Implementing reform from within

JAMES FULLER
DAILY EGYPTIAN REPORTER

America has been on a prison-building binge since the mid-1970s because of an increasing number of prisoners and disturbingly high rate of recidivism.

In response to this problem, the SIU School of Law, the Public Policy Institute and the Center for the Study of Crime, Delinquency, and Corruption brought together some of the nation's top law and crime experts to find a better solution than building more prisons.

"We're looking at the whole question of incarceration and does it really make sense to do what we're doing right now?" Paul Simons, director of the Public Policy Institute and former U.S. senator, said. "We have the highest rate of incarceration of any nation in the world. Does it make sense for taxpayers? Does it make sense for businesses? Are there alternative answers that will protect our society in other ways?"

The two-day symposium featured input from speakers such as Joseph Hartzer, leader of the prosecution team in the Oklahoma City bombing trial against Timothy McVeigh; U.S. District Court Judge Phil Gilbert; former U.S. Representative and Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee Pete Visclosky, former head of the Federal Drug Enforcement Administration and the Illinois Department of Corrections; and Webster Hubbell, former senior official in the Justice Department.

At the start of the symposium, Hartzer, a keynote speaker for the event, said he believed the focus of the symposium and its recommendations should be drugs.

"If we're serious about reducing the prison population, we must first address the demand for drugs," he said.

The symposium panelists came up with 16 concrete realizations and recommendations that are now before the new Federal Drug Enforcement Administration and the Illinois Department of Corrections.

The INSIGHT PAGE 10

Amends to justify his means

JAMES FULLER
DAILY EGYPTIAN REPORTER

As former U.S. Rep. Dan Rostenkowski appeared last night at the prison symposium, there was little hint that his stance would soon change his plan to build more prisons.

Above the problems of overcrowded cell blocks is the ongoing question of public remembrance. Will he build more prisons?

In 1982, federal prosecutors indicted Rostenkowski that would lead to Rostenkowski's indictment, as the powerful chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, Rostenkowski's body... - at least 100 witnesses ranging from John F. Kennedy and Richard Nixon to George Bush and Bill Clinton.

Rostenkowski, however, has been accused of using campaign funds to pay off debts and effectively stealing money from the drug enforcement agencies.

"It's not like, you know, 'I'm a criminal,' said former North Carolina congressional aide Richard S. Schrooten. "I've got to admit guilt in a felony count of fraud, and my only sentence is to pay $40,000 in fines, and effectively stealing money from the drug enforcement agencies."

After saying "I know I did it," the way things are now, Rostenkowski accepted a plea bargain to admit guilt and pay $40,000 in fines.

"I mean, it's his sentence, as well," Schrooten said.

Gus Bode

Rostenkowski's portrait should be...
Wheel World
Rolling Salukis bond through basketball

By ANGIE ROYER
PHOTO BY TED SCHUETZ

Brent Bicket swiftly maneuvers his wheelchair to catch the basketball as he passes his teammates on the Rolling Salukis race to the other basket in a game in which they needed to reorient their shot.

Bicket, a fourth-year veteran of the Rolling Salukis wheelchair basketball team, has established close friendships with his teammates.

"You spend 10 months out of the year with them throughout the season," Bicket, a senior from Sparta, said. "When you ride in a van with them for 15 hours and share rooms with them in away games, you become close." Bicket was born with cerebral palsy, which affects the motor centers of the brain and can make speech difficult. Cerebral palsy leaves the lower extremities and the spine paralyzed by the body with no control.

"I was very lucky because it only has affected my legs," he said. "It could have been worse.

"We said playing basketball with the Rolling Salukis taught us a lot of things in life, faith and patience."

Bicket began playing wheelchair basketball in late November at his boy's school, Colorado. He said he was "rolling back from a convenience store where someone asked him to play basketball.

"You said he loved to compete with his able-bodied friends." Bicket said. "My friends are pretty tough because I couldn't get any shoes," Bicket said. "They would always block them.

Despite his friends' help, there are times when his friends say something encouraging about his disability.

