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Murphysboro woman takes bite out of boyfriend's ear

PK's quarrel turns into Tyson-Holyfield reenactment

Burke Wasson
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Maybe she was caught up in the spirit of Halloween vampires. Maybe she watched too many Mike Tyson fights.

For whatever reason, a Murphysboro woman allegedly bit off a piece of her boyfriend's ear Tuesday night after an apparent lovers' argument at a Carbondale bar.

Gus Bode



Gus says:
That was his warning; next time it won't be his ear.

According to Carbondale Police, officers responded to an 8:45 p.m. disturbance call at PK's, 308 S. Illinois Ave.

Frank E. Wright, who made the call, told officers that Patricia Ann Mullen, 36, bit off his earlobe during an argument at the bar.

He told officers he and Mullen had been dating for the past eight months.

Mullen left the scene in a taxi cab before officers arrived. Shortly after she fled, Carbondale Police caught up to her in the 2100 block of West Main Street and reportedly arrested her without incident.

Officers also discovered during Mullen's arrest she had 28.9 grams of cannabis in her pocket.

Carbondale Police Sgt. Don Priddy said Wright refused medical treatment, and responding officers said the ear injury was not severe.

"They could see flesh was missing from his earlobe, but it wasn't like she bit the whole thing off," Priddy said.

Officers said Mullen and Wright had been drinking, but there were no indications either was intoxicated.

The incident was the talk of PK's early Wednesday evening as customers and bartenders wracked their brains for as many Mike Tyson references as they could laugh about without spitting out their beers.

None of the early evening's patrons or employees was present for Tuesday night's alleged argument, so they had to re-create the experience by asking each other questions about what they had heard on the radio or from other people.

Mullen was charged Wednesday in Jackson County Circuit Court with two felonies: aggravated domestic battery with great bodily harm.

If convicted of aggravated domestic battery, a Class 2 felony, she could face three to seven years in an Illinois correctional facility and be fined up to \$25,000.

Mullen could face two to five years in Illinois prison and a maximum \$25,000 fine if she is found guilty of aggravated battery with great bodily harm, a Class 3 felony.

She was also charged with a Class A misdemeanor of possession of 10 to 30 grams of cannabis. If found guilty of that charge, Mullen could serve under a year in county jail and be fined up to \$2,500.

Mullen was taken to the Jackson County Jail in Murphysboro and was released Wednesday on bond.

Her preliminary hearing for the case is set for Nov. 12 at the Jackson County Jail.

Trick or treating greek style



Kaliyah Lilly, 5, eyes a bowl of candy after Omar Hattab, 2, takes a handful for the Safe Halloween sponsored by the Inter-greek Council Wednesday evening in the Student Center. There were a number of activities for the kids including bowling, face painting, drawing and free candy.

International students face problems with college expenses

International students may face tuition increase

Jennifer Rios
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Students attending universities across the state and country have faced tuition increases due to America's current economic status. However, talk of a tuition increase for international students at SIUC has presented a new concern for the students.

Although an increase in tuition has not yet been decided, the Board of Trustees discussed a tuition rise that would cause international students to pay 2 1/2 times more than what in-state students are currently paying.

Both American and international students attended an open meeting Wednesday in the Student Center to discuss the tuition increases. Chancellor Walter Wendler spoke at the meeting to explain the possible tuition changes. International students share concerns about the possible tuition increase.

"I understand the financial problems SIUC faces, but the increase is still too high," said Fawaz Alanezi, a graduate student in sociology from Kuwait and president of the Kuwaiti Student Association.

"A gradual increase would be much better than such a sudden change."

"In reality, a lot of students from poor countries will not be able to study at SIUC because of the tuition increase," said Wan Kamal Wan Napi, a doctoral student in sociology from Malaysia and president of the International Student Council.

International students often have more difficulties finding a job to help to pay for college expenses because they are required to fill out a request form before they are allowed to have a job.

"Even if students decide to fill out a permit to get a job, we are only allowed to work a certain amount of hours [20]," said Abdel-Mohammad, a third-year doctorate student in comparative English from Palestine and president of the Arab Sudanese Association.

"Even if we do work, it is still not enough money to pay for tuition, bills and

rent." Mohammad also said international students face more difficulties finding a job because of the language barrier they often face.

With the language complications and limited amount of hours international students receive, American students usually have a better chance to receive a job while attending college. Alanezi said international students would be discouraged to attend SIUC if the tuition increase goes into effect.

"Of course, the current rate suggested will affect international students' decision to go to SIUC," Alanezi said. "From what I know, the tuition is really high for international students in comparison to other schools."

"One dollar is nothing in America, but in poor countries people could eat for a month on one dollar," Wan Napi said. "Even a small increase could affect international students."

A meeting where international students discuss their concerns on the possible increase will also take place Nov. 7 in a location that will be announced at a later date.

U.S. Senate votes to block unsolicited e-mail

Illinois already passed legislation to do same

Amber Ellis
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The Federal Trade Commission made the do-not-call registry a reality.

Now the U.S. Congress is hoping to halt unsolicited e-mail.

In a unanimous vote, the U.S. Senate voted 97-0, with only three senators absent, to pass anti-spam legislation.

The legislation would require spam to be

clearly labeled and have both a return physical address and e-mail address.

The registry would require the FTC to create a no-spam registry within six months and execute the plan within nine months.

The bill provides \$50 million for enforcement, and violators of the legislation face up to 10 years in prison for repeated offenses.

During the summer, Gov. Rod Blagojevich signed a bill into law cracking down on the spam industry.

The legislation, which will go into effect Jan. 1, 2004, will require all unsolicited e-mails to contain a toll-free number or valid return e-mail address that will allow recipients to opt out of receiving further unwanted mail.

Unsolicited mail will be required to have ADV: ADLT as the first eight characters in the subject line of mail directed toward an adult audience.

Rep. Kevin Joyce, D-Worth, sponsor of the bill, said unsolicited e-mail is a problem that needs to be addressed.

"The biggest impact will hopefully be on children," Joyce said.

"A lot of kids have e-mail addresses and are very capable of using the computer. They shouldn't have to see pornographic e-mails or be subject to those sites. Parents will be able to make sure their kids are safe in their own homes."

The new restrictions will apply to any-

one who sends unsolicited mail through an Internet service provider in Illinois but will not hold the service provider liable for actions of the individual.

Anyone in violation of the new law will face a fine of \$25,000 or \$10 per e-mail, whichever is of lesser value.

Joyce, a sponsor of the bill, said he began working on the text of the bill after receiving numerous complaints from consumers who said their names and e-mail addresses were not removed after they filled out the necessary forms.

"We are putting the ADV on the subject

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An Evangelical Presbyterian Church

NATIONAL NEWS

Senators plan to hold hearings into postwar intelligence

WASHINGTON (KRT) — Two key Republican senators want the Bush administration to explain U.S. intelligence failings in Iraq that they say are endangering American troops and contributing to the rising debt toll there.

Sen. Pat Roberts of Kansas, the chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee and Sen. John Warner of Virginia, the chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, are planning to hold Senate hearings to examine the performance of military intelligence in postwar Iraq.

Warner said he and Roberts would determine which of their committees would direct the hearings.

Roberts has drawn criticism from Democrats for limiting his panel's probes so far into prewar intelligence failings and not investigating whether policy-makers — including President Bush and Vice President Cheney — misused intelligence.

The senators' misgivings shine a spotlight on failures in Iraq just as the Bush administration is trying to focus public attention on postwar successes, such as the restoration of electricity and schools. The push to examine current intelligence gathering was driven, in part, by an internal Army report this month that cited U.S. military intelligence failures in directing and training intelligence specialists in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Sheriff runs female chain gang

PHOENIX, Arizona (CNN) — Sheriff Joe Arpaio boasts that he runs the only all-female chain gang in history.

For the chief lawman of Maricopa County, which includes the 3 million residents of Phoenix and its satellite cities and suburbs, presiding over the chain gang fits his self-declared image of being the toughest sheriff in America.

Under Arpaio, the 8,000 inmates of the county jail system work seven days a week, are fed only twice a day, get no coffee, no cigarettes, no salt, pepper or ketchup and no organized recreation. Human rights groups regard it as the harshest jail system in the United States.

They have to pay \$10 every time they need to see a nurse. If they want to write to their families, they have to use special postcards with the sheriff's picture on them. If their loved ones visit, they see them through thick plate glass or over a video link.

Most inmates are serving sentences of a year or less for relatively minor convictions or are awaiting trial because they could not make bail.

They wear pink underwear and black and white striped uniforms. Around 2,000 inmates live in tents under the blazing Arizona sun in temperatures which last summer often exceeded 120 degrees Fahrenheit. Even in mid-October, it was over 100 degrees.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

U.S. intelligence points to mastermind of troop attacks

BAGHDAD, Iraq (CNN) — The United States believes it has gathered intelligence pointing to the man financing and coordinating attacks against U.S. troops in Iraq, Pentagon sources told CNN Wednesday.

Former Iraqi Gen. Izat Ibrahim al-Duri is suspected of carrying out the attacks, possibly with help from Iraqi regime loyalists and "foreign fighters," sources said.

Al-Duri is the highest-ranking member of deposed Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's who is still at large. Saddam is also still missing.

Al-Duri was the Iraqi military's northern regional commander and a member of Saddam's inner circle. He is

No. 6 on the list of 55 most wanted Iraqis and the "King of Clubs" in the famous deck of cards.

Pentagon officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the capture of several suspected members of Ansar al-Islam within the past week in northern Iraq provided the intelligence that points toward al-Duri.

Several suspects, including one said to be very close to al-Duri, said the general was the mastermind behind many of the attacks.

Authorities tracking down leads into recent bombings have previously said they suspected remnants of Saddam's regime, foreign terrorists or the al Qaeda-linked group Ansar al-Islam to be responsible.

Officials said Wednesday that the number of daily attacks against coalition forces is 33; double the figure in early September.

Today

High 78
Low 60

Partly cloudy.



Five-day Forecast

Friday	Mostly sunny	76/56
Saturday	Partly sunny	76/56
Sunday	Mostly sunny	75/54
Monday	Sunny	72/50
Tuesday	Partly cloudy	70/49

Almanac

Average high: 72
Average low: 41
Thursday's hi/low: 88/20

CALENDAR

Today

SSS Women's Seminar Series
11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Missouri River Room in the Student Center

POLICE REPORTS

University

A window was found broken with a glass bottle at 10:12 p.m. Monday at the Boomer II end lounge. There are no suspects at this time.

A bicycle valued at \$64 was stolen between 6:30 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. Monday from the Neckers Building bicycle rack. There are no suspects at this time.

A wallet was reported stolen between 10:40 a.m. and 11:04 a.m. Tuesday at Morris Library. There are no suspects at this time.

A purse was reported stolen by nonforcible entry at 2:30 p.m. Tuesday from a residence in Schneider Hall. There are no suspects at this time.

Carbondale

A residential burglary occurred between 6 p.m. and 8:20 p.m. Monday in the 900 block of East Park Street. The victim reported someone entered the locked residence and stole a Nintendo game system, assorted clothing and DVDs. Total loss is estimated at \$1,300. There are no suspects at this time.

James Scott Rankin, 33, of Carbondale was arrested and charged with possession of a controlled substance at 10:05 a.m. Tuesday at the K-Mart pharmacy, 1200 E. Main St. Rankin was taken to the Jackson County Jail in Murphysboro, where he is still incarcerated.

A residential burglary occurred between 4:30 p.m. and 9:48 p.m. Tuesday in the 300 block of South Birchlane Drive. The victim reported seeing a sliding glass door open when returning home and saw two male juveniles run into a bedroom and flee out a window. An X-Box game system with three games, four PlayStation games, nine collectible toy cars, two "Goosebumps" books, two or three pairs of jeans and one pair of white Michael Jordan Nike shoes were reported missing. Total loss is estimated at \$570.

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CORRECTIONS

Readers who spot an error should contact the DAILY EGYPTIAN accuracy desk at 536-3311 ext. 253.

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New board members elected to SIU Foundation

Group, new members push forward to Southern at 150

Valerie N. Donnals
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With two new members on the SIU Foundation Board, the foundation and the Office of Institutional Advancement are armed and ready to meet the goals of Southern at 150 with a handshake and a smile.

Rickey McCurry, vice chancellor for Institutional Advancement, said building positive relationships is the key to his campaign to improving donations to the University.

"We are bringing people together to advance their relationship and involvement in the institution," McCurry said.

"You can't just focus on the dollars. That's just the visible product."

Chancellor Walter Wendler outlined three targets for the department as part of his Southern at 150 plan, an outline of objectives for the University to reach by its 150th birthday in 2019.

Mary Kay Moore and Robert Richter were recently nominated to the SIU Foundation's board of directors to help the University achieve its

fund-raising goals.

Richter, an independent contractor and labor arbitrator for the National Mediation Board, graduated from SIUC in 1967 with a bachelor's in management.

He is also a member of the College of Business and Administration Hall of Fame.

A member of the SIU Alumni Association's board of directors for eight years, he said joining the Foundation board was a natural progression.

"I've always been interested in the giving portion of the fund," Richter said.

"I just do what I can to assist the University in its fund-raising activities. Now that the state pays about a third of the cost of running the University, it's more important than ever to do external gift giving."

Moore, former chief executive officer of the Center for Comprehensive Services in Carbondale, graduated from SIUC in 1979 with a bachelor's degree in communication disorders and sciences.

She obtained a master's from the University in 1981 for the same major as well as rehabilitation and administrative services.

McCurry said both have always been very supportive of the University, both financially and in the time and energy they have devoted to see it move forward.

"They bring a real passion to the University," McCurry said.

