New early voting system has more options

Brandon August

For this year’s Nov. 7 election voters can get out and vote early.

In 2002, President Bush signed the Help America Vote Act into law, and in 2005 the Illinois General Assembly followed with House Bill 1968. The law gave voters the ability to vote early without using an absentee ballot and having to provide a legitimate excuse as in past years.

Jackson County set up two satellite early voting locations — the Carbondale Civic Center and the Student Center — in addition to the Jackson County Courthouse in Murphysboro. Early voting began Oct. 16 and will end Nov. 2.

Larry Reinhardt, Jackson County clerk and recorder, said there have been about 200 early voters so far this year, 72 of them at the satellite sites. He said there have been 462 early votes including early, absentee and grace period voters. Voter registration closed Oct. 10, but the voters were offered a registration grace period that ended Oct. 24.

Reinhardt said gubernatorial elections usually draw between 600 and 800 early votes. He said he believes that with this change, the number of early votes will surpass those numbers, but he said this election hasn’t drummed up as much support as past elections.

“I realize that this election is not as hotly contested as other gubernatorial elections in the past,” he said.

Reatha Crow of De Soto has been an election judge for about 15 years and works at the early voting sites. She said student turnout has been poor thus far.

“It’s one step above non-existent,” she said.

She said 17 people, including just two students, have voted at the Student Center, which has facilities set up Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Mackinaw Room on the second floor. She said the location might deter some of the voters.

See VOTE, Page 5

Law school dean to oversee students’ appeals

Nine suspended students plan to appeal decisions that bar them from university

Brandon Weisenberger

SIU School of Law Dean Peter Alexander has taken over the appeals hearings for the nine Chicago-area freshmen suspended this month.

Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Larry Dietz said he appointed Alexander because of the “high sensitivity” of the students’ cases and because of the dean’s legal expertise.

“I think Dean Alexander will add some gravity to the process,” Dietz said.

Alexander’s appointment marks the first time in six years that an appeal has not been handled by the Student Affairs Division, Dietz said.

The suspension is the first of such a high number of students involved in the same case.

“It’s a pretty unusual type of case,” Dietz said.

From Oct. 13 to Oct. 19, Student Judicial Affairs suspended nine students who SIUC police linked to an on-campus beating of a sophomore near the Recreation Center. A total of 17 years in suspensions were handed down after university officials banned the students from campus for several days until their hearings.

Another freshman, Corey Coakley, was also involved in the attack, according to Jackson County records. Coakley, who has not been associated with the nine other students, faces criminal charges of mob action, robbery and aggravated battery.

Only an e-mail address was available for Coakley, and he did not respond to multiple messages. His status with the university after the Oct. 6 incident is unclear. Dietz said he could not say whether Coakley was being processed by Student Judicial Affairs because of student confidentiality.

Also charged with the same criminal offense were freshmen Derrick Reese, who is appealing his three-year suspension, and two non-students, Michael Ziegler and Jovon Lay.

Suspended student Aric Anthony is the first of the nine students to undergo his appeal hearing, which is scheduled for Tuesday in the Lesar Law Building.

Alexander, a 1979 SIUC graduate and former Undergraduate Student Government president, has practiced and taught law for more than 20 years. He returned to Carbondale in 2003 to become the university’s first black dean.

Alexander could not be reached at his office.

“This is a very serious case with complex issues,” Alexander wrote in a letter to the students, notifying them he was not the appeals hearing officer.

In the letter, Alexander wrote that the burden of proof is now shifted from the university to the students, and they must persuade him to overturn the Student Judicial Affairs ruling.

Derrick Reese Jr., father of suspended student Derrick Reese Jr., said he saw the move as an intimidation factor because the students are now up against a high-ranking administrator with a strong legal background.

Dietz said he made the decision to appoint someone outside of Student Judicial Affairs because he thought it would grant more objectivity in a case that has garnered much public attention.

See DEAN, Page 5

Helping children learn to read

SIUC kicks off ‘Book in Every Home’ campaign

Sean McGahan

Though Araiya Bailey was supposed to listen to someone else read a story, she didn’t need the help. Before the words on the page were even read, Bailey shouted out, “No more monkeys jumping on the bed!”

Bailey, a 4-year-old from Carbondale, was chosen as a representative of her Head Start class to listen to Erika Lowery read to children in the launch of SIUC’s 12th annual “Book in Every Home” campaign.

Lowery, wife of SIUC men’s basketball coach Chris Lowery, is in her second year as chairman for the campaign that encourages students and community members to donate children’s books across campus from Oct. 25 to Dec. 8.

“It’s about getting the kids to read,” Lowery said.

“What we’re trying to encourage is kids getting new books and having the feeling that ‘This is my book’ and getting them to read more.”

Lowery said the goal of the program this year is to get three books for each of the 433 children enrolled as Head Start in Williamson and Jackson counties.