"They tell me that they can't see how I do it," Bicket said. "They say they probably kill themselves if they couldn't walk.

"You when people look at him, it does not make him feel uneasy. He thinks it is a normal reaction.

"Some people may feel sorry for me because they don't quite understand what I go through," Bicket said. "To tell you the truth, I forget that I'm in a wheelchair.

"You said if he was ever conscious of being in a wheelchair, it was when he was younger. Today, he may suddenly down on him that he is not walking. But being too busy with classes, he is not conscious of his wheelchair.

You said life is full of surprises.

"Who you are now, your life could change and change everybody around you," he said. "But you can change it by your attitude and what you believe in life.

"I'm not always felt or thought that way. So I'm not going to sit here and tell people you can talk your way out of this."

For Yum and the rest of the Rolling Salukis, there is life after becoming disabled.

"Believe that you get tested in life," Bicket said. "You either get better or bitter from it.

"It made me feel happy to put a smile on his face," Bicket said. "I don't know if I would pursue activities with the disabilities."

Bicket wanted to pursue competitive wheelchair sports or outdoor adventure experiences. he came to UIUC because of...
Our Word

Future funding should be redirected

On Monday, state Representative Mike Britt presented University administrators with a check for $185,000 to be used for a variety of research-oriented projects. The money was allocated to projects that were on a University "wish list." While SIU needs all the funding assistance it can get, administrators next year should gear their wish list toward advancing technology or the University.

Monday's gift will be allocated as follows: $200,000 to operate the Coal Development Park, $175,000 for an atomic force microscope, $125,000 for srovan research, and $250,000 for a new pathologic incinerator. All four projects are worthwhile endeavors.

Although these research endeavors are important to the University, funding for technology upgrades at SIU lately has been a thinly drawn issue on campus. An SIU student said: "If one does not already exist, administrators should compile a new wish list, one that addresses the technological needs of SIU. The new priorities should be applied to more general improvements concerning the campus as a whole."

For example, easier Internet access in the dorms are needed. There also are colleges and departments where technology is lagging. Funding for technological improvements could benefit the entire campus.

SIU athletics also could benefit from funding for technology. The recent debate over the academic requirements for athletes has shed some light on problems within the program. Student athletes have no designated study facility. They only have two computers and two academic advisors. A consultation for the athletic department such as the one SIUC just received could turn those numbers around.

SIUC is the leading coal research institution in the nation. Coal research should be given a significant amount of attention because it is a positive attribute to the University. Programs such as these give SIUC a considerable amount of recognition on a national level.

The atomic microscope, essential to the College of Science, which has been falling behind in technology. The microscope will benefit both graduate and undergraduate students.

Srovan research will benefit both the University and the rural Southern Illinois. And it is estimated that a new research project will save the University between $100,000 and $150,000 a year.

If those estimates are correct, in two years the investment will pay for itself. Afterwards, money saved could go for other worthwhile projects.

These are just two suggestions in an ocean of possibilities for campus-wide distribution of funds. This year's wish list was a worthwhile effort that has paid off. But next year, the emphasis should be taken off of research and placed on student services. All funding is good funding, but it should be received by all.

"Our Word" represents the consensus of The Daily Egyptian Editorial Board.

Recent forum highlighted prejudice within religions

Dear Editor,

While I appreciate greatly the Daily Egyptian coverage of the event "Sikh Peace, Pancreatic Cancer and an Evangelical Christian Response," I must take exception to the main speaker's conclusion that, "We should all love one another and really find no need for prejudice within our religions.

The public discussion was prompted by an advertisement for a public seminar at the Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Carbondale on the religions and how to "battle" the "war." Many of us in the Pagus community feel that the language was inflammatory. In the United States, we feared that such language might contribute to violence and discrimination often aimed against the Pagus community. Rev. Bruce Shade of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Carbondale questioned the number of occasions and agreed to hold a public event at which these concerns might be addressed.

Two keys ideas surfaced—at least from my perspective on these two events. The first is that the Pagus community was able to invite its friends to a public seminar on the social consequences of the language of "spiritual warfare." Often used by religious leaders, the languagecomputerized newspaper.

