w/d, d/w, microwave many extras, quiet mature enviroment, 1300 sq ft, 549-8000.

DIDN'T GET ONE of Alpha's places last year? Get on Alpha's waiting list, send us your application by Jan1, and secure this year's rent rate, 457-8194
www.alpharentals.net

QUIET 2 BDRM, 1.5 BATH, avail now, deck over pond, 5 min from SIU, \$695, 618-924-5646.

GREAT 2 BDRM, for grads or married, unfurn, \$500-\$510/mo, lease to 8/08 + dep, no pets, 529-2535.

Duplexes
NEW ONE BDRM with study and fireplace on lake, one car garage, fully loaded, (no Ameren), quiet mature enviroment, avail now and Aug, 549-8000,
www.universityheightsrentals.com

CDALE NEWER DUPLEX, 15 min from SIU, 3 bdrm, 2 bath, 2 car garage, d/w, fridg, trash & lawn , avail Dec 1, 549-4618, 967-5733, 967-3036.

Houses
M'BORO 2 + bdrms, quiet neighborhood, newly remodeled kitchen & bath, \$500/mo + dep, no pets, 618-687-1372.

NEAR CAMPUS-REASONABLE rates, 2 & 3 bdrm houses, w/d, c/a, free mow, No Pets, call 684-4145 or 684-6862.

C'DALE AREA, BARGAIN RENTS-WHY PAY MORE, 3 bdrm house, w/d, c/a, free mow & trash, carport, **No Pets**, call 684-4145 or 684-6862.

AVAIL NOW, 2 bdrm, 1 bath house, Unity Point School District, call G&R Property Management, 549-4713 or visit **www.grrentals.com**

....HOUSES FOR SALE....
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2 BRDM, 606 N SPRINGER, nice and clean, Avail Dec 1, great quiet neighborhood, w/d, c/a & heat, a/c, new windows, well insulated, basement for storage, very large back yard with deck. 1 well behaved dog ok, \$650/mo, 1 1/2 security dep with pet, 1 month dep without pet. Call John or Brian 618-529-5092.

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NEW 3 BDRM, 2 bath, 2 car garage in the woods, 3 mi South of Murphy, \$1200/mo, 525-5323.

3 BDRM, 1.5 bath, gas heat, c/a, lg yard, pets ok, call 618-516-4079, **www.geocities.com/silrenta**

COUNTRY COTTAGE NEAR Logan/SIU, 1 bdrm, quiet tenant, no pets, lease dep, \$275. 985-2204.

SMALL HOUSE, QUIET, perfect for grad student or prof, clean, water & trash incl, non-smoker, 549-2918.

NICE 5 or 6 Bedroom, close to SIU, 700 W Freeman, A/C, carpet, 529-1820 & 529-3581.

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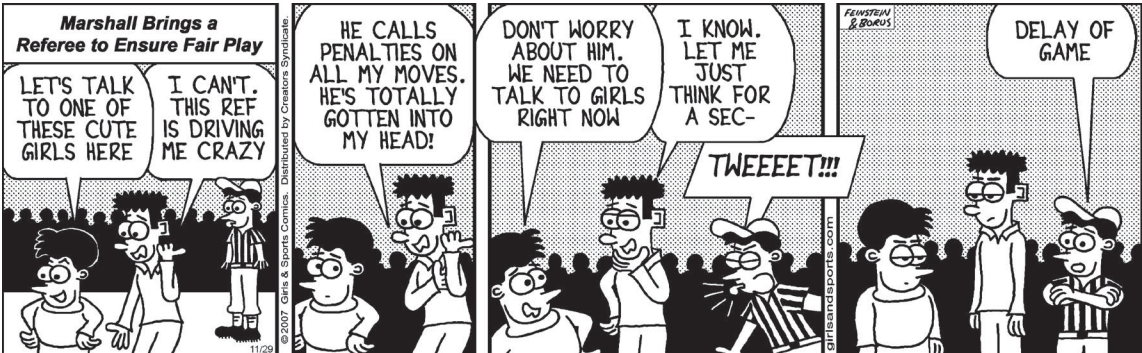
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THE Daily Crossword

Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

ACROSS

1 Chocolate substitute

6 Slammer or clink

10 River of New York City

14 Man from Muscat

15 Forum wear

16 Picture of a physician?

17 Start of a quip

20 Pop the question

21 Indiana pro

22 AWOL part

23 Not of the cloth

24 Electric eye, e.g.

25 Part 2 of quip

30 Aggrandize

31 Chits

32 Cal. abbr.

35 Order to a broker

36 Claw

38 Humdinger

39 Letters that bang

40 Astronomer Sagan

41 Steady starrer

42 Part 3 of quip

45 Lasso

48 Goddess of discord

49 Medicinal

DOWN

1 Closing passage

2 Writer Oz

3 Relative status

4 Lennon's love

5 Cameo role

6 Wall covering

7 Lug

8 Borodin's prince

9 Brit. flyboys

10 Range

11 Puccini pieces

12 Military tribute

By Alan P. Olschwang 11/29/07

plants

50 Want too much

52 Masseuse's place

55 End of quip

58 Lived hand to mouth

59 Lost traction

60 Perch

61 Highland loch

62 Sicilian volcano

63 Rebellion of 1857-58

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

A	D	A	M	M	A	S	C	O	B	E	S	E
S	E	R	A	E	L	L	A	R	E	S	A	T
T	A	N	G	S	C	A	M	A	R	A	B	S
I	D	O	N	T	H	A	V	E	A	C	L	U
				O	W	E	N	R	U	L	E	
S	T	O	L	I	D	A	A	R	E	M	C	S
P	E	R	I	L	I	R	M	A	S	O	O	T
I	T	S	A	L	L	G	R	E	E	K	T	O
C	O	O	S	I	N	O	N	A	R	D	E	N
A	N	N	S	C	O	W	P	R	E	S	T	O
				S	T	I	R	G	A	M	E	
I	M	T	O	T	A	L	L	Y	A	T	S	E
S	N	E	E	R	M	O	A	T	C	A	R	L
S	T	A	R	K	U	N	D	O	A	L	G	A
T	O	N	E	S	S	E	E	N	R	E	O	S

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13 "Saint Maybe" novelist

18 Couple

19 Dog's bane

23 Droop

24 Avoid

25 Examine

26 Cart-pulling pair

27 Beer ingredient

28 Novelist Cather

29 Court

32 Greek drink

33 Pitch symbol

34 Surf partner?

36 Like a drumhead

37 Circle segment

38 Iron pumper's pride

40 Seashore

41 Eric Clapton's axes

42 Gives in

43 Sagebrush State

44 Quarry

45 Make behind time

46 Similar

47 Silver screen parts

50 Cornishman or Welshman, e.g.

51 Norse god

52 Cease

53 Monterrey money

54 Bohemian

56 Res.

57 Enemy

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Sudoku By The Mephram Group

5	9			7			4	1
2	4				5		3	8
			9		3			5
	8						6	
9			6		2			
4	5		3				1	2
6	2			5			9	7

Level: 1 2 3 4

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

Solution to Wednesday's puzzle

4	6	3	8	1	9	5	2	7
5	8	7	3	4	2	1	6	9
2	9	1	7	5	6	3	8	4
7	2	5	9	8	4	6	1	3
6	4	8	1	3	7	2	9	5
1	3	9	6	2	5	4	7	8
9	7	2	4	6	3	8	5	1
3	1	6	5	9	8	7	4	2
8	5	4	2	7	1	9	3	6

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FREE Babysitting

By Linda C. Black

Today's Birthday. Save up about twice as much as you think you'll need, especially traveling. It might be worth the trip, but you won't get by on the cheap.

To get the advantage, check the day's rating: 10 is the easiest day, 0 the most challenging.

Aries (March 21-April 19) — Today is a 6 — There's going to be a mix-up, accidentally or on purpose. Try to have it not happen on your watch. Be extra diligent.