Drop boxes for books are located at the Student Center, Woody Hall and several other locations around campus.

For those who do not have books to give, donations can be made to the SIU Foundation.

See BOOK, Page 3
**Neighborhoods in Southern Illinois**

- **Carbondale**: 47/36 °F, 48/30 °F, 32°F, 3°F
- **Herrin**: 48/32 °F, 50/34 °F, 36°F, 25°F
- **Marjorie Lawrence**: 47/37 °F, 50/36 °F, 30°F, 20°F
- **Monterre**: 46/33 °F, 50/37 °F, 32°F, 23°F
- **Newport**: 46/33 °F, 50/36 °F, 30°F, 20°F
- **Prairie Grove**: 46/33 °F, 49/36 °F, 32°F, 23°F
- **Rock Island**: 47/37 °F, 50/36 °F, 30°F, 20°F
- **Rockford**: 47/37 °F, 50/36 °F, 30°F, 20°F
- **Springfield**: 46/34 °F, 49/36 °F, 30°F, 21°F
- **Terre Haute**: 46/32 °F, 49/35 °F, 31°F, 23°F
- **Winnipeg**: 48/34 °F, 50/36 °F, 32°F, 23°F
- **Yazoo City**: 47/37 °F, 50/36 °F, 30°F, 20°F

**AccuWeather 5-Day Forecast for Carbondale**

- **Today**: Rain and drizzle, 52/45 °F
- **Monday**: Rain and drizzle, 56/42 °F
- **Tuesday**: Rain and drizzle, 54/49 °F
- **Wednesday**: Sunny, 61/41 °F
- **Thursday**: Mostly sunny and breezy, 63/48 °F
- **Friday**: Mostly sunny and breezy, 67/50 °F

**National Weather Today**

- **Chicago**: 48/30 °F
- **Cincinnati**: 48/30 °F
- **Los Angeles**: 79/55 °F
- **New York City**: 54/40 °F
- **New Orleans**: 79/55 °F
- **Phoenix**: 81/55 °F
- **Seattle**: 57/49 °F
- **Washington DC**: 70/49 °F

**Almanac**

- **Temperature**: High/low today 50/31 °F
- **Precipitation**: 0.00"/0.00"
- **Snow**: 0.0"/0.00"
- **Sunrise**: 6:06 a.m.
- **Sunset**: 4:31 p.m.
- **Moonrise**: 11:36 p.m.
- **Moonset**: 4:37 a.m.
- **Barometer**: 29.94"/29.94"

**POLICE REPORT**

- **Monroe County Sheriff's Office**
  - **Wednesday, Oct. 25**: The Monroe County Sheriff's Office arrested and charged with disorderly conduct J.C. Brown, 31, of Carbondale, for making a false statement.

**POLICE REPORTS**

- **Henderson Police Department**
  - **Sunday, Oct. 29**: Henderson police arrested andcharged with disorderly conduct J.C. Brown, 31, of Carbondale, for making a false statement.

**TODAY**

- **Weather**: Mostly sunny and breezy.
- **Temperature**: High/low today 50/31 °F
- **Precipitation**: 0.00"/0.00"
- **Snow**: 0.0"/0.00"
- **Sunrise**: 6:06 a.m.
- **Sunset**: 4:31 p.m.
- **Moonrise**: 11:36 p.m.
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In trick shooting, there is a message to prepare them for school," said Lowery. "We're trying to get them into reading." Lowery said she got involved in the program to see the books on the children's faces when they are presented with the new books. "This world is all about cell phones, Game Boys and all that," Lowery said. "We're trying to get them into reading." 

Eric Brammier hesitated as he pondered his future career choice.

"The Chattanooga Choo Choo shot symbolized the way things happen in life, Massey said. People have to go through a lot of obstacles in life, but they must push through even if they have to drag others along with them."

"It is important that God can do anything through human vessels," Hall said.

Tolu Akande, president of Chi Alpha Campus Ministries, stood at the door along with other members and greeted all the guests with firm handshakes.

"Chi Alpha Campus Ministries is an international ministry that shares information about God and His love," Akande said. "It's cool to see how pool can be used to get a message across."

"This world is all about cell phones, Game Boys and all that," Lowery said. "We're trying to get them into reading." Andreas Zimmermann can be reached at a-zimmermann@dailyegyptian.com.
**Iraqi prime minister disorders U.S.- Iraqi raid**

Christopher Bodeen  
**THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) - An angry Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki disapproved a joint U.S.-Iraqi raid in the capital’s Sadr City shanty Wednesday and criticized the top U.S. military and diplomatic representatives in Iraq for saying his government needed to set a timetable to curb violence in the country.