The second was that there will, indeed, no miniscule ground possible between the Pagus Community and the Evangelical Presbyterian Church. I believe we are not walking in sin, it was made quite clear that the church views us—as well as Muslin, Buddhist, and Jewish individuals—as a "hostile" group to the church and, by extension, make our presence in the community feel unwelcome. While it is understood that we are unable to change the people coming around with a church or the Pagus community, Rev. Shade stated that he was willing to sponsor a public event, as well as express my thanks to Dr. Roger Karkan, Dr. Dale Blackman, Ralph Andrews, and other who helped facilitate the event.

--Bothell,
Staplowdy and a friend

Columnist does not have a firm understanding of topic

Dear Editor,

I am left with a sense of sadness after trying to read the piece by Enoch Muhammad (The Daily Egyptian, Sept. 22, 1993). He is a senior in political science at SIUC. But, it seems to me that this sou NICoE does not have a firm understanding of the topic. It seems that this is a senseless argument, trying to prove his points to the people who have not studied the topic. I was left with the feeling that the writer was not well informed or well educated on the topic.

--William Hefeld

Editor, Daily Eagle

Mailbox

Letters to the editor are classified according to their content and length. Letters are solicited but are not guaranteed publication. Letters may be edited for length and clarity. All letters to the editor, whether printed or not, are published on a space-available basis. Letters to the editor must be submitted to the Daily Eagle, 1101 S. College Ave., Carbondale, Ill. 62901. All letters to the editor must be typewritten, not more than one page in length, and signed with the writer's name and address. Columns do not necessarily reflect the views of the Daily Eagle.

Editor's Note: Articles appearing in this section are not necessarily a reflection of the views of the DailyEgyptian.

Image will make but not break you

The words environment and Carbide just do not go together. Last weekend, however, I was asked to attend a show by the Carbides. To say the show was wacky would be a complete understatement. But the show did prove two things. One, some forms of nostalgia will be good forever. And two, breaking tennis player who is married to Brook Shields once said (or maybe because of his lack of game, still saying it), "image is everything."

My friend and I were concerned because the performance only had two hits to his credit. We wondered how he was going to sustain 30 minute show (not even an hour). You didn't. He was on stage for about one hour and fifteen minutes, his voice only performed for about 20 minutes. He did four actual songs and then continued out of the way of the wacky audience I have ever seen. Trying to find someone with talent in that crowd was like trying to find a needle in a haystack. We gave up on the audience, and my friend and I — realized that we were going to take up time. The most that this artist could still find an audience is beyond my comprehension. Nostalgia never gets old, I guess.

It was worth debating that if I was going to start a career in the music industry whether I should a) sell out to the masses or b) try to be authentic. (Mostly now classified in the 90's as "underground" or "big in Europe and Japan"). Selling to the masses would bring instant fame and money, plus a closer to the dream of being rich. 10 years of the road (one nostalgic hit, and your career is set forever). I could not believe it, but selling out actually sustains a career. Authenticity largely only means selling virtually no units, and having to go out to make real money and find real fans. Now maybe the artists that I'm gigging right now didn't "sell out," but that artist sure is waking it all up.

The sight of women rushing on stage was disturbing. Some were wearing wigs (one woman even wore a fake of this column) rushed on stage before the customary "drunkin' women on stage final song." That proved that if I was "in" the crowd I would have been. It was all of the "chicks." It was sad that they even talked to the two side men who basically were just there to direct the people on. I'm seriously considering becoming a roadie on a major tour. All I would need is some Tommy Hilfiger gear and some my- glasse (though the glasses are too expensive for me) and be around stars or nostalgic "has-beens." After all, image is everything. I do not actually need to be in the game. I can make my living and get money by being "unseen" or "inauthentic" artists for the Daily Egyptian.

I shouldn't really be mad, I guess. Fifteen years down the road I may be doing a stop-bop-tap-soul-in-the-Copper Dragon or a Inlaident in Harris. But before I even work on the music part of it, I need to change my image.

