The Daily Egyptian, February 24, 1999

Daily Egyptian Staff

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Activists move to April elections

Incumbent, two park district officials, former NAACP president are the primary survivors

DAN CAST AND SARA BEAN
DAILY EGYPTIAN EDITORS

An incumbent city councilman led a field of nine candidates to the final results of the Carbondale primary election Tuesday, and the top four will advance to the general election in April.

Incumbent Councilman Mike Neill cast his vote on top of the pack with 1,667 of the 3,317 ballots cast. Neill led with just 59 votes more than council candidate and former SIUC Undergraduate Student Government President Brian Cole. Cole garnered 909 votes. Rounding out the top four who will advance to the general election in April are candidates Corene McDaniel and Carl Flowers, collecting 999 and 768 votes, respectively.

Neill said he was extremely pleased that he finished first in the primary but is not letting down his guard yet. "History shows that the final numbers are the primary ones, and I am very pleased with the support I received. I feel good about winning," Neill said. "I still have a lot of work ahead of me."

Neill said he plans to continue a diligent campaign until the general election on April 30. "I am going to do my best to get out and campaign and win in April," Neill said.

Cole was likewise pleased with the number of votes he received. He said he felt good to trail Neill by just 59 votes because Neill was an incumbent and a long-time Carbondale resident. As for the months preceding the general election, Cole said he plans to campaign aggressively and devote more attention to the campaign.

Carbondale City Council

Electoral Carbondale City Council

CORENE MCDANIEL raises her arms in celebration Tuesday night after hearing poll results indicating her position among the top four candidates in the Carbondale City Council primary election. McDaniel, who finished third, behind Michael Neill and Brad Cole, is surrounded by supporters at the Jackson County Housing Authority, corner of North Marion and E. Oak streets.

New high school referendum sails through

Facility to be partially funded by income from 0.25 sales tax increase

JAY SQUIRES
DAILY EGYPTIAN REPORTER

Carbondale Community High School is in line for a major facelift as a result of the approval of referendum 142 by voters Tuesday.

Votes were counted to the construction of a new high school complex at the site of CCHS East, 1001 E. Walker, in resounding fashion. Unofficially 85.5 percent — or 1,022 of the 1,182 votes cast in the ballot on the referendum — said "yes" to the proposition.

Voters approved an $850,000 bond for the new school complex, which is scheduled to be completed by the fall of 2002. Construction of the new high school is scheduled to begin in September 2000, with the new facility completed in time for the 2001-02 school year.

The referendum, which asked voters to approve a bond issue to build the new high school, was supported by an overwhelming majority of voters.

The new high school will replace the old CCHS East, which will be demolished and replaced with a new facility.

Memorial:

Student who died before graduating May be granted degree.

USG:

Technology fee debate continues at meeting with new provost visit.

Dillard, Budslick advance

SPANKED: Mayoral hopefuls Sapinski, Foster lose by wide margin in Carbondale primary.

The CHAMBERLAIN DAILY EGYPTIAN REPORTER

Incumbent Mayor Neil Dillard and City Councilman John Budslick were the two mayoral candidates to survive Tuesday's primary election, forcing a runoff for the other candidates — R. Wayne Sapinski and Nancy Foster.

The mayoral race between Dillard and Budslick will be decided at the general election April 30.

Dillard received 2,307 votes while Budslick earned 909 votes. Not advancing to the general election were Foster, a SIUC graduate student in rehabilitation counseling, who received 131 votes and Sapinski, a freelance graphic designer, who grabbed 33 votes.

While Dillard was pleased with the show of support, he said other issues on the ballot helped his cause.

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Police Blotter

UNIVERSITY

A 21-year-old St. Louis student reported to University Police that her vehicle had been struck by another and sustained $500 in damage between 9 a.m. and 2:11 p.m. Monday in the area of South Drive. There are no suspects, and no injuries were reported in this incident.