Taurus (April 20-May 20) — Today is an 8 — Keep your wits, you're going to need them. Read everything, especially the fine print, before you sign anything.

Gemini (May 21-June 21) — Today is a 7 — You're generally not a very good person to entrust with a secret. You can keep one if you must, and now that's a good idea.

Cancer (June 22-July 22) — Today is a 6 — You'll have to look at the situation from a slightly different perspective and, remember, everything that doesn't work is one thing you can check off the list.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) — Today is a 7 — The debate rages on. It will never end. There's a faint chance for compromise, but don't hold your breath. After they're talked out, tell them what to do next.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — Today is a 7 — Stay out of an argument that doesn't really concern you. If possible, get out of the area, so you don't have to listen to it. Provide counseling only upon request.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) — Today is a 7 — Again, restrain yourself. Whatever's holding you back is a good thing this time. You'll understand why soon.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) — Today is a 7 — It feels like you're wealthy enough to buy anything you want. OK, get a few important things but don't touch your savings account. And don't charge all that stuff, either.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) — Today is a 6 — You have the advantage in the upcoming debate. The other person's arguments are shallow and trite. Don't be afraid; do be gentle if possible.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — Today is a 7 — Be careful on the job. There will be setbacks and complications. Not everything that could go wrong will, but you're in that arena.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) — Today is a 7 — Although you love your friends, you may not have the energy to do your normal socializing. You don't have to attend everything. Let them cover for you.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) — Today is a 6 — If you get caught in somebody else's argument, offer incomprehensible advice. While they're trying to figure out what it is you said, you can make your getaway. Don't grin until you're out of sight.

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JUMBLE

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

LELOH

□ □ □ □ □

DOLDY

□ □ □ □ □

LENPOL

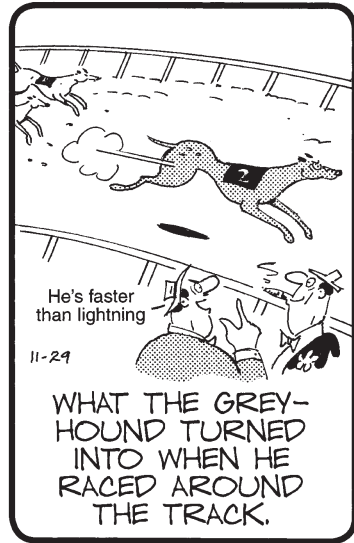
□ □ □ □ □

GAAMED

□ □ □ □ □

www.jumble.com

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Mike Argirion



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

Print answer here: A "□ □ □ □" □ □ □ □

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: MOUTH ROBIN TAMPER DEMURE
Answer: When the class got rowdy, the math teacher did a — "NUMBER" ON THEM

FIND BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

In the Daily Classifieds

SIUC playwrights premiere their works

Audra Ord
DAILY EGYPTIAN

Horror, mystery, vicious attacks, Kurt Cobain and gay ghosts — those who attend this weekend’s New Play Festival will experience a variety of themes from their seats in the Christian H. Moe Theater.

The festival features two new plays written by SIUC graduate students.

“Verse Chorus Verse” is a play by Randall Colburn, a third-year graduate student from Rochester Hills, Mich., working toward his Masters of Fine Arts in playwriting.

The play follows Polly, a junkie bent on reconnecting with Kurt Cobain in Chaos, a mysterious afterworld, by performing a human sacrifice, Colburn said.

“(‘Verse Chorus Verse’) revolves around this woman who is obsessed with the idea that Kurt Cobain ... was in love with her and wrote a song for her, the ‘Polly wants a cracker’ song,” said Vincent Rhomberg, marketing coordinator for the SIUC theaters.

Colburn’s play is somewhat dark and macabre, exploring the conspiracy surrounding Cobain’s death and addressing issues of death and reincarnation, Rhomberg said.

The other play featured in the

festival is “Summer of the Wolf” by Laramie Dean, a student from Missoula, Mont., pursuing his doctorate in playwriting.

“Summer of the Wolf” has evolved from a story about a serial killer in a gay community to a search for unity on both an individual and community level after several members of a gay community are viciously attacked.