"They are both products of the system and understand the benefits they received from here and the necessity to

"We have constant interaction. And as a result we have dollars that are rolling in."

— Rickey McCurry
vice chancellor, Institutional Advancement

give back."

Giving back is a key to Wendler's proposal to cultivate resources.

"Private fund raising must complement state and tuition support," the mission states. "Private funds must be available to supplement and stabilize overall campus revenues, and the University must develop new sources of revenue."

The first aim is to complete three capital campaigns, setting a goal to raise a set amount of money in a certain amount of time for specific priorities.

McCurry said his office is already taking steps to carry out the first comprehensive plan.

Though a set amount has not been determined, the priorities are articulated in Southern at 150.

However, McCurry said the plan outlines goals for the next 16 years and therefore will be narrowed to items that have more immediate priority in the next five to seven years.

"It is basically what we are doing now," he said. "It will be more intensive, more focused, but the basic principles will remain the same."

Gifts to the University include both monetary and gift donations, such as equipment or software.

McCurry said they can span over a

several-year pay period.

Donations vary in where they are given, but he said 97 percent goes to a restricted purpose, such as a specific college or department.

However, he said people tend to be more inclined to donate to things that directly benefit and support the students, such as scholarships.

The remaining two targets of Southern at 150 are increasing the SIUC endowment tenfold and increasing annual donations by 10 percent each year, with a goal of bringing in \$50 million annually.

Even though the objectives were

just released last spring, the effects of measures taken to achieve the University's goals can already be seen.

"We have constant interaction,"

Moore said. And as a result, we have dollars that are rolling in."

A \$5 million improvement from last year increased monetary donations to all-time high at \$13 million.

However, with an alumni giving rate of only 10 percent, 8 percent below the average of SIUC's peer institutions, McCurry said they still have work to do, but the process is what is important.

"I start with relationships," McCurry said. "I don't start with dollars."



Moore



Richter

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Halloween hijinks



ROBERT LYONS - DAILY EGYPTIAN

Rachel and Cody Ward of Herrin have a sword fight while looking for pieces to complete Cody's costume for school at the Party Shop in Herrin. The Party Shop stays busy throughout the day as Halloween rapidly approaches.

PRSSA sponsors on-campus haunted house for Halloween

Campus Lake Massacre to provide safe Halloween for community

Bethany Krajelis
bkrajelis@dailyegyptian.com

Walking through Thompson Woods on an average night can be scary enough, but this weekend it will be even scarier.

The first haunted house, "Campus Lake Massacre," will take place Friday and Saturday from 6 p.m. until midnight in Thompson Woods and Campus Lake.

The admission will be \$7 or \$5 with a donation of a canned food item.

Sixty percent of the profits will be donated to the Women's Center, Children's Organ Transplant Foundation and ROSE, a breast cancer research center. The remaining percentage of profits will be given to PRSSA to reimburse expenses.

Along with PRSSA, the Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority and the Thompson Point executive board will be co-sponsoring the event.

The haunted house entrance will begin at the boat docks by the Engineering Building.

A short and spooky boat ride will lead attendees to the haunted trails in Thompson Woods.

Shazad Mehta, a senior in public relations and president of PRSSA, said he is hoping the new event will bring a good turnout.

"Nothing like this has ever been offered before," Mehta said.

"I think it will be a success."

Mehta said he hopes this event will give the University a better reputation by sponsoring safe

Halloween events.

"There is a bad reputation that SIU has been given for Halloween, and we are hoping to combat that image," he said.

"We want to give the school a positive image for keeping Halloween safe."

Eric Haley, a senior in public relations and vice president of PRSSA, said he is excited about the haunted house and expects it to be successful in future years.

"I am a huge fan of haunted houses," Haley said. "And this one will definitely give people a scare."

Mehta and Haley said the community has made this event possible through support, donations and funding.

The Carbondale City Council provided \$300 of funding to PRSSA for costumes, decorations and props.

Haley said the Recreation Center was extremely helpful in providing the property for the event to take place.

Loc. businesses and restaurants have also donated money and services to the haunted house.

Haley made it a point to mention how important the community and University were in helping PRSSA sponsor the haunted house.

"We couldn't have done it without them," Haley said.

The haunted house will include different sections and rooms, which are each uniquely themed in hopes of creating a scary atmosphere.

Mehta and Haley would not give out specific details of the event because they want to keep it a surprise for those planning to attend.

They both guaranteed the haunted house would be a scary event where nightmares would become reality.

Day of the Dead celebrations gain popularity in the United States

Diane Smith
Knight Ridder Newspapers

FORT WORTH, Texas (KRT) — A grinning family plays on a sandy beach as a cruise ship drifts by. But what appears to be a typical scene from a Caribbean getaway is not; these figurines have skulls instead of faces.

Nearby, bakers make tortillas and a figurine of a skeleton pistolero, or gunslinger, stands guard. Like the beachgoers, they have grinning skulls for heads.

The images fill the shelves of La Mariposa gift shop in Dallas with the eerie mix of death and ceremony that marks the Day of the Dead.

Many Mexican immigrants and Mexican-Americans celebrate the holiday Saturday and Sunday with altars honoring deceased loved ones. The tradition is crossing cultural lines, fueled largely by a growing Hispanic population that is leaving its imprint on American society.

Hispanics are not the only customers buying brightly colored

specialty artwork on the Internet or in import stores. Teachers are bringing the tradition into classrooms as social studies, writing or art lessons.

"In America, everybody celebrates everybody's holidays. We can be Irish for a day or celebrate Cinco de Mayo," said Roberto Trevino, historian and assistant director of the Center for Mexican American Studies at the University of Texas at Arlington.

The Day of the Dead is primarily associated with customs practiced in southern Mexico that date back centuries to Mesoamerican cultures that existed there before Spanish rule. Other Latin American countries, such as Peru, have similar festivities and artwork. Through the years, those traditions merged with the Catholic commemoration of All Saints Day and All Souls Day Saturday and Sunday, respectively.

These two days are when Day of the Dead activities take place.

"In Mexican culture, there is an attitude toward death that it is something to be accepted," Trevino said. "It's a tradition to make fun of death."

In the Mexican cities of Oaxaca, San Cristobal de las Casas and Patzcuaro, the traditions are spectacular for their beauty and eeriness, experts say. In Patzcuaro, souls are helped across a lake in boats filled with white flowers and candles.

Family and friends in the United States and Mexico build altars in their homes to honor the life of someone who has died. The altars are often adorned with portraits, religious icons and colorful decorations. Often, the person's favorite foods are included.

Shopkeepers at area Mexican import stores said interest in the Day of the Dead has slowly increased in the past decade.

"A lot of people that buy it are

surprised by how strange it is," said Michael Garza, manager of the Plaza del Sol shop in Fort Worth. "A lot of people buy it because they are trying to get back into their culture."

Many non-Hispanics become smitten with Day of the Dead folk art while visiting Mexico as tourists. The artwork turns up more and more in import stores and in movies such as "Frida." Singer-Lucinda Williams' album "Essence" has a female skeleton on the back cover.

"It's huge. It's crossing cultures," said Candy Hearie, a manager at La Mariposa. "It's another excuse to celebrate."

At La Mariposa, fancy skeleton ladies called "Katrinas" are lined up along shelves near Mexican Nativity sets. The store stocks sugar skulls and papel picado — festive paper with Day of the Dead images cut into it.

Dallas native Kelly Howell recently surveyed pieces at La Mariposa while shopping for a birthday present.

Her friend's birthday had a Day of the Dead theme, and she planned to sign her gift, "Happy Birthday, Ghoulfriend."

"I like it. I think it's fun," she said.

Malaise Lindenfeld, owner of Miami-based Inkubus.com, said she has carried Day of the Dead novelties for several years, including molds and meringue used to make sugar skulls. In recent months, the demand has exploded.

"I have gotten orders from Japan, Canada and all over the states," she said.

Much of the interest comes because the holiday takes place near Halloween. But unlike the scariest associated with Halloween, the Day of the Dead is for recognition and acceptance of death as a natural part of life, experts and aficionados say.

"It's such a nice deal," said Ray Crawunder, owner of La Mariposa.

NEWS BRIEFS

CARBONDALE

Central Management distributes free employee shots

The Department of Central Management Services is offering free influenza immunizations to all active and retired State of Illinois health plan employees. Immunizations will be dispensed at the Recreation Center Alumni Lounge by Jackson County Health Department nurses. Employees must present a state health insurance card to receive a free immunization. Dependents of employees may receive an immunization for \$18. Pneumonia shots are also available for \$22.

For more information, please contact Employee Benefits at 453-6668.



Carolyn Wilkey of Chicago talks with a paramedic after being hit by a car while riding her bike. The incident happened around 5 p.m. on the corner of Main and Wall Streets, Wednesday afternoon. Wilkey suffered minor bumps and bruises but did not need to be taken to the hospital.

Illinois State U. program nationally honored

Cassandra Baeten
The Daily Vidette (Illinois State U.)

NORMAL (U-WIRE) — Illinois State University has been named one of only 12 founding institutions for the national project "Foundations of Excellence in the First College Year."

"ISU has been nationally recognized for excellence in freshman education," associate provost Jan Shane said.

ISU is one of only two large comprehensive universities to be chosen, the other being Indiana University-Purdue University at Indianapolis, Shane said.

A few of the other top 12 institutions include Chadron State, University of Nebraska, the City University of New York and the University of Wisconsin at Parkside, Shane added.

This project was sponsored by the Policy Center on the First Year of College and the American Association of State Colleges and Universities, Shane said.

The project will develop a model of excellence for the first college year.

This model can be used by public colleges and universities in their approach to educating new students, Shane said.

This two-year project was funded by grants from the Lumina Foundation for Education and The Atlantic Philanthropies, Shane said.

"We are proud to be selected for AACSU participation as a founding institution," Provost John Presley said.

"The selection demonstrates the excellence of our freshman experience at [ISU] and it affords us the opportunity to help define further improvements for first-year education around the country," Presley said.

Criteria for selection included a strong campus commitment to the first year and readiness to engage in evaluation and improvement, Shane said.

The freshman education excellence at ISU really refers to the entire freshman experience; educating students inside and outside of the classrooms, Shane said.

"This whole package is unique for an institution of our size," Shane said.

Some elements of freshman education that put ISU ahead of other institutions are the academic excellence, the residence hall experience and student life activities such as Connections,

Preview and Passages, Shane said.

The Foundations of Excellence project has involved many public colleges and universities across the country in identifying the Dimensions of Excellence that constitute a model first year, Shane said.

Twelve institutions were selected through a competitive application process to continue work with the Policy Center and its research partner, the Center of the Study of Higher Education at the Pennsylvania State University, Shane said.

Over the next 15 months, the 12 chosen universities will further refine and pilot use of the Dimensions, a template or model for other universities, Shane said.

These 12 institutions will help develop standards institutions can follow.

There is a task force for each of the 12 that will systematically meet to discuss ways to change, grow and develop, Shane said.

This project is unique because Student Affairs works so closely with the academic affairs, Shane said.

"We see this as an opportunity to change and improve," Shane said.

Colleges and universities will measure their effectiveness in recruiting, admitting, housing, orienting, supporting, advising and teaching new students, Shane said.

Research shows new students who are successfully integrated into college are more likely to graduate.

Colleges work hard to create a first-rate first year experience to meet that graduation rate, Shane said.

After research and creating the model, universities will then be able to make improvements that will increase student learning, success and persistence to graduation, Shane said.

Each of the 163 universities involved sent application packets describing their first-year experience, then a team of trained consultants from AACSU read and chose 12 of those institutions, Shane said.

"We are constantly evaluating the university and comparing it to our academic mission, making sure we are who we say we are," Shane said.

Assessments are based on how well a university sticks to their values, how much money goes into the program and who teaches freshman classes, rather than how high of a GPA or ACT a student has, Shane said.

EMAIL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

line, so people don't have to go and open it up once they know it's an advertisement," Joyce said.

"They have the option to delete it right there. A lot of times with these advertisements, what they do is trick you, and you don't know where it's coming from, but now people know it's an advertisement, so they

can choose to open it up or not. It's kind of like caller ID."

Joyce said he hopes to use the new legislation as a means to monitor some of the advertisements their children receive by e-mail.

"Parents and families don't want this in their homes," Joyce said.

"As great of a tool as the Internet is and as many doors as it opens up, these kids just don't need to see some of this material at vulnerable ages."

ARE YOU A Saluki FAN-ATIC? PROVE IT!



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SIU Special Visitor Parking Hours
SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY Carbondale

Special Parking hours will be in effect for visitors at Southern Illinois University Carbondale from 2:00 a.m. Friday, October 31, through 7:00 a.m. Monday, November 2, 2003. Visitor hours these days are 7:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. only. (Vehicles without an overnight parking decal may NOT park from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. in Lot 106 on Wall Street).

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Funded in part by the Student Fine Arts Activity Fee.

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SATURDAY 6:00 PM

SUNDAY 9:30 AM and 11:15 AM

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351 VINEYARD

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To contact the DAILY EGYPTIAN editorial board, call 618-536-3311 ext. 276

OUR WORD

Support for rape victims

An 18-year-old female SIUC student reported she was sexually assaulted in the early hours of Oct. 17. Unfortunately, she didn't report the rape until Tuesday night. Now it is highly unlikely the police will be able to garner enough evidence to arrest him.

This semester, the Voices section has been devoted to a variety of issues, but one that has come up time and again is rape. Many readers and columnists have already debated where the fault lies. What has been left out of the argument is so many rapes go overlooked and unreported and what a victim can do following a rape to better secure that her violator will be brought to justice.

According to teenoutreach.com, victims of rape should write down as many details as possible while waiting for the police to arrive. Peculiarities in speech, mannerisms or dress are helpful to police.