CABDONALE

The Arbor Village Apartments, 405 S. Washington St., was burglarized between 11 a.m. Sunday and 6:35 a.m. Monday. Cabdonale Police said. An employee reported that someone entered the residenf by prying open a door. Once inside, the burglar entered the office area and removed an undetermined amount of money. There are no suspects in this incident.

Corrections

Residents who spot an error in a news article should contact the Daily Egyptian Accuracy Desk, 535-2311, extention 229-2727.

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No news is good news

FALSE ALARM: SIUC calls press conference to dispel rumor of meningitis infection on campus

Whoever said the media was not a powerful institution need only double-check their facts.

In response to a call from a local news channel requesting information on the meningitis case on campus, Health Programs and Student Affairs organized a press conference for Monday to dispel possible rumors.

"We thought it would be better to go dispel a myth that may be getting out," said Delphi Perkins, chief of staff for Student Health Programs.

Meningitis and the word "virus" cannot be thrown around in a panic.

But the Student Health Programs defines a "precaution." Alan Caruba calls an alarm.

Caruba, a public relations correspondent in Maplewood, N.J., said that calling the press conference was an unnecessary inquiry into a questionable incident.

USG members seek technology fee advice

MAK CRAFT

The Daily Egyptian

"Ungraduates... Student Government Association, and the Student Affairs and Government Affairs Committee must work together to..." suggested a students organization representative to the Student Senate. "If they don't..."

"Getting into the engineering technology fee was the best way to address..." said another student representative.

"I think the only way to get into..." agreed another students organization representative.

"If we had been allowed to..." suggested the students organization representative.

"We need to make sure there is..." said another student representative.

The Student Senate met on Tuesday, April 4, to discuss the technology fee on the balloting for the Spring 1995 Student Senate elections. USG Vice President of Student Affairs and Student Senate President Atkinson expressed reservations about the technology fee, saying that the technology fee would not be in place if the technology fee was not approved.

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Student who died of heart problem could be awarded honorary degree

KAREN BLATTER

On a specially designated wall, Bryan Hopp hangs several pictures of his favorite singer, Elvis Presley, but a single black-and-white pencil drawing is his most favorite.

"I always wanted the kids to make something for Christmas," she said. "One year, Bryan drew me a picture of this tiny little house with a teddy bear sitting in front of it, and I think it was the best present I ever got."

Another painting hangs on a different wall, next to Bryan Hopp's senior picture. It is the painting the family notes to a desk with the reminder to "Call Mom."

"He would always call, and when I picked up the phone, he'd say "Hi Mom, it's Bryan," she said. "He was my trademark."

Bryan A. Hopp passed away Feb. 7 in his room in Warren Hall because of a cardiac problem.

In May, 1996, Bryan was a senior with a special major in business administration where he combined art and design with marketing. He originally majored in graphic design but then switched.

Since he turned 15 years old, Bryan had a series of medical problems. He was first diagnosed with a viral infection of the heart his sophomore year in high school. After months of treatment his condition improved, and he was able to return to school.

In November 1996, his senior year of high school, Bryan got pneumonia. Because of this previous condition, Bryan had a heart transplant to save his life. He moved from his parents' house into Abbott Hall on Feb. 5. Bryan was very proud of himself and was looking forward to graduation.

"He was the happiest I have seen him in a long time," Linda said. "Because of his condition, Bryan needed help with his daily routine during his senior year, even though Bryan had a physical assistant to help him in the morning. His father Gordon drove from Anna every evening to take care of his son."

Gordon said Bryan's education was important. "He was always interested in helping others out and the fact being in a wheelchair was not part of who Bryan was."

"Bryan once told me about how people would come up to him and not look at his chair like he was different," she said. "After he died, his chair was still in the room, and I thought, 'No, that's not you.'"

Memorial bricks for students will be placed in Communications Courtyard

ANNE ROGERS

Radio-television students are collecting donations for two memorial bricks to be placed in the Communications Courtyard in memory of two students who died in this school year.