One of the characters is based on the death of Jesse Valencia, a young gay man killed four years ago in Columbia, Mo., Dean said.

Because his play addresses issues of sexual identity, Dean hopes “Summer of the Wolf” will lead audiences to shift their paradigms of the gay community.

“Hopefully straight audiences will see queer people in a different light, or at least begin to think about or reconsider their own pre-conceptions about what it means to be gay,” Dean said.

Both “Verse Chorus Verse” and “Summer of the Wolf” have mature adult content, Rhomberg said.

The two plays are being performed in a rotation in the Christian H. Moe Theater this weekend. “Verse Chorus Verse” is running tonight and Saturday at 7:30 p.m. and performances of “Summer of the Wolf” are Friday at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday at 2:00



PROVIDED PHOTO

p.m.

Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$12 for seniors and \$6 for students and may be purchased at the box office at the southwest entrance of the

Communications Building, 12:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, or by calling 453-3001.

The tickets are two for the price of one, with one ticket good for

admission to one performance of each of the productions.

Audra Ord can be reached at 536-3311 ext. 275 or aord@siude.com.

FASHIONABLY LATE

The countdown begins

JAKINA HILL

jhill
@siude.com



We are full swing in countdown mode with only six days of school remaining — not including the week of finals. For some of us this means studying for the first time all semester to try to magically turn that C into a B, or pleading with teachers and putting the finishing touches on grueling projects that have kept you up to the wee hours of morning.

“Only six days” is what you keep repeating to yourself as you look forward to going back home or just not having to go to that 8 a.m. class.

Some of us are already looking forward to next semester, where you promise yourself to actually go to all your classes, and of course get better grades (just like you did at the beginning of this semester).

In order to continue paving the road to success there are a few things to keep in mind as you suf-

fer through the last minute, grade-boosting week of school.

Don’t forget all the occasions in which you told yourself you’d never do that again. For instance, partying the night before you had to take a test you didn’t study for, pulling an all-nighter two days in a row or spending part of your bill money on alcohol or a new shirt.

Remembering these mistakes and how bad you felt the next day is a good way to keep yourself in check.

Keeping in mind all the things you want to accomplish is another handy self-checking method for success. As unrelated as it may seem, you aren’t going to get the Rolls Royce (with driver) by sleeping in. College is a business and you have to put in as much as you want to get out, and as Lupe Fiascos puts it, “pimp the system.”

So before you begin making flimsy New Years’ resolutions and promises to yourself to keep them, take a second to reflect on what you actually want out of this experience and resolve to go after that.

Remember style mavens follow the rules but break them accordingly.

WHAT’S GOING ON

Today	11/29	Club 51: Veladdiction Hangar 9: Mathien and TBA Mugsy’s: Karaoke Tres Hombres: The Dip 60 Glassy Junction: Live blues	Sunday	12/2	Hangar 9: Death by Karaoke with DJ Punk Soul Brutha Keywest: Ivas John Blues
	11/30	Club 51: Long Island Iced Tea Party Hangar 9: Freekbass Cousin Andy’s: Andrew Calhoun Copper Dragon: Mike and Joe Mugsy’s: Cynthia at the piano Keywest: By Request DJ and karaoke Tres Hombres: DJ PK’s: The Blues Bandits		12/3	Hangar 9: Open Mic
Friday	12/1	Club 51: Awaken the Hour, Hope for the Dying, Adiah Domineer, Life and Passing Hangar 9: Non-Stop Reggae Mugsy’s: Championship Arm Wrestling Longbrach: salsa dancing Keywest: Gotcha Entertainment DJ and Karaoke Tres Hombres: Miller Girls Booby’s: SVAHA PK’s: Jack Head Glassy Junction: Caribbean Night Copper: 17th Floor	Tuesday	12/4	Hangar 9: Dollar Nite with Punk Soul Brutha Tres Hombres: County Line
				12/5	Hangar 9: DJ Beasley Hip Hop and Disco Show Glassy Junction: Live Folk Country
Saturday			Wednesday		

PULSE CHATTERBOX

At the Miss Puerto Rico pageant earlier this week, winner Ingrid Marie Rivera experienced hives and swelling on her face and body. Pageant officials later tested Rivera’s clothing and makeup, which tested positive for pepper spray. Who do you think was responsible for the misdeed?