Dr. Spencer

Instructor of Philosophy of Education

St. Louis University

Paul is a senior political science major.

Vanishing Point

Paul is a senior political science major. Vanishing Point appears every other Wednesday. Paul's columns are necessarily reflective of the views of the Daily Egyptian.
Chasing memories

BENEFICIAL STROLL: Walk around Campus Lake to raise money for Alzheimer's charity.

Participants in this year’s National Alzheimer’s Association charity walk will be “chasing a memory” to benefit the less fortunate.

Memory Walk 1998, which will take place Saturday at Campus Lake, is being sponsored by the Southern Illinois Area Chapter of the National Alzheimer’s Association of America.

Alzheimer’s disease is an affliction that causes a person to lose their capacity to make decisions and communicate. It often causes permanent damage to a victim’s memory.

There are more than 200 chapters of the National Alzheimer’s Association across the country, funding programs and services for families of Alzheimer’s disease patients.

The Southern Illinois Area Chapter serves more than 12,000 families within 23 counties in Southern Illinois.

Participants in Memory Walk 1998 from teams of at least four walkers. The participants find sponsors to pledge them a certain amount of money to walk, thus raising money around Campus Lake. Memory Walk 1998 is turned in the day of the event, and there is no minimum collection requirement.

The event was sponsored by the following categories: most money raised by a team, most money raised per team member and most team members.

The Southern Illinois area chapter hopes to exceed last year’s earnings.

Memory Walk 1998 brought in $34,000, more than double the $16,000 in revenue from Memory Walk 1997.

Fifty-five percent of the Southern Illinois area chapter’s budget comes from the annual Memory Walk event.

According to Wayne Pyffe, executive director of the Southern Illinois area chapter, $50 percent of the money raised from Memory Walk 1998 will go toward services specifically aimed at Southern Illinois patients and their families.

These services include providing education about Alzheimer’s to victims’ families and the sponsoring of Alzheimer’s support groups. Pyffe said.

Executive Director Pyffe currently fund two programs in the Southern Illinois area.

“The Southern Illinois area chapter also helps in the training of three case staff members for senior citizens center, so that Alzheimer’s patients can have as high a quality of life as possible,” Pyffe said.

Lori Lee Nugent, the Southern Illinois area chapter’s volunteer coordinator, said various SIUC-registered student organizations will be making their own memories at Memory Walk 1998.

Nugent said help is appreciated, and it reflects a growth in volunteer interest since last year’s Memory Walk.

“We have a great deal of Saluki Volunteer Corps members participating this year,” Nugent said.

With so many other student organizations giving in a boost, people associated with SIUC are lending us a helping hand more so now than ever before.

Students from the Speech Pathology Department, B Kappa Alpha, Sigma Alpha, the women’s basketball team and staff from the SIUC Student Resource Department are registered to walk Saturday.

Pyffe said he is very impressed, with the dedication of SIUC students and staff.

“The Southern Illinois area chapter is thoroughly pleased with the dedication to Memory Walk 1998 in conjunction with University gives to our program each year,” he said.

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

Anyone interested in participating in Memory Walk 1998 can reach Wayne Pyffe, executive director of the Southern Illinois area chapter of the National Alzheimer’s Association of America, at 559-5101.
No one with their children, music lovers, teenagers and families all relax in folding chairs, chipping along to banjo sounds on a humid Sunday afternoon.

A mixture of performers take the stage as spectators enjoy the sounds of the Acorn Opry Bluegrass Music Festival in Benton.

Johnny Mango leans against a tall maple tree, tapping his left foot and clapping his hands to the beat while enjoying the harmonious sounds of Jim & Jesse.

"I like to listen to some good old' gospel and bluegrass sounds," said Mango, a local radio personality for WBIX 91.1 FM. "This music is the best. You have to put your heart and soul into it. The music isn't about cheating or divorce, it's about the heart, the soul and everyday life."

The Acorn Opry Bluegrass Music Festival sponsored several local and historic bands in Benton's first attempt at an annual, down-home bluegrass celebration this past Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

Musical performances included a Sunday morning service followed by Melton Junction, Josh Williams & High Gear and Grand Ole Opry members Jim & Jesse.