Bryan Hopp, 23, was a senior in radio-television from Elgin. He died of a heart attack on Dec. 21, a senior in radio-television from Egan. She died of a rare case of pneumonia on Nov. 17, 1998.

Laura Graham, 23, was a senior in radio-television from Wood River. She died of a car accident on Feb. 7, 1999.

Radio-TV service society members and NBS/AERho will be accepting donations during the week of March 1-5.
Deadline to submit applications is March 3

get with the program!

Interest session tonight!

Interest session
February 24
5:30 pm
Troy Room, First Floor, Student Center
Next to Subway

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For more information, call 536-3393 or stop by the SPC office on the 3rd floor of the Student Center.
Urgency, compromise needed in landlord debate

...as they campaigned on this topic the last time the elections were conducted. Interestingly enough, it's the exact same issue in this election. They'll point to the difficulty in taking a pro-student stance in this matter, and the already existing list of ordinances the landlords must meet as reason why their campaign promises haven't fostered any change. But really why, the continuous student outcry has clearly shown the current rental conditions cannot go on without some type of improvement.

So how does this improvement come about? City Manager Jeff Doberty has said he thinks the best way to improve living conditions in Carbondale is to continue Carbondale's current inspection program and make sure it has enough inspectors. For four inspectors for more than 8,000 dwellings, this is a not a reasonable proposal. But even if the city broke down and hired more inspectors than it could ever have impressed, they say the city is more concerned with complianc...

Where we go from here

What needs to be done now is a return to the negotiating table where both sides approach the bargaining process with mutual respect for each other's concerns and a will to compromise. Carbondale does not mean completely giving in to the wishes of your opponent. Rather, true compromise will result in a middle-ground where both parties can cede some ground for the greater good. In the spirit of reality, open-mindedness, and compromise, the DAILY EAGLE, before ending property inspections, or any related...
An extensive work load

SINGSPIEL: Director keeps busy schedule preparing for opening of Mozart's latest opera.

CUB KENNEDY
DAILY EGYPTIAN REPORTER

Some people might think that contacting 120 students in the opera, "The Magic Flute," would be the most difficult job director Timothy Fink has ever done, but he says it takes a different second behind the scenes. He did growing up in his family's farm in Washington.

"The farm is the only place you can come from where the theater would seem like less work," said Fink, assistant professor of opera and musical theater. "You learn a certain work ethic - you begin a process and follow it through to the end," he said.

"What I learned on the farm is just as important as what I learned in school."

The road that led him to the directing chair involved more challenges than what Tamino, the hero in the opera, encounters. Fink chose music rather than academic by quitting his high school football team to concentrate on becoming a jazz pianist.

Fink went to Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma, Wash., where he began interested in singing. He later joined the choir and began voice lessons.

Fink received his master's in voice from the University of Arizona. He returned to Pacific Lutheran to study, where he taught voice for two years.

His wife got a job at SUUC and moved to Carbondale with him. After a year, Fink decided to quit his job and follow her here. He went back to school and received his master's in theater, with a specialization in stage direction.

According to Fink, directing was a talent he didn't discover until he got here. "I had an affinity for it but I didn't know I had - more than performance, which is what I really into," Fink said.

String skills in directing are important because the opera combines singing, dancing, and visual arts to convey an exciting adventure story.

"The Magic Flute" is a singspiel - a work with spoken dialogue between the scenes. It is similar to a modern-day musical "except, it emphasizes more on the music."

The story follows Tamino, the virtuous prince, and Papageno, a half man, half bird who provides comic relief, through the trials and tribulations during their quest for love and honor.

According to Fink, the opera entails the ideals of the Age of Enlightenment. The opera displays that through wisdom and learning man can most certainly be better placed.

The process of putting together an opera is long and encompasses an incalculable amount of work. Fink said he worked about 60 hours on the production of "The Magic Flute."

There are two distinct stages of preparing an opera - pre-production and production.

