In one room of the Tunnel of Oppression, if a participant’s complexion was darker than the paper bag he or she was told to move to the back of the room, face the wall and leave the front row open to those who were lighter. After discussion, participant roles were reversed.

The Tunnel of Oppression exposed the severity of the different types of discrimination faced in today’s society. The event focused on issues society uses to judge one another such as physical appearance, economic status and sexual orientation. To learn more, check out Currents on pages 8 & 9.

COBA pursuing tuition hike

Board of Trustees to discuss whether business students should pay more

Allison Petty
Daily Egyptian

Undergraduate students who enter the College of Business and Administration next fall could pay $800 more than those who began this year.

College of Business and Administration Dean Dennis Cradit said the Board of Trustees would hear proposals for a 15 percent increase in the college’s tuition at its meeting today.

The proposal will be considered along with a 9.9 percent increase in undergraduate tuition and a 14.1 percent increase in graduate tuition.

Undergraduate Student Government President Dominick White said he was on the fence about the issue.

“Some of it sounds, to me, counterproductive. … I think if you increase it like (Cradit) is talking about, it’s going to send his retention rates crazy,” White said.

“People aren’t going to want to stick around.”

Full-time undergraduate students who came to SIUC last fall pay $4,449.45 to attend the university. The board will hear proposals today to charge new undergraduates $313 more in tuition and increase student fees by $37.60 per semester.

Tuition increases, according to White, are an attempt to keep students from being priced out of the College of Business and Administration.

If the board approves a surcharge for those studying business, most current students would be safe from that increase. However, those who transferred to a major inside the College of Business and Administration would face an extra 15 percent of their tuition, Cradit said.

Steven Middleton, president of the Graduate and Professional Student Council, said he spoke to many graduate students concerned about the proposed increase.

“If the board passes both the overall tuition and differential tuition proposals, business graduate students would pay an extra $1,032 per semester. Because the Truth in Tuition Act does not apply to graduate or professional students, all of those housed in the College of Business and Administration would face the $1,000-plus increase in fall 2008. See TUITION, Page 13.”

Enrollment crisis costs campus, community

Allison Petty
Daily Egyptian

Editor’s Note: This is the first in a four-part series on enrollment management, in the wake of the university’s enrollment crisis. Future installments will explore possible causes of the problem, recommend solutions to the university’s international student population, the significant disparity between genders at SIUC and administrative plans to change. The series will run for the next four consecutive Thursday editions.

Victoria Valle hasn’t had time to grow accustomed to strangers wishing her well on her job.

“I’ll be sitting in a restaurant and somebody will say, ‘I don’t know who came up to me and say, ‘Oh, you’re that enrollment lady from SIU! Good luck, we really need your work.’” she said.

Valle became vice chancellor for enrollment management five months ago. Her job is to address the university’s steady decline in recruitment and retention, which has left the institution — and some say, the community — in a financial bind.

Enrollment peaked in 1991 at 24,809 students, according to university records. By fall 2007, that number had fallen to 20,983. That’s thousands of fewer students renting houses, buying groceries and otherwise spending their money in Carbondale.

At an institution where tuition and fees make up about one-fifth of the budget, such a drastic decline in students causes everyone concern, said SIU President Glenn Poshard. Enrollment numbers affect everything from faculty and staff salaries to building maintenance.

He said state appropriations for the university accounted for nearly 70 percent of the budget in fiscal year 1968, but fell to 32 percent by fiscal year 2006, forcing the institution to charge its students more. The rest of the university’s revenue comes from grants and contracts, sales and services, private gifts and auxiliary enterprises.

“IT’s hard for me, it’s hard for the board members to say we’ve got to raise tuition,” Poshard said. “But if you look at the responsibility we have for maintaining a large university with a major research component — we don’t have any place else to go.”

Pordo’s dilemma comes as the SIU Board of Trustees is scheduled to discuss raising tuition for new undergraduates 9.8 percent — or $313 per semester — and increasing student fees by $317.60 at its Friday meeting.

See ENROLLMENT, Page 13.
Dollars and Sense

University of Illinois chancellor wants annual day of drinking shut down

CHAMPAIGN — University of Illinois Chancellor Richard Herman wants Champaign to shut down an annual day of student drinking known as Unofficial St. Patrick’s Day.

Local bars created the day, which this year will be Friday, to make up for money lost when St. Patrick’s Day falls during spring break.

It traditionally includes daylong drinking. Champaign police handed out 149 alcohol-related citations last year.

Two years ago, 22-year-old University of Illinois graduate Caroline Yoon died in a fall off a motorcycle. Police said the accident was related.

“Caroline Yoon would have turned 25 next month,” Herman told the Champaign City Council last Tuesday, according to The (Champaign) News-Gazette. “She had an unforge-table face. She was an exceptional student and an exceptional human being.”

Herman says the city could crack down on bars that are part of the tradition.

Mayor Jerry Schweigart said city police will be out in force on what’s known locally as simply “The Unofficial,” and has asked the city attorney whether he can require that people be 21 to enter bars. He also wants the council to consider offering penalties for bars where underage drinkers are caught.

But Schweigart dismissed Herman’s suggestion to not allow bars to remain open until 5 p.m. That could lead to “beer riots,” he said.

News baron Black in bid to delay start of sentence

CHICAGO (AP) — Former newspaper baron Conrad Black made a last-minute plea to an appeals court Wednesday to delay the start of his sentence for engineering a major fraud on shareholders in his Hollinger media empire.

Prosecutors tried to “muddy the waters in the hope that this court will view the appeal as raising only garden-variety sufficiency claims when the case and the appeal are in fact extraordinary,” the plea said.

In his 12-page brief filed with two co-defendants, Black’s attorneys argued that from the moment of sentencing, their client was left with nothing to do.

In the 6.5-year sentence for fraud, Black has also been ordered to pay $61 million in restitution.

The appeals court is expected to make its decision by Friday.

Jury sentences Naperville man to death for quadruple murder

WHEATON (AP) — A Naperville man convicted of the 2006 murders of his parents, sister and brother-in-law is scheduled to be executed for his crimes, a DuPage County judge decided Wednesday.

Juries returned the verdict in the sentencing phase of Eric Hanson’s trial after deliberating for less than two hours. The same jury deliberated last week for about three hours before finding Hanson, 31, guilty of four counts of first-degree murder, two counts of aggravated kidnapping, two counts of armed robbery and two counts of identity theft.

