

weather

Wed: Sunny, 88/66°
Thurs: Sunny, 90/70°
Fri: Sunny, 90/72°
Sat: Sunny, 92/74°

the Alestle

ALTON, EAST ST. LOUIS & EDWARDSVILLE



New busing system makes debut

By Danette Watt
Assistant News Editor

What began as a survey last fall has culminated into a new busing system that began Monday.

Results of the survey showed that some students without transportation were feeling isolated and were unable to take care of personal business because of the bus system in use at that time.

That system, contracted out to the IEA-NEA (Illinois Educational Association-National Educational Association) took students between Tower Lake Apartments and Hairpin Drive in mid-campus.

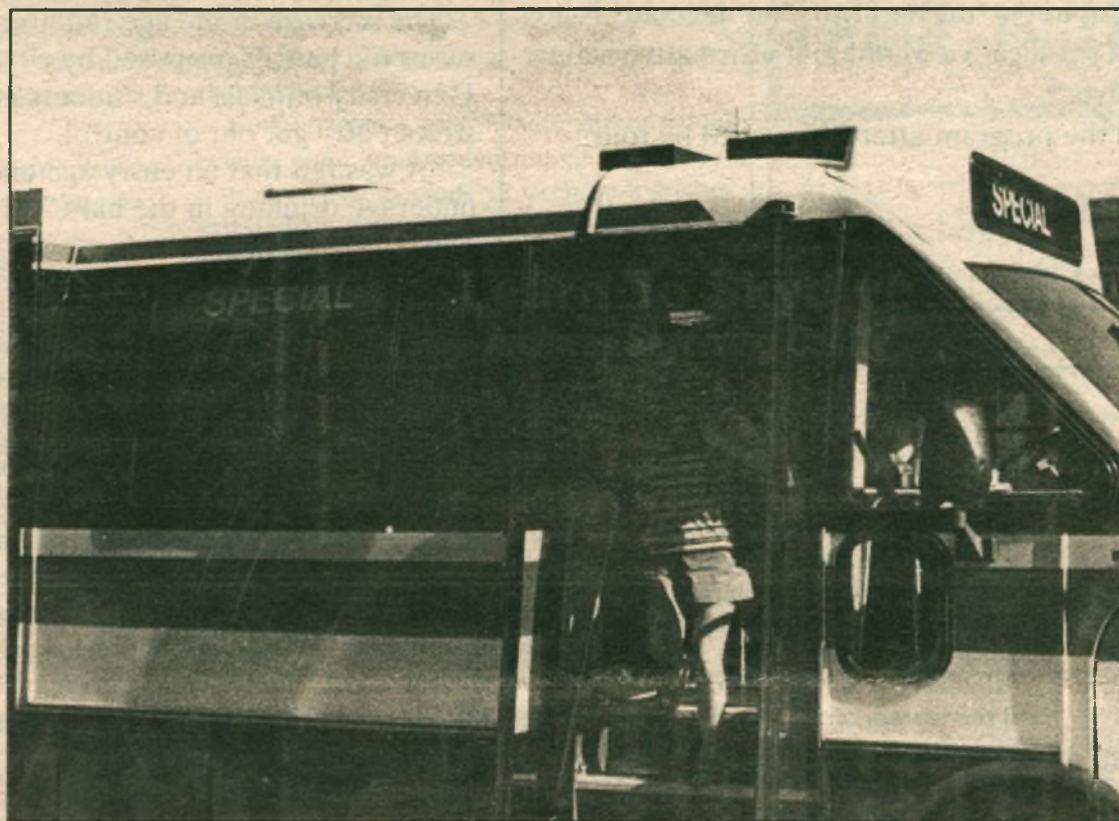
The new bus system, operated by Madison County Transit, promises several positive changes. Buses will be wheelchair accessible for disabled riders; there will be an expansion of route hours and students can get into Edwardsville and beyond, including Metro-Link stations.

Rides from Tower Lake to the campus will remain free; however, off-campus rides will cost students the regular fare: a quarter in most instances.

But the new system is not without some controversy.

Some students protested that something that would affect students so much should have had student input.