"Fink and the other directors look at the talent available and pick an opera that correlates with the talent. They also conduct historical research into the music and characters involved before they meet with the designers of the show."

The final part of pre-production is casting. Each student who auditions picks a piece from the opera to perform. After the roles are casted, production begins.

According to Fink, it is at this point the creation of the opera becomes a collaborative effort.

Production includes drawing up the plants, building the set and setting upights and sound. The singers have music rehearsals and meet with their directors.

The final six weeks of production involve 3 1/2-hour practices five nights a week.

Don't wait until the last minute to make sure you're compliant with Immunization Law. If you don't have your vaccination records, bring them.

The Student Health Services provides Immunization Clinics to help you become compliant with the Immunization Law. If you have not sent your Immunization records, bring them.

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**Relieved and concerned**

Mayor candidate John Budslieck shows no signs of shyness, pondering the lack of expected votes after the final tally of the primary elections were announced Tuesday evening at Budslieck's house.

Budslieck will advance to the general election in April.

Doug Larson

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**MENINGITIS**

continued from page 3

"This was an overreaction to a simple question," Caruba said. "The health service should have responded with a "no," and the media would not have reported it because it is a non-event.

"But this is a problem for all institutions. The fear of power for the media to misrepresent is so great that they clearly overreacted to a simple inquisition.

"Perkins, who has been at the University for 17 years, said he thought the timing between the phone call and an actual situation was too ironic to overlook.

"There's a potential the news (channel) had just wanted to talk about meningitis, but this was too much of a coincidence," Perkins said.

According to Perkins, a 19-year-old student was presented to Memorial Hospital Thursday, diagnosed with pneumonia, and transferred to a hospital in the St. Louis area.

"A routine culture test indicated the student was positive with a type of meningitis bacteria that causes meningococcal meningitis, a bacterial infection that could be fatal if left untreated,

"Last tested at SIUC in 1995, meningitis is the inflammation of the membranes surrounding the brain and spinal cord. The illness is spread through direct exposure such as kissing, sharing utensils, coughing and sneezing. Symptoms include high fever, headache, vomiting, sensitivity to light, stiff neck, and sometimes a rash.

"Perkins said 5 to 10 percent of the bacteria can be found in healthy individuals.

"According to an Associated Press article, 'Meningococcal meningitis. Vaccines Recommended,' meningitis cases between the ages of 15 and 25 have doubled since 1991. Because the disease is relatively rare, not much of the vaccine is made and therefore is expensive.

"Although the student revealed no signs of meningitis and there was no fear the bacteria would cause any problems to the individual, Perkins said the environmental impact of the disease's name was reason enough to form a press conference.

"'I wouldn't do that if it were a simple sprain, a sprained ankle. But meningitis is so feared, the media would not have reported it if it wasn't meningitis,'" Perkins said. ""Just the timing and the name was enough to form a press conference."

"The potential of misinformation seems most reasonable to have a press conference, not that we had any news to report."
Corene McDaniel, discusses early City Council primary election results Tuesday evening. Debbie McCurry, McDaniel finished third, behind Michael Null and Brad Cole.

The Council continued from page 1

same area he had previously overlooked. "We’re going to hit it real hard," Cole said. "We made the top four, and now we’ve got to make the top two."

"I think I represent everybody better than anyone else -- students and non-students, young and old," B.R. Hollins, who was defeated by Flowers by 41 votes, said despite the close numbers he will not call for a recount. Instead, he offered support for Flowers in the upcoming general election.

"I hope the voters who supported me will vote to support him [in April]." Hollins said.

"I believe he has a good base to work from with his and Hollling's support," Bell said. "I’ve made this my home, and I am committed to doing ‘whatever I can to help improve the city of Carbondale,‘" Flowers said.

The four candidates will vie for two open four-year council seats. One of the seats is filled by fellow, the other by Councilman John Buddick, who is running for mayor.

Other candidates for the seats included Hollins, Steven Haynes, Joel Frisler, Earl Culpwinkie, and Pat Kelly. Kelly, who received 173 votes, ran on a write-in candidacy.