Hanson denied having anything to do with the deaths of his sister, Katherine Hanson-Tsaos, 31, and her husband, Jimmy Tsaos, 34, of Aurora, and his parents, Tenencia Hanson, 57, and Max Hanson, 55, of Naperville. The four were found dead in the Tsaos’ upscale home in Aurora.

Prosecutors have said Hanson had used a scheme involving credit card fraud to steal $80,000 from his parents in the months leading up to the slayings and decided to kill his family after his sister told him about the theft.

No suspects have been reported for the theft of a university parking decal from a vehicle in lot 23 Monday. Authorities have identified a suspect and recovered a stolen wallet from the Northeast Annex.

Two university parking decals were stolen from motor vehicles Tuesday. Neither of the cases has a suspect identified.

An attempted theft Tuesday at the Recreation Center ended with a suspect, but the victim decided against signing a complaint.

SUC police responded to burglaries from 10 motor vehicles Friday in lots 20, 20A and 27. A tool bag, Kenmore Streetwise, roadside safety kit, ice scraper kit, two DC adapters, compact discs, hydraulic jack and Marine Corp. flight suit were stolen. There are no suspects at this time.

**POLICE REPORTS**
Wireless Emergency Notification System to launch next week
Madeleine Leroux
DAILY EGYPTIAN

Students can start signing up Monday to receive emergency notifications from the university through text messages.

Mike Ruiz, director of University Communications, said students can sign up for the new Emergency Notification System on the university’s Web site next week at http://www.siuc.edu/emergency/wens.html.

The new system is part of a network of notification methods, including e-mail, a Web site, emergency information phone hotlines and radio notification.

“The main point of this is redundancy,” Ruiz said. “No matter which one you go to, you’re going to hear the same message.”

The new service is different than one proposed in 2005 called Dawgtel, Ruiz said. “The Dawgtel service, which was abandoned before anyone could sign up, featured more than just emergency notifications.”

Ruiz said no system is infallible, and having multiple means of spreading the same message is important. If a cell tower goes down, Ruiz said, text messages will not help.

“We can’t guarantee that just because we send it, you’ll get it,” Ruiz said.

SIUC’s emergency Web site gives an emergency communications card for students to print out, Ruiz said. The card lists each division of the emergency notification system and how to get more information. Ruiz said he could help students get information in situations where the server is down or the power goes out.

Todd Sigler, director of the Department of Public Safety, said sign up will be done online only and there is no specific sign up period.

Xavier Mims, a senior from Harvey studying business management, said he would sign up for the text message notifications.

“That’s smart,” Mims said. “It’s effective communication.”

Mims said text messages allow word of emergencies to spread extremely fast. There is so much going on in the world, Mims said, faster communication is important.

The emergency text message service will be free for all who sign up, but charges from the cellular providers may apply. Once students have signed up for the service, Ruiz said the system will be tested to work out any bugs. An exact date for the test has not been set, but Sigler said he is hoping to test the system in the first week of March.

“He said the extra money would help pay for career services, student services and efforts to increase retention. He added that the college would publicize its allocations so students could know how the extra money would be spent.

John Nicklow, associate dean of the College of Engineering, said in October his college was exploring a similar proposal. However, he said open forum, faculty opinions and roughly 300 written survey responses from students led administrators to believe the tuition hike would decrease the college’s enrollment.

He said the college would need 1,500 to 1,800 students to make the proposed hike effective. Currently, 921 students are enrolled in the college.

The money would have been used to purchase replacements for aging equipment, Nicklow said. Engineering faculty must now focus on pursuing research grants, company sponsorships and more efficient ways of operating, he said.

Interim Dean Ramanarayanan Viswanathan said finding the needed money would be a struggle.

“We don’t know yet how we are going to address this,” Viswanathan said. “We are looking for some support within the administration of SIU — the provost’s office, for example.”

Though former engineering dean William Osborne said in October the college needed the new equipment to maintain accreditation, Nicklow said the current equipment would be sufficient for the college’s next scheduled accreditation in the fall.

Nicklow said he wanted to focus on the way engineering administrators had listened to students on the issue.

“Students are the biggest stakeholders we have here and we need to hear from them in just about everything we do,” Nicklow said. “That doesn’t always mean we’ll do what they perceive is necessary. Sometimes decisions are difficult, but … if we find better, more cost-effective, efficient ways to serve them, then we need to do it.”

Allison Petty can be reached at 536-3311 ext. 259 or allison.petty@siude.com.

TUITON CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

“The graduate students I talked to were very understanding of what the differential tuition is for as far as what they’re going to get out of it and that a lot of other schools use it,” Middleton said. “But many of them are very concerned about being able to afford to go to school here.”

Cradit said he accepted that some students might leave the College of Business and Administration if they had to pay higher tuition. However, Cradit said he was not concerned about it. He said he had spoken with many in-state students, and the extra charges would amount to 15 percent of in-state tuition. Out-of-state and international students would experience the same percentage of surcharge as in-state students, and the extra charges would be capped at 15 credit hours, Cradit said.

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Iraq council puts down key elections measure

Ossamin Abdul-Zahra
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BAGHDAD — Iraq’s presidential council rejected a plan for new provincial elections and sent the bill back to Parliament for serious, major U.S.-backed efforts to promote national reconciliation.

The ruling came despite a reported last-minute telephone call by Vice President Dick Cheney to the main holdout on the three-member panel, which had until the last day of a 45-day deadline passed by the legislature. The White House tried to put in its best face on the developments, saying “it is democracy at work.”

The outcome underscored the immense challenges involved in trying to distribute power among Shiites, Sunnis and Kurds five years after the fall of Baghdad.

Such-power-sharing agreements are the final goal of last year’s buildup of U.S. troops. The hope has been that the declining bloodshed will remove the fear that has paralyzed Iraqi politicians, enabling them to compromise and strike deals across the sectarian divide. And that, in theory, should blunt support for the Sunni insurgency and allow American troops to withdraw from the country.

Many Sunnis boycotted the last nationwide elections, in January 2005, for the 275-seat parliament, in part because of local officials. The vote ushered in a representative government, but it also gave majority Shiites and minority Kurds the bulk of power.

The hope is that new elections, to be held Oct. 1, according to the draft measure, would give the Sunni more political clout and thereby weaken the insurgency.

The main sticking point in Wednesdays’ decision, however, appeared to have more to do with internal Shiite divisions. The main objection focused on whether local officials or the central government currently led by Shiite Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki will have the right to form teams.