As dirty as she may feel after being raped, bathing or even changing clothes or cleaning up her appearance can be considered destroying evidence and can hurt a criminal case.

While being interviewed by the police, a rape victim must try to remain as calm as possible. Embarrassing questions will be asked, but they are being asked in order to build a case. After being interviewed, victims should request to be admitted to a hospital — where more embarrassing questions will follow — for further examination.

Once the rapist is caught, victims have to decide whether or not to prosecute. This decision can only discourage a rapist from attacking again. Reporting and prosecuting a rapist is no doubt a hard thing. It will bring bad memories and pain flooding back.

While we highly encourage all rape victims to report the crime to the police, we understand the pain and guilt that comes from doing so. Thus, reporting a rape is clearly a personal decision.

When Los Angeles Lakers guard Kobe Bryant was charged with sexually assaulting a 19-year-old resort worker June 30, the entire world was enlightened on her sexual history within days. Unfortunately, she, too, waited five days until she filed a report with the police.

The media and public scrutiny she has come under since she reported it may have her regretting she ever set foot inside the Eagle County Sheriff's Department. Her fear that the public would react the way they did is probably one of the reasons she hesitated to report the rape. It is probably the reason many women decide not to report a rape.

But why should women feel as if they have to hide a crime of which they were the victims? In Illinois, a convicted rapist can serve up to 60 years in prison. In this case, rape is punishable by life in prison, yet she has to defend herself and her past at every turn. Her "friends" are even speaking to the press about her.

We have also seen this girl's reputation be dragged through the mud repeatedly by Bryant's defense lawyers. Having her sexual past put on display is enough to make many women shy away from reporting the crime and even pretending it never happened.

But if no one reports sexual assaults, then the rapist will continue to reap the same terror in other circles. Reporting the crime is one small step toward preventing him from raping again.

As Domestic Violence Awareness Month draws to a close, women shouldn't feel trapped behind public opinions. For that matter, neither should men who are raped because although we have referred to the rape victim as "her," we realize men, too, have been and can be raped.

Despite all the worries that come with reporting a rape — that you won't be believed, which stems partly from those who have cried wolf; that your sexual past will be fair game for public scrutiny; or simply that he will get away anyway — it is vital that violent crimes, such as rape, do not go unreported. After all, it is only from the courage of those who have fallen victim that others will be spared the same pain and suffering.

Rape Crisis Counseling can be contacted at the Women's Center in Carbondale at 618-529-2324 or the 24-hour crisis hotline at 800-334-2094.



ALEX AYALA - DAILY EGYPTIAN

COLUMNIST

Kenningsology is back

Editors Note: Due to popular demand, Kenningsology, which ran weekly in the summer, is back. It will run every Thursday featuring the thoughts of 8-year-old Kodee Kennings, including a mini-update on her condition and the latest on her father, Dan Kennings, and his experiences in Iraq. For those not familiar with Kodee's story, follow a link on the dailyegyptian.com voices page for background.

Kodee has been doing well since the Knoxville incident (see website) and continues to adjust to life away from her father, Dan Kennings, who is stationed in Mosul, Iraq, with the 101st Airborne Division.

According to some of his friends, morale is not particularly high, but he takes solace in letters and phone calls home. Calling home is rare for Kennings. It costs him \$2 a minute.

(For anyone wishing to send Dan Kennings letters, his e-mail address, which he is able to check periodically (weekly if he's lucky), is dbkennings@yahoo.com.)

He called the DAILY EGYPTIAN a few days ago and said he is doing fine. He sounded upbeat, though he desperately wants to leave Iraq. It is a situation he will never get used to.

"I wouldn't say I'm used to it," he said of the volatile situation surrounding him. "I'd say I'm kind of immune to it, but not used to it."

He had called the DE wanting to talk to the people his daughter regularly interacts with because he knows, as we all do here at the DE, that Kodee is no stranger to the SIU Communications Building.

She has become a normal part of life in the DE newsroom, regularly calling and dropping by. Kodee started a Nerf-gun war in the newsroom a few weeks ago that lasted more than an hour, one of many things she has done to keep the newsroom light-hearted. She wrote the following Kenningsology on the DE:

The D.E.

By Kodee Kennings

The D.E. is a newspaper. It is the bestest newspaper and I like it. Lots of people work for it and they are rely smart. They make the paper every say but not weekends.

I have a hole bunch of friends at the D.E. They are Michael, Jens, Jack, Lance, Zack, Jenny, Ethan, Adam,



Kenningsology

BY KODEE KENNINGS

Amber, Geoff, Shane, Moose and Todd.

Michael use to rite sports but traded it in for being the editor. He's the boss of the newsroom. He's kind of like the Vice President. He just comeands and fixes storsy. He wins awards.

Jens and Zack rite about football. They get to sit in the press box rily high up so they can see all the game. Then they rite about what they see and use rily big words. They got a vocabulary that's genyus.

Ethan rites about golf. They should give him something else to rite because golf is boring.

Todd has sports editor job. He makes the jernalists rite. Adam covers volleyball. They lose a lot so his stries are always the same.

Jack makes people give him money. He sells space for adds and then wants money. He keeps the paper a flote becuz its free. Jack rites a colem and tell people his way of thinking. He use to be a soldier.

Lance is the general manager and hires people. He antees (Kodee's word for critiques) the newspaper every day and finds mistakes. I don't think he finds many becuz Michael still has his job.

Jerry is Jack's boss. He takes the money to the bank. Moose (Moustafa) is a guy. He rites about September 11th. He rites out our stuff to.

Geoff used to rite but quit. He has to many jobs and a girlfriend. He's not French tho. (Kodee believes anyone with a girlfriend will eventually French kiss her, thus becoming French.) He's a copy editor and he looks for mistakes. He's also a kind of boss.

Amber is a girl riter. She rites lots of stuff. She rites about drugs.

These views do not necessarily reflect those of the DAILY EGYPTIAN.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

“I want to stand by my country, but I cannot vote for war. I vote no.”

Rep. Jeanette Rankin
casting her vote against the United States entering World War I
April 6, 1917

WORDS OVERHEARD

“It was a Halloween prank. We were going to give it back. The Murphysboro Police took it too far.”

Adam Accre
SIUC student
on his arrest Monday after playing a holiday prank

COLUMNISTS

How valuable is human life?

Apprehension of terrorist acts has caught people in such a numbness of panic they have forgotten what it is to be humane and what it means to ask the questions, which, if answered, would lead them to understanding the essence of their problems.

Many have stopped respecting human life other than their own and their compatriots. "We don't do body counts," stated Gen. Tommy Franks from the U.S. Central Command.

Just because a U.S. general can't count doesn't mean the number of deaths accompanying U.S. military actions has stopped growing bigger and bigger.

An organization called Iraqbodycount.net has been tracking the number of civilian Iraqi deaths recorded since the war began last March. The methodology they employ uses data supplied by English-speaking mainstream news sources, only counting those reports confirmed in more than one article. Since these sources often provide a minimum and maximum estimate, Iraq Body Count also computes a minimum and a maximum. As of Oct. 28, their minimum number was 3,400 civilians dead, with a maximum of 9,587 slaughtered innocents. The victims of Sept. 11 were 2,752, according to the New York Times.

The number of innocent civilians killed in the first episode of the war on terrorism in Afghanistan was some 3,400 individuals, according to the research of Professor Marc Herold who employed a methodology similar to that employed by Iraqbodycount.net.

In a documentary that cannot be purchased in the United States titled "Afghan Massacre: Convoy of Death," director Jamie Doran describes the massacre of as many as 4,000 Afghanistan prisoners of war, who, after surrendering to the alliance forces, are, according to international law, protected by the Third Geneva Convention of 1949. After surrendering, some 7,000 Taliban POW were transported in sealed containers. Most of them suffocated and others died when bullets were fired into the containers in order to make holes for ventilation. Those who survived the trip were questioned for information regarding al Qaida.

The dead were searched and then along with those barely alive, sleeping or passed out from days of traveling in steel cars in a desert without food and water were reloaded into containers and sent to Dasht-e-Leile where they were summarily executed without trial and buried in mass graves under the sand. According to some of the witnesses interviewed, many of whom have died since the documentary was first released a little over a month ago, American soldiers were not only present at the site of the atrocity, but as the head of Alliance forces they are directly complicit in



Eye on Earth

BY ANA VELITCHKOVA
ana_vel@iu.edu

this massacre. The drivers of this convoy of death and those who recorded the number of prisoners of war on behalf of the Alliance forces both suggest some 3,000 to 4,000 people were killed in these graves. These individuals simply no longer exist; they have "disappeared."

This kind of action is considered a war crime and is subject to the rulings of the International Criminal Court. However, the United States does not recognize this court. I wonder why.

Last week, when I asked retired Gen. Anthony Zinni, U.S. Central Command for the Middle East, how these people could simply disappear, he responded with a joke. He told me he hadn't been there and didn't know anything. He assured me he wasn't hiding them in his basement. The audience present in the Student Center Ballroom laughed.

As I have been unable to find the number of fatalities inflicted upon the Iraqi military, my next question was the ratio between American and Iraqi soldiers killed in the second episode of the war on terrorism. After all, he was somebody I rarely have the chance to talk to — a U.S. general — so I wanted to gain from his expertise. He informed me counting dead enemies wasn't his job. His job was to kill as many enemies as possible, the more the better.

I suppose this was intended to be a joke as well because the audience applauded! At least I hope it was only a joke! Anyway, I was appalled.

What kind of people are you, you who applauded?

How can you go to bed at night? Aren't you haunted by the fear of revenge for those whose deaths you laughed at? Don't you realize your lack of empathy and your arrogance are a major cause of terrorism? Are you really so naïve as to presume dead and wounded mean nothing to the parents, uncles, sisters and clans to whom they belong? Don't you realize you condemn your own children to violence and death?

Eye on Earth appears every Thursday. Ana is a graduate student in foreign language and literature from Bulgaria. Her views do not necessarily reflect those of the DAILY EGYPTIAN.

Guns are great peacemakers



Political Hot Zone

BY ALEX BEREZOW
biovirus04@hotmail.com

Everybody can agree violent crime has gotten out of hand in this country. No law passed seems to deter people from committing crimes, except for one concealed carry law.

Statistics show over and over again states that allow concealed carry of weapons have decreased violent crime rates. The great state of Texas provides a clear example.

In 1996, Texas passed a concealed carry law. According to the Heartland Institute (heartland.org), within the first eight months the law was passed, Houston murder rates fell 18 percent, and Dallas murder rates fell 25 percent.

The same pattern is witnessed nationally. According to the same source, the University of Chicago conducted a study involving data from all 3,000 counties in the United States. The findings were remarkable: concealed carry laws were responsible for reducing murder by 8.5 percent, rape by 5 percent and severe assault by 7 percent.

So why is it that anti-gun Liberals are opposed to allowing law-abiding citizens to carry concealed weapons? The answer is simple ignorance of the statistics and irrational fear.

Liberals justify the trampling of your second-amendment rights in the name of "personal safety." (Oddly, these are the same people who support unfettered first-amendment rights, even if "national safety" is threatened.) Somehow, Liberals actually believe tightening gun control laws will prevent crime.

However, it seems fairly obvious that criminals will be criminals, and they will continue to find, possess and use weapons regardless of what gun control laws are passed. Gun control laws do nothing except make it harder for law-abiding citizens to acquire guns. Sorry for the cliché, but this statement is very true: if concealed weapons are outlawed, only outlaws will have concealed weapons.

This issue marks a crowning example of how Liberals govern based on "feelings" and Conservatives govern based on hard facts and practicality. Liberals say concealed guns make them feel unsafe. However, the evidence indicates otherwise: we are safer. Why is that? Because the average criminal is going to think twice before knocking off the local 7-11 because he does not know if the 90-year-old grandmother shopping for Twinkies is a pistol-packing mama.

The only legitimate argument that comes from Liberals against concealed carry is a normally levelheaded person may, if angered, use a gun when he just needed time to cool down or use a gun in a situation that only served to escalate the problem. These are two serious considerations but are both practically solved if those who wish to carry concealed weapons are required to take safety and training classes.

Concealed carry of weapons would undeniably make many environments safer. If pilots were allowed to carry guns, perhaps 9/11 would never have happened. If teachers were allowed to carry guns, perhaps Columbine would never have happened.

Now, do not misunderstand me. Guns are not appropriate in all settings. Any environment where tempers are prone to flare should not allow guns, for example, at sporting events. Also, it is probably not a good idea to mix guns and alcohol, so bars should not allow people to have concealed weapons.

The same restrictions need to be placed on the type of concealed weapons allowed. No one needs a fully automatic weapon, and surely nobody needs a concealed AK47 or a grenade launcher. Simple, semi-automatic handguns should be enough.

I think the case of concealed weapons is very straightforward: criminals will always have weapons (regardless of the law), and statistics show concealed carry laws directly lead to reduced violent crime rates. This points us to one irrefutable conclusion: law-abiding citizens should be allowed to carry concealed weapons (if they receive the proper training) for their safety and for the safety of the community.

A plethora of evidence already exists showing that concealed carry laws work. The trouble is getting Liberals to believe it.

Political Hot Zone appears every Thursday. Alex is a senior in microbiology. His views do not necessarily reflect those of the DAILY EGYPTIAN.

Protesting is patriotic

DEAR EDITOR:

I write in response to Brian Smith's column titled "The new vegetarianism." Let me preface this by saying I am a veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces, having served for nearly six years as an Arabic translator in the army.