Alicia Wade

I have a suspicion this was just a case of backstabbing gone horribly overboard, and I genuinely feel bad for Rivera. Although with this kind of behavior going on at beauty pageants it’s only a matter of time before they go full contact. I’m just waiting for the sequins to fly.



Jakina Hill

I think it’s hilarious that they go to such extremes — it’s still funny.



Audra Ord

I’ve actually run in a county fair pageant (go on — laugh it up), and I know how vicious some of those girls can get when it comes down to getting the crown. I think what some of the bigger pageants need is a real-life Gracie Lou Freebush, an undercover Miss Congeniality who will ensure fair play.

DAILY EGYPTIAN

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THE TRIPLE THREAT

Mohamed, Doran, Schirmer dominate their sport

Jeff Engelhardt
DAILY EGYPTIAN

After a historic cross country season, the Missouri Valley Conference's most dominant trio is looking to translate their success to the track.

Senior Kevin Doran, sophomore Jeff Schirmer and junior Mohamed Mohamed ran over the MVC in one of best cross country seasons in the conference's history. The three Salukis are hoping they can make more history with the track season one week away.

Between the runners, the three combined to collect honors including All-MVC, All-Region, MVC Champion and a top-100 finish in the national championship race. While Schirmer claimed the MVC crown, Mohamed and Doran landed second and third respectively.

Doran and Mohamed were named All-Region after they both finished in the top 25 at the NCAA Midwest Regional, and Mohamed went on to finish in 77th-place at nationals — the best by any Saluki since 1984.

Mohamed said he came short of his goal to make All-American, but was still pleased he finished less than two minutes behind the overall winner of the 10K national championship race.

All three said they think their dominance this season was due in large part to their friendship on and off the track and their endless competitive attitude against each other.

Doran was the captain of the team this season and worked his way to that position despite having limited cross country experience. He said coach Matt Sparks came to him in the spring of 2005 to ask him to

run cross country for the 2006 fall season.

Doran said after running with the consistent front-runner Mohamed every day in his first year, he naturally started to get to his level.

"We really pushed each other and we took each other to a higher level," Doran said.

Schirmer was similar to Doran in that both had slow starts but strong finishes to the last two seasons. Schirmer said he didn't get in as many miles during summer training, so it took him longer to get to their level.

After working out and running with each other for so long, the three began to form a friendship that crossed over from the track to their everyday life.

Mohamed and Schirmer were roommates last season in the residence halls and continued to live with each other this season in an apartment. Meanwhile, Doran lives in Murphysboro and said he still spends time with the two nearly everyday.

Mohamed said there is a mental edge knowing two of his friends are there to push him to do his best.

"There is a definite advantage when Jeff and Kevin are out there with me," Mohamed said. "We know where we want to be on the track and how we are going to go out there so it comes down to one of us winning a race."

The three traded off victories throughout the season as Schirmer won the first event, Mohamed won the second and Doran finished ahead of both of them in the Pre-Nationals.

The competitiveness between the three does not end on the track either.

One of the many activities they participate in off the field is the popular video game Halo 3. Schirmer said the games can get heated and all three of them always want to win.



JASON JOHNSON ~ DAILY EGYPTIAN

From left, Jeff Schirmer, Mohamed Mohamed and Kevin Doran were named to both the All-Conference team as well as the MVC Scholar-Athlete team.

The team also had spaghetti dinner together every Tuesday night and would go see movies as a team to help bring everyone together. Schirmer said the activities go a long way in making a good team a great team.

Doran will not return to the

cross country team next season due to graduation but the Salukis are still confident in their chance to repeat.

"I would love to see Mo and Jeff continue to step up," Doran said. "We have a great team and I am confident someone can get up to

that level next season."