“There are some items in this law that contradict the constitution, such as in the governor and have to do with the law stated Nasser al-Ais, a Sunni lawmaker and presidential council spokesman. “There is an objection and it is constitution.

The presidential council has the right to object.” He didn’t say who objected.

Near term, President Tarig al-Hashemi later said it was his Shiite counterpart, Vice President Adel Abdul-Mahdi. “There were some objections from myself, Adel Abdul-Mahdi on the provincial law, thus the presidentually return it to the parliament for reviewing,” al-Hashemi told the US.-

lated Al-Huma TV station.

Abdul-Mahdi accepted the objection, according to lawmakers who attended the council meeting. He said they spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the issue.

Kurdish protesters throw stones at a police armoured vehicle during a protest against Turkey’s cross-border ground incursion into northern Iraq, in Deyarkin, Turkish on Monday.

Neal Kushner
McKinsey & Company

Libby Quaid
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

T Y L E R , T E X A S — Republican presidential hopeful John McCain mocked Barack Obama’s view of al-Qaida in Iraq on Tuesday and the Democratic contender responded that GOP policies brought the terrorist group there.

The rapid-fire, long-distance exchange Wednesday afternoon was one of the few occasions where the Democratic contest remains unresolved.

McCain criticized Obama for calling in Tuesday night’s Democratic primary debate that, after the U.S. troops withdrew, as president he would act “if al-Qaida is forming a base in Iraq.”

“I have some news, Al-Qaida is in Iraq, it’s called Al-Qaida in Iraq,” McCain told a crowd in Tyler, Texas, drawing laughter at the Democratic nominee’s expense. He said Obama’s statement was “pretty much downhill from the real world.”

Obama quickly answered back Wednesday night in Parkinson County, Ohio. “I do know that there are Al-Qaida quarters in Iraq and that’s why I have said we should continue to strike al-Qaida targets,” he told a rally at August Street Elementary School in Columbus.

But I have some news for John McCain,” Obama added. “There was no such thing as al-Qaida in Iraq until George Bush and John McCain decided to invade Iraq.”...They took their eye off the people who were responsible for 911 and that would be Al-Qaida in Afghanistan, that is stronger now than at any time since 2001.”

Obama said he intended to withdraw U.S. forces from Iraq “so we actually start going after Al-Qaida in Afghanistan and in the hills of Pakistan like we should have been doing in the first place.”

While he praised McCain as a war hero and saluted his service to the country, Obama said the Arizona Republican was “out of the political past. We are about policies of the future.”

Noting that McCain likes to tell audiences that he held a “guts of hell” to catch him, Obama taunted “All he (McCain) has done is weave a campaign Bush into a misguided war in Iraq.”

McCain said he had not watched Tuesday night’s Democratic primary debate but was told of Obama’s response when asked if as president he would reserve the right to send U.S. troops back into Iraq to quell an insurrection in the country.

Obama did not say whether he sent troops but responded “As commander-in-chief, I believe it’s my duty to express the will of the people” later in the evening.

Obama also gave majority Shiites and minority Kurds the bulk of power.

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Kurdish protesters throw stones at a police armoured vehicle during a protest against Turkey’s cross-border ground incursion into northern Iraq, in Deyarkin, Turkish on Monday.

Neal Kushner
McKinsey & Company

Richard Lardner
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — An investigation into allegations the Marine Corps delayed sending laser equipment to Iraq also will examine whether the Marines improperly allowed contractors to divert drivers and people from checkpoints and convoys, according to a memo obtained by The Associated Press.

Residents of the front lines sought the tool, known as a Compact High Power Laser Launcher, but state-side acquisition officials didn’t deliver it, said a civilian Marine Corps official. A less capable laser was eventually sent, but delays of nearly 18 months may have led to an untold number of Iraqi civilian casualties, according to allegations by the officials, an internal critic whose claims are being investigated.

The deaths and injuries occurred when civilians mistaken as the enemy got too close to guarded areas and U.S. troops lacked a non- deadly way of forcing them away, according to the official. The Iraq government has complained about such incidents in the past.

The dispenser emits a powerful yellow-green light that stops or redirects oncoming traffic by temporarily impairing the driver’s vision. With no troops, it has open fire when warning signals are ignored or not seen.

The Marine Corps has stressed that the allegations made by the official, Franz Gayl, reflect his personal views. Gayl’s concerns stemmed from a series of case studies he was conducting for the Marine Corps plans, policies and operations department about the war-time acquisition system. Gayl is a retired Marine Corps lieutenant colonel who worked as a Pentagon inspector general to look into Gayl’s charges that a nearly two-year lag in the fielding of mine-resistant, ambush-protected vehicles (MRAPs) resulted in hundreds of U.S. Marines being killed or injured by roadside bombs.

A Feb. 20 memo from Gen. Robert Magnus, assistant commandant of the Marine Corps, to the Pentagon inspector general requests that the dazzler allega-

tions also be investigated.

The memo, obtained Tuesday evening by AP, notes that a Naval Audit Service review of the system for rapidly shipping needed gear to be deployed was recently completed. The Marine Corp has said that audit found shortcomings and fixes being made.

Gayl’s changes are related to “human interaction and motiva- tion” within the acquisition system, Magnus said.

Marines’ laser delay under investigation

Iraqi protest

Iraqi protesters burn tires during a demonstration near the U.S. embassy in the capital of Baghdad on Tuesday.

Iraqi police and army personnel stand guard on a street in Baghdad during an anti-U.S. protest.

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Debate in after-school funds continues

Attucks director wants to expand services if money is received

Barton Lorimor

An after-school program for children on Carbondale’s northeast side hopes to expand as soon as financial concerns are addressed.

Attucks Community Services, a tutoring program for students in kindergarten through high school, offers children a place to do homework until their parents come home from late-night jobs, said Walter Davis, a graduate student studying workforce education and an Attucks volunteer. Davis said 30 of the 50 students enrolled in the program spend three hours after school with the program, which is now 37 years old.

The program has been on recent Carbondale City Council meeting agendas as the city organizes its fiscal year 2009 budget. Attucks did not receive money from the city during fiscal year 2008 because of management and financial concerns, which includes tax liabilities valued at $18,000 and missed rent payments for the past 10 months.

Abdul Haqq, director of Attucks, said he was appointed to his position on Nov. 5 and the program’s seven-member board of directors plans to correct past mistakes.

Haqq said he is developing a plan to expand the program to include a science lab named after a teacher at the old, all-black Attucks High School.

The program already includes activities such as instruction of manners and self-esteem, mentoring, drumming and judo courses.