Al-Maliki spoke at a news conference a day after U.S. Ambassador Zalmay Khalilzad said Iraqi leaders had 180 days to set forth a plan for achieving specific political and security goals laid out by the United Nations, including joining in a military coalition.

"I affirm that this government represents the will of the Iraqi people. No one has the right to impose a timetable on us," the prime minister said.

The prime minister dismissed U.S. talk of timelines as driven by the coming midterm elections in the United States. "I am positive that this is not the official policy of the American government but rather a result of the ongoing election campaign. And that does not concern us much," he said.

Al-Maliki complained he was not consulted beforehand about the Sadr City offensive. The raid was conducted by Iraqi special forces backed by U.S. advisers and was aimed at capturing a top military commander wanted for running a Shiite death squad.

"The U.S. talk of timelines so that it will not be repeated," he said.

Mosulifat al-Rahmat, his neighbor, said The Associated Press that al-Maliki’s anger grew from Washington’s understand- ing that had since been cleared up with Gen. George Casey, the top U.S. commander in Iraq.

Lawmakers: New Orleans insurance analysis displays need of legislation outreach

Frank Bass  
**THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

NEW ORLEANS (AP) - An Associated Press analysis show- ing that homeowners were three times as likely to be dissatisfied with their insurance companies as non-homeowners or related material.

"China has been in a very impor- tant relationship with us for many years, and at no time did we feel any closer together with China than we felt in the wake of the North Korean provocation," Assistant Secretary of State Christopher Hill told reporters during a meeting of Pacific leaders in Fiji.

"I think the Chinese understand that the North Korean ... decision to proceed with a nuclear weapons program is really something quite beyond the pale, and something we need to all speak with one voice about," said Hill, the chief U.S. envoy to six-nation talks on North Korea.

The U.N. resolution gave member countries 30 days from its Oct. 14 adoption to report on implementing the sanctions.

The South Korean panel, which met for the first time Tuesday, also is trying to decide how to handle the interception of North Korean cargo ships and what to do about the economic projects that have been criticized for providing hard currency to the North. The United States sus- pects the funds might have helped the North’s arms programs.

Also at issue was whether South Korea would expand its participation in a U.S.-led drive to interdict North Korean ships and aircraft suspected of carrying weapons of mass destruction or related material.

LOAD REPORTS

**NEW JERSEY**

N.J. court opens the door to gay marriage  
**TRENTON, N.J. (AP) —** New Jersey’s highest court opened the door Wednesday to making the state the second in the nation to allow gay marriage, ruling that lawmakers must offer homosexuals either mar- riage or something like it, such as civil unions.

In a ruling that fell short of what either side wanted or feared, the state Supreme Court declared 4-3 that homosexual couples are entitled to the same rights as heterosexual ones. The justices gave lawmakers 180 days to rewrite the laws.

The ruling is similar to the 1999 high-court ruling in Vermont that led state to five civil unions, which could aid the rights and benefits available to married couples under state law.

**M I A M I**

Priest who acknowledged fondling Foley faces second sexual abuse accusation  
**MIAMI (AP) —** Another former altar boy says he was sexually abused in the 1970s by the same retired Catholic priest who acknowled- ged fondling former Rep. Mark Foley when Foley was a teenager, the man’s attorney said Wednesday.

The new allegations against the Rev. Anthony Mericcia were made by a man who lived in North Miami and was an altar boy at St. James Catholic Church, where Merciccia worked, attorney Jeffrey Herman said.

Herman said he planned to file a lawsuit Wednesday against the Archdiocese of Miami.

**CHICAGO**

Americans’ girth adds nearly 1 billion more gallons of gas consumption a year  
**CHICAGO (AP) —** Want to spend less at the pump? Lose some weight. That’s the implication of a new study that says Americans are burning nearly 1 billion more gallons of gasoline each year than they did in 1960 because of their expanding waists. Simply put, more weight in the car means lower gas mileage.

Using recent gas prices of $2.20 a gallon, that translates to about $2.2 billion more spent on gas each year.

"The bottom line is that our hunger for food and our hunger for oil are not independent. There is a relationship between the two," said University of Illinois researcher Sheldon Jacobson, a study co-author.
New laws allow early voting

Brandon Augsburg  
DAILY EGYPTIAN

In this election, the early vote might get the seat.
The Illinois General Assembly approved House Bill 168 in 2005, which allows early voting. Registered voters can vote during the 22nd day through the fifth day preceding an election without needing to provide a reason or an excuse for wanting to vote early, according to the Illinois State Board of Elections Web site. This year, early voting began Oct. 16 and will end Nov. 2.

Absentee voting is still available, and the Web site said those who want to vote by absentee ballot should contact their local election authority — the Jackson County Clerk and Recorder’s Office.

According to the Web site, about 35 states offer early voting. The main reason for the law is to offer another voting option for those who travel for work, business, long hours or are otherwise inconvenienced by the polling place.