I am also a meat-eater, although I do enjoy a nice vegetable now and again. I am also a patriot. My brother Jeremy is one of many thousands of American citizens who have protested against both the war in Iraq and the current U.S. occupation. He is a true vegetarian. He will not even eat chicken (KFC protesters, please take note) despite repeated assurances from our mother that "chicken doesn't really count" (some Midwesterners have a strange idea of what constitutes a vegetable). He is also a patriot. According to Brian Smith, because my brother does not pretend to wholeheartedly approve of the administration's foreign

policy, he cannot possibly be patriotic. This is patently ridiculous.

My brother and I are both patriots because we both understand we do not just have the right to make certain our country is pursuing the right policies; we have the duty to do so. To be patriotic is not to support actions one's country has embarked on uncritically. Rather, it is to review those policies and make your feelings on them heard by the policymakers. That means voting and writing letters to your Congress members and senators and writing letters to the editors. It means serving in the military, or American Corps, or the Peace Corps. And, yes, Brian Smith, it means protesting. It's the duty of every American who takes their citizenship seriously to make sure our representative democracy is representative of the will of the people. To do less is dishonorable and unpatriotic.

Kristin M. Beasley
clerk, Advancement Services

Thanks for making AIDS Walk a success

DEAR EDITOR:

On behalf of the board and volunteers of the Southern Illinois Regional Effort for AIDS (SIREA), I would like to thank all of Southern Illinois for their strong support of the fourth annual AIDS Walk Oct. 4.

We raised over \$10,000 and had over 800 walkers participate in our walk.

A special thanks to Chris Wissmann of Carbondale for serving as our honorary chair and to Barb Pfeiffer of Hermin for all of her hard work with the AIDS Walk.

Our top individuals who raised funds were Patricia Paynter of Carmi who raised \$718, Patty Rutter of Carbondale who raised \$600, Sherry Peyton of Calatia who raised \$515, Bill Strickland of Eldorado who raised \$416 and Vagner Whitehead of SIU who raised \$315.

The teams that raised the most money and/or had the most walkers were the Egyptian Health Department, STARS of SIU and Cinema & Photography of SIU.

Finally, thanks to Upside Down Club of Carbondale for raising over \$2,600 and to Ashley Furniture of Carbondale for their \$1,000 donation. SIREA still needs the community's support. For those interested in helping raise awareness of HIV and helping raise funds for emergency client assistance for those living with HIV/AIDS, please consider donating money to SIREA, 715 S. Washington St., Carbondale, Ill. 62901, or donating time by contacting SIREA at 618-549-9941 or myself at 618-382-2015 or wallypynter@aol.com.

Thanks again to all of Southern Illinois for their strong support of this annual AIDS awareness walk.

Wally Paynter
president, SIREA Board of Directors
Carbondale, Ill.

READER COMMENTARY

• LETTERS AND COLUMNS must be typewritten, double-spaced and submitted with author's photo ID. All letters are limited to 300 words and guest columns to 500 words. Any topics are accepted. All are subject to editing.

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



• LETTERS AND COLUMNS taken by e-mail (voices@dailyegyptian.com) and fax (453-8244).

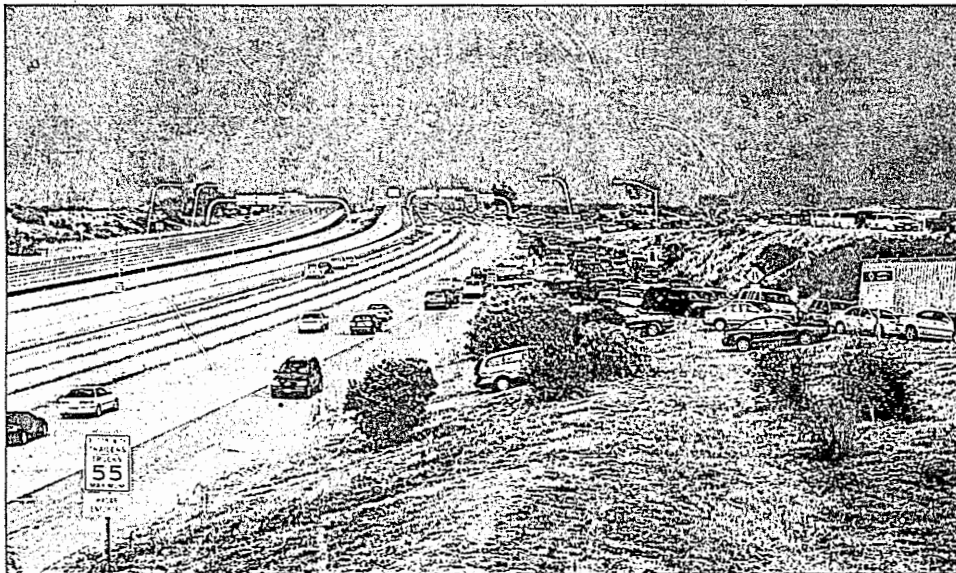
• Phone number needed (not for publication) to verify authorship. STUDENTS must include year and major. FACULTY must include rank and department. NON-ACADEMIC STAFF include position and department. OTHERS include author's hometown.



• Bring letters and guest columns to the DAILY EGYPTIAN newsroom, Communications Building Room 1247.

• The DAILY EGYPTIAN welcomes all content suggestions.

• Letters and columns do not necessarily reflect the views of the DAILY EGYPTIAN.



SGT. GILES M. ISHAM — U.S. NAVY NEWS (KRT)

Cars scramble to exit the freeway by driving up the embankment to the on-ramp and moving against the flow of traffic in an effort to flee the flames as the Cedar fire crosses the I-15 freeway onto Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Miramar Sunday. The multiple fires have burned more than 300,000 acres of land, and this catastrophic event is considered one of the state's deadliest blazes in more than a decade.

Cedar fire burns into history books as most destructive in history of California

Jennifer Lin
Knight Ridder Newspapers

EL CAJON, Calif. (KRT) — They are running out of superlatives here in the eye of the firestorm.

The Cedar fire, raging in the dry foothills 30 miles east of the city of San Diego, has grown in four days from big to bigger to biggest — the most destructive fire in the history of California. And yesterday it claimed the life of a firefighter and critically injured two others.

The fire, which may have started after a lost hunter lit a fire to draw attention to his location, has consumed 233,192 acres, 960 homes and displaced thousands.

Started by Santa Ana winds off the desert and fueled by brittle brush left from years of drought, the Cedar fire has drawn both fear and awe from everyone in its path.

"It's not your usual fire," said Chris Place, a veteran firefighter for the Borrego Springs Fire Department, who has been battling the fire since Sunday. "This is a wind-driven fire, and no matter how much training you have, there's no way you can control Mother Nature."

Now there is a new fear: the birth of an even bigger fire, a monster.

The Cedar fire, with a line of

active fire from 20 to 40 miles long, was edging dangerously close to the smaller Paradise fire to the north.

Fire officials Wednesday feared the possibility of the two fires merging to create an even more destructive inferno.

"That's a major concern," said Gil Portillo, a spokesman for the California Department of Forestry. "If they get close enough to start to influence each other, that's a very dangerous situation."

He said the two fires, if they met, could generate stronger winds, thicker smoke and taller flames.

Firefighters said a combined fire could burn out on its own if winds subsided and prevented the blaze from finding new terrain and fuel to consume.

Emergency teams of firefighters continued to pour into San Diego from all across the state, as well as Arizona, Nevada and Oregon. Gov. Gray Davis said he has directed 245 extra engines to fighting the Cedar fire.

Along Interstate 8, a major east-west artery cutting across San Diego County, teams of fire engines could be seen traveling to and from the fire zone within the Cleveland National Forest.

At first, propelled by desert

winds, the Cedar fire was moving into high-density suburbs within city limits. But, with the winds shifting to come off the ocean, the blaze is moving east, pushing even farther into the dry, barren hills and pine forests 30 miles from downtown.

Smoke from the fires left a gray pall hanging over San Diego, prompting warnings from health officials.

More than 4,000 firefighter and support staff have been assigned to fighting the Cedar fire, using a county airport in this eastern San Diego county city as a staging ground. El Cajon is only 15 miles from the mountain communities now engulfed by the Cedar fire.

Fire officials were worried about the safety of firefighters, some of whom have been fighting the blaze continuously since Sunday.

Rich Hawkins, a local official with the U.S. Forest Service who is part of the combined command for fire teams, pulled several firefighters from the front line Tuesday. Hawkins, speaking to firefighters at their morning briefing, made no apologies.

"Those firefighters had been out there for three days without sleep," Hawkins said. "Yes, I was willing

to sacrifice homes — not firefighter lives."

A team of firefighters from Borrego Springs, a desert community north of San Diego, was among the thousands of emergency workers battling the Cedar fire.

For Kevin Milleson, 36, the Cedar fire was an important milestone — it was his first.

Milleson, who traded a desk job as a logistics manager for a manufacturing company to become a firefighter, had never faced a real blaze until last Sunday, when his team was dispatched to fight fires in backcountry towns along Interstate 8.

Milleson said nothing in his training at fire academy could prepare him for what he faced the past few days. On Sunday, his team fought at least 30 house fires.

Describing the experience, he said, "You're scared. You're very, very scared."

Milleson credited his co-worker, veteran firefighter Chris Place, with keeping him calm and focused even as it seemed that flames would overtake them.

"I knew if he was still there, we would still be there," Milleson said.

Joked Place: "Everyone has a career fire. For him, it was his first."

Schwarzenegger makes first governor's visit to Washington

Jim Puzanghera
Knight Ridder Newspapers

WASHINGTON (KRT) — Arnold Schwarzenegger and his political phenomenon rolled onto Capitol Hill Wednesday for the first time since his election as California governor, and Republicans and Democrats alike flocked to glimpse his action-hero aura and grab a share of the intense media spotlight bathing him.

Schwarzenegger received generally glowing reviews after a series of whirlwind meetings with congressional leaders and California lawmakers. He lobbied for help in battling his state's disastrous wildfires and laid the groundwork to press Washington for more federal dollars to ease

California's budget deficit.

"I came basically to Washington to establish relationships and to make sure that we are getting more federal money to California, as I promised in my campaign," the actor-turned-politician told about 50 reporters crammed into a narrow hallway in the U.S. Capitol. "But of course, the recent events, the huge disastrous fire, has changed my mission a little bit."

Several House Republicans posed for personal pictures with Schwarzenegger during a private meeting, while congressional Republican leaders made sure they appeared with the party's newest star before the throng of television cameras.

"All of us are onstage," said Rep.

Dana Rohrabacher, R-Calif. "This is a guy who knows how to use that stage to get things done."

California's Democratic senators appeared equally as impressed after private meetings with Schwarzenegger. But some other state congressional Democrats were less effusive, praising Schwarzenegger's pledge to work in a bipartisan fashion but expressing some skepticism about whether he will cross the Bush administration on major issues.

"Our values were formed long before Mr. Schwarzenegger was elected to office," said Rep. Tom Lantos, D-Calif. "We are looking to see where we will be able to cooperate and where we will have to take diametrically opposed positions."

In addition to meeting with lawmakers, Schwarzenegger sat down with Michael Brown, the director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, to try to expedite help with the wildfires.

Schwarzenegger also found time for some family business.

He and his wife, Maria Shriver, had a private lunch with her uncle, Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., and her mother, Eunice Shriver, who is Kennedy's sister. Kennedy said he looked forward to working with Schwarzenegger on issues such as education and aid for the disabled.

Schwarzenegger agreed: "Even my conservative way of thinking and his more liberal way of thinking, this is the way we can come up with good decisions together."

University of Illinois falls behind on bills

Charles Edward Scott, Jr.
Daily Illini (U. Illinois)

CHAMPAIGN (U-WIRE) — The University of Illinois is somewhat behind in paying its bills after implementing a new financial system in July, according to university officials.

Bills are being paid more slowly as university staff members adjust to the new SCT Banner financial system that went online in July, says Michael Provenzano, senior associate vice president for business and financial services.

"In general, we are paying our bills," Provenzano says. "We are somewhat behind, but not so behind where it will be alarming."

Since the start of Banner, 127,000 invoices have been processed: 34,000 of the 48,000 purchase orders and 78,000 of the 80,000 direct payments have been paid, according to Michael Bass, assistant vice president for business and financial services.

"People are frustrated because it's a new system," Bass says. "This is more of a learning curve than it is a system issue."

Banner will eventually host all university functions through the Internet. It is an integrated system uniting the three University of Illinois campuses costing \$79 million and is part of the \$197 million UI Integrate project.

As of March 2002, the University of Illinois campus used 120 separate student-related services, and only six were used by more than one campus. Banner allows these separate systems to be combined into a single database system — the enterprise resource planning system.

"Are we at the productivity level we want to be at?" Bass asked. "No, but we are working to get there."

Bass says the transition to the new system will take time.

"Change is not easy," Bass says. "It takes time for people who have been doing a job in a certain way to start over."

In March 2002, Tom Glenn, the former leader of UI Integrate Student Systems Functional Team, said the university would face major challenges implementing Banner.

"The challenge will be absorbing change within the institution on a greatly accelerated time schedule than has been experienced during previous decades," Glenn said. "It will be a new experience for many departments working through the interdependencies they have on one another using an integrated system."

Nicole Udzenija, communications project manager for UI Integrate, says whenever a project is this large and includes this much change, it will take employees time to adjust to the new system.

"From what we heard from other institutions, we have had one of the smoothest transitions to the new Banner financial system," Udzenija says. "The biggest change is that the transactions people are executing are available in real time."

Udzenija says the new system is processing bills at the same rate as the old system.

"In order to convert from the old to new system, we had to stop processing bills for a month, and that is responsible for the backlog," Udzenija says. "There were a number of weeks to catch up once we brought the new system up."

Employees went through substantial training before and after the system went online.