During a break between sets, members of the crowd hopped onto the stage to strum familiar tunes and enjoy unannounced jam sessions.

Bluegrass legend Bobby Osborne from the Osborne Brothers signs their hit "Rocky Top" during the Acorn Opry Bluegrass Festival Saturday in Benton. The Osborne Brothers play more than 125 dates a year and are members of the Grand Ole Opry.

Bluegrass pulsates, people gathered in small circles among their parked cars to listen to the music and enjoy a combination of harmonious sounds.

Bluegrass originated in the southern United States and has a unique sound that Bill Monroe, Bill Monroe's开创了蓝草音乐，蓝草音乐通过结合传统山地音乐的方式产生了独特的节奏和传统山地音乐的元素。蓝草音乐可以被描述为快速的节奏和传统乐器的演奏。

Fiddler player "Boo" Shaw (left) from the White Oak Bluegrass Band plays with banjo player Andy Reiser, a graduate student in sociology from Carbondale during a jam session between stage performances at the Acorn Opry. The Osborne Brothers perform more than 125 dates a year and are members of the Grand Ole Opry.

Jesse McReynolds (right) is pleasantly surprised at his grandson's cross-picking abilities on the mandolin during Sunday's performance at the Acorn Opry Bluegrass Festival in Benton. McReynolds developed the intricate cross-picking technique over the last 50 years and has passed the style on to his grandson Luke McReynolds.

Sewell-year-old Luke McReynolds brushes his hair in preparation for his first performance as co-head singer of Jim & Jesse. McReynolds' grandfather, Jesse McReynolds, did not arrive to the event on time, giving McReynolds the opportunity to take his place on stage.
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Carter breaks silence about Clinton controversy

CHRISTINE TOTUM COLLEGE PRESS EXCHANGE

ATLANTA — Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter told a group of Emory University students on Tuesday that he believes President Clinton had “been truthful” to a grand jury investigating his affair with former White House intern Monica Lewinsky.

It was Carter's first comment on the Clinton scandal since the story broke in January.

"As one of the very few leaders who have served in the White House, I have deplored and been deeply embarrassed by what has occurred," he said.

Carter, a Democrat like Clinton, said he believes Clinton will become the first president since Andrew Johnson in 1868 to be impeached by the U.S. House of Representatives. He said he also believes the Clinton administration will dodge a conviction by the Senate, which serves as a jury throughout the proceeding, would muster the necessary two-thirds vote to remove Clinton from office.

"And because of the highly partisan alignment within the House of Representatives and because Republicans have a majority, I think it is likely—a 50-50 chance—that the House will not proceed to impeachment," Carter said he does not believe.

Carter's criticism was the second time in less than a week that he has expressed displeasure with the White House. On Thursday he urged an investigation into last month's bombing of a Santo-Domingo factory that White House officials said was making ingredients for chemical weapons. Carter said military strikes are not the best way to combat terrorism.

"We are responsible, in many ways, to help reduce terrorism," he said.

"I don't think the best way is to make direct military attacks, which in the process can kill innocent people, which arouses more support for the terrorists. Sometimes, we might be mistaken."
Hurricane may pose threat to Tampa

JOE HUMPHREY
THE CRACKER

TAMPA, Fla. (UWIRE) - As Hurricane Georges heads toward Florida with wind-speeds of 95 miles per hour, organizers are working at a feverish pace to ensure that the University of South Florida and the Bay area are ready to weather the storm.

"Tampa hasn't sustained a direct hurricane hit since 1921, and Georges' course is still uncertain, though National Hurricane Center meteorologist Niall Kirby said Wednesday that Tampa has a 14 percent chance of being hit by the storm.

"We're not sure whether it's an Atlantic or Gulf storm," said Steve Pate, an emergency planner for the Hillsborough County Emergency Management Department. "We are just as prepared as any other area around. It's just a matter of how seriously the populous takes it."