Kelly said he had a formidable challenge entering the primary because of his write-in public support.

"I’m committed to doing ‘whatever I can to help improve the city of Carbondale,’" Flowers said.

The write-in candidacy was tough, but the votes we got show that we did good work," Kelly said.

Likewise, he was pleased with the student-voter turnout but cautioned students to continue to turn out to support of student-friendly candidates.

"The voters voted," Kelly said. "But if they don’t vote in the general election, we could lose the freedoms we gained 2 years ago."

Bell, Egyptian reporter, Dave Ferrante contributed to this story.

The partnership between Carbondale Community High School and the city of Carbondale, with a proposal to build a new comprehensive high school -- has been essential to serve as a model for the rest of the state of Illinois," McGettigan said.

The state extended a $1.5-million grant to Carbondale in 1996 to the city could begin planning a new high school campus.

"The city subsequently enlisted the services of an architectural consultant and purchased about 60 acres of land adjacent to the Carbondale Community High School. It is a prime location for the proposed school campus."

The new school is expected to cost $15 million to complete. The city could begin planning a new high school campus.

"If the city is successful in building the new school, it will become a model for other cities throughout the state of Illinois," McGettigan said.

The city subsequently enlisted the services of an architectural consultant and purchased about 60 acres of land adjacent to the Carbondale Community High School. It is a prime location for the proposed school campus. The state extended a $1.5-million grant to Carbondale in 1996 to begin planning a new high school campus.

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**Rooms**

YOGA HOUSE, new 2nd, located in back, 24/7 access, 137 S. McFarland, $200, call 529-5025 for access.

**Roommates**

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FEMALES wanted to share 3/15, 1 block from UNI, very clean, near UNI, $235 ea, 320-0673 also 872.

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241 S. LUMINE, 2 bdrm, great location, close to campus, 2 baths, f.f. size, w/d, w/c, d/w, utilities, $315 per. Ask for Don, 259-8641.

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1 bdrm, 454 NW, RHA College, 903 Park, 618 Campus, 1001 Wick, 369 S. LUMINE, 1034 Park, 903 Park, 1001 Wick, 903 Park. Call 241-4917/18 for more info.

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CITY CENTER APARTMENTS
1 bdrm, 264 NE 21st, 522-1629.

2 BOMA APARTMENTS AT DURKIN, w/d, quiet, close to UNI, near gym. Call 529-4184.

2 BOMA APARTMENTS AT DURKIN, w/d, quiet, close to UNI, near gym. Call 529-4184.

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GEOGRAPHIC TAKS WEST

400 SE 37th, 529-4278.

1 BOMA, CLEAN, quiet, close, 1 bdrm, 1 bath, gym, w/d, quiet, near gym, 703 S. LUMINE, Ave.

For RENT, 1, 2 & 3 bdrm Apts at Washington Apartments, 116 East Wallin, located and référenced, some pet allowed, laundry facilities, pool, 24 hr. maintenance, water, sewer, gas. Call 529-4707, 529-4708, 529-4709, 529-4710, 529-4711 for a viewing appointment. No houses ending Dec 99 available.

**For RENT**

1, 2 & 3 bedroom at Campus Village. 3 br, 2 bath, 1111 NW 24th, utilities, gas, water, some pet allowed, pool, and volleyball. Call 529-4964.

1-2-3 bedroom, 3 bath, near UNI, 12th & Main, 529-4611, property no longer renting Dec 99 available.

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**Houses**

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Good but not great, yet

Despite a promising 6-2 start, SIU soccer team still searching for consistency

Corey Crouch

Daily Egyptian Reporter

The SIU soccer team showed it is capable of doing just a little more offensive consistency to get over the hump last weekend at the Missouri Valley Conference.

The Salukis (6-2) lost to Louisiana Tech University 3-0 Saturday morning in a 30-degree wind chill but rebounded to win the straight set match to win the tournament.