Haqq said the program teaches students the harm of drugs, joblessness, drumming and judo courses.

Davis said the program teaches students the harm of drugs, joblessness, drumming and judo courses.

“Obviously it does not affect us when the enrollment fluctuates,” said Johnson, who has lived in Carbondale for 27 years. The store also serves faculty, staff and community members, who are all equally affected by the numbers of students on campus.

However, Johnson said the bookstore was able to handle the ups and downs because it has been in business since 1967. He added that he was optimistic about the university’s ability to attract and keep more students.

Valle said Carbondale and southern Illinois are particularly interested in the university’s fate because the community depends on revenue generated by students.

She said she hoped those most affected by the enrollment drop would work together to solve the problem.

“Are there a lot of good people here and it’s a growing awareness, I hope, that it’s everybody’s job,” said Valle. “From the parking attendants, to the folks who work in the residence halls, to the folks in registration and records, to the professors who turn your grades in on time and keep their office hours — all of those things are very, very important.”

Allison Petty can be reached at 524-3902 or allison.petty@pdyide.com

Joe Crawford

The Northern Illinois University building where five students were killed earlier this month should be demolished and replaced with a new lecture hall, the governor said Wednesday.

Gov. Rod Blagojevich urged lawmakers to approve his request to replace Cole Hall — one of NIU’s largest lecture halls — as quickly as possible. The cost of the project is estimated at $80 million.

NIU President John Peters said he had heard from students and parents that the building should be replaced, but he said the new building would not be built where Cole Hall now stands. The area would instead be turned into a privately funded memorial.

But one local legislator said Blagojevich’s plan is too hasty.

“Just don’t make sense at this time,” said State Rep. Mike Bost, R-Carbondale.

Bost said he empathized with those affected by the shootings, but he thought the state should avoid any “knee-jerk” reactions to the situation.

“If they cancel classes there for a couple semesters? Probably so,” he said. “That’s a decision for them.”

Bost said the funding for construction of the building, tentatively titled Memorial Hall, would probably have to be included as part of a capital construction bill. The state government has not passed a capital construction bill in the past four years.

SIUC has requested capital funding for several projects in recent years, including a proposed Transportation Education Center and the renovation of the top two floors of Morgan Library.

SIU spokesman Dave Gross said he doubted the governor’s proposal would impede SIU’s chances of getting state funding for construction projects. Gross said he understood that a capital construction bill would have to be passed to construct the new Memorial Hall.

“I don’t think that’s going to be on a very aggressive schedule,” Gross said.

After a student shot 12 others at Virginia Tech, university officials chose to convert the space that housed a center for science and interactive learning space. Some laboratories in the building could not be replaced due to the risk in damaging equipment, so they remain in use.

The Associated Press contributed to this report.

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PAGE 1 2009

ENROLLMENT (continued next page)

The basic business of a university is to provide a quality education, but institutions must make enough money to stay afloat. Valley said.

Universities that face extreme enrollment problems could be forced to cut faculty, raise tuition, turn to anger when he noticed that other state universities were capturing far more vibrant community.

“IT'S A BRIGHT SPOT IN MY HEART,” Haqq said.

Abdul Haqq goes into detail about the history of Attucks Community Services and his hope for the program’s future which may include a science lab. Haqq was brought in last November as program director.

For former Attucks students, the organization for giving them a strong foundation, he said, and have even sent their own children through the program. Davis, 13-year-old son, has become a part of the program.

As he supervised students migrating between activity rooms and a computer lab, Davis said he remembers coming to the Eunice Hayes center more than 20 years ago. Davis said he keeps in touch with friends he made at the center in his youth, and more students are applying for the Attucks program everyday.

Haqq said he also hopes to create outreach centers to cover more city territory than just the northeast section because he enjoys watching children benefit from the program.

“It’s a bright spot in my heart,” Haqq said.
A call for compassion

By Andrew O’Connor

The Daily Egyptian

Sarah Lehman
Editor in Chief

Sean McGahan
Managing Editor

James Salomon
News Editor

Danny Wagner
Assoc. News Editor

Alicia Wade
Online Editor

Joe Crawford
Copy Editor

Dr. James Alter had a great quote on the Clintons’ relationship with power.

“Taming of the shrew: The Hillary Clinton Story

Our Word

Cupuncture: No running near the number soup.

We do, however, recommend you walk by it slowly.

The Board of Trustees meets at 10 a.m. today in Ballroom B at the Student Center to discuss a $42 facility maintenance fee increase and a 9.9 percent tuition increase, among other monetary issues that have the direction “up” in common.

First time hearing about them? No worries. They forgot to mention it to us. Good thing a hasty meeting was arranged Tuesday with representatives from the student governments to point it out.

The fact that these fees weren’t publicly presented to students might be testament to the fact that administrators operate under the feeling we get all the time — what students think is just not relevant.

Well, today we have the opportunity to voice our concerns. The Board of Trustees needs to see the problem face-to-face. Unfortunately, the burden is on the students to prove they care. You may not be able to attend the meeting, but you are always welcome to fill these pages with your concerns.

Plain and simple, this university is known for its affordability. Let’s face it — this was not every student’s No. 1 choice. For some students, they either get into their other choices, went to their other choices and decided to transfer or flat out couldn’t afford anything else.

But with the Board now looking to raise tuition to $232.50 per credit hour, the highest rate yet, such future students might just turn to SIU Edwardsville, where the proposed increase is $195 per credit hour. Its rate for fall 2008 students is $174.25; ours is $211.60.

Our undergraduate students face an additional 15 percent increase and could pay $55.80 more per credit hour. Graduate business students have it the worst with an $86 hourly increase.

In this life and especially in politics, no one gets a free ride.

Imagine if Obama had lost more than 10 straight contests, raised less money and started going negative when he was down in the polls.

The media would be pounding on him the same if not harder. If anything, thanks in part to her campaign, Obama has wasted his time arguing ridiculous, thinly veiled racist attacks about his Christianity and condemnation of Farrakhan.

Clinton’s attempt to try and paint Obama as somehow anti-Semitic by complaining he “denounced” when he should have “rejected” Farrakhan actu-
ally managed to backfire live on Obama’s coffin-nailing response, “If the word ‘repeal’ Senator Clinton feels is stronger than the word ‘denounce,’ then I’m happy to concede the point and I would reject and denounce.”

I believe Hillary believes that her sacrifices were going to guarantee her the White House. She felt and was probably told if she was patient and followed the script, and she would have what she desired. This is why I almost feel bad for her.