Napster returns with pay-to-play

Caley Meals
Badger Herald (U. Wisconsin)

MADISON, Wis. (U-WIRE) — When the innovative software application known as Napster first ignited the music-file trading frenzy in 1999, consumers celebrated the birth of "free" music for all. Napster was put to death three years later by the Recording Industry Association of America in its famed copyright infringement lawsuit, but a new class of person-to-person file-sharing services sprung up that include KaZaA, Aimster, Morpheus, the Gnutella Network and BearShare.

At the peak of its power, Napster boasted over 80 million users, and when legal troubles forced Napster CEO Shawn Fanning to resign in 2002, it was clear that the millions of users were not just going to go away as the RIAA had hoped. A September 2003 survey of over 40,000 computer users conducted by the consumer tracking firm the NPD Group reported that nearly two-thirds — 64 percent — of all U.S. households with Internet access had at least one digital music file on their hard drives, and more than half of that group had 100 such files.

Now, just one year after the original Napster was officially retired, a new pay-to-play version of the software, deemed Napster 2.0, was scheduled for release Wednesday.

Fanning participated in the trial runs with Napster 2.0's parent company Roxio.

"I've used Napster 2.0 and it's really great," Fanning said on the Napster

website. "It's fast, easy to use and the sound quality surpasses that of the original."

Doug Morris, chairman and CEO of Universal Music Group, is also excited by the revamped, "legal" version of the popular software. "The launch of Napster adds yet another option to the growing number of legitimate outlets for consumers to buy music online," Morris said. "We are committed to offering fans many ways to experience the music of their favorite artists."

Napster 2.0 will offer consumers the choice of purchasing either a la carte music from its extensive catalog of over 500,000 tracks at 99 cents a song and \$9.95 per album, or users can register for its premium service for unlimited downloading and personal radio stations, priced at \$9.95 a month. Users can also listen to 30-second clips of all songs in the music catalog and burn CDs more easily using the service's "drag-and-drop" technology.

"I don't really get why they're calling it 'Napster,' said University of Wisconsin freshman Emma Newark. "It doesn't even sound like the old Napster at all. I mean, why bother? I will probably just keep downloading for free off KaZaA instead."

UW sophomore Ben Sherman disagrees about the spirit of the reincarnated program.

"I think I would use the new Napster service, but only in addition to Morpheus," Sherman said. "It would be cool for getting songs that you can't find the real versions of on the free services."

Northern Illinois U. deaf students cope with a quiet world

Greg Feltes
Northern Star
(Northern Illinois U.)

DEKALB (U-WIRE) — Todd Weimer may have lost his hearing when he was born, but he ended up gaining much more.

"I think everything about being deaf has been great," the senior physical education major said via e-mail. "It's a part of who I am, and it has made me the person I am today."

Weimer is part of Northern Illinois University's growing deaf population. About 50 hearing-disabled students currently are enrolled at NIU, with that number expected to grow as enrollment continues to increase.

Jane Flowers, a senior deaf rehabilitation counseling major, said she feels more accepted now than she did as a child.

"When I was young, people did treat me differently because they didn't know much about deafness, especially since I am came from a small town," she said via an interpreter. "People would move their mouths in a very slow, exaggerated way. Now, more and more people are aware of deaf culture. It's better now than it was before."

Senior English major Rebecca Gehrke said her typical day is similar to those of most other students.

"Every night before I go to bed, the last thing I do is take out my hearing aids," she said via e-mail.

"When I wake up in the morning, the first thing I do is put them back in. Since I hear nothing without my

hearing aids, I have a special alarm clock called a Shake Awake. It's a regular clock with an attachment that sits in my pillow case and shakes me awake instead of making noise.

"I also have interpreters in the majority of my classes and am fluent in sign language. Whenever I watch TV or movies, I use closed captioning or subtitles. In general, I think my life is very normal, and I am very involved and do things that most people do, regardless of hearing."

Senior communication major Mark Gresholdt said most students he encounters on campus are comfortable with interacting with someone who is hearing-disabled.

"There are two different sides that I have noticed with meeting new people," he said via e-mail. "Mostly, I will meet people who are very friendly and have the courage to talk with me. Also, they will know how to communicate with me right away because they will realize that I can speak and read lips, which I mainly depend on in my communication with other people ... Sometimes, I can tell when I meet new people that they feel uncomfortable coming up to me, but once we talk they feel comfortable."

Flowers said each deaf person's personality is distinctive.

"Every deaf person is very different," she said. "They have unique personalities. They have new, unique social experiences. Some people can hear well. Some people socialize with hearing people. Don't assume a person can't hear anything

"When I was young, people did treat me differently, because they didn't know much about deafness, especially since I am came from a small town."

— Jane Flowers
senior, deaf rehabilitation counseling,
Northern Illinois University

or is inept in some way. Treat each person as a unique individual."

For example, Flowers said she loves to send instant messages and paint, while Gehrke prefers scrap-booking, reading and writing. Weimer and Gresholdt are training for the next Deaflympics.

All four can hear music to a certain extent because of hearing aids. Flowers occasionally will turn up the bass and listen to the Dixie Chicks, while Gresholdt prefers dance music.

Despite a curiosity about what it would be like to have complete hearing, Flowers, Gehrke, Gresholdt and Weimer all said they would turn down the chance to fix their hearing completely, even if there was a fool-proof surgery to do so.

"Most of the deaf community have no problem with it and see deafness as a part of their lives," Weimer said. "I would never do something like that."

Gehrke agreed. "While it might be nice to be able to hear without hearing aids, I would not have the surgery because being deaf is the only thing I've ever known," she said, "and it's a huge part of who I am."

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Jermaine Kyles, 6, reaches for an apple during the Harvest Festival. Food and clothing weren't the only items donated by students and other volunteers. Televisions, blankets, 25 pumpkins, coats and many other items were given to the residents of Cornerstone Place.



Johnecia Kyles helps clean up in the room where children were painting pumpkins and playing games all afternoon. Oct. 26's Harvest Celebration was an afternoon filled with games, food and fun for the residents of Cornerstone Place. Volunteers and members of the Social Work Student Alliance mingled with residents until the completion of the event, which lasted from 2 until 5 p.m. SWSA and other volunteers helped residents with painting projects and also in the celebration to play games and make snacks.

Building for the Future

Harvest Celebration, new manager give residents of Cornerstone Place a reason to hope

story by DREW STEVENS • photos by AMANDA WHITLOCK

One day in early October, Allison Hogan passed by Cornerstone Place and noticed broken windows, boarded doors and a worn exterior. She wondered why people were living in sub-par conditions while a building across the street had a "bright spot" award, given by the city of Corbandale to those who clean up and improve landscaping. Hogan, a senior in social work and a member of the Social Work Student Alliance, called the manager of Cornerstone Place, Vanessa Webb, and asked if the residents there were in need of assistance.

"I wondered if it was condemned," Hogan said. "I wondered why these apartments looked that way." After speaking with Webb, Hogan approached SWSA with her idea to assist the residents of Cornerstone Place, formerly known as Brentwood Commons, 250 S. Lewis Lane. Cornerstone Place is a 74-unit apartment complex designated for low-income families, the mentally ill and the elderly.

Not only did social work faculty get involved in this project, but every member of SWSA, members of the Association of Black Social Workers and about 60 other social work students also signed up.

Within three weeks, social work students completed a clothing and food drive and sponsored a Harvest Celebration for the residents of Cornerstone Place Sunday.

Joanne Chezem, SWSA faculty adviser, said this project was Hogan's brainchild.

"There was an elderly resident who lives there who needed a cane, as his was taped in several places," Chezem said. "She took it upon herself to go to Shawnee Alliance for Seniors and got him a new cane and some blankets. It just goes to show that one person can truly make a difference."

Hogan said because of the eagerness of the social work students and the support from faculty, nearly 80 people took an interest in helping the residents.

"If it weren't for the social work department at SIU, I would have never felt like I could make a difference," Hogan said.

The volunteers gave a wish list to residents of Cornerstone Place to indicate any clothing items they needed.

Soon after, Hogan said the social work student lounge in Quigley Hall was packed to the ceiling with clothing and food donations.

According to Hogan, 20 students from SWSA participated in Sunday's Harvest Celebration at Cornerstone



Akesta Luckett, 10, paints Allison Hogan's face during the Harvest Celebration. Hogan, a senior in social work and a member of the Social Work Student Alliance, initiated the idea of offering assistance to the residents of Cornerstone Place. It took approximately three weeks for the social work students, and others who helped contribute, to complete a food and clothing drive for the celebration.



Belinda Kyles pulls on a plastic bag before beginning to clean up. A wish list was given to the residents of Cornerstone Place to

Place, but students who could not attend contributed ideas and crafts, including 25 pumpkins.

"However, social work students not only brought clothes, but they brought TVs, blankets, coats and other items," Hogan said.

During Sunday's event, residents were treated to pizzas, hot dogs, beverages and desserts. Aufferberg Motors, Kroger, McDonald's, Papa John's Pizza and Domino's Pizza contributed donations to Sunday's celebration. The Newman Catholic Student Center also donated tables.

People gathered around the boxes of donated food and clothes. Some stood around the tables stacked with food, carefully selecting which item they would go after first; others waited to receive donated clothing and other items.

Hogan, social work students Sharia Fayne and Miranda Sellars and Cornerstone resident Eva Harris spent about 12 hours cleaning and decorating the laundry room with streamers and confetti. They also covered

the graffiti paint on the laundry and the dusty roof. Fayne, a Social Work Student Alliance member, decorated the room with streamers and confetti. They also covered



Zammorow Lockett, 8, stares at marshmallows while Tamara Sadler, a junior in social work, fixes her a s'more. Lockett and her family are residents in Cornerstone Place, formerly known as Brentwood Commons. The Social Work Student Alliance put together a food and clothing to give to the residents of Cornerstone Place on Oct. 26. Cornerstone Place is a 74-unit apartment complex designated for low-income families, the mentally ill and the elderly.

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beginning to collect clothing for her family and herself. A stone Place to specify clothing items that were needed.

uted the graffiti-laced walls with paper for the children to paint on.
ught "A resident who witnessed us cleaning and decorating the laundry room actually congratulated us on the success and the decorations," Hogan said.
ther Jackelyn Johnson, president of SWSA, said they did a great job changing the interior of the laundry room into a work of art.
I to In addition to painting on the walls, children could also make Halloween masks, decorate pumpkins, have their faces painted and go home with stuffed animals and treats.
and also
Food with
with Fayne, a member of the Association of Black Social Workers, said she knew it was going to take a lot of effort to decorate the laundry room after seeing the dirty and dusty room with its cracked floor and worn paint.
after "It was sad to see, as far as the condition people were in, a feeling I couldn't describe," Fayne said. "My heart went out to them. I just wanted to get involved."
Fred After satisfying their appetites, the children and adults

assembled around the table for a game of bingo. Adults who won were given candles, and children won candy. No one was to go home empty-handed, as there were enough prizes for everyone.

Webb, who began managing Cornerstone Place four months ago, has given residents a reason to feel optimistic about the future through her dedication to improving their lives.

James Houghlan, a resident of Cornerstone Place for one year, said the living conditions were miserable.

"I think Brentwood has a chance to turn around," Houghlan said. "People were a little afraid to be around here. I'm happy that I didn't move. I'm going to actually tell my friends to move here because this place is getting better."

According to Webb, the biggest problem residents of Cornerstone Place faced was having no one to go to when they needed something fixed.

Some residents said they were living without running water and air conditioning during the summer because the previous managers were unwilling to help the residents when they had problems.

Hogan said residents of Cornerstone Place think of Webb as a gift.

"She has done so much for that community," Hogan said. "When she first took the position there, she walked around to each door to meet the residents. She loves the residents there."

Brenda Greer, a resident of Cornerstone and mother of two, said things were different with the previous managers.

"We had to fix our own stuff," Greer said. "Everybody was on their own."

Greer said although she did not have air conditioning and her stove did not work, she did the best she could.

Greer has since moved to another apartment in Cornerstone Place that she said is much better.

One resident, who preferred to go unnamed, said there were suspicious activities in the apartment complex. The resident also recalled a woman with six children living in a one-bedroom apartment.

The resident believed the Harvest Celebration was the first time anything fun happened with involvement from the whole complex.

Webb said she thinks God brought her to this position to help the residents of Cornerstone Place achieve a higher standard of living.

"There was no hope," Webb said. "Now it's totally turned around."

Webb said there are plans for SWSA to sponsor parenting, homemaking and mentoring classes for residents of Cornerstone Place.

It's getting better.

"It was sad to see, as far as the condition people were in, a feeling I couldn't describe. My heart went out to them. I just wanted to get involved."

— Sharia Fayne
member, Association of Black Social Workers

The Illinois Housing Development Authority is providing funding for a \$5.4 million remodeling project that has begun in the 74-unit apartment complex. There will be new siding, roofs, doors and windows.

The interior will also be replaced, including renovation to the floors, drywall, appliances, plumbing, electrical fixtures and kitchen cabinets. The William Worn Architects of Chicago will oversee the rehabilitation.

"It's changing," Houghlan said. "Since Webb came in, things are slowly changing. Things are going to get better."

The project includes 41 efficiency apartments, 24 one-bedroom units, eight two-bedroom units and one three-bedroom unit. In addition, there will also be a 1,300 square-foot community room and a 2,000 square-foot office.

Webb said there will be a playground and picnic area

See BUILDING, page 12



Johnecia Kyles, 4, sits on the stoop of the main office of Cornerstone Place and picks at her food during Sunday's Harvest Celebration, an event sponsored by the Social Work Student Alliance. Residents of Cornerstone Place were treated to food and beverages like pizza, cupcakes, hot-dogs and fresh fruit.