The University of Southern Indiana, 13-0, edged out Oklahoma City University 2-1 Sunday to win the tournament. In the third-place game against Stephens F. Austin State University 1-0 Sunday in Columbia, Ga., junior defender Joel Geist’s goal provided all the offense the Salukis needed as former senior fields player Nathan Rempe called (2-1) scored in the 10:2 victory.

Although the Salukis put up big offensive numbers in the final game of the tournament, that wasn’t enough for coach Jack Brechtluscher’s squad to shoot in their season.

The Salukis were defeated on Sunday by the University of Southern Indiana in 1-0, in nine innings. Saturday, SIU did rebound to defeat NJU 2-0 on Sunday.

"Each area showed what they are capable of doing, but each area showed a lack of consistency, through out the tournament. Being the first opportunity that’s what’s expected," Brechtluscher said.

The Salukis bats were definitely not shut down, posting a .379 team average for the tournament. It was just a matter of getting on base in the right time.

Brechtluscher said the Salukis needed better offensive consistency to win the tournament.

"They’re all doing a great job," Funke said.

Not making the trip for the conference are freshman drivers James Kaylor and Ethel Butcher, who will hit the road for the March 12-13 Zone D, Dividing Qualifying Meet.

"I think they will do fine," Butler said. "If they represent their performance from the MVCs, they will do well. So they should do fine as long as they relax and have fun."
Jenkins named MVC's top defender

STANLEY RICHARDSON
Sports Editor

SIUC senior guard Monte Jenkins was named Missouri Valley Conference Player of the Year Tuesday by a panel of MVC sports editors.

The 6-foot-2 Rock Island native became the third Saluki to earn the honor.

"Being Defensive Player of the Year is something I always thought I could accomplish," Jenkins said. "I just was a matter of checking it off." Jenkins also made First Team All-Conference. He led the team in scoring (16.7 ppg), three-point field goal percentage (38 percent), assists (25) and was second in rebounding (5.9).

Saluki junior point guard Rob Calloway earned All-Newcomer season. Calloway, a transfer from St. Louis Community College, was the third-most prolific three-point shooter in the Valley. He connected on a team-high 46-of-111 from the arc.

Jenkins, Jenkins or the First Team were Bradley University guard Rob Dyer, University of Evansville center Dennis Wilson, Creighton University forward Dave Long, Indiana State University center Danny Moore.

Jenkins named the MVC Player of the Year after averaging 18.2 points for the regular season.

The other MVC Defensive team members were the hungry East Robertson of Bradley University, Antony Staton of Evansville and Creighton center Dave Sieben.

Jenkins' 19.2 average was the highest by an MVC player since 1987-88 when Dyer averaged 20.5.

"We had a lot of inquiries about how we were doing his year," Old Forest High School basketball coach Andy Scizzano said. "Dre went from 10 to 11 schools that called." A couple of those schools calling were the University of Illinois, Chicago, and even Purdue called.

But Scizzano had a quick advice for Saluki coach Jim Calhoun, who has known for 20 years.

"I told him, 'Take a gamble on the boy. he will make you look good.' Scizzano said. 'I think it was a twist of fate that he went to Southern.'"

Frazer's arrival in Carbondale marked the first time he was only a player. He's 5-7 as a sophomore.

"At Old Forest," Frazer said, "I was 5-10. But here I am 5-7." "It was difficultlishing for only once a week and then Wednesday for Evangel group. Staff writer pictures and "

Frazer overcame the task. After completing the MVC campaign with a 7-2 record and a team-best 7-2 RBA, he was selected to be the 1996 Missouri Valley Conference Conference team.

"I'm not going to change my approach from my game from when I was healthy," Frazer said. "I'll stay healthy. I'll be extremely efficient, and I'll keep it going." Frazer did better than one in his first game back from knee surgery Friday against Stetson University. He did great. He showed just one or two signs of stiffness in five since surgery.

Caldwell says the scars will come.