MVC cross country is safe from the three Salukis, but they have their sights set on more of the same heading into the track season.

Jeff Engelhardt can be reached at 536-3311 ext. 238 or jengel@siu.edu.

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Saluki Insider

Three of the six BCS conferences don't have conference championship games, meaning their teams have a better chance at fewer losses against quality opponents and a better shot at the BCS title game. Should all conferences be forced to have a championship game, or should it not affect the BCS standings?

SEAN MCGAHAN
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"Wait, kind of like college basketball does? If we wanted to tackle everything they could do to fix NCAA football, we would suspend the sports page for a day and all have at it. But I don't follow college football that closely, so it doesn't bother me. I enjoy being able to watch football or Bond movies whenever I want during winter break."

SCOTT MIESZALA
smieszala@siude.com

"The whole system is probably one of the reasons why I'm not a huge fan of college football. If this team wins and this team loses but this team wins over that team ... it's way too complicated for me. Having outright conference winners in every league would make things a lot smoother but I don't see the BCS changing anytime soon."

MEGAN KRAMPER
mkremper@siude.com

GUEST COMMENTATOR: MARTY RODGERS

"I think they should all have a conference championship game. Then you could take the best from the conferences and go from there. It would really help out the BCS if you do it that way."

— SIU football sophomore safety Marty Rodgers

QUOTE OF THE DAY

Randal Falker

"We did a lot of things wrong on the defensive end, and we didn't step up on the offensive end. That's a bad combination right there."

— SIU men's basketball senior forward Randal Falker on his team's performance in its 70-45 loss to Southern California Sunday. The loss was SIU's worst since 2000.

Do you have questions for the Saluki Insider that you want answered?
E-mail: editor@siude.com

MASSACHUSETTS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

In the Panthers' 30-24 victory against the Salukis Oct. 13, Lewis rushed for 90 yards and one touch-down and caught the ball five times for 54 yards.

"Northern Iowa probably uses Corey a little bit more in the passing game," Clacys said. "As far as running style and ability and all that, I'd say they're very similar."

Kill said the high-scoring affair with Fordham is not typical for the Minutemen, as the team is known for its defense.

Massachusetts leads the Colonial Athletic Association this season in scoring defense (17.9 points allowed per game), total defense (296.9 yards allowed per game) and sacks (41).

"I think the scariest part is the aggression they have on defense," Kill said. "A little bit different defensive style than we've faced all year."

Leading the Minutemen in sacks is senior defensive end David Burress, with 9.5. Sophomore defensive end Michael Hanson is second on the season with seven sacks.

Brown said both players have big-play potential and excel at the pass rush, but can also play the run.

Massachusetts also has a pair of linebackers who are captains of the defense with more than 100 tackles apiece — seniors Jason Hatchell and Charles Walker, who have also combined for 12.5 tackles for loss this year.

"Those guys have provided great leadership for a very solid defense," Brown said.

Kickoff for Saturday's quarterfinal game between SIU and Massachusetts has been rescheduled for 2:20 p.m. Saturday at McAndrew Stadium.

Scott Mieszala can be reached at 536-3311 ext. 256 or smieszala@siude.com.

INDIANA

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

Though the Hoosiers' leading scorer will be a new face for the SIU defense, several familiar names have contributed to the dominating record so far this season.

Senior D.J. White returns as the team's second leading scorer with 13.2 points and 7.3 rebounds per game, and leads the team in blocks with just more than one per contest.

In last season's loss, the Salukis held then-leading scorer White to just eight points while forcing four

turnovers.

Senior forward A.J. Ratliff, who averaged 9.3 points for the Hoosiers last season and put up a team-high 14 against the Salukis, is academically ineligible and will not pose a threat this season.

After last season's victory, Sampson said the key to beating the Salukis was not to run a better offense, but to beat the defenders off the dribble.

"Spread 'em and attack 'em," he said.

In addition to the loss of Ratliff, the Salukis may benefit from another vacancy in the Hoosier backcourt.