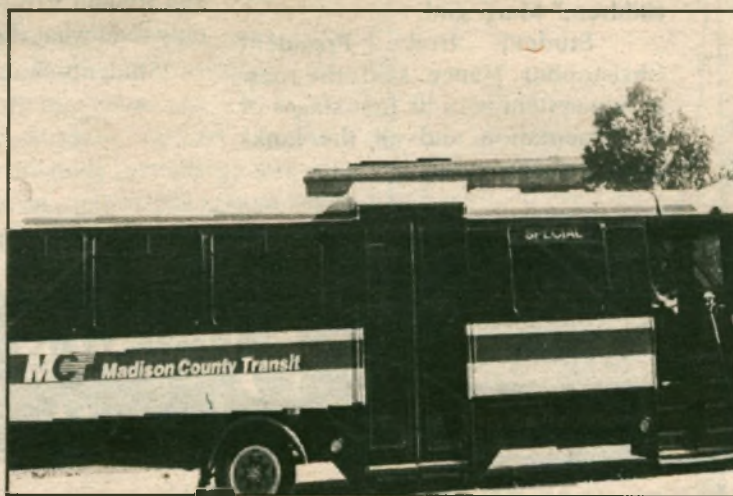
There have also been



complaints that buses will not go to the upper level of the 500 buildings at Tower Lake. Students will have to walk to the Commons building in inclement weather or freezing temperatures to meet the bus.

Two civil service and four student drivers lost their jobs. One civil service driver, Helen Holbert, was rehired as a micro-film technician at Supporting Services.

James Herndon, the second driver, started Sunday as a building service worker in Peck Building. He said he took the job "under protest and with a considerable decrease in salary."



Melanie Adams/The Alestle

Monday ushered in a new era on campus. Madison County Transit (MCT) buses (above) transport students from Tower Lake Apartments to Hairpin Drive.

By Ty Norris
News Reporter

Monday, July 1, marked the first day of the new busing system at Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville.

Madison County Transit (MCT) replaced the former busing service offered by University Housing. The new system was a result of negotiations between SIUE officials and MCT. It promises several improvements including air-conditioned buses.

Hoping to make the transition easier for students, the university mailed bus schedules to Tower Lake residents about a week ago.

Early Monday afternoon, about half a dozen students rode the bus from Tower Lake to Hairpin Drive.

Some students felt that the new system has more flaws than improvements.

"The air-conditioned buses and the fact that they have more buses are positive aspects, but I was told it would stop at more places," LaHoma Mitchell, a senior majoring in sociology, said. "I feel that the buses should be rerouted to include (Classroom) Building III, Vadalabene Center and Residence Hall," she added.

So far, the Tower Lake

please see MCT, page 2

University holds annual high school leadership institute

By Danette Watt
Assistant News Editor

Nineteen teens learned leadership skills and discussed the First Amendment at the seventh annual High School Summer Leadership Institute.

You can do anything if you plan for it. That's one thing Candice Long, a senior from Lincoln High School, learned.

Long said she signed up for the Institute on the advice of a member of the Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority. Long is a "Senior Pearl," a high school student affiliate of that sorority.

"I've learned how to set my goals for

the future and outline my plans. I want to be a surgeon," Long said.

The students lived on campus for four days while they attended sessions on life mapping, the Internet, the role of student newspapers and more.

Dan Kasten, advertising manager for the Alestle, spoke to the group about the function of the paper and the press's First Amendment rights.

"We aren't censored by the university. Basically, we can print anything, but we understand we could be open to a libel suit," he said. Almost all of the 19 students received a newspaper at home but most

please see LEADERSHIP page 2



TOP STORIES



National

Court rejects affirmative action

WASHINGTON—The Supreme Court rejected a bid by the University of Texas to use race as a factor in judging law school applicants, leaving a cloud of doubt over similar affirmative action programs at state-run colleges nationwide.

Theodore Shaw of the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund said Ruth Ginsburg's opinion "makes clear that the court is not endorsing the appeals court's radical view and that affirmative action, while still under siege, is alive."

The law school scrapped the program after being sued by four white applicants.

In Our Area

State and Local

Bar entry age moved to 21 in Carbondale

CARBONDALE—The bar entry age in town went up to 21 starting Monday.

For the last year, people had to be only 20 to enter a bar, although they were not allowed to drink.

The increase in the age requirement is the last step in a series of changes proposed by city and Southern Illinois University officials and students after an annual Halloween street party got out of control.

"It was felt that an entry age under 21 basically condoned underage drinking in the bars," City Manager Jeff Doherty said.

Only several years ago, anyone 18 or older could enter a Carbondale bar.

MCT

from front page

stops include: Buildings 516, lot 4F, the shelter near Building 411 and Tower Lake Drive near Building 406. Buses drop students off on the north side of Hairpin Drive (Peck Building) but passengers have been instructed to board on the south side of Hairpin Drive (Rendleman Building).

Several students said they were afraid that by the time the bus got to Building 411, it would be very crowded.

"I feel it's going to get very crowded because the buses aren't that large and the pickup spots are limited," Mary Hurry, Tower Lake

resident, said.