BUILDING

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

added to the apartment complex in an effort to make Cornerstone Place more "family friendly."

Harris, who Hogan said contributed many creative ideas to the project, has lived in Cornerstone Place for three years.

"We really haven't had anything like this," Harris said. "Once they finish remodeling, it's going to be really nice."

Linda Simmers, a senior in social work from Carterville, said she got involved after learning about the problems of residents.

"It just sounded like there was a lot of stuff they needed," Simmer said. "I didn't realize people were

having so much trouble."

Hogan said the best part of Sunday's event was that all of the residents stayed.

"All of the volunteers enjoyed their company," Hogan said. "They actually welcomed us into their community and came by to socialize, to have fun and to help in the festivities."

"A few residents came up to me and asked if we could do this more often," Hogan said. "The kids loved it and said that their favorite part was, 'Writing on the walls. No, I like the masks. Oh ... I liked it all.'"

SWSA has participated in a number of events this semester, including the Alzheimer's Walk and the Take Back the Night March. SWSA also throws birthday parties for the children at the

Women's Center.

Fayne, a junior in social work from Carbondale, said she felt like crying after a couple of children asked her to be their mentor.

"One of the best experiences I've had," Fayne said. "It gives me a great feeling helping someone. I couldn't stop smiling. Hopefully it gave them a better outlook."

This is Hogan's first semester at SIUC, but she said she has learned a great deal in her 10 weeks as a Saluki.

"Each person I have encountered this year professionally, I have learned that it isn't the task of your job. It isn't the money you get in each check; it's all about who you affected that day."

"Who did you influence, and did you make a change for the better?"

Many freshmen must play catch-up

Amy Hetzner
Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

(KRT) — Even as the number of students taking upper-level math courses soars at high schools, a stubborn demographic continues to plague higher education: remedial enrollments.

In 1999-2000, 35.5 percent of all first- and second-year undergraduate students reported taking some sort of remedial college course, according to a study by the National Center for Education Statistics, an arm of the U.S. Department of Education. And, for nearly three-fourths of those students, one of those classes was math, the study found.

In addition, only four in 10 high school seniors in the 2002-03 class who took the ACT received a score that indicated they were ready for college-level algebra, the college admissions test company reported this year.

Critics use such figures as an indictment of high school instruction, that the schools do such a poor job of preparing their graduates that the colleges are forced to take care of the problem.

But college officials are not sure that's the case.

And the University of Wisconsin has seen a contrary trend. A June 2003 report to the UVV Board of Regents found the proportion of new freshmen needing remedial math instruction system-wide had actually decreased over the past decade — to 11.7 percent in 2001-02 from 20.6 percent in 1990-91.

Still, the dichotomy between increasing achievement levels in high school and the need for remediation in college shows a disconnect between the two systems, said Michael Kirst, a Stanford University education professor who co-authored a study on the issue earlier this year.

The problem is colleges have different expectations for incoming freshmen than states have for their high school graduates, and most high school students don't know that, he said. The results aren't seen in students who take Advanced Placement courses, which are specifically geared to match college curricula. But they become apparent in the 80 percent of students who aren't in AP or honors-level classes and still might go to college, he said.

"You have two disconnected systems that proceed in their own way, and the kids are the losers," Kirst said. "What's in Algebra 2 in high school isn't what colleges want in Algebra 2." Go figure Jana Plotkin, a freshman at UW-Milwaukee, recently found herself caught in that divide.

Plotkin took four years of math at Glendale's Nicolet High School, including trigonometry and statistics, and received fairly good grades.

But when she took her math placement test at UWM in May, she scored below what she needed to get into a for-credit math class. Instead, this fall, she enrolled in the university's Math 095 course, which combines lectures and online course work to help fill in the gaps in students' math skills.

Plotkin thinks Nicolet deserves its reputation as a good school. "But part of me also has a lot of regret for that because I was given a lot of lenience," she said. "Nobody ever made sure I was on track and made sure I knew what I was doing. So I felt kind of unprepared when I went to take the placement test."

Desmond Lathan had the opposite problem at Rufus King High School in Milwaukee.

He knew he had trouble with math when he failed International Baccalaureate Math Studies 1 — the equivalent of Algebra 2 — as a junior. He repeated the course as a senior, along with three other seniors in the junior-level class, and passed with the help of a more flexible teacher.

But still, despite the extra preparation, when it came to UWM's math placement test, Lathan filtered and ended up in Math 095 this semester as well.

Math never was a favorite subject for Lathan, now a UWM freshman who plans to go into marketing and who favors English and writing classes. But he likes the university's approach to teaching remedial math, which has students work only on the concepts they haven't mastered and at their own pace through a combination of lectures and online course work.

"It's so much more interesting than just sitting there looking at a book," Lathan said. "And I think, for people that have trouble with math, that's an excellent way to learn it."

Some of the difficulties students like Plotkin and Lathan have with college placement tests for math, however, may be just a need for review, college instructors say.

Many high schools require only three years of math, so it may be more than a year between a student's last math class and the placement test.

"After even about six weeks out of math class, you forget so much of what you did if you don't use it," said Sue Sharkey, a math instructor at Waukesha County Technical College. "So much of what the problem is, it hasn't been done recently. So they need a review on everything before they're ready to jump into an actual math class."

At UWM, where about 24 percent of incoming freshmen in 2002 tested so poorly on the school's math placement that they would need at least another year of non-credit math before they could take credit classes, students' test scores are not matching their high school experience.

"You'd get the test result scores, and the typical UWM student is testing about a year behind what his high school transcript would indicate — sometimes even two years behind what his high school transcript would indicate — is the mathematics course that would be appropriate in college," associate math professor Eric Key said.

The topics the students are missing on the test aren't some of the higher-level math skills they learned later in their high school career, however. Instead, they're areas such

as basic algebra, which they took long before but have simply forgotten, said math professor Richard O'Malley, who with Key started the university's Math Placement Enhancement Program in 2001.

The result is a student may have completed a trigonometry course in high school but because of the loss of algebra skills would score low on the placement test and have to pay tuition for a remedial course that doesn't count toward the student's degree.

"About 10 percent of the people who come to UWM wind up taking that class," O'Malley said.

With PEP, which uses a software program to help students raise their test scores the summer before they start their freshman year, "we want to somehow give that part out completely," he said.

For some, remediation is good. Not everyone views remedial classes as a bad thing.

In fact, Madison Area Technical College has deliberately expanded the number of students enrolled in such classes.

"One of the reasons our college exists is to provide access to higher education for anyone who wants it," said Terrance Webb, executive dean for learning programs at Madison Area Technical College. "And one of the things it means is we are bound to enroll students who are not prepared to do college-level work in certain areas."

Webb doesn't like the name "remedial," though. He opts for calling such courses "developmental."

Today, 40 percent to 50 percent of the college's students are placed in developmental math courses, according to Webb.

There are many causes for that figure, he said. Some students don't test well, some haven't taken a math course in years and are returning to education after several years in the work world and some took the state's minimum two-year math requirement in high school.

"There's a lot of reasons for this," Webb said. "A lot of people like to blame it on the high school. 'Oh, they're not teaching the students the right thing.' But I'm not sure that's true."

In the meantime, the Madison technical college also is looking to bridge that divide, which Kirst complained is keeping some students from achieving their college dream. Over the summer, the school co-hosted a daylong school-to-careers conference for high school teachers to explain the technical college's math expectations.

Judy Jones, a math instructor at the college who helped coordinate the conference, said she doesn't believe incoming college students are less prepared than they were in the past.

"I do feel we are getting a broader range of students today," she said. "We are getting more down at the low level than just at the middle level. And the problem with students who aren't on the college track — they don't tend to like math, and they take as much as they have to and they don't take any more."

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In Iraq, number killed since May 1 eclipse U.S. casualties in combat

EA. Torriero
Chicago Tribune

BAGHDAD, Iraq (KRT) — The U.S. intervention in Iraq has passed a grim milestone: more soldiers have now lost their lives in the occupation than in combat.

Since President Bush declared major fighting finished on May 1, 117 soldiers have died, three more than during the campaign to oust Saddam Hussein.

The latest death count includes two American soldiers killed late Tuesday when their Abrams tank, one of the army's sturdiest vehicles, struck an explosive device on a road 50 miles north of Baghdad, the military said.

It marked the first time since warfare ended that a tank was destroyed by insurgents.

"It would have to be very strong, very powerful," Col. William Darley said of the blast. "The armor on an Abram tank is very significant."

Attacks on U.S. soldiers have jumped in the past week to an average of more than 33 a day, the American command said. In the past month, numbers of assaults have steadily crept up from an average of 14 to 20 a day to 23 in the past week alone.

In a further sign of spreading insurgency, seven Ukrainians were wounded Tuesday night when they were ambushed and fired upon after two of their personnel carriers were struck by land mines some 40 miles southeast of Baghdad. International forces patrolling south-central Iraq since September under the command of Polish forces had not suffered casualties before Tuesday.

Insurgents have shown added sophistication and firepower in recent days, firing rockets at the living quarters for the U.S.-led coalition and carrying out five suicide bombings in 30 hours that killed at least 40 and wounded more than 225.

Two of the few remaining foreign-aid groups in Iraq, the international Red Cross and Doctors Without Borders, announced Wednesday they would cut

their expatriate staff due to the bombing threat. Secretary of State Colin Powell had asked the Red Cross not to pull staff from Iraq despite the attack outside its headquarters Monday that killed at least a dozen Iraqis, including two Red Cross guards.

The agency's 600 Iraqi employees will remain, but a number of the 30 international staffers will leave, the International Committee of the Red Cross said in Geneva.

"The ICRC remains committed to helping the people of Iraq," Pierre Kraehenbuehl, the agency's director of operations, said from Geneva.

As Iraqis wondered what would be targeted next, thousands of parents kept their children home from school Wednesday while police searched several schools for bombs and increased patrols around schools.

Rumors that several schools had already been blown up heightened anxieties. "It's the smart thing to keep the children at home," said Auday Qalhan, an engineer who plans to keep his 17-year-old daughter, Shams, away from school until at least Saturday. "There's no telling what terrorists will do next," he said.

Despite promises when school opened earlier this month that coalition troops and Iraqi police would stand guard, many schools have little or no security.

A guard at the Virgin Mary Secondary School for Girls found a leaflet on the front door Wednesday.

"Warning," it read. "There are bombs in your school."

A police search found no explosives, but that did not ease parents' fears. In a string of suicide bombings this week, two detonated near schools. At least five homemade bombs were found recently in the vicinity of schools, Iraqi authorities said. Several schools reported receiving bomb threats.

"They bombed the Red Cross, they bombed police stations, so we know that they would bomb our schools too," said Samiyah Sukker, the Virgin Mary principal, saying only a few students attended class Wednesday.



TOM PENNINGTON — FORT WORTH STAR-TELEGRAM (KRT)

Fort Worth police are dealing with a series of train robberies east of downtown Fort Worth, Texas. Police claim criminals have been breaking into train cars and stealing merchandise.

Train robberies have been chugging along since Jesse James

Alex Branch
Knight Ridder Newspapers

FORT WORTH, Texas (KRT) — Like modern-day Butch Cassidy, they crouch in the dust and weeds awaiting the screech of a slow moving train.

Instead of dynamite, they carry tool bags. Instead of gold, they seek DVD players, computers and auto parts. And instead of desolate stretches of prairie, these railroad bandits wait behind the lounges and used-car lots of East Lancaster Avenue near downtown Fort Worth, Texas.

More than a century after Cassidy and the Sundance Kid and their Gang, the Wild Bunch, tormented the railroad industry, authorities continue to chase train bandits in Fort Worth and beyond.

"It's not a new phenomenon," said Pat Hiatte, a spokesman for Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway. "It goes all the way back to Jesse James."

These days, such crooks operate in low-income neighborhoods in Fort Worth and Dallas, jumping aboard trains that travel slowly through urban areas. Union Pacific Railroad

has identified the stretch of rail just south of Lancaster Avenue and east of Beach Street as a popular place for train jumpers. Poor neighborhoods in Dallas are even more active.

"Most people don't realize these trains contain everything you could possibly use in a home or business: TVs, refrigerators, tires," said Capt. Jim Beach of the Union Pacific Railroad Police. "They take anything they can easily sell on the street."

The problem extends beyond Texas. The Association for American Railroads in Washington, D.C., estimates that railroads, which carry 40 percent of the nation's goods, lose \$9 million to \$14 million a year to train burglaries.

Whereas the original train robbers derailed cars, blocked the tracks or even leaped from galloping horses, today's version relies on stealthier tactics, said Tom White, spokesman for the railroad association.

Trains can be more than a mile long, making it virtually impossible for the engineers to see someone jumping on, he said. Safety sometimes demands trains slow to 5 to 10 mph in urban areas.

Railroad police have the authority to seek search warrants and

interview suspects and, because they are federally commissioned, cross jurisdictions. They often find themselves investigating the same people repeatedly, Beach said.

"We get to know how these guys work," he said. "We'll figure out how something got taken and say, 'Hey, is this guy out of jail yet?' Sure enough, he just got out."

Railroad police regularly stake out high-risk areas at night. They use infrared equipment sensitive enough to provide detailed images of rats crossing the tracks from far away.

Fort Worth police sometimes assist them, occasionally catching thieves themselves, Fort Worth police Sgt. Todd Plowman said. But the majority of those arrested don't belong to organized gangs.

"There are a lot of homeless people in that area where the trains have to slow down," Plowman said. "It's just a crime of opportunity. They can jump on and see what they can get."

Though Union Pacific's Centennial Yard in west Fort Worth is the railroad's largest base in the country, bandits don't often strike there because of the constant activity. They prefer the familiarity of their own neighborhoods.