Members of USF's Emergency Preparedness Team met with other area organizers Tuesday for an update on the storm, and the USF will hold an own meeting Wednesday at 9 a.m.

"The county just wanted to get all the agencies together and give us a worst-case scenario," said Troy Davis, USF director for environmental health, safety and risk management.

"Tampa makes a slight turn and teams up with the West Coast, evacuation of special needs properties could begin sometime Thursday."

While a hurricane in the area means most shelters will be anything but closed. Twelve campus buildings serve as dormitories or sheltering centers.

"We can accommodate 14,000 people," Davis said. "We had 10,000 in 1992, and they had four or five shelters open. Since then, we've had minor storms where we opened up some minor shelters. Hopefully, we'll never get the chance to use all of our shelters.

The campus residence halls also can be used as shelters, but since classes are in session, they are already occupied by residents."

In addition, last weekend's flooding of Mo and Lambda halls damaged the school's ability to keep residents in those halls during the rain-intensive storm.

"The plan calls for residents to stay in upper floors, and in the corridors, not the rooms," said Tom Kais, director for Residence Services.

"The joy is to get them away from the flooding. They can go into their rooms and get stuff, but they can't stay in any of the wings."

Authorities started evacuating non-residents from the Florida Keys Tuesday as Georges moved toward South Florida. As of 5 a.m. Tuesday, the storm was projected to hit the U.S. mainland tonight or Friday morning, according to National Hurricane Center.

The storm is rated as a Category 3 on the five-point Saffir-Simpson scale, meaning it is a "major" hurricane.

"We're forecasting a little bit of weakening, but it gets off the land, (for Caribbean Islands), there may be some restrengthening. It's a wait and see."
INSIGHT
continued from page 1

WFLD, a Chicago-based Fox TV affiliate, where he showed enough talent for the camera to be hired on for additional work during that fall's election.

Rostenkowski also has accepted a few guest speaker invitations, his latest coming right here at SIUC. For a man who has admitted being nervous about talking to lawyers and prison experts about his personal experience in the penal system, Rostenkowski was not about to let anything stand in the way of achieving his goal.

"I have yet to see in any plea bargain, a judge reduce what the prosecutor is suggesting as a fair deterrent," Rostenkowski said.

"The most serious cases against drug traffickers continue to be brought to trial," he said. "We will try to make sure they are tried and not just plea-bargained away."
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**Source: Morningstar, Inc., February 28, 1998. Morningstar is an independent service that rates mutual funds and variable annuities. The top 10% of funds in an assessment category makes the mark and the next 22.5% receive four stars. Morningstar proprietary ratings reflect historical risk-adjusted performance and are subject to change every month. They are calculated from the account's three-, five- and ten-year annual returns in terms of 90-day Treasury Bill returns with appropriate for dividends and are risk-free to the relative performance above that of Bill cows. The mutual fund ratings are based on Morningstar's published ratings, which are weighted averages of three-, five- and ten-year ratings for the periods ending February 28, 1998. This program (unavailable) trailing for each of the periods are:

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Morningstar does not rate money market accounts, and the other TIAA-CREF accounts (TIAA Real Estate and CREF Grains-Indexed Funds) are not sure to be rated. Past performance does not guarantee future results. ASTM/BCF values and ratings are valid. **"Morningstar proprietary ratings reflect historical risk-adjusted performance and are subject to change every month. They are calculated from the account's three-year, five-year and ten-year annual returns in terms of 90-day Treasury Bill returns with appropriate for dividends and are risk-free to the relative performance above that of Bill cows. The mutual fund ratings are based on Morningstar's published ratings, which are weighted averages of three-year, five-year and ten-year ratings for the periods ending February 28, 1998. This program (unavailable) trailing for each of the periods are:

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Ensuring the future for those who shape it.
**SUMMERVILLE**

Summerville has since found a spot in the starting lineup. He recorded seven tackles in the Salukis' 27-20 upset victory over Northern Iowa Saturday.

Quarless said Summerville has shown great potential.

"I think he still has to show more improvement, but I like his maturity and understanding of the game," Quarless said. "He'll understand that I think he has to improve because I believe he feels the same way.