We know the predicament our university is in. It’s not entirely in the hands of this administration. But what this administration can do is just not being done.

Gradually, the Daily Egyptian has come to realize we might have been duped by the oldest trick in the book: the bait-and-switch.

We say this not to provide enrollment fodder for other schools (it might be too late) but to illustrate a point.

Everywhere we turn, the cost for education is going up.

Based on the tuition and fee estimator on SIUC’s Web site, a freshman who would enroll in the fall of 2008 could possibly pay $652.55 more in fees than a freshman in fall 2006. A $514.95 difference is guaranteed. And that’s not touching the tuition.

Granted, SIUC is not alone. Campuses are feeling this painful fact across the country and certainly in Illinois. SIUC is in dire need of financial aid from the state, our frankly, we’re slowly let out our breaths waiting for it. We know the predicament our university is in.

It’s not entirely in the hands of this administration.

But what this administration can do is just not being done.

The crunch on educational support is not what makes our situation unique. It’s the woes SIUC has generated all on its own.

Saluki Way and the $300 million-plus deferred maintenance budget have started to become the bane of this university’s existence. Our roofs are leaking while the university collects millions of dollars for a plan that to this day lacks proper reasoning.

We need a football stadium — this editorial board has never refuted that. But there comes a time when the interests of this university as an educational institution should be realized.

People have to go to college to learn. If they can’t afford it, they won’t come. This university should re-evaluate its priorities and where its allocating its money.

Or sooner than later, prospective students won’t even bother making SIUC an option.

We surely hope the Board keeps this in mind as it meets today not only to decide the fate of our monetary future, but theirs as well.

Our performance in the debate last night coupled with her attacks leveled at Obama in the past few days are utterly inexcusable.

The New York Times described Hillary’s new strategy as “the Kitchen Sink.” She hasn’t just thrown in the sink; she threw the microwave, toaster, blender, oven mitts — anything she could get her hands on.

Her mockery of Obama’s speeches that have inspired new people into the Democratic Party would be funny if they weren’t outright damaging to her party. She has decided to attempt a last ditch, scrabdo-earth policy, using John McCain’s same attacks and surro-
gates like Bob “Black Explosion Television” Johnson to paint him as a dragged up Muslim who wants to make sweet love to our enemies and bomb our allies.

So here it is Hillary. Stop. Do not pass go and do not collect another $500 of special interest money. When you lose next Tuesday (either Texas, Ohio or both), do the right thing and drop out. So you didn’t get the Presidency that you compromised yourself to get. At Gore didn’t either and life still worked out pretty well for him.

C O M M I S S I O N 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.

Q U O T E O F T H E D A Y

“Talk is cheap. Flouting the rules is expensive.”

- Nelson Kraus

European Union Competition commissioner

on Microsoft’s violation of software distribution, which landed it a $1.3 billion fine

THE DUKE REPORT

Taming of the shrew: The Hillary Clinton Story

By Andrew O’Connor

Newsweek’s Jonathan Alter had a great quote on the Clintons’ relationship with power.

He stated that they view losing their power the same way “hardcore gun owners” do “over the cold dead hands.” Hillary’s recent behavior epitomized in her performance at Tuesday night’s debate, only seemed to substantiate that.

Both Hillary and Bill have been career politicians. She sacrificed what looked like a successful career of her own in politics to support Bill’s endeavors. In making this decision, it seems her intentions have always been to use her position with Bill as a way to further her own career.

She kept her name Rodham (at the behest of both of their mothers) so that according to her, they could “separate their personal lives.” Her support helped Bill tremendously as both Arkansas’ governor and as president, and he owns much of his success to her.

The Clintons suffered one of their first (and rare) losses: his re-election bid as Arkansas governor. Incumbent Bill was defeated, and after

that she “made a few changes” during their next campaign. After all, it was the ’80s by then, and that whole ’70s feminist name-keeping thing, well, let’s just say she probably much dropped the Rodham for Mrs. Bill Clinton (even though she brought in more bacon from ’78-’92).

But this was always phase one of the plan. Phase two has always been for Hillary to win the White House. Her entire career as Senate career for New York was just a springboard to the White House.

Hillary is one of the most polarizing people in this country, someone who gets daily doses of vitriol from both the right and left. She is absolutely correct in saying that she has always been a target of “vicious” political attacks. She is very good at standing up to criticism, and the machine that the Clintons have built fights any Republican attack machine valiantly, almost like an episode of “Battle Bots.”

Her entire presidential campaign was built on the “experience” of being able to withstand “unfair attacks.”

Why then, did she use a poorly written and acted SNL skit as a means to cry victim? Comedy was never her strong point, and I do think people will refer to her “Should we ask him if he’s comfortable and needs a pillow?”

As a Howard Dean moment. In this life and especially in politics, no one gets a free ride.

By Andrew O’Connor
Recycle bins, wall clocks and towel dispensers. What these items have in common is an effort by the campus to be green. Some of them are worthwhile, like the recycle bins, and some are just plain hilarious. Since the worthwhile ones are not very fun to write about, I chose five of my favorite hilarious ones.

The clocks (saving time)
I get the biggest laugh out of the clock situation on campus. Whenever building you wander into, and whichever building that building is in, you have a clock that is always two hours ahead.

The clocks in Faner Hall are the worst. Every clock, I mean every clock, says a different time and they are usually wrong. Sometimes, this is nine for a laugh.

When your watch says 11:00 and the clock says 6:30, you know it’s not 6:30 and you just move on. However, when your watch says 11:00 and that clock says 11:30, you get quite frantic. Did I miss my class? Did my watch stop?
Some clocks are stopped altogether, and some wall clocks have other clocks beside them that tell the real time. So, you look back and forth to determine the true time based on the lighting outside and the time your wristwatch and your cell phone and the computer on the desk display.

It really takes a major effort to figure out what the wrong clocks are. You might be able to work out a system. For example, the clock in your classroom is always two hours and 15 minutes ahead of real time, so every time you look at it, you subtract two hours and 15 minutes.

The lights (saving energy)
Every other light has a little green sticker on it. If you look close enough, they say “saving energy”. This looks great; this is cause for a laugh.

Some clocks are stopped altogether, and some wall clocks have other clocks beside them that tell the real time.

In the past four years, the Campus Climate Challenge has spread to almost 600 campuses, facilitating millions of new, dignified jobs for students. It is a message from the Voices desk.