"I think if he stays healthy and maintains his health over the last year that he showed as a sophomore, he'll be a solid, through eighth-year player," he said.

Former Thompwood High School standout Mike Moultrie, who was the second overall pick of last year's draft in the National Hotbody League, certainly agrees. Scizzano told Frazer was the toughest pitcher he faced all season.

"Scizzano tells me they already have come to Frazer if Frazer gets drafted, the choice between school and the pros, which he lives, should be easy," is his advice.

"Obviously, I would seriously consider the choice between school and the pros," he said. "I would consider it — 100 percent."
In the NIC of time

Swimmers set to compete in the National Individual Championships in Michigan

Mike Biggellini
DAILY EGYPTIAN REPORTER

Even after winning the MVC Championships 11 days ago, the SIUC swimming and diving teams still have lofty goals ahead of them.

On Thursday, the Salukis will be looking to improve their second-place finish from last year at the National Individual Championships at Oakland University in Rochester, Mich.

In 1998, both the men's and women's teams fell to the University of Cincinnati. The men lost to the Bearcats 687-620, while the women were defeated 813-514.

But this year has been different. The women — led by freshman Courteney Corder, Cary Kimmian, Dana Morrell and three-time MVC Swimmer of the Week Brooke Radatt — are seeking to rewrite last year's results and start their own tradition.

"On the women's side we have to see what happens," women's assistant coach Steve Famato said. "This year has brought a very tight competition between the two teams."

With a solid cast of juniors and seniors, including Mary Beth Webster and Kat Flannery, this might be the year the Salukis could overtake the Bearcats.

"The seniors provided great leadership," Famato said. "I think the whole team looked changed, the focus has been on the Valley. It almost becomes a secondary tournament because that's at the end of the year."

Regardless, nothing will be as important to the team than proving that they belong with the rest of the nation.

"This comes now as a chance to swim fast and make cuts for NCAAs," Famato said. "It also gives them a chance to try and go for lifetime-bests. It almost becomes a secondary tournament because that's at the end of the year."

With a solid cast of juniors and seniors, including Mary Beth Webster and Kat Flannery, this might be the year the Salukis could overtake the Bearcats.

Unlike in years past, this competition is not the team than it was the first meet because the MVCs (Championships) were in December, Famato said. "But since that's changed, the focus has been on the Valley.”

This is where the Salukis senior pitcher Jake Sayers comes up for air during the 400-meter individual medley earlier this month at the Missouri Valley Conference Championships.

This is the Saluki senior pitcher Jake Sayers on the pug-pong table.

The Saluki senior pitcher Jake Sayers on the pug-pong table.

The Saluki senior pitcher Jake Sayers on the pug-pong table.

Comeback gives pitcher mounds of pleasure

Jason Fraser ready to show his 90-mph fastball after a year-long rehabilitation

Mike Biggellini
DAILY EGYPTIAN REPORTER

The scars on Jason Fraser's green monster mark the many battles. The scratchs, the nicks and the scars make only add to its mystique.

This is where the Saluki senior pitcher fights non-baseball wars — on the ping-pong table.

On the hard, wood floor near the kitchen sits the giant table. Fraser took it from his Oak Forest home, waiting for future battles to take place with his Saluki teammates.

"I love a challenge nobody's got," Fraser said. "That's what I like to do. We usually best each other but I get the best of them." Fraser's powerful ping-pong serve is reminiscent of his 90-mph fastball. Don't let the 5-foot-10-inch frame fool you. Fraser is a force to be reckoned with in his own home and on the pitching mound.

At Oak Forest High School, Fraser was named MVP of his team and the conference. His name also graced both the Chicago Sun-Times and Chicago Tribune all-state teams.

The only problem — no college showed much interest in an untraditional right-handed pitcher/third baseman from the Chicago suburb. Purdue University and SIUC were the only two schools to give him a look, but Fraser said the Salukis were the only ones truly interested.

Or so Fraser thought.