Jackson County has three early voting sites — the Jackson County Courthouse in Murphysboro, the Carbondale Civic Center and the Student Center. The satellite site at the Civic Center is open Monday and Wednesday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., and the Student Center site is open Tuesday, Thursday and Friday between 11 a.m. and 5 p.m. Registered voters can fill their ballots during regular office hours.

Jackson County Democratic Party Chair Shelie D. Booker said early voting would be beneficial to voters and would make the whole process more accessible. She said early voting is new, so it is still picking up steam.

Jackson County Clerk and Recorder Larry Reinhardt agreed with Booker and said the March primaries were the first time early voting was used in the county, so the program is still in its infancy.

Booker said the Democrats have included early voting information in their newsletters and discuss the topic at their meetings in an effort to mobilize early voters.

Reinhardt said a person-to-person discussion, “Word of mouth is probably going to be the best promoter for early voting,” he said.

The process has been streamlined and computerized, so it takes only about five minutes.

She said voters are given a card with information on it, then they insert the card into the voting station and use a touch screen to make their selections.

She said there is also a printout of the voter’s choices that goes into a sealed container. She said the printout leaves a paper trail, which could prevent problems such as the ones that occurred in Florida in 2000 and Ohio in 2004.

Crow said the early voting stations also offer large print ballots and earphones, and the height of the station is adjustable for those with disabilities.

The appeals process was criticized in a June 2005 report of the Agility and Efficiency Task Force, which said the Student Judicial Affairs and the appeals system are “very subjective.”

Decisions made by Student Judicial Affairs can be appealed through Dietz’s office, in which the vice chancellor appoints a staff member to hear the case.

Dietz said he has not taken part in any appeal since coming to SIUC in 2006. Retired assistant to the vice chancellor Nancy Hunter Pietr showed up during several years, and the task clearly belongs to Student Affairs staffer Michael Stokes. Rulings from Dietz’s office can be appealed to a committee appointed by the chancellor’s advisory committee.

Decisions made by the committee are final.

On Thursday, the Undergraduate Student Government voted to urge the university to promote the Student Conduct Code and allow for more student participation in its review every five years.

Senators spent relatively little time discussing the two Student Conduct Code resolutions and unanimously agreed more should be done to help students understand it.

Senator Jeff Bower, representing the College of Applied Sciences and Arts, said he started school when the code was still distributed in hard copies. He said that gave him the opportunity to read and realize “it was separate from the arm of the law.”

Now, the code is only available online, and students are made aware of it during orientation programs.

“The Student Conduct Code is not being promoted fully by the university, and more should be done,” he said.

Brandon Weisenberger can be reached at bra ond_weisenberger@dailyegyptian.com.

Brandon Augsburg  
DAILY EGYPTIAN

We need to be where the students are and not stuck on the second floor at the end of the hall,” Crow said.

Reinhardt said the location in the Student Center probably will not stick out, but he is not pointing fingers.

He said early voting must be in a controlled environment, so the options were limited.

He said he would look at the total number of votes from the Student Center and determine if a satellite setup at that location would be justified.

The Carbondale Civic Center, which offers early voting Monday and Wednesday between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m., has had 55 early votes, and Reinhardt said that maybe he is the only early voting location in the future.

He said both locations would remain open for the duration of this early voting period.

Crow said with two locations in addition to the courthouse, he thinks more people should be taking advantage of the early voting.

“We have the additional places, and there is no reason not to vote,” Crow said.

She said the voting process is relatively easy as well. She said voters must show a photo ID, and most of the work is up to the election judges. The process has been streamlined and computerized, so it takes only about five minutes.

She said voters are given a card with information on it and they insert the card into the voting station and use a touch screen to make their selections.

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Brandon Weisenberger can be reached at brandon_weisenberger@dailyegyptian.com.
Students deserve answers about code

Before one is to know anything about Tuesday’s NAACP-led meeting at Grinnell Hall concerning the Student Conduct Code, he or she should know that of four main administrators who were invited to the discussion, only one showed:

“Administrator: Code is flawed” was the headline that ran in Wednesday’s Daily Egyptian, singular not plural. That administrator, associate chancellor for diversity Seymour Bryson, spoke his own concerns in regard to violence among students, but he was received best when he spoke to the concerns of the lively crowd that showed up.

“It’s very clear that people know this document is flawed,” Bryson said.

Bryson was just as candid on the subject of his absent colleagues. Saying that the group, which involved Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Larry Diere, Student Affairs coordinators Terry Huffanism and Housing Judicial Affairs coordinator Carlos Del Rio, showed disrespect and a “lack of caring.”

While they had excuses for their absences ready, it doesn’t excuse their utter lack of presence or even representation. Maybe they knew the kind of questions students would come armed with, and without proper preparation, we would have heard much more ridiculousness than what was already heard inside Grinnell Hall.