It’s Getting Hot in Here

An issue is brewing

We stand at the threshold of a new era in human history. The legitimate debate is over. The vast majority of scientists agree that the reductions in carbon dioxide emissions are necessary to avoid some of the worst catastrophes that could result from global warming. An 80 percent reduction by 2050 is the popular figure.

This mind-boggling transformation cannot wait for action. So, as each year ticks by with more and more hot air coming from both sides of the political aisle, our generation is stepping it up and taking matters into our own hands.

Since 2004, a new united student movement for clean energy has broken onto the scene demanding ambitious policies on campuses and in communities, and winning them. In the past four years, the Campus Climate Challenge has spread to almost 600 campuses, facilitating hundreds of local and regional climate policies and building a nationally cohesive student environmental movement the likes of which has never existed.

Last year, nearly 6,000 students and youth from across the country, including 12 from SIUC’s Student Environmental Center, traveled to Washington for Power Shift 2007. The students spent a weekend training and networking and the event culminated in a rally on the capitol lawn and thousands of students walking the halls of Congress lobbying their legislators for the bold national policies we need to address global warming.

SEC is a member of the challenge and is currently proposing an innovative three-part plan for SEC. We’ve dubbed Project EcoDawgs.

We have already begun meetings with the administration to discuss the creation of a Sustainability Council we hope will craft a long term vision for upping the university’s already great energy conservation practices, cutting our carbon emissions and eventually achieving climate neutrality.

We’re tired of empty promises and brush-offs when it comes to what is one of biggest, issues our generation will face in coming years. We’re building the power nationally and regionally to start getting what we know is right from our elected officials.

We know low income communities and minority communities around the world will bear a disproportionate amount of the negative affects of global warming while contributing the least to their creation. We know building a green economy from the ground up can provide millions of new, dignified jobs for struggling communities.

And we know it’s the right thing to do, so let’s get it done.
Check us out online at http://www.secdawgs.com.

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A MESSAGE FROM THE VOICES DESK
As some might already have gathered, technology has not been on our side lately. The Voices e-mail, voices@slu.edu, has officially kaput.

We have not received any of the surely numerous letters, submissions and other messages for a little while now. For this we apologize and bring you a NEW e-mail address that will hopefully never let us down again:
voicesdesk@gmail.com

• Letters and guest columns must be submitted with author’s contact information, preferably via e-mail. All letters are limited to 300 words and columns to 500 words. All topics are acceptable. All submissions are subject to editing.
• Phone number required to verify authorship (number will not be published). STUDENTS must include year and major. FACULTY must include rank and department. NON-ACADEMIC STAFF include position and department. OTHERS include hometown.
• Letters and guest columns can be sent to voicesdesk@gmail.com.

We reserve the right to not publish any letter or guest column.
For some, the experience is intense and awakening.

The Tunnel of Oppression pressures people to challenge their thinking and understand what oppression is, how it feels and how racism affects them.

University Housing, the Social Justice Committee, Black Togetherness Organization and six other student organizations sponsored the second annual Tunnel of Oppression Interactive Diversity Exhibition. The event’s goal was to open students’ eyes and awareness of the various types of oppression groups and individuals go through.

The six tunnels, which take about 30 minutes to experience, convey the same message in different ways. Alford Jacke, assistant director of University Housing, Backpacks Ltd, said students who go through the tunnels notice that they are judged and discriminated against only on the basis of physical appearance.

“The assumptions that take place in the tunnels are primarily based on physical characteristics,” Jacke said. “The tunnels are meant to start facts to the students in some form or fashion and show them their reactions to what they think someone might be.”

The group of friends enters a room containing pictures of what they will see and hear. Pictures of celebrities and their perfect bodies cover the walls and floor. A young woman lies on the floor, draping a torn picture of a celebrity with the Darf! perfect face, perfect body campaign sign. "This girl looks nothing like you, do you ever look like this girl?" she asks.

The professor begins to do an object lesson by asking, "What do you look like?"

For the next four minutes, Professor Hate continues to ask the students questions as they progress around the room, separating the audience by skin tone. He targets a black male in the group and tells him to stand by the wall. The professor begins to vocally and digitally belittle this “student.”

The group members commented that Professor Hate also made a bowing experience. Sexual group members who entered the tunnel felt a blinding impact from being discriminated against and separated by ethnicity, as well as everything else that is degraded with stereotypes.

The professor welcomes the group as he announces his points at each individual, providing them with the point of living if they were to stand by the wall.

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703 W. High #E
208 W. Hospital #1
705 N. James
507 1/2 W. Main #B
207 S. Maple
906 W. McDaniel
300 W. Mill #2/4
411 E. Mill
400 W. Oak #1,3
402 W. Oak #E,W
408 W. Oak
501 W. Oak
500 N. Oakland
505 N. Oakland
511 N. Oakland
514 N. Oakland
600 N. Oakland
602 N. Oakland
1305 E. Park
301 N. Springfield #1,2,4
414 W. Sycamore #W
404 1/2 S. University
406 S. University #2,3,4
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Two Bedroom

607 N. Allyn
609 N. Allyn
408 S. Ash
504 S. Ash #1,2,3
514 S. Ash #1,2
407 S. Beveridge
512 S. Beveridge #1-7
514 S. Beveridge #1-5,7
508 N. Carico
510 N. Carico
306 W. Cherry
311 W. Cherry #2
404 W. Cherry Court *
405 W. Cherry Court
406 W. Cherry Court
407 W. Cherry Court
408 W. Cherry Court
408 W. Chestnut
310 W. College #1-4
401 W. College #7
501 W. College #4,6
503 W. College #4,6
507 W. College #6
509 W. College #6
710 W. College #6
305 E. Crestview
506 S. Dixon
303 W. Elm
115 S. Forest
716 S. Forest

Three Bedroom

607 N. Allyn
609 N. Allyn
408 S. Ash
504 S. Ash #2, 3
506 S. Ash
508 S. Ash #1
514 S. Ash #1,3,4
405 S. Beveridge
409 S. Beveridge
502 S. Beveridge #1
503 S. Beveridge
506 S. Beveridge
507 S. Beveridge #2,5
509 S. Beveridge #2,4,5
513 S. Beveridge #2-5
515 S. Beveridge #1,4,5
510 N. Carico
209 W. Cherry
309 W. Cherry
405 W. Cherry
407 W. Cherry
401 W. Cherry
404 W. Cherry Court *
405 W. Cherry Court
406 W. Cherry Court
407 W. Cherry Court
408 W. Cherry Court
408 W. Chestnut
300 E. College
606 W. Cherry