Sampson announced the suspension of freshman guard Jordan Crawford before the team's victory against Georgia Tech Tuesday, citing a violation of unspecified team rules. Crawford averaged 12.6 points off the bench in five games this season.

In an interview with the Indiana Daily Student, Sampson said the guard's absence would cause him to play more zone defense instead of the man-to-man style it played for most of the season.

Sean McGahan can be reached at 536-3311 ext. 269 or mcgahan@siu.edu.

BASKETBALL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

With three minutes remaining and SIU trailing by 10, Young took it upon herself as she scored nine points to bring the game within three points. Young led the team in scoring for the third straight game, recording 26 points to go with five rebounds.

Eikenberg said Young had a good performance but she needs help for the team to win.

"Young has been good and she has been giving us a spark off the bench," Eikenberg said. "We stopped playing defense and we got out of

position, and it was a complete lack of following the gameplan in the second half."

A rejuvenated Austin Peay (2-3) came out in the second half with an aggressive offense that put up 10 shots in the first five minutes while SIU only mustered up three. The Lady Gavs went 9-for-15 to start the half to cut an eight-point half-time deficit to an even game with 12 minutes to go.

The Salukis were able to hold off the inside attack of the Lady Gavs in the first half, but Austin Peay never stopped feeding the ball inside as its post players led the team in the second half.

Forward Kellea Reeves scored 11

points in the second half after being held to four in the first, while freshman Ashley Herring scored 12 in the half after also being held to four in the first.

Eikenberg said the soft post play has been a continuous problem for the Salukis and needs to be fixed if the team wants to have a successful season.

"I think that's a grind-out position and we only have one kid doing that," Eikenberg said.

The team will attempt to break its losing streak as it hosts Central Arkansas Dec. 8 at the SIU Arena.

Jeff Engelhardt can be reached at 536-3311 ext. 238 or jengel@siu.edu.

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FOOTBALL

Minutemen's two losses misleading

Salukis' quarterfinal opponent possibly better than 10-2 record suggests

Scott Mieszala
DAILY EGYPTIAN

SIU football coach Jerry Kill said the team's quarterfinal opponent in Saturday's playoff game is better than its 10-2 record suggests.

The Massachusetts Minutemen, the only team in the way of the No. 4 seed Salukis' first semifinals berth in 24 years, suffered their two losses this season in games against a Bowl Championship Series contender and amid a nasty rainstorm.

The Minutemen (10-2) lost at then-No. 12 Boston College, 24-14 on Sept. 29 and at Rhode Island 12-6 in overtime on Nov. 3 during almost unplayable weather conditions caused by Hurricane Noel.

Minutemen coach Don Brown said the Rhode Island loss was the only game the team played on a grass surface all year, and did it with winds of 50 miles per hour and pouring rain.

Amid the conditions, Massachusetts managed only 22 passing yards and scored all six of its points on safeties.

Brown compared the atmosphere to Monday night's NFL game between the Pittsburgh Steelers and the Miami Dolphins — a 3-0 contest that has been dubbed "The Dud in the Mud."

"You just can't get anything done," Brown said.

Kill said he wouldn't consider the Rhode Island game one of the Minutemen's losses because of the weather they faced.

"The weather was really bad,"

Kill said. "The only team that I'd say they lost to is Boston College."

Massachusetts has won its last three games, including a 49-35 first-round win against Fordham Saturday.

Brown said the Minutemen lost one fumble to Fordham that led to a short scoring drive, and Fordham also blocked a Massachusetts punt and took advantage on a six-play, 35-yard touchdown drive.

Four skill-position players have powered the Minutemen this season, and the win against Fordham was no different.

Quarterback Liam Coen passed for 419 yards and four touchdowns in the win, and two of his receivers — Rasheed Rancher and J.J. Moore — eclipsed 100 receiving yards.

SIU defensive coordinator Tracy Claeys said Coen, who has thrown 27 touchdowns and completed 64.2 percent of his passes this season, excels at throwing balls that are easy to bring in.

"I don't know that he has the strongest arm of people we've played, but he puts balls on the money and every ball seems like the receiver's got a chance to catch it," Claeys said.