Two civil service workers and four student workers lost their jobs as a result of the new bus system. The university did offer alternative jobs to all workers but some at a lower wage.

"It affects us more so than the civil service workers," JoAnn Marti, a former student bus driver, said. "It is hard to find another job at the rate we were making and I have two children," Marti said.

Student Body President Christopher Nance said the new busing system is in its first stages of implementation and all the kinks have not been ironed out yet.

Leadership

from front page

said they get their news from television, leaving the paper for ads and comics.

Leslie Deckard, a senior at Kirkwood High and a member of the yearbook staff, said the leadership skills she learned at the Institute were ones she could take back to school. She said her paper could be censored by her principal or by the schoolboard.

"But my principal, Franklin McCallie, believes in freedom of speech. He believes students should not be censored," she said.

McCallie said he is a strong believer in First Amendment rights and does not believe in "prior censorship."

"Our paper, *The Kirkwood Call*, is a forum for public opinion. It is student run and student written. We have great kids who want to put out a great paper and I only read what they ask me to. But I do tell they can't libel or profane," he said.

"Students should write what they want, within the law," Deckard said.

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TWISTER 1:15, 4:00, 7:15, 9:50 PG-13

THE ROCK 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 10:00 R

HUNCHBACK OF NOTRE DAME 12:00, 2:15, 4:30, 6:45, 9:00 G

ALL SHOWS BEFORE 6pm \$3.00 STEREO EASTGATE 6 Eastgate Center 254-5289

THE CABLE GUY 2:30, 5:15, 7:45, 9:30, 10:00 PG-13

Independence Day 12:30, 3:45, 7:00, 10:00 PG-13

Phenomenon 1:15, 4:00, 6:45, 9:30 PG

THE NUTTY PROFF 12:00, 2:15, 4:30, 7:15, 9:40 PG-13

HUNCHBACK OF NOTRE DAME 2:00, 2:45, 4:15, 6:30, 8:45, G

The Rock 1:45, 5:00, 8:00 R

ALL SHOWS BEFORE 6pm \$3.50 QUAD CINEMA 5700 N. Belt West 233-1220

Phenomenon 1:30, 4:15, 7:15, 9:50 PG

Independence Day 12:30, 3:45, 7:00, 10:00 PG-13

ERASER 1:45, 4:45, 7:30, 10:00 R

HUNCHBACK OF NOTRE DAME 12:00, 2:15, 4:30, 6:45, 9:00 G

ALL SEATS \$1.00 THE RITZ 403 E. Main, Belleville 233-3536

Flipper 7:00, 9:15 PG

JAMES & THE GIANT PEACH 6:45, 8:45 PG

Primal Fear 7:15, 10:00 R

ALL SEATS \$1.75 CINE' 400 Central Ave., Roxanna 254-6746

TWISTER 1:30, 4:15, 7:00, 9:45 PG-13

ALL SEATS \$1.75 NAMEOKI CINEMA Granite City 877-6630

MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 2:00, 4:30, 7:15, 9:50 PG-13

TWISTER 1:45, 4:15, 7:00, 9:40 PG-13

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CORRECTION

The bookstore ad published in the June 26th edition of the *Alestle* featured incorrect dates for cap and gown measurement.

The correct dates are July 5th and 8th. For more information, please contact the bookstore.

In last week's issue of the sports page we reported that Doug Flach was an SIUE graduate who beat Andre Agassi at Wimbledon. Instead of Flach being a graduate of SIUE, it was his brother.

In last week's issue, incorrect dates were given for the opening date of the movie "Phenomenon." The date read Wednesday July 1; it should be Wednesday July 3.

Classes the day after ...

By Darryl Howlett, News Editor and Melanie Adams, Editor in Chief

Having classes right after the fourth of July never seems to be justified by the university. Students are given one joyous day off only to have to return to class the following day.

This year it is really difficult to understand why classes are being held on Friday. Most students, as well as faculty, probably want to go out of town for the weekend. Certainly, marfy students take this time to journey to their hometowns.

Not only that, but for many students who hold jobs this summer this is the only time they have to relax and enjoy themselves.

Besides, it seems to be common knowledge that during five-week courses in the summer, tests are scheduled every Friday. However, since we will be off Thursday and the week is shortened, instructors are faced with the issue of whether to test or not to test this Friday.

I am sure that at least a few of the instructors are saying that they will just cancel

this week's test and make Friday a lecture day.

However, there are instructors who want to give their students another grade opportunity and are scheduling the end of the week test. This puts a strain on them, as well as the students.

As a result, the instructor has to push all of Thursday's material for the test onto Wednesday, and students are being forced to spend their Independence Day studying for Friday's test.