"I like his maturity, I'm very impressed with Shawn," Summerville said. "The Salukis move up in the Gateway Conference rankings and be part of the team's rebuilding process." The Salukis are currently 2-1 in Gateway Conference play. Summerville believes the team has the potential to improve this season.

"To my understanding it's been' down in the last year, but it looks like we're doing some positive things and turning it around," Summerville said.

"After the big victory against Northern Iowa, all we can do is continue to roll and take it one game at a time. Hopefully by the end of the year we'll be on top," Summerville said.

Coming from a big Division-I school, Summerville said to playing in front of large crowds. He noticed that the Salukis did not receive the same home field advantage with McKendree Stadium's low attendance numbers (6,500) at the Salukis' first home game Saturday.

"We talked about it as a team," he said. "It's our job to get the fans to come and support us, and we can do that by winning. If we continue to win, the fans will show up and that's our philosophy behind that.

Although Summerville has had to endure a transition from the city to the countryside, he said he wants to enjoy his stay while it lasts.

Who knows? Summerville could fall in love with the Midwestern lifestyle and stay in Southern Illinois after finishing graduate school.

"No, I think I'll be going back to the east coast," Summerville said.

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**ALLIN**

The umpires saw it differently, and the Reds led 7-2.

At that moment, I felt like a true Cub fan again. The Cubs headed up to Cheesetown Tuesday for a three-game set with the Brewers. The Cubs will undoubtedly put on a high expectations of the miracle comebacks and amazing three-game set with the Brewers. As of press time, they were once again tied with the Mets. In all likelihood, this season will come down to a climactic battle.

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Is this finally Cubs' year?

It has truly been a baseball-charged magical ride for Cub fans in 1998. Ken Wood's blazing fastball mowed down the best sluggers in the league. Sammy had four hits in the record books. Rod Beck had everyone reaching for the Porta Potty with his hair-raising saves.

But all season long, I held back my excitement. These were, after all, the Cubs. Cub fans may be the game's longest-suffering but they're also its least gullible. A fast start or even a trio of Hall of Famers (see '90 Cubs) is never enough for any true blue fan to start ordering playoff tickets.

Then suddenly, the Cubs faced off with the Brewers one glorious, late-summer weekend. Sammy hit Nos. 61 and 62. At the time of this article, Chicago had never before played a league that pulled them out of it. I have no idea if a game-winning Homer. Wrigley faithful had ever seen two more miraculous come-from-behind victories. Most importantly, they had the edge in the wild-card chase.

Chicago stayed on course last weekend through a five-game playoff run from San Diego. Another unlikely hero, and former Cardinal to boot, Gary Gaetti, was in the spotlight this time. He belted a Walk-Off Homer with his hair-raising saves.

But all season long, I held back my excitement. These were, after all, the Cubs. Cub fans may be the game's longest-suffering but they're also its least gullible. A fast start or even a trio of Hall of Famers (see '69 Cubs) is never enough for any true blue fan to start ordering playoff tickets. Sammy's dad could save. Two games, two Reds victories.

The Cubs found themselves tied with the Mets on Sunday. They had one more shot to avoid a humbling sweep. Bleacher Bums had reason for optimism. It was Sammy Sosa Day at the final home game of the season.

Then suddenly, we remembered which team we were following. Sammy swung wildly at balls four feet outside again. It reminded us of a time when he barely spoke English and missed cut-off men like he missed outside sliders.

The celebration was a true great moment in Cubs history. It was everything "The Man" has done. Sosa has truly been inspirational to his country, the U.S., and his loyal fans.

... But on this day, when all the celebration has been defeated in the Cubs. Cub fans can't even close the game.

Meanwhile, the sub-.300 Reds played like they still had Pete Rose, Johnny Bench and Joe Morgan. In the eighth inning, Bret Boone hit a home run.

The game was over. The Cubs were out of it. The celebration was over. We were left with the realization that this was the end of the season, the end of the Cubs, and the end of the Cubs.

But on this day, when all the celebration has been defeated in the Cubs's heart...