Running back Matt Lawrence rushed for 167 yards and three scores in the game, and Claeys said he is similar to Northern Iowa running back Corey Lewis.

See MASSACHUSETTS, Page 15

MEN'S BASKETBALL



PROVIDED PHOTO ~ INDIANA UNIVERSITY MEDIA RELATIONS

Indiana freshman Eric Gordon shoots during the team's 83-79 victory against Georgia Tech Tuesday at Assembly Hall in Bloomington, Ind. Gordon is heralded as one of the best players in the nation, leading the Hoosiers with 27.3 points per game and accounting for 44.4 percent of the team's made free throws.

Salukis face nation's top scorer in IU's Gordon

Sean McGahan
DAILY EGYPTIAN

The changes of a new season don't bode well for the Salukis as they prepare for an opponent that got the best of them last year.

No. 15 Indiana (5-1), who defeated SIU 57-47 Dec. 17, added the top scorer in the nation this season in freshman guard Eric Gordon. Gordon leads all NCAA players with an average of 27.3 points after six college games.

SIU lost one of its most prolific scorers in school history in the grad-

uated Jamaal Tatum, who was the only Saluki to reach double-digits against the Hoosiers last season.

The 6-foot-4-inch, 215-pound Gordon has shown the ability to create his own shot and get to the basket. He accounts for 33 percent of the team's scoring and 44.4 percent of the team's production at the free throw line.

As Indiana has risen with the standout newcomer, though, it has fallen as well.

The Hoosiers lost 80-65 against Xavier in the championship game of the Chicago Invitational Challenge when Gordon failed to score at least 30 points for the first time in his short career.

Gordon still led the team with

20 points but shot a career-low of 4-12 from the floor and was visibly frustrated.

After the loss, Indiana coach Kelvin Sampson said immaturity and inexperience contributed heavily to the loss in an interview with the Indiana Daily Student.

But, he said, it was too soon to tell whether the team is too reliant on Gordon.

Gordon missed his two 3-point attempts in the game, and the team as a whole shot 1-15 from beyond the arc. On the season, the long-range shot has accounted for more than one-fourth of the team's scoring.

See INDIANA, Page 15

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL



DuVALE RILEY ~ DAILY EGYPTIAN

Women's basketball coach Dana Eikenberg has a few words with freshman guard Tanaeya Worden during a home game Nov. 9 at the SIU Arena. Worden finished with four points and three steals Wednesday as the Salukis (1-5) fell to Austin Peay, 75-72.

Salukis can't clean glass

Outrebounded by 18 in 75-72 loss

Jeff Engelhardt
DAILY EGYPTIAN

The SIU women's basketball team looked poised to break its three-game losing streak during the first half of play Wednesday night, but the final 20 minutes featured more of the same from the struggling squad.

Though the Salukis led by double-digits in the first half and nine points heading into the break because of aggressive defense that led to transition points, those advantages disappeared in the second half to lead to the last-second loss.

Coach Dana Eikenberg said the Salukis (1-5) continue to lack leadership when the game gets away from them.

"We have a lack of leadership and discipline, and this team right now doesn't deserve a win," Eikenberg said.

SIU led 41-33 heading into the break, led by forced turnovers that translated to 21 points. The Salukis also crashed the boards in the first half, getting seven offensive rebounds to earn second-chance points.

But the team was unable to force turnovers in the second half, creating only six to its 17 in the first. The Salukis also failed to capitalize on rebounds, losing the battle for boards 45-27.

Eikenberg said the poor second

half has been a characteristic of the team all season, and it starts in practice.

"If we can have two good practices back-to-back maybe then we will be ready to win, but until then we don't have the mentality to win," she said.

Despite the drop off, the team was still in position to win the game with 14 seconds to play.

Facing a three-point deficit, freshman Ellen Young tried to cap her impressive offensive performance with a game-tying shot from beyond the arc, but the shot fell short and the rebound went off SIU and out of bounds to secure the Austin Peay victory.

See BASKETBALL, Page 15