Four Bedroom

609 N. Allyn
410 S. Ash
504 S. Ash #1
405 S. Beveridge
409 S. Beveridge
502 S. Beveridge #1
503 S. Beveridge
506 S. Beveridge
507 S. Beveridge #2,5
509 S. Beveridge #2,4,5
513 S. Beveridge #2-5
515 S. Beveridge #1,4,5
510 N. Carico
209 W. Cherry
309 W. Cherry
405 W. Cherry
407 W. Cherry
401 W. Cherry
404 W. Cherry Court *
405 W. Cherry Court
406 W. Cherry Court
407 W. Cherry Court
408 W. Cherry Court
408 W. Chestnut
300 E. College
606 W. Cherry
608 W. Cherry
408 W. Chestnut
300 E. College
312 W. College #2,3
401 W. College #2-4
807 W. College
809 W. College
305 Crestview
104 S. Forest
120 S. Forest
511 S. Forest
603 S. Forest
503 S. Hays
505 S. Hays
507 S. Hays #1
509 S. Hays
402 E. Hester
208 W. Hospital #2

Five Bedroom

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312 W. College #2
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Today’s Birthday — You’re entering a new phase this year. There are responsibilities that may seem kind of scary at first, but you’ll get used to them. Your friends will be an enormous help; you can rely on them.

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

Aries (March 21-April 19) — Today is a 5 — Your true friends will still love you, even if you sometimes can’t go along with everything they want to do. If you don’t know already who they are, you will soon.

Taurus (April 20-May 20) — Today is a 7 — Figure out how much you can afford before, not after, you go shopping. There may be a few items you want to check off your list, in the privacy of your own home.

Gemini (May 21-June 21) — Today is a 6 — You have help now, but it’s not exactly what you had in mind. This person has ideas that don’t exactly go along with yours. Modify as necessary to succeed.

Cancer (June 22-July 22) — Today is a 7 — Pay attention to what you’re doing and expect delays. Have as many alternatives ready as you have plans. Expect anything that can go wrong to do just that.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) — Today is a 3 — Your luck has just improved. You will soon.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) — Today is a 7 — You’ve got more now, after all you’ve parted through. Be gentle with a doofus who makes a critical remark. You may not know your own strength.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — Today is a 6 — A deadline is fast approaching and this job is complicated. Check with the people involved and find out exactly what’s required.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) — Today is a 7 — Teamwork is one of your natural strengths. You’ve got a manager. Exercise those skills again by asking an argument. Use logic.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) — Today is a 7 — It’s going to be hard to do everything other people want you to do. You’ll have to set priorities and postpone a few of the tasks.

By Linda C. Black

Fire actors from SIUC have dedicated the past two months to learning something new.

The group, two alumni and three current students, teams up with professional actors from the Black Repertory Company of St. Louis to bring their characters to life onstage this weekend in “Death and The King’s Horseman.”

“Death and the King’s Horseman,” considered Nobel Prize winner Wole Soyinka best play, is a production based on real events that occurred in Nigeria during British rule of the nation in the 1940s.

“This is based on an actual event in the 1940s in Nigeria, but it’s not history — it’s art,” said Megan Opejowo, director of the production and assistant professor in the theater department. Opejowo is a member of the Yoruba tribe — the culture on which the play is based.

“We cannot look at it as history itself — in the dramatic form, there have been some modifications to the actual story,” Opejowo said.

The play depicts the culture of the Yoruba people who believe the king’s horseman must commit ritual suicide after the death of his master. This action is done in order to maintain peace in the culture’s world.

The British colonialists, who don’t understand the local culture, prevent the horseman from fulfilling the ritual. This in turn disrupts the future and order of the Yoruba tribe.

“It looks at the impact that the British colonialism has had throughout Africa, and in this instance, particularly in Nigeria,” said Ron Harris, founder and producing director of the Black Repertory Company. “It’s been very enlightening and educational in terms of learning about Yoruba traditions, culture and rituals.”

SIU alumna Nicole Fabbi portrays Jane Pikang, the wife of the Ellison who intervenes as the horseman attempts to perform the ritual.

“(Jane) has to be humanoid to make her role work,” Fabbi said.

Fabbi said her job is to make Jane real and to portray the character so she’s not so mean that the audience dislikes her.

“I’m sure we’ll get boos, too. Our characters are quite strong,” Fabbi said.

“Death and the King’s Horseman” runs today through Saturday, 7:30 p.m., at McLeod Theatre. There is also a 2 p.m. Sunday matinee.

In addition to the performances, the bill includes a two-day symposium to honor “Death and the King’s Horseman” playwright Wole Soyinka. The symposium will feature speakers from around the United States, as well as Africa, Europe and Canada.

The symposium will include a two-day symposium to honor “Death and the King’s Horseman” playwright Wole Soyinka. The symposium will feature speakers from around the United States, as well as Africa, Europe and Canada. 

Five actors from SIUC have upcoming 20th Century Fox family film contracts.一些演员来自SIUC，他们有着即将到来的20世纪福克斯家庭电影合同。

Dwayne “The Rock” Johnson is set to star as the lead in the upcoming 20th Century Fox family comedy “The Tooth Fairy.” Johnson will play a regular guy who attempts to rescue the fairy’s realm.

“Another thing I like about the character is that I’m working with a people’s elbow on a loose tooth and chins, if you will, that people talk about funny, it is the tasty. Do these two movies turn from wrestler to family/movie star?”

Julie Engler

Instead of staring in the movie, he should return to wrestling as “The Tooth Fairy,” wearing a little spandex suit and wings. It’d be a little less embarrassing than his acting career ...

Devon Vaughn

He’s just treading ground already covered by Hult teases in such classics as “Suburban Commando,” “Mr. Nanny” and “Satiria with Muscles.”

Alicia Wade

The singular way I could possibly be satisfied with this career decision is if The rock delivers the People’s Elbow on a loose tooth and chins, if you will, that people talk about funny, it is the tasty. Do these two movies turn from wrestler to family/movie star?

Gloria Bode says check what we’re saying to Hollywood tomorrow.
Salukis fall to Louisville

Drop record to .500

Luis C. Medina  

The SIU men’s tennis team’s two-match winning streak was ended in dominant fashion Wednesday. The Louisville Cardinals defeated SIU 7-0 in an afternoon contest. After winning their last two matches against Eastern Kentucky and Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis, the loss dropped the Salukis’ record to 3-3 overall.