Those who spoke were on point, exercising their fears of injustice, discrimination and simple callousness on the part of the SIUC administration.

Those who spoke were on point, exercising their fears of injustice, discrimination and simple callousness on the part of the SIUC administration.

Those who spoke were on point, exercising their fears of injustice, discrimination and simple callousness on the part of the SIUC administration. Senator Bernardette McKinney drew some laughs with her analogy involving the administrators as delinquent bill-payers and the people in the room as their bill collectors.

“If I could shut the door on my bill collectors and they’d go away, I’d for sure do it,” she said.

The best thing about Tuesday night was that the audience agreed this conduct code issue should not and will not go away. Starting with those who attended the NAACP meeting, it looks like there will be a concentrated group of students and citizens ready to question the moves made by the administration, and when they are not questioning, they will be demanding. First demand on the list: the implementation of suggestions made by an Agility and Efficiency Task Force to change Student Judicial Affairs.

For too long the administration has been holding its cards too close to its chest while keeping a deck under the table. Many on campus, from the typical student to those who have chosen to speak on the typical student’s behalf, have been left wondering what’s happening around them. As it turns out, some answers have been there all along. It is time to make use of these answers and keep finding new ones, because as we found out Tuesday, new questions are bound to pop up.

President Obama? It depends upon what’s beyond the buzz

And now it’s Barack Obama’s turn. The media glare is full force on the Illinois Democrat since he cracked open the door Sunday to a presidential bid. For a while, the first-term senator had kept it firmly closed. But whenever a politician says something like, “Given the responses that I’ve been getting over the last several months, I have thought about the possibility,” you know he is really thinking about running.

That’s what Obama said on “Meet the Press.” And his titillating response follows urgings to run from a pair of dissimilar figures. New York Times columnist, the righteous David Brooks, and the leftist Frank Rich.

Obama’s candidacy excites some Democrats because he’s an inspiring figure. He’s quick on his feet. He doesn’t like to demonize opponents. And his multiracial background connects him with Americans from many different walks of life.

The chatter around him also indicates that a fair number of Democrats aren’t ready to coalesce behind Sen. Hillary Clinton. Young Democrats may especially get juiced up about him because at age 45, he represents youth, vitality and energy.

But what makes a fresh face like Obama exciting is also what makes him a huge question mark as a possible president. Voters can project upon him what they want because he’s been in the Senate only two years. Who knows whether all the wishes and hopes will correspond to the Real Barack?

That’s what the Democratic primaries would sort out. If he joins the race, he and his team should expect a thorough scrubbing from voters, competitors and the media. At this point, most of what people know about him stems from one command performance at the 2004 Democratic convention. That’s not enough to stake the republic on.

Clinton comes with high negatives, not to mention a powerful machine and money that can scare off opponents. Obama, at least, doesn’t appear scared. And since democracy thrives on choices, he could provide Democrats with a fresh one.

MISSION STATEMENT
The Daily Egyptian, the student-run newspaper of Southern Illinois University Carbondale, is committed to being a trusted source of news, information, commentary and public discourse, while helping readers understand the issues affecting their lives.

WORDS OVERHEARD
“We need to stop being the bully on the block that doesn’t need anyone else.”

Gillian Sommers
Senior advisor to the United Nations Foundation
Trick-or-treat canoe trip

Photo Column by Melissa Barr

Being a photographer, receiving feedback and criticism on my work comes on a daily basis. Co-workers and mentors often tell me that although I’m good at it, I take photos of children far too often. I always respond by telling them I do it because adults are boring, and kids are more visually interesting. They give the most genuine expressions and arrêt so concerned about their hair or makeup or if their outfit makes them look fat.

In this photo, 8-year-old Emily Russell, right, instructs her 5-year-old brother Adam to be careful not to tip the canoe as he enters it. The Russell participated in the second annual Tip or Canoe event sponsored by the Land for Learning Institute, an organization that promotes outdoor education programs Saturday mornings at Evergreen Park. Participants in the event dressed up in Halloween costumes, received proper paddling instructions and canoed across the water to the other side of the reservoir to trick or treat. The Russells, dressed as Spiderman and Trigger, successfully made it to the other side of the reservoir and back with the help of their dad.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

ISU fans not all bad

Dear Editor:

As both sports editor of the Daily Vidette and an ISU undergraduate student, I found your reporting of fan behavior at ISU’s homecoming game vs. SIU in “Dawg Pound Meets to Discuss Upcoming Season” grossly misrepresentative of the actual happenings.

I was on the sideline at the southwest end of the stadium where SIU came out of their locker room and would say that “thousands of mini footballs” pelting the players in a “machinegun-like fashion” is wildly inaccurate and irresponsibly reported. I highly doubt it was the intention of any of the throwers to harm any of the players with the mini footballs.