Both, students and faculty alike, would benefit more from cancelling class. Teachers wouldn't have to grade or prepare a lecture and students would not have to drive half of an hour or more to take a test or receive a lecture that they are not ready for.

Basically, having classes the day after Independence Day is ludicrous. Maybe the best students and staff can hope for is to have an alien invasion similar to the movie "Independence Day." If we're lucky they could kidnap us and return us just before the start of classes on Monday.

So long to open parking during break

By Darryl Howlett
News Editor

The university took another step in eliminating "free" parking on campus. In a memo to the University Community from the Vice Chancellor of Administration Ken Neher, it was stated that effective July 1 open parking during breaks was terminated.

This came only after a year when the university made lot 13 into a pay lot. Now the university has a firm grip on yet another parking space in which to charge students.

Currently free parking is still allowed on the visitor's pay lot during weekends. However, that too may become a thing of the past.

With the money generated from parking fees, the university should have no problems in fixing such embarrassments as the roads and

streets inside Tower Lake Apartments.

However, we're sure the university will come up with some excuse to create more reasons for students to pay for previous free items.

Several months ago, when increases in student parking were first brought to the attention of the student government body, Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs Narbeth Emmanuel, told the body that free parking still exists in one area on campus. The area of which he was talking about was the lot by the track and soccer field stadium!

So students and staff if you want free parking, to our knowledge, that lot is still open for now. However, the way the university works these days, don't be surprised if a charge will go into riding the MCT buses.

Summer Camps a go

By Darryl Howlett
News Editor

The SIUE community should take great pride in knowing that several hundred students in the area are taking part in camps being offered by the university this summer.

Whether it be a math and science, soccer, basketball or leadership camps, they all provide young minds a chance to develop skills. These camps are not only teaching students leadership skills, but they also give them opportunities to work in teams and try to solve some of life's little problems. The camps provide alternatives for young people before the dangers of drugs, alcohol, and low self-esteem try to take hold.

For several years the university has taken upon itself the task of providing this outlet for students to achieve excellence. Young students from all over the St. Louis Metro area participate.

Just this past week the university held a high school leadership institute, giving high school

students the opportunities to have their minds molded. This can bring a positive effect not only to the University Community, but to the local community as well.

Another aspect about the camps is that when young students become familiar with a university at a young age, chances are they will want to go to that same college in the future.

Another area in which the students can learn at these camps is diversity. Students of all different races and cultures can learn to work together to erase the stereotypes that many might have of others. The sooner these young people can learn to interact with one another the better!

And even though the younger generation may cause longer lines in the cafeteria and Union Station, the camps are worth it.

We hope the university continues to provide leadership opportunities by offering different camps to area youths. Not only are they our future, but they are SIUE's future as well.

DESPITE BEING STUCK IN CLASS, STUDENTS ARE STILL TRYING TO CELEBRATE THEIR INDEPENDENCE...



Letters to the editor policy:

Please submit letters typewritten in 500 words or less. Please include phone number and signature.

We reserve the right to edit letters to the editor.

Letters to the editor will not be printed anonymously except under extreme circumstances.

The Alestle is a member of the Illinois College Press Association.

The name Alestle is an acronym derived from the names of the three campus locations of SIUE: Alton, East St. Louis and Edwardsville.

The Alestle is published on Tuesdays and Thursdays during fall and spring semesters, and on Wednesdays during summer semesters. For more information, call (618)692-3528.

News

Editor-Darryl Howlett
Assistant- Danette Watt

Photo

Editor- Vacant
Assistant- Vacant

Lifestyle

Editor- Melissa Mills
Assistant- Vacant

Sports

Editor-Todd Spann
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Copy Editors

Chief-Shawna Thomas
Radha Pasupuleti

Production Assistant
Vacant

Advertising Department

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The Alestle
Campus Box 1167
Edwardsville IL, 62026-1167

'I am free, I am free, I am free'

End of an era: Journalism program founded by William Ward

Forty years of teaching comes to an end

story by Melissa Mills / Lifestyle Editor

photos provided by Bob Fehringer and Mary Butkus



Imagine an SIUE classroom with pale yellow walls and a carpet of multiple brown tones. Imagine five students in that classroom. Two women. Three men. Imagine the professor in that classroom standing at a podium. Of the five seats in the front of that classroom, only one is filled by a student. Two are empty and the other two are occupied by bookbags instead of students. The other four students are spaced out in the second and third rows.