SIU dropped two of three doubles matches to Louisville. (9-2). The No. 23 ranked doubles team of Austen and Simon Childs defeated Lucas Waked and Anton Leonenko, 8-4. The loss dropped Waked and Leonenko’s record to 2-2 in No. 1 doubles matches.

Head coach Dann Nelson said it didn’t help that the Salukis did not play doubles matches against the Cardinals.

“If we don’t play a doubles match, sometimes we forget what we need to do,” Nelson said.

Louisville head coach Ken Eacma said he was happy with how Simon Childs and the Cardinals played in singles and doubles action.

“Simon Childs looked extremely aggressive,” Eacma said. “He moved around the court so much better.”

Eacma also reunited the No. 2 doubles team of David Simon and Robert Rotaru, who defeated the Salukis’ Mariano Restrepo and Hugo Vidal, 8-3.

Louisville dominated the Salukis in singles matches, earning points by winning all six matches in straight sets. Austen Childs, a freshman who ranks No. 40 in the Intercollegiate Tennis Association rankings, defeated Waked, 6-1, 6-2.

The Salukis’ lone victory on the afternoon came in No. 3 doubles. Senior captain Felipe Villarreal made his second appearance of the season, teaming with Sebastian Ruhiano. The pair defeated the Cardinals’ team of Viktor Makimovskiy and Alejandro Callaghi, 8-6.

SIU looks to bounce back Sunday when it travels to Macomb to face Western Illinois.

Luis C. Medina can be reached at 566-3111 ext. 238 or lcm1986@siu.edu.
Athletic legacy built by black athletes

Jeff Engelhardt
Dane Ekarinas

Editor’s note: This following is the second installment of the Black History Month series discussing the role of black athletes in the history of SIU sports.

The Salukis’ accomplishment on March 18, 1967, transcended the sport of basketball. Walt Frazier, the odds and won the National Invitational Tournament in Madison Square Garden. The Salukis defeated Marquette 71-56 to win the championship, but the racial boundaries they overcame after the buzzer were a much longer lasting victory.

Walt Frazier was named the NIT Most Valuable Player and could call himself a national champion. Frazier went on to become an NBA Hall of Famer, had his jersey retired by the New York Knicks and currently serves as a broadcaster.

Mike Glenn, one of the all-time Saluki basketball greats, said pioneers like Frazier helped lay the foundation for black athletes at SIU.

“Tt felt we just added to the framework of excellence that guys like Frazier established,” Glenn said. “The whole campus was years and years ahead of what I was used to in the South and I am very proud of what SIU has meant to minorities.”

See LEGACY, Page 14

SIU athletic past carried by black athletes

Salukis look to set up senior day with a win

SIU takes on Bradley at 12:05 p.m. today

Matt Hartwig
Dane Ekarinas

Without a Missouri Valley Conference title to play for, the SIU women’s basketball team is focused on defending home court.

The Salukis (16-16, 4-10 MVC) take on Bradley at 12:05 p.m. today at the SIU Arena with a chance to set up senior day Saturday.

Coach Dana Ekenberg said the early start time will give grade school a chance to come out and see a college basketball game.

A win today coupled with a Northern Iowa loss tonight at Evansville would put SIU in a position to provide a spark when it’s time to hit the diamond.

“We want to finish strong, and we need to do that at home,” Ekenberg said.

Before any of that happens, the Salukis will need to handle the task at hand.

Based on their past experience, it will not be easy either. They lost their first tilt with the Bears Feb. 2 in Peoria 76-59.

Despite struggling most of the season, Bradley (10-16, 4-11) is fresh off a 52-51 home win against Creighton Feb. 23.

Ekenberg said they want the attitude to be different than it was in Peoria.

“We played very uninspired against Bradley and it was a tough road weekend for us,” Ekenberg said. “We hope we can have an inspired team for the last two home games. We want a team that wants to end up with a winning home record.”

The good news for SIU is the Bears’ road record. They are still solid on the road in conference play. The Salukis will also have the help of junior forward Jasmine Gibson who did not play in the previous meeting because of a leg injury. Gibson returned for the first time since Jan. 5 in a 71-63 loss Friday night against Evansville.

Gibson was the MVC’s leading scorer at 17.1 points per game and should open up the floor for guards Ellen Young and Jazmyne Swerea.

Swerea, a senior from Springfield, Mo., averaged 14.3 points per game while her freshman backcourt teammate Young averages 12.5 points per game. Both players are in the top-15 in conference scoring.

Women’s Basketball

INSIDER, page 15: Aren’t you sick of us talking about Roger Clemens?

SOFTBALL

SIU dealt treat in No. 5 Northwestern

Team excited for upset potential

Megan Kramper
Dane Ekarinas

SIU softball coach Kerri Blaylock said she doesn’t want to see snow for the rest of the season.

“If I see another snowflake, I’m going to scream,” Blaylock said with a laugh.

Blaylock and the Salukis might not have to worry about the weather this weekend as mild temperatures are expected to move in when SIU hosts the Coach B Classic at Charlotte West Stadium beginning Saturday.

The Salukis will face Missouri Valley Conference foe Bradley, Big 12 opponent Kansas, Western Illinois and No. 5 Northwestern during the two-day tournament.

Weather canceled the Salukis consolation game at the Middle Tennessee Classic on Sunday and Blaylock said crazy schedules due to inclement weather and school cancellations can hinder performances on the field.

Blaylock said the team’s effort in practice, however, has been impressive considering the limited amount of time spent outdoors.

Senior first baseman Lauren Haas said practice is the perfect time to excel and use that motivation when it’s time to hit the diamond.

“What we take from practice is what we put in a game,” Haas said.

The Salukis have compiled a 9-4 record since beginning the season on Feb. 8 and are currently 11-9 in their second full season.

For SIU softball coach Kerri Blaylock it has been a dream come true.

“I just want to go out and contribute to the team and get a win,” Schmidt said.

Sophomore catcher and first baseman Ataliana Grauer adds 27 RBIs.

The Salukis look off the weekend against Western Illinois at 10 a.m. Saturday and then face Kansas later in the day at 4 p.m.

The team will get its biggest test this season when it squares off against No. 5 Northwestern at 3 p.m. Sunday and concludes play against Bradley at 5 p.m.

Haas said the Salukis could not focus on rankings when they play and need to come out with hot bats and make good defensive plays to try to keep up with the Wildcats.

“Blaylock said she wants to focus on one game at a time but knows the treat Northwesterns brings.”

“Of course when you play the No. 5 team in the country, you’re motivated,” Blaylock said. “You just hope you play well.”

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