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WEATHER

Today: Stormy 88/74°
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The Alestle

ALTON, EAST ST. LOUIS & EDWARDSVILLE

THE KILLING DANCE

Corey Stulce reviews Laurel Hamilton's newest tome about vampires in St. Louis.



Special services receives an increase in funds

■ By LEAH HOLBROOK
 NEWS EDITOR

SIUE'S special services program will receive \$223,685 from the Department of Education's Student Support Services Program.

Earleen Patterson, director of special services, said the program is designed to assist a specific segment of the student population. The special services program is a branch of SIUE's Student Support Service Program that is directed towards assisting first generation college students, low income students, and students with low testing scores. The services provided include academic counseling and advising, tutorial service, career guidance, mentoring and financial

aid assistance.

Patterson said the focus of their services is directed towards freshman and sophomores. However, Patterson said with the increase in funds the program may now be able to pursue students as they enter their declared programs. The funding this year is an increase of \$8,603.

"We were very excited when U.S. Sen. Carol Moseley-Braun, D-Ill., called to inform us that we had received the funds," Patterson said.

Terrell Martin, director of academic counseling and advising, said this grant has given the program permission to retain underclassmen in the program to graduation.

"This shows the government's faith in the work we've



Michael La Rue/Alestle

On the left Earleen Patterson, program director of special services, works with staff, tutors, graduate assistants, and students.

done here," Martin said.

Patterson said the increase in funds was not based on a request made by the university, but was granted by the govern-

ment based on the success of the program.

"Patterson has taken this program into heights we never expected," Martin said.

The special services program is limited to serving only 400 students as stipulated by

see Special page 2

SIUE's East St. Louis Center develops plans for a new facility

■ By LADAWN YOUNG
 NEWS REPORTER

SIUE's East St. Louis Center will be developing plans for a complete replacement of its existing facility that

“

A new facility being built in East St. Louis would demonstrate a total commitment toward the improvement of quality of life and enhance the system at SIUE's East St. Louis Center,”

**Willie Epps,
 director of SIUE
 East St. Louis Center**

will better house the Center's programs and fulfill staff needs.

The former 1920s Broadview Hotel has seen years of slow deterioration. Gloria Atkins, SIU assistant

vice chancellor for administration at Edwardsville, said past efforts to make the building suitable for the staff and the Center's programs have become too expensive.

"We have invested quite a bit of money into renovating the facility," Atkins said. "Within the next few years we estimate that if we remain in that facility we will have to do repairs that probably will total close to \$5 million."

In order to upgrade the building to meet the Center's needs, total costs are estimated at more than \$11.2 million. Willie Epps, director of SIUE East St. Louis Center, said a new facility for the programs run from the center would have many benefits.

"A new facility being built in East St. Louis would demonstrate a total commitment toward the improvement of quality of life and enhance the system at SIU," Epps said. "It

would also allow us to custom design a facility closely correlated with the programs we have and operate them in a much more cost effective way."

The SIU Center works with people who have not yet enrolled in a post-secondary education and is also home of the Katherine Dunham Center of the Performing Arts. School officials said housing computer labs, testing facilities, science labs and art studios are but a few of the reasons the East St. Louis Center will need better facilities for its programs in the coming future.

SIU has recently been granted \$400,000 in state appropriations that will be used to help solve the problem. Atkins said the money will be used to hire an architectural firm to lay out the plans for a new building to replace the existing center.

"We are very pleased that

see East St. Louis, page 2

International Calligraphy and the Lettering Arts Conference comes to SIUE

■ By LEAH HOLBROOK
 NEWS EDITOR

The International Conference of Calligraphy and The Lettering Arts will hold its 17th annual meeting at SIUE from July 26-Aug. 2.

Patricia Dresler, conference coordinator, said SIUE was chosen as the site of the conference because of its location near the confluence of the Mississippi and the Missouri rivers. Dresler said the location of SIUE was in harmony with the focus of the conference.

"This year we are forming an international organization to create a mighty river of calligraphers," Dresler said. "The theme of the conference is a confluence, where the participants can create and share together."

The International Association of Calligraphic Arts will be formed at this conference bringing together representatives from Japan,

Australia, South Africa, Kenya, Europe, Canada, and the United States. Dresler said the conference is open to the public, and people can come to share ideas and create new works. The conference will feature workshops, exhibits, trade shows, shops, symposiums, lectures, and special programs. The exhibits and trade shows are free of charge. Some of the exhibits that will occur during the conference are the following:

"Review '97: a Confluence of the Lettering Arts," which will be sponsored by Letter Arts Review and the SIUE museum.

A faculty sponsored exhibit. An exhibit showcasing the work created by participants in the conference.

A Hallmark exhibit, featuring Hallmark artist, Rick Cusick.

An exhibit hosted by the SIUE Lovejoy Library featur-

see Calligraphy, page 2

Calligraphy

from page 1

ing historical manuscripts.

The conference will also provide programs and lectures. The movie "Pillow Book" will be shown on July 27. Dresler said this film expresses a calligraphy theme and calligraphic art. The workshops range from one day workshops at the cost of \$5 to all week workshops at the cost of \$400.

SIUE associate professor of English, Allison Funk, will read her poem, "Living at the

Epicenter," on July 29. Dresler said three artists have been commissioned to create works of art that render their interpretations of Funk's poem, and a panel discussion will occur after the reading.

SIUE associate professor of jewelry and metalsmithing, Paulette Myers, will conduct a four day workshop on "Jewelry Making for Calligraphers." The workshop will create jewelry making techniques through the

medium of the alphabet.

Dresler said the world premier calligrapher, Donald Jackson, will give a lecture on July 31 about his current project of creating a handwritten bible with illustrations. Jackson's project will be the