Imagine that same classroom during the middle

of a lecture. One student sucks on a lollipop; he occasionally sips from a black and yellow "Wild Thing" cup from Hucks and then sets it back down on the desk in front of him. The ice clinks hollowly on the cup's plastic sides. Another student sets down her pen to check out her nails. The other three students take notes at times and at other times set their pens down on their notebooks.

Sound like a typical classroom atmosphere here at SIUE? Maybe in some buildings. But this classroom is a little different on this summer day. It's different for two reasons. The first is because it's the last classroom that William Gates Ward will ever be teaching in after more than 40 years of teaching, 27 of which have been here at SIUE.

67-year-old Ward will be leaving Illinois and his teaching career behind in order to move on to a new career of writing in northern Virginia. But he's not nervous about this new phase of his life. In fact, he said he's eager about marketing his new books and getting back into writing.

Ward said that the biggest thing for him to do now after his career as a teacher is to land running. So, now that he's landed from his four-decade long teaching career, he's already started sprinting in a new direction.

"I don't look at this as retiring because I could teach more years. I look at it more like leaving teaching to hopefully do some other things while I can still do them. So I don't look at it at all as retirement. I look at it as leaving one thing for another," Ward said.

And leaving one thing for another is just what

Ward has done for his whole life it seems. And each time he lands, he just keeps on running. Ward started his run as a child when he would beg for money just to buy a newspaper. Then he would read it. From cover to cover.

"I used to go beg pennies. Go stand in front of a store and beg pennies from everybody who would come out till I got three pennies and then I'd race to the paperboy and buy a St. Paul Pioneer Press. That's when I could read, which would be about, what, the second grade. And I've read every night. Ernest Hemingway used to say he saw in his lifetime every sun come up, which is kind of a hyperbole. I think every night of my life I have read to a certain amount."

Already well versed in the world of newspapers, Ward began writing at the age of 15 when he worked as a sports writer for the Free Press in Mankato, Minn. Since then, he has held almost every position in the field of mass communications: essayist, columnist, reporter, editor, sports promoter, photographer and eventually teacher of mass communications. But, he said, his favorite thing has always been reporting and writing.

"I've always wanted to write. As long as I can remember, I've wanted to write. In other words, I can't remember when I haven't wanted to write. So in my day, newspapers were the place where you went to write. Talking about the Depression '30s. It's where you went to write," Ward said.

And write he did. He wrote so much that so far he has had 16 books published. He is currently working on two additional books. One of the books

is about the literature of journalism, which he has been working on for about 10 years. His most recent project has been a book-length collection of poems. He gave himself one year from last July to finish his book of poetry, which he said is now ready to be published.

"I've had more excitement the last year doing my book of poetry than I've ever had in any kind of writing," Ward said.

So after all this writing, just how did he get into teaching? Well, aside from writing, Ward does have one other love of his life: basketball.

So he coached high school basketball for about eight years while he also taught high school history, English and Spanish. But he soon left high school teaching, went back to newspapers and was later offered a teaching position at Syracuse University where he stayed for three years. Then he moved on to Nevada where he taught for another three years. In 1968 he received a call from the head of the broadcast program, Dr. John Rider, who wanted Ward to establish a journalism program at SIUE.

And that project brought Ward to SIUE where he has remained for the past 27 years. Now, in 1996, he is the last of the department's founding faculty. So after several years of teaching as well as several years of a growing feeling of dissatisfaction with the educational system of today, Ward decided about four or five years ago to take his pension this year and move on to other things.

"I think university education has become boring, archaic, irrelevant, unproductive, bureaucratic, unexciting, unimportant and several other adjectives. So I guess I should get out."

But Ward is not getting out without leaving quite an impression on alumni of the journalism program, current students of the program and fellow faculty members. And that impression is related to his method of teaching. Which brings up the second reason that his last day in the classroom was not so typical for a "Ward classroom."

"Typical" for a Ward class involves discipline. No drinking. No eating. No blowing bubbles. No gum-chomping. No yawning. No sleeping. No sitting in the back of the classroom. No speaking unless

spoken to. No fooling around. No getting out of class early. And, most importantly, no excuses.

"I decided this summer—short five-week workshops—the last I'm ever going to be teaching, that I'd play the other game: understanding, soft, relenting. First thing that happened was all the coolers came out; everybody sat there sipping and slurping. People would come in and take off their shoes and sit there barefooted. People would go to sleep and, of course, I wouldn't wake them up because I'm now an understanding teacher. So people would come in, put their heads down and sleep. Everybody sat in back, so far that I had to have my glasses changed so I could see them. Half the class would have their assignments done and the other half would never turn them in, would not even give me excuses."

So much for being an understanding



I've always wanted to write. As long as I can remember, I've wanted to write. I can't remember when I haven't wanted to write.