In this photo, 8-year-old Emily Russell, right, instructs her 5-year-old brother Adam to be careful not to tip the canoe as he enters it. The Russells participated in the second annual Tip or Canoe event sponsored by the Land for Learning Institute, an organization that performs outdoor education programs Saturday mornings at Evergreen Park. Participants in the event dressed up in Halloween costumes, received proper paddling instructions and canoed across the water to the other side of the reservoir to trick or treat.

The Russells, dressed as Spiderman and Trigger, successfully made it to the other side of the reservoir and back with the help of their dad.

Once again, actions have been taken by the ISU athletic department to be sure that sort of disgrace will not be allowed to occur.

I can tell you that those involved with ISU football throughout Bloomington-Normal have the utmost respect for Coach Kill and his staff as well as Southern Illinois athletics as a whole and extend well-wishes and prayers to the Kill family. The small sample that participated in the taunting does not accurately represent the ISU athletic department or our university as a whole.

Michael Bundalo
Daily Vidette sports editor

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.

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- Letters and guest columns can be sent to voices@dailyEgyptian.com

- We reserve the right to not publish any letter or guest column.
The students were vying for the “Ultimate Saluki” title, set up camp on opposite sides. With the number of team members mismatched at 5-3 in favor of the Pharaohs, the Sphinxes were allowed to pick one of the Pharaohs to compete with them for the next challenge—a swimming and survival course.

Ashore and afloat, the Sphinxes were already at the dock with their puzzle pieces, Sphinx members outnumbering their victory. Sphinx member Rhonda Glover, a sophomore from St. Louis studying radio-television, bellowed Quest 4: "We Are The Champions.

Upon returning to the camp, the Sphinxes were handed their reward — a Harbaugh’s pizza. Holtzman rationalized the loss with "It's only food."

"I'm good," Bigall said. "I have pancakes every morning, so this good. It's only fat that they get more food," Holtzman said.

Bigall returned to the Pharaohs for their final meal challenge, which stirred up the flag with dodgeball. The prize was enormous - every player wrote his team's name and a number on the flag as they approached the flag. A member of the Pharaohs led the Sphinxes for their second challenge in a row and had to vote off teenagers. With teenagers gone, even challenges remained, and the competition changed from tribes to individuals.

While teenagers were off relaxing and enjoying their share of barbecue, beer and bars over the weekend, 10 SIUC students were limited to saltines, stench and survival.

W hile their friends were off relaxing and enjoying their share of barbecue, beer and bars over the weekend, 10 SIUC students were limited to saltines, stench and survival.

The students were vying for the “Ultimate Saluki” crown in the Recreational Sports and Services-sponsored “Ultimate Saluki Challenge” — a non-stop, three-day competition based on the CBS series “Survivor” that engaged them in a battle of athleticism, will, alliances and ultimately, survival.

The contestants were not allowed to bring any items except for the clothes on their backs and one luxury item. They were provided tents, firewood, sunscreen and bottled water.

The challenge began Friday on Campus Beach, where two five-member tribes — the Sphinxes and the Pharaohs — set up camp on opposite sides.

Nick Holtzman, a sophomore from Davenport, Ia., studying sports nutrition, stood on the Pharaohs’ side, sizing up his competition. Which he brought as his luxury item, a tennis racket.

"I got a feeling it’s been, day right here," Holtzman said to his teammates who ran back to join the competition. When the Pharaohs returned, the Sphinxes were already at the dock, working on the puzzle. By the time the Pharaohs entered at the dock with their puzzle pieces, Sphinx members were celebrating their victory.

Sphinx member Rhonda Glover, a sophomore from St. Louis studying radio-television, bellowed Quest 4: "We Are The Champions.

Upon returning to the camp, the Sphinxes were handed their reward — a Harbaugh’s pizza. Holtzman rationalized the loss with "It’s only food."

"I'm good," Bigall said. "I have pancakes every morning, so this good. It’s only fat that they get more food," Holtzman said.

Bigall returned to the Pharaohs for their final meal challenge, which stirred up the flag with dodgeball. The prize was enormous - every player wrote his team’s name and a number on the flag as they approached the flag. A member of the Pharaohs led the Sphinxes for their second challenge in a row and had to vote off teenagers. With teenagers gone, even challenges remained, and the competition changed from tribes to individuals.

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TOP RIGHT: An exhausted Mike S kupin, a former “Survivor” contestant (from left) Nick Hochman, Ariel Shivers, Shyvote Blunt, Chris Bigall and Alejandro Gonzales paddle their canoe across Thompson Lake during the first reward challenge of the “Ultimate Saluki Challenge” on Friday. The Pharaohs lost the challenge after having trouble finding a burp sack in the sand of Campus Beach.