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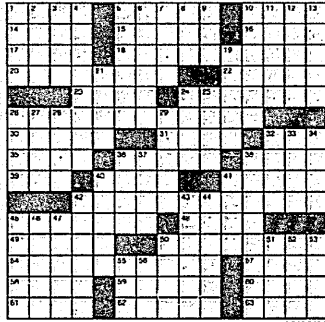
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- Hoover Dams lake
 - Barrel part
 - Hawaiian dance
 - Tooth trouble
 - None knowing
 - Periods of note
 - Mother of Hera
 - Belongs as a proper function
 - Consoles
 - Show up
 - Early Texan Lincoln
 - Scythe strokes
 - Fashion leaders
 - Helm or Woody
 - Violent conflicts
 - Unit
 - Elderly
 - Dylanesque singer John
 - Amned
 - Kennedy or Koppel
 - Primary
 - Recurrent theme
 - Convenience option
 - Set iron
 - Woosnam and Fleming
 - Explosive like Pinatubo
 - Poorly matched
 - Short nap
 - Fish choice
 - Inspiration
 - Albert of Green Acres
 - Mosaic piece
 - Try out
 - Timely benefits
 - Smack



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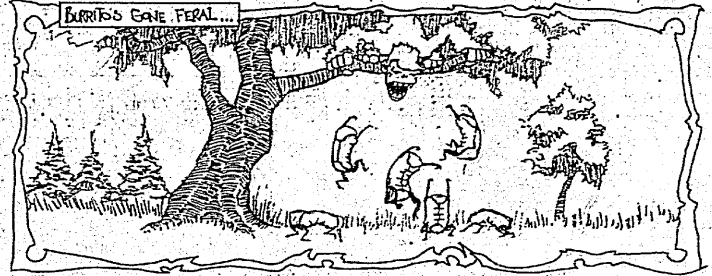
Solutions



- Two-finger sign
- Major suit
- Dickens' Heep
- Judge lip
- Pack animals
- Ski-slope transportation
- GM make
- Mite of hockey
- I ___ you...
- Se ___ as it may...
- Extreme anger
- Looked at
- Twisted thread
- Scottish inventor
- Abu Dhabi leader
- Oppose
- Satisfies one's debt
- Agitate
- Is made up (of)
- Heavily fleshed again
- List of options
- Emices
- Dismantle
- Oratory
- Singer Fitzgerald
- Prolound
- Spider's hangout
- Alar words

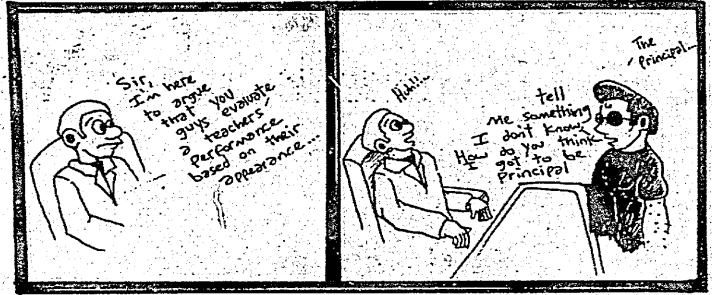
Adam

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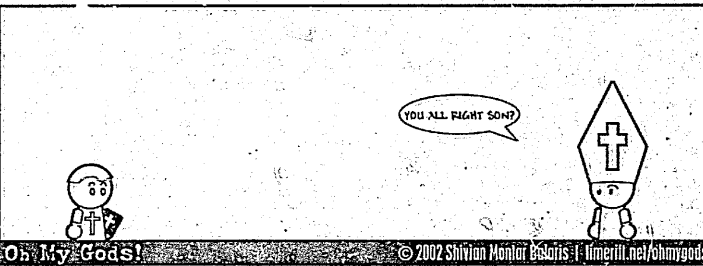
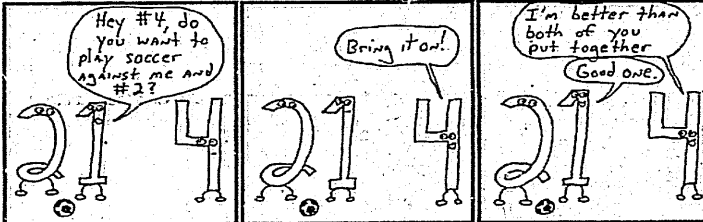
Dirty Game

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INSIDE THE DAWGHOUSE



SIU women's basketball head coach Lori Opp crouches pensively during a game last season. Opp is entering the final year of her contract and has gone 20-61 in her first three years with the Salukis, but hopes are high this will be the year all of their hard work pays off.

DAILY EGYPTIAN FILE PHOTO

"On the women's side of the Valley, we've had two Final Four teams. The Valley is incredibly tough, and during the time that Southern started to slide ... everyone else wasn't going to just stop and wait for us.

I know where we are, and I know it's gonna take a while to get back towards the top. But I know we're certainly headed in the right direction."

— Lori Opp
SIU women's head basketball coach

a clean slate

After struggling for three years, Lori Opp enters this season with high hopes of rebuilding the once-dominant SIU women's basketball program

story by TODD MERCHANT

It wasn't suppose to be this way. She had just concluded her third season as head coach of the SIU women's basketball team, and Lori Opp should have been basking in all the progress she had made during her tenure.

Instead, her program was reeling from the loss of all three assistant coaches and the departure of half a dozen players from the roster.

It wasn't supposed to be this way. Not for a program as storied as the Salukis.

Rise of an empire

For much of the 1970s, the Saluki program was relatively mediocre, hovering around .500 every year. Then a 23-year-old graduate assistant took over the program in 1977 and began one of the most dominant runs in women's basketball history.

In her third year at the helm, Cindy Scott led SIU to its first-ever 20-win season. However, it would certainly not be the last.

By 1984, when the Salukis finished tied for second in their first season in the Gateway Conference, Scott had established herself as one of the top coaches in the country.

Perhaps the most legendary period for SIU was from 1985 to 1987, when the Salukis posted a 53-7 record and went undefeated in the Gateway two years in a row. The Dawgs advanced to the NCAA tournament both years and were ranked as high as No. 13 in the nation.

One person who witnessed all the success first-hand was Julie Beck, Scott's top assistant from 1981 to 1998. Beck said the team was fortunate during much of that time to have a slew of talented players, several of whom dominate the school record books — all of which aided in the Salukis remaining dominant for a long time.

"I think a big point that we're really proud of, besides our four NCAA berths, is that until 1997-98 we were never under .500," Beck said. "There's not very many people that can say that, so our level of expectation and our level of success was very high."



PHOTO PROVIDED BY SIU MEDIA SERVICES

Former SIU women's basketball head coach Cindy Scott helped put the Salukis on the map. Scott amassed 388 wins, the most in school history, and led the Dawgs to five 20-win seasons and four NCAA tournament berths during her 21 years at the helm.

Besides great players, SIU was lucky enough to have a committed administration and a tight group of coaches for much of the 1980s. Scott, Beck and fellow assistant coach George Lubelt spent seven years together building the Salukis into a powerhouse in the Gateway.

During Scott's entire tenure, she also had help from above in the form of Charlotte West, who was the women's athletic director at SIU for nearly four decades until her retirement in 1998.

Beck attributed a great deal of the team's success to the efforts of West, who was a nationally recognized champion of women's athletics.

"When I came in, Charlotte West was our athletic director, and we had full scholarships; we had the full allotment," Beck said. "She worked for that, and I think because of her, women's athletics at Southern had a lot of advantages that maybe some other schools didn't at that point in time."

As the decade ended and more programs gained adequate financial backing in the early '90s, SIU gradually came back down to earth in the Gateway.

Leveling the playing field

Scott and Beck were tireless workers during the '80s, and it paid big dividends as they constantly pulled in top recruits year after year. A big part of that was they were able to talk to players while they were still in junior high and early in their high school careers.

Around the beginning of the '90s, however, the NCAA changed recruiting rules, penalizing schools that contacted prep players before their junior years. This change brought

a degree of parity to the recruiting game and negatively affected the SIU program.

"I think in the mid-'90s we started seeing a lot of other schools catch up, a lot of bigger conferences now, that maybe weren't as powerful, getting better. More money, recruiting rules certainly changed, I think to our disadvantage. We couldn't outwork anybody anymore by contacting kids young."

SIU held strong for the first half of the decade; from 1990 to 1996 the Salukis won at least 18 games five times and placed in the top two in the conference five times.

But by the 1996-1997 season, there was a noticeable change in the landscape of the Missouri Valley Conference — the Gateway merged with the MVC in 1991. Southwest Missouri State became one of the biggest draws in the country, and as the rest of the Valley caught up financially, SIU started losing out on top recruits.

"We had a point guard 12 years of my 18, actually the whole time, that probably was the best point guard in our conference," Beck said. "Every four years we had somebody come in; [we were] very fortunate to have that."

"There's just a myriad of things that started happening, and you've got to be at the top of your game; you've got to be lucky in recruiting as well as outwork people."

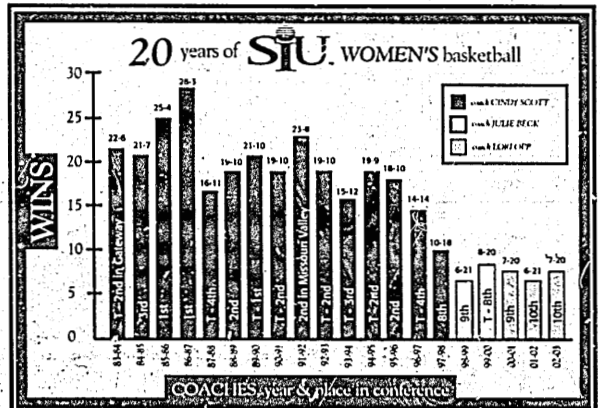
All the changes culminated in 1998 when the Salukis finished with a 10-18 overall record and a dismal eighth in the conference. It would be Scott's final year at SIU; she left Carbondale to pursue a career in athletic administration.

Beck was hired to replace Scott, but she was not able to curb the Salukis' decline. SIU only won 14 games the next two years and did not finish better than eighth in the Valley. The lack of success, coupled with some family troubles, caused Beck to step down following the 1999-2000 campaign.

She said her squads were riddled with injuries during her time in charge. But in the end, she took most of the responsibility for SIU's poor performance on the court.

"When I was head coach, I didn't get the job done. You gotta get it done, and I didn't," Beck said. "I'm getting older, and the main thing I can say is you've gotta have passion for the game and not lose that for one instance ... you have to have passion for it; like I said, it's

See SLATE, page 18



BRENNER

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 20

Cav Creighton live up to its undeserved No. 2 ranking?

Not likely, Dana Altman is a great coach, but he's not that good. Creighton lost Kyle Korver, Larry House and DeAnthony Bowden, who were the nucleus of the team that dismantled the Salukis at last year's MVC tournament.

Brody Deren, Michael Lindeman and Tyler McKinney are all coming back, but those three combined still do not have Korver's talent. Lindeman especially was the beneficiary of Korver's talent, and he will have a hard time finding open shots now that his former roommate is in Philadelphia.

Team of the future

Don't be surprised if Southwest Missouri State is at the top of the MVC standings for the next five years. The Bears have a solid base and a stellar recruiting class.

They lost Terrance McGee, so don't expect a title from them this season, but they will be solid and could be next year's Wichita State and a dominant team a few years after that.

PLAYOFF

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 20

hunting anymore; we're on the other side now."

And with four teams from the Gateway currently ranked in the Sports Network/CSTV Poll's top 25 — three in the top 10 — the last three weeks of the season will likely decide whether or not the Salukis can live up to their newfound status.

Along with the Salukis' strength of schedule and quality win total, holding onto their current ranking could mean the difference between the Salukis spending the first round in Carbondale or traveling to the likes of Pocatello, Idaho.

If SIU can manage to get past eighth-ranked Western Kentucky this weekend and Youngstown State the next, their Nov. 15 date at No. 6 Northern Iowa could decide the Gateway crown and the home playoff game that would accompany it.

But even if SIU fails to reel in the conference title, they will still likely meet enough of the NCAA's criteria to snare an at-large bid. Of the 16 teams that qualify, eight — the conference champions of the Gateway, Atlantic 10, Big Sky, Mid-Eastern Athletic, Ohio Valley, Patriot, Southern and Southland — earn automatic bids, leaving the remaining slots to at-large hopefuls.

SLATE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 18

A new Opp-ortunity

Filling in for Beck was her assistant of two years, Lori Opp. She had been an assistant for more than 10 years before taking over the Salukis, but that experience did not come through on the court as SIU won only 20 games in her first three seasons and was hampered by two different losing streaks of at least 12 games.

It seemed as if the team would never be able to rise from the ashes of its recent futility.

Underneath all the losing, however, the Salukis were slowly making progress. Opp was putting together a core group of players she could build around. The team was returning to the basics and forming bonds that would help in the future.

While the losing was difficult on the players, they and the coaches knew it was all part of a process. And they knew it would take some

Sleeper

After a horrid campaign last season, Illinois State is trying to regain its status as one of the perennial Valley powers and will likely do so this season.

As much as I hate the Redbirds, an MVC crown is not out of their reach. They finished eighth in the Valley last season, though most of it can be attributed to team apathy after a horrendous 1-15 start that cost head coach Tom Richardson his job.

They are returning four starters including Vince Greene, who at times looked like a poor man's Allen Iverson last season. The 5-foot-9 guard should be on the All-MVC first team, and his team may follow him into first place.

Carbondale in Conference USA?

Weird things happen, so this season could be a potential farewell tour for some conference schools.