... no more scribble I have to grade, no more attentions that quickly fade, no more learning becoming retrograde, no more protests over failing grades ...
— William Ward, 'Ode to liberation day'

free' der leaves; s to a close

teacher, he added. "It just doesn't work for me."

So what did work? Well, for some students his demanding ways worked quite well. Yet for others, especially about seven students who filed grievances against him, they didn't work so well.

David Wagner, who graduated in December 1995 and is now an advertising sales representative for Pulitzer Technologies, said that he thought Ward's teaching technique was very interesting because it was one that he had never seen before.

"He simply demanded a high level of performance out of students because he knew he could get it if he demanded it, and he kept a standard of ethics and everything in the class a little high. He demanded deadlines. He demanded good work and he'd throw it back at you if you didn't give what he knew that you could do. And I guess in a lot of ways...you could compare his teaching style, I guess, to that of a coach. Because a good coach is always on your butt to dig something more out of you and often times you don't quite understand what the heck it is they're trying to do, but you look back on it in the long run and realize he was just kicking you in your butt like a lot of parents would do," Wagner said.

Another student of the mass communications program, Dan Kasten, advertising coordinator for *The Alestle*, said that he didn't agree with Ward's method of teaching. In fact, Kasten was one of the students who filed a grievance against Ward, but he later dropped it because of personal reasons.

"I did not agree with the way he taught because for me, having been in the professional work force for a long time and coming back to work on my graduate degree, his unorthodox methods of not handing out a syllabus and handing projects back two, three and four times didn't work for me. Once you've been out in the professional work force, you get it right the first time. As a result, I didn't learn much in his class except for what he demanded," Kasten said. But, he added, "I will forever say that he has a wealth of knowledge for anyone who has the patience to learn from him."

Ward said that he knows he has been a source of contention for many students as well as administrators and other faculty members. But, he said, he's ready to take what he gives.

"I also don't think the impression should be given that I'm one of those individuals, one of those hypocrites, who criticizes but doesn't take it in return because all the years I've been

June 15 proclaimed official 'Bill Ward day'

Alumni of the SIUE mass communications program held a surprise party at Stagger Inn in Edwardsville for Professor William Ward on Saturday, June 15 to bid him goodbye and good luck. The party eventually moved to Shenanigans in Edwardsville. Although Ward is not one for sentiment, the surprise shindig meant a lot to him: "...it was totally unexpected. ... It was just journalism graduates got on the network across the country. So they had them come in from California to Carolina, about 125 of them. That pleased me. Totally motivated and directed and produced by students. So that was meaningful. And they gave me a nice little portfolio of letters from them. That was nice." Among goodbye gifts was an official document signed by Gov. Jim Edgar declaring June 15 as 'Bill Ward day.'

In the photos below, Ward poses with some of his previous students.

In the photo on the left, Rick Pearson presents Ward with the document proclaiming June 15, 1996 as 'Bill Ward day.'

In the photo on the right, Ward poses with members of a former Alestle staff. From left to right starting at the back are Mary Butkus, Larry Libberton, Kelly Brooks, Alice Noble, Nancy Behrns, Bill Plaschke, Jim Roche, Tom Seal, Bill Ward and Rick Pearson.

here I've been a source of great amounts of criticism. So it's not a case that I give it out and don't get it in return. Our faculty chairperson has told me that I am by far the most complained-about teacher on the faculty," Ward said. "I even had a chairperson that used to tell me to get out of the faculty, leave," he said with a laugh.

But, Ward added, his tough tactics and high pressure methods are simply a part of his teaching technique and also a product of the eight years he spent as a high school basketball coach.

"Most of the students that I have worked with, most of them, not all, but most of the students I have worked with over the years I have been here are people of great potential who, for some reason or other, have never developed that potential. So one of my best techniques for forcing that potential to the surface is pressure. And it works, at least for me. Never could do it by coaxing."

So Ward didn't coax during his teaching career and he didn't budge. He also wouldn't quibble over grades once they had been submitted and the term was over. Policies like these have made Ward's most memorable moments of SIUE those involving confrontations with students. But, he said, these kind of confrontations go along with the territory of his teaching style. So how did he deal with all the criticism? You have to have a certain amount of ego, he said. He added that eight years of basketball coaching has allowed him to build up ego to withstand the criticism.

"So you have to have a lot of ego, but you also have got to be able to objectively evaluate, and we had lots of objective feedback that we were doing something right. And I did come out of the profession, so I know my profession. ... So I had the professional background that I could use, too."