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ABOVE RIGHT: Alessio Gonzales spots out a pig snout during a competition in which the contestants battled for the snouts in a small pool of lake water at Campus Beach on Sunday. ABOvE: Asking the Sphinxes to a victory and reward of a Harbaugh’s Garlic Bruschetta, going there their first food other than crackers to almost 20 hours. "I have pancakes every morning, so this good. It’s only fat that they get more food," Holtzman said.

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THE LONE SURVIVOR

Ten students. Three Days. One Ultimate Saluki.

Story by SEAN MCGAHAN • Photos by MAX BITTLE

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“I got a feeling it’s been, day right here,” Holtzman said. “We talk about regular stuff,” Holtzman said. “We pretty much accept the fact that we're going to stab each other in the back eventually,” he said.

The next time Bigall and Holtzman will face each other, they won’t meet after voting off DuValle Riley, a scene from “Survivor:” making videos and photographs.

On Saturday morning, the Sphinxes lost Glover after the Pharaohs’ basketball win, which Bigall backhanded with a half-court shot.

With the number of team members mismatched at 5-3 in favor of the Pharaohs, the Sphinxes were allowed to pick one of the Pharaohs to compete with them for the next challenge — a swimming and survival course.

Sphinx Kyle Sendel, a sophomore from Charleston studying biological sciences, said the team picked Bigall because of his performance in the last challenge.

“I just said, ‘Let’s go take one of their strongest guys,’ ”Sendel said.

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Despite the shift to individual play, alliances remained among team members, leaving the remaining Sphinx players — Sendel, Miles Bardell, a senior from Fiverton studying aviation technologies, and Nikki Rubec, a sophomore from Crystal Lake studying aviation flight — outnumbered.

Later Saturday night, the competition involved the first individual immunity challenge. The remaining seven stood on a plastic bubble platform to test their balance and patience. With everyone still standing after 50 minutes, players were handed 21-pound metal bars.

While Bigall stood silently with his eyes closed and head bowed during the entire challenge, Holtzman stood at his side making small talk with the other competitors. When Holtzman was handed the bar, he confidently began to curl it. After one hour, contestants could only stand on one foot. Within seconds, each of them fell like dominoes, granting Bardell immunity.

"It was that long?" Felt like five minutes," Bigall said at the end of the challenge, breaking an hour of silence. In the next immunity challenge, there were only six competitors left, with Sendel voted off to weaken the Sphinx alliance.

Bardell continued his winning streak Sunday morning, winning a race foot after he earned a head start by correctly answering SIU trivia questions. Bigall received immunity for the second time in a row.

Before the elimination vote, Holtzman said he expected a unanimous vote for Shivers because she said she no longer wanted to participate in the challenge. Holtzman and his allies were unaware this was a ploy by the secret alliance of the former Sphinxes and Shivers to remove Holtzman. The vote was a tie between three for Shivers and Holtzman.

As a teabreak, Shivers was forced to leave because she received a vote in a previous elimination. With the vote still intact, Holtzman said it was up to Bigall, Gonzalez and himself to gain immunity and come out on top.

The goal was achieved when Bigall won immunity by bobbing for pig snouts out of a pool filled with lake water.

Although happy about Bigall's victory, Holtzman said he felt disgruntled after the challenge. "I felt like I shouldn't have done that," he said. "It resembles the taste of an ear."

Lacking immunity for the first time in individual competition, Bardell was voted off. Rubec was deemed as well without her only co-conspirator, Bardell, leaving only the alliance of Gonzalez, Holtzman and Bigall.

"Now it's game on," said Mike Skupin, a former "Survivor" contestant who hosted the challenge. "You all have about the same strength. It's all about will."

For the final immunity challenge, the three contestants gathered on the Rock Center rock-climbing wall and chose a position to hold for as long as they could. Bigall slipped first, leaving only Gonzalez and Holtzman to battle.

After 13 minutes, Gonzalez let go and lay deflated on the ground, leaving Holtzman with the final immunity.

"Really, it just came down to sheer will," Holtzman said.

Holtzman said he felt like falling and a trip to St. Louis for the Missouri Valley Conference basketball championship. "Chris played a really nice game because he never offended anybody, and he just kind of played both sides of the fence," Skupin said. "Nick was a survival-type guy and didn't realize until later that the personal side of it was really critical."

Following the ceremony, Bigall was more interested in getting home than enjoying his prize. "I really want to change my socks. That's the number one priority," Bigall said. "Take my socks off, change my socks and drink a beer."

Bigall also said his Michelangelo doll was a crucial aid. "He was there to help support me when I didn't have any other fans with me. He's my go-to guy," Bigall said.

Holtzman attributed Bigall's win to his ability to play his game while still getting along with everyone. "He didn't step on toes. He made sure everyone was happy," Holtzman said.