The MVC may be against expansion, but that is not going to keep other conferences from beefing up their ranks after losing their best teams. If schools like DePaul, Cincinnati, Louisville and Marquette bolt for the Big East, Conference USA may, and this is purely specu-

lation, come knocking on MVC Commissioner Doug Elgin's door.

And Conference USA is not looking for Evansville and Drake. If any, it wants the Valley's best programs — Creighton, Illinois State and hopefully SIU.

The Salukis lack the facility for a Conference USA team, not to mention a Division I-A football program, but if the conference is dumb enough to make us an offer, Paul Kowalczyk should jump on it. SIU would be throttled for a while, but if Conference USA can help with a stadium or offer other monetary incentives for our defection, it could be the opportunity of a lifetime for Saluki athletics.

A final nugget of joy

Former Creighton forward Kyle Korver played in his first NBA game Tuesday night, "helping" the Philadelphia 76ers defeat the Miami Heat 89-74. The former Saluki killer played three minutes, scoring no points, missing two three-pointers and committing two fouls.

But he did have one highlight — SportsCenter viewers across America saw mophead's defensive prowess on display as he was posterized on a crossover by Miami rookie Dwyanne Wade.

When selecting which teams receive at-large berths, the prevailing factors considered by the NCAA selection committee are win-loss record, strength of schedule, number of games against I-A competition and conference quality.

With the Salukis' 4-0 conference mark and unblemished overall record, they would seem to warrant consideration for a home playoff date, provided they meet the NCAA's "unofficial" standards as well.

"If a team isn't one of those top four seeds that are guaranteed a home game, there are a lot of other factors that come into play," Kowalczyk said. "They look at the stadium, the amount of your bid, your location and head-to-head record with other teams. There are a lot of things that go into it."

According to NCAA bylaws, the minimum bid a team can submit to earn consideration as a host for a first round game is \$30,000 and \$40,000 for the second round, along with committing 75 percent of their potential game revenue to the NCAA. A monetary obligation of that large amount places constraints on the financial rewards a school can garner from a playoff appearance, Kowalczyk said.

"There are some benefits to hosting a playoff game, but most of them are not financial," Kowalczyk said. "If you sell a lot of tickets you could

make a few dollars, but it's really more of an opportunity, to expose your team to the community and the public on a bigger stage."

While the national exposure of hosting a playoff game would be considerable, Kowalczyk said it would still not be comparable to the time spent in the spotlight by the SIU basketball squad during its back-to-back NCAA tournament appearances.

"It's more exposure and it's on more of a national stage, but it's still not quite like the NCAA tournament," Kowalczyk said. "But our kids have performed very well this year, and we hope to have the opportunity to experience something like that."

But as the Salukis embark on a journey toward territory not visited since many of the players were in diapers, it will not be an expedition without roadblocks. With trips to defending national champion Western Kentucky and Northern Iowa's raucous UNI Dome looming in the coming weeks, the last leg of the regular season should test the team's playoff mettle.

"I think we will definitely know more about where we stand after Saturday," Kowalczyk said. "It's all so speculative right now, but if we continue to do what we've done all season, I think we'll put ourselves in a good position at the end of the season."

time to improve in a conference as stacked as the MVC.

"On the women's side of the Valley, we've had two Final Four teams," Opp said. "The Valley is incredibly tough, and during the time that Southern started to slide ... everyone else wasn't going to just stop and wait for us."

"I know where we are, and I know it's gonna take a while to get back towards the top. But I know we're certainly headed in the right direction."

A fresh start

During the offseason, Opp saw six players leave the team — including three to graduation — as well as her three assistants. Rather than fret about the departures, Opp focused on putting her team back together.

She quickly assembled an even stronger coaching staff that includes a former WNBA player.

Opp also has a full-time secretary who will aid the team behind the scenes.

"Staffwise, things change. I

know where all three people are and what they're doing, and for them they're in a better place," Opp said. "For me, with my new staff, I'm in a better place. So I don't have any conflicts with anything that's happened or anything that's changed. When you're in 10th place, sometimes change is a good thing."

Opp also added eight new players to the roster. The new additions should boost the team's athleticism, according to Opp, and should help the Salukis play a more up-tempo game.

The Salukis' first exhibition game is Nov. 9 at the SIU Arena. Opp is excited to show off her new squad and see just what they can do.

Even with all the struggles that her program has endured the last three seasons, Opp is ever optimistic this will be the year the Dawgs turn the corner in the rebuilding process.

"Our opportunities are endless as far as how many good things we can do this year."

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» FOOTBALL

Abdulqaadir, Moreland still in mix

Both players remain candidates for the Payton and Buchanan Awards

Zack Creglow
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Muhammad Abdulqaadir and Alexis Moreland both remain candidates on the Payton and Buchanan award lists that were released Wednesday. Both of the Salukis have been on every list since the preseason.

The Payton Award, I-AA football's version of the Heisman Trophy, is given to the top offensive player, while the Buchanan Award is given to the best defensive player in the I-AA ranks.

Abdulqaadir, thought of as the early-season frontrunner, remains on the list despite numbers less than what has been produced by the other Payton candidates. Abdulqaadir missed two games due to a bruised knee and has also shared the ball with fellow senior Tom Kourstos.

Abdulqaadir has produced 725 yards and nine touchdowns on the ground for the undefeated No. 3 Salukis. With three games left on the schedule, he should eclipse the 1,000-yard mark in both of his two seasons at SIU.

Moreland leads the SIU defense, which is the top-ranked in the Gateway, with 62 tackles on the season. The junior recorded 13 tackles against Southwest Missouri State last Saturday.

» Top Payton Candidates

Jamaal Branch, RB, Colgate
The 6-foot, 210-pound back has rushed for 1,296 yards and 18 touchdowns this season for undefeated Colgate.

The junior is averaging 162 yards a game and is on pace to rush for around 1,800 yards.

Alvin Cowan, QB, Yale
The 6-2 Tezcan has thrown for 1,614 yards this season for the 4-2 Bulldogs.

The junior signal caller has also put up 14 touchdown passes to only four interceptions.

» SPORTS ADMINISTRATION

Salukis on track to host first-round playoff game

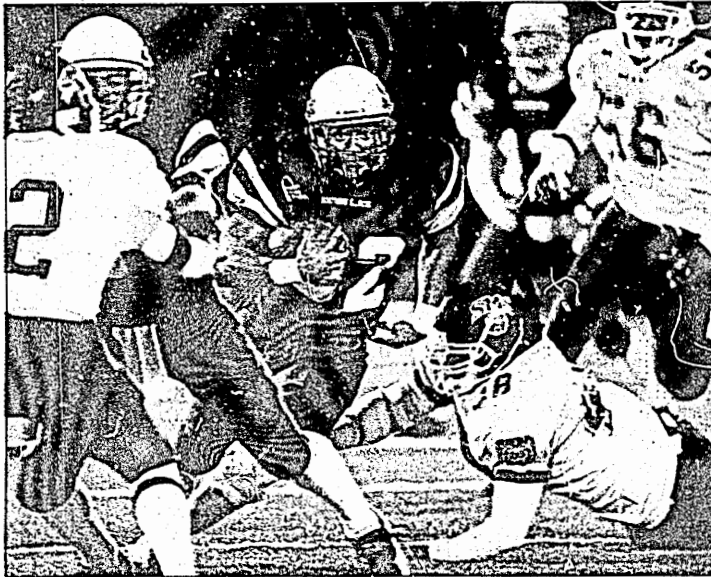
Salukis may need to win out, produce \$30,000 to acquire home game

Andy Horonyz
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After two decades of futility that have spawned only two winning seasons and an overall record of 68-142, the SIU football team may finally be ready to step out of the massive shadow cast upon it by its perennially contending basketball counterparts.

For the first time since their 1983 national championship season, the Salukis have racked up eight wins and appear to be headed for their first playoff berth since the Reagan administration.

But while the No. 3 Salukis currently sit atop the Gateway



DEREK ANDERSON - DAILY EGYPTIAN

SIU runningback Muhammad Abdulqaadir remains on the Payton Award list, which was released Wednesday. The award is given to the top offensive player in I-AA football. Abdulqaadir's teammate Alexis Moreland is on the watchlist for the Buchanan Award, given to the best defensive player.

Terrence Freaney, RB, Northern Iowa

The short but powerful sophomore has produced 941 yards and 11 scores on the ground for his hometown squad. The Panthers have three games left on their schedule, the last being against the Salukis and their top-run defense.

Bruce Eugene, QB, Grambling State

The super-sized quarterback (6-1, 245) has thrived for more yardage than any other Payton nominee. The junior has already amassed 2,485 yards passing and has thrown for 22 touchdowns to 11 interceptions for the 6-2 Tigers.

Vick King, RB, McNeese State
King, a 5-10, 206-pound back out of Louisiana, has rushed for 870 yards and 10 touchdowns for 6-1 McNeese State.

The Cowboys are currently ranked No. 1 in Division I-AA in both the Sportsnetwork/CSIV and ESPN/USA Today polls.

» Top Buchanan Candidates

Boomer Grigsby, LB, Illinois State

The 6-0, 245-pound muscle-bound linebacker may better now than during his phenomenal sophomore season, which made him a finalist for the Buchanan Award.

He has been the bright spot for the Redbirds who have lost four straight and currently sit at 3-8 overall.

The junior from Canton has notched 136 tackles, three sacks and has recorded 11 tackles for loss. Grigsby is on pace to record nearly 170 tackles.

Roderick Royal, LB, McNeese State

Royal, a preseason first-team All-American, has only added to his billing with his play for the No. 1 Cowboys. The senior has racked up 60 tackles, five of which were for loss, and three sacks.

Lee Russell, LB, Western Illinois

The senior linebacker has totaled 89 stops with 14 being for loss. He has also picked up two sacks. Russell's nose for the ball has led him to recover four fumbles and he has a team-high five breakups in pass defense.

Jared Allen, DE, Idaho State

Allen has been a menace rushing the quarterback and has picked up a staggering 14.5 sacks this season for the 5-3 Bengals.

» COMMENTARY



Waterloo and other great losses

BY MICHAEL BRENNER
editor@siu.edu

Salukis stuffed in Valley poll

Put down the noose. No, not that way. Untie it, remove it from your neck, regain the will to live and prepare for one hell of a season at the SIU Arena because, and I'll say this bluntly — the Missouri Valley Conference voters (coaches, Sports Information directors, media) are full of platypus crap.

SIU will not finish fifth in the Valley.

Again, for those with cyanide on back order — SIU will not finish fifth in the Valley.

Yes, the Dawgs lost Tom Williams, Jermaine Dearman and Bruce Weber.

But the Valley seems to have forgotten they retained Darren Brooks, Stetson Hairston and the most underrated player in the Valley, Josh Warren. SIU also recruited Jamaal Tatum, who is a blue-chip recruit for a mid-major, and LaMar Owen, who doesn't have much hype but looks amazing in practice.

Combined with returning seniors Sylvester Willis, Brad Korn and Bryan Turner, SIU has a team that is at least third in the Valley.

Due to this injustice, the DAILY EGYPTIAN sports desk has put together its own preseason rankings:

1. Wichita State
2. Bradley
3. SALUKIS
4. SPS
5. Elino State
6. Creighton
7. Northern Iowa
8. Evansville
9. Indiana State
10. Drake

Other things to keep an eye on:

Is Wichita State as good as advertised?

The Shockers are easily the most talented team in the Valley, sporting the three-headed monster of Aaron Hogg, Jamar Howard and Randy Burns.

All three wingmen are a year older, and center Paul Miller, who was less than impressive against the Salukis last year, may be poised for a breakout season.

The only thing that will keep Wichita State away from the conference title is itself. If the big four do not progress, the Shockers will disappoint. But if they do, the Valley is due for Wichita's best season in the past 20 years.

Conference standings and appear to control their playoff destiny, hurdles still must be cleared before the thought of the Carbondale faithful filing into McAndrew Stadium on a bitter December Saturday can become a reality.

Three games still remain for SIU until the I-AA playoff pairings are revealed Nov. 23 — two against top 10 opponents — and in order to snag a top four seed and lock up a home playoff date, they may have to win out. Of the 16 teams that will qualify for this year's playoffs, only four will be assured of a home game, provided they produce the minimum bid of \$30,000 required by the NCAA.

Athletic Director Paul Kowalczyk said with their current ranking, the Salukis have a legitimate shot at being one of the top four seeds, but he thinks the automatic playoff berth a Gateway championship would yield is far from snown up.

"Right now things look good as

far as where we're standing in the conference," Kowalczyk said. "I think it's fair to assume that the Gateway winner will be one of those teams that receives a home game, but it all depends on what happens from here on out."

Regardless of what the future holds for the Salukis, this year's team has already carved out a place for itself in the annals of SIU's football history. Senior linebacker Eric Egan said the restored health of running backs Muhammad Abdulqaadir and Tom Kourstos was one of the main factors in the resurgence of the SIU football program.

"We're not the team we were last year," Egan said. "Obviously we're healthy, and now we've got all our guns. This is a different team now."

While the minds of the SIU football team are squarely focused on the task at hand, no one is ready to look past any of the Salukis' upcoming opponents.

"We want to seal the deal with the conference, and we've got to start with Western Kentucky," Egan said. "They're definitely a team that's still in the hunt, and if they're going to revive their season and compete for the conference championship, they've got to beat us."

Not that being the team to beat is something this year's team has had much experience with. Looking down on the rest of the conference from atop the standings is a welcome, if unfamiliar, position the Salukis would like to hang onto until the completion of the regular season.

Kourstos said the team's biggest concern is losing the intensity that has spurred the team's remarkable turnaround.

"We can't relax because it's like coach Kill says, 'We're the hunted now,'" Kourstos said. "We're not