Although students like Wagner and Kasten may not agree on his method of teaching,

they do agree on one thing: Ward knows his stuff.. Not only is he good at what he does,

but he likes what he does, too. Wagner outlined the first thing that comes to his mind when he thinks of his experience with Ward: "As soon as I think of Bill Ward I think of his passion for what it was that he did, and he didn't half-step on anything. So he was very passionate about what he did. If you could observe one of his hour-long lectures it would really make you sit up and go, 'wow, that was interesting.' He was very passionate about what he did. He really, really believed that he was making a difference, and he really was."

And obviously Ward has made some kind of difference despite all the confrontations and

Nobody can do it for you. Nobody can do it to you. If you get down to the bottom line, you become what you want to become.

grievances. If he hadn't, he would not have been awarded with the 1984 SIUE Teacher of the Year award as well as the 1972 Associated Collegiate Press "Pioneer of Journalism" award.

On his way out though, Ward has not only left impressions, both good and bad, on students and faculty, but also a few words of wisdom:

"Well, ultimately, bottom line, pretty much you are what you want to be; so it all comes down to your own motivation and independence. That's what it ultimately is. Nobody can do it for you. Nobody can do it to you. If you get down to the bottom line, you become what you want to become."

On his last "atypical" day of teaching, Ward lets his last class go 30 minutes early. He walks down the Communications Building hallway for one of the last times to his office. He has landed from teaching, but he's still running. Just like he always has.





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Supervisor of Print and Design shop wins first place for university brochure

By Melanie Adams
Editor In Chief

Thomas Ostresh, supervisor of Graphics Design in the U.C. Print/Design Shop has worked for SIUE as professional staff for 12 years and in that time has received many awards for his performance.

His current award, first place for a brochure he designed for the U.C., won at the Illinois College Union Mid-Management Workshop (ICUMMW). It is one of which he is especially proud. The award was presented to him during the workshop for "excellence in graphic arts for the promotion of campus activities."

"The workshop and graphics competition at the workshop is designed for universities in Region 9," Ostresh said, "Universities such as Eastern, Western, Carbondale and U of I get together and show each other our designs,

basically to show each other what types of graphics they are competing against."

Ostresh said that SIUE entered several pieces, from posters to brochures, and that what he gained from the experience was pride in his work.

"It makes me feel good to see quality hired by the university. It is good to know that others, not always the people you work for, but different people from other universities, appreciate my work. It makes me feel like I am on the right track," Ostresh said.

Other universities involved in the workshop and competition were: Eastern Illinois University, Illinois State University, Northern Illinois University, Northwestern University, Southern Illinois University at Carbondale, University of Illinois at Chicago, University of Illinois at Champaign and Western Illinois University.

Do you like to write? If so, then we need you!
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Metro East hosts Prairie State Games for second year

By Todd Spann
Sports Editor

It was a weekend full of last-second goals, monstrous dunks, record-breaking track and field performances and plenty of fun.

It was the weekend of the Prairie State Games.

For the second year in a row, SIUE has been home to several exciting venues like scholastic basketball, soccer, volleyball and track and field for all the talented, amateur athletes in the state of Illinois.

The Games official headquarters are in Fairview Hts, IL, but all the events are scattered throughout the Metro-East.

For years the Games were held in Champaign and then for one year moved to Peoria. Now with the last two years under their belts it looks like the Prairie State Games have found a home in the Metro-East.

"The Metro area did a great job with hosting the Games. Prairie State has found a home here and I hope it stays here for years to come," Jack Margenthaler, SIUE's head basketball coach and chairman of the basketball venue, said Monday morning.

But when it comes down to it, the athletes are the ones who make the Games what they are. Whether it was in swimming or basketball, the competition was fierce.

"I saw some great ballgames. The coaches did a great job of putting together some good teams in a

short period of time, Margenthaler said. "The Games give a player a chance to compete with the top players in the State. And it also gives them some experience they don't usually get in the regular season."



Women's volleyball was one of the main events at the Prairie State Games.
Jeremy Paschall/ for the Alestle

When you have top players in one spot, usually you get top performances. And there were no exceptions this time.

Winning three golds and a silver in the track and field venue, Travis Roundcount of SIUE showed off some Cougar pride.

"Travis won the 1,500, 5,000, 800 and took second in the 400. He ran strong races, not really outstanding by his standards, but he looked good throughout the weekend," Darryl Frerker, SIUE track and field head coach and chairman of the track and field venue, said Tuesday afternoon.

Another strong track and field performance was by SIUE's Vicki Johnson who took the gold in the 3,000 meter run.

In soccer, it was SIUE's Jason Turkington who scored the lone goal for the Southern team to win the bronze medal in the men's open.