Skupin said Holtzman's loyalty to Bigall ended up costing him the game. "If he would've picked Alex, he would've won. I'm sure of it," Skupin said. "His word became more important than the prize."

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Eikenberg said she likes where the team is at after two weeks of practices, but admitted a lack of game experience makes it hard to pinpoint the team’s weaknesses.

One weakness could be depth, SIU lists only 11-players on its official roster.

She and her coaching staff will continue to brainstorm new ideas to help the Salukis improve on the fundamentals of the game — one tool at a time. "We only have eleven players, and I guess, everybody brings something different to the team," Bailey said. "If everybody fulfills those roles, then I think we can be really successful." Sunday's scrimmage will help Eikenberg get a more solid grasp on a versatile roster that must contend with pressure injury and illness. "But physically, intensively and mentally taxing things have been going the season, I guess," Eikenberg said. "We're not as good, or you're going to admit defeat kind of thing," Sawvel said. "So yeah, we look forward to it."(problem) She has the really unique ability to play within herself, and she is just very levelheaded." Eikenberg found a positive in the play of junior guard Debbie Burris, who has picked up the slack during her teammates’ absences. "(Burris) has done some smart things for us," Eikenberg said. "She has the really unique ability to play well, and she is just very levelheaded."
SPORTS BRIEFS

A look at drivers chasing NASCAR's championship

(AP) - The 10 drivers competing in NASCAR's Yearly Cup championship, in order of points:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Driver</th>
<th>Team</th>
<th>Car</th>
<th>Position Change</th>
<th>Chase Points</th>
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<td>Matt Kenseth</td>
<td>Roush Racing</td>
<td>No. 17 Dollar Tree’s Ford</td>
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<td>Plus 1</td>
<td>10th</td>
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WHAT HAPPENED: Harvick finished 11th at Martinsville despite an early flat tire, a late tire rub and having to switch to his backup light.

WHAT HAPPENED: Johnson won at Martinsville, notching the biggest points jump among Chase drivers. Now he must sustain the momentum to keep his title hopes rolling.

WHAT HAPPENED: Kahne filled seventh at Martinsville, his third-straight top-10, to pull within 99 points of the leader.

WHAT HAPPENED: Gordon finished fifth. At 141 points out, he doesn’t consider himself a legitimate title contender.

WHAT HAPPENED: Busch ran in the top 10 most of the day at Martinsville but was caught in a very late accident with David Ragan to finish 18th.

WHAT HAPPENED: Burton finally had a major case of bad luck, blowing an engine and finishing 42nd. Afterward, he called his team to his hauler for a closed-door pep talk.

WHAT HAPPENED: Earnhardt was poised to make a big jump in the standings but spun very late in the race and wound up 22nd.

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SIU head volleyball coach Brenda Winkeler received an awkward look when she went to Wal-Mart and requested a snow shovel this summer. Winkeler did not buy the shovel to get a jump on winter chores. Instead, she used the implement to improve SIU’s blocking. She discovered the out-of-season shopping trip paid off for a Saluki team hoping to make its first MVC tournament since 2002.

SIU 2.72 blocks-per-game average is on pace to become the best in team history. The Salukis (10-11, 7-6 MVC) rank third in the Missouri Valley Conference in blocks per game partly because Winkeler thought like a handywoman.

Winkeler started using an assortment of tools, including snow shovels, while head coach at Parkland Community College in the early ’90s. She said a direct correlation between tool usage and positive results exists.

“Everybody really benefits from all these tools,” Winkeler said. “We will sit around in a staff meeting and figure out what can help us accomplish those goals.”

Winkeler carries the tools in a toolbox, which contains everything from elastic bands to iron rods to embroidery hoops, all of which are used to focus on improving different skills.

The Salukis use the embroidery hoops to help in the team’s blocking scheme. The hoops are held on the opposite side of the net, while blockers must jump and place their hands through the hoops. The drill teaches better leverage when blocking.

Middle blockers Johannah Yutzy and Chandra Roberson have been the main beneficiaries of the “hoop-la.”

Roberson, a freshman, leads the team with 3.13 total blocks per game. Yutzy, a senior and preseason all-conference selection, has stuffed 73 shots for a .97 blocks-per-game average.

Hoops aren’t the only devices used to help blocking, though.

Elastic bands, pingpong paddles and weight lifting gloves have all played a role in helping the Salukis blocking.

Yutzy used pingpong paddles earlier this season after Winkeler noticed a flaw in Yutzy’s hands. She wasn’t spreading her fingers out.

Winkeler made Yutzy practice with the paddles taped to her hands, and the results were immediate.

“The paddles helped me because during the game I remembered to keep my fingers open,” Yutzy said. “The Salukis also use tools to work on passing and ball control.”

Creative techniques help SIU volleyball players to improve