With about eight minutes left in the game, Turkington fired in what eventually would turn out to be the game-winning goal.

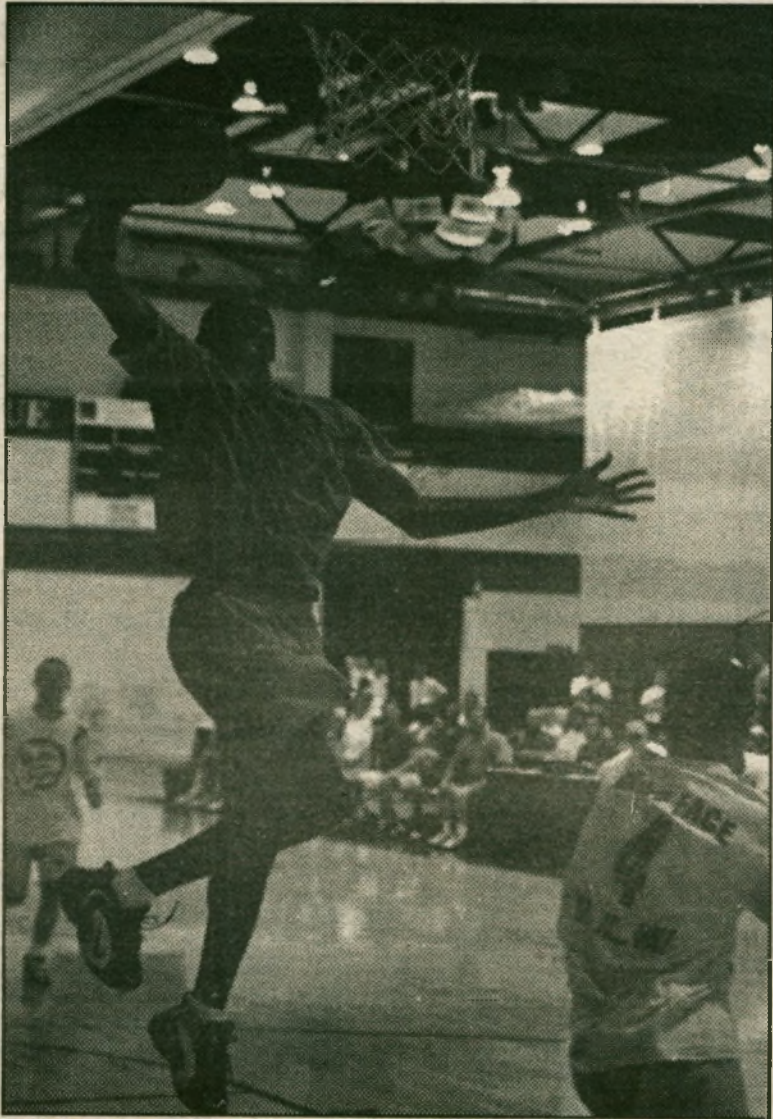
In the end, when all the athletes went home and the stands were cleaned up, the coaches felt good about what took place over the weekend.

"The important factors were the athletes. The events went smoothly, everybody got their results and that's the important thing," Frerker said. "I felt outside of the small internal problems, the meet went very well."

Medal winners

Main events held at SIUE

Basketball		Southern I		0 (Silver)	
		West Central		5 (Bronze)	
Men's scholastic		Blue Gray		1	
Gold Game		Women's scholastics			
North Shore I		West Central		3 (Gold)	
West Central		Pioneer		1 (Silver)	
Bronze Game		North Shore		2 (Bronze)	
Southern		Southern		0	
North Shore II					
Women's scholastic					
Gold Game		Women's open			
Southern		Southern I		15 15 (Gold)	
West Central		Pioneer		10 7 (Silver)	
Bronze Game		Blue Gray		15 15 (Bronze)	
North Shore		Blackhawk		10 6	
Southern II		Men's open			
		Willco		10 15 15 (Gold)	
		Southern I		15 4 11 (Silver)	
		Blue Gray		15 15 (Bronze)	
		West Central		8 5	
		Women's scholastic			
		Southern II		15 15 (Gold)	
		North Shore		3 10 (Silver)	
		Blue Gray		5 15 15 (Bronze)	
		Blackhawk		15 10 9	
		Men's scholastic			
		North Shore		15 9 15 (Gold)	
		Pioneer		6 15 8 (Silver)	
		Windy City		15 15 (Bronze)	
		West Central		4 4	



Men's scholastic basketball tipped off in the Vadalabene Center this weekend as they fought for a medal in the Prairie State Games.
Jeremy Paschall/for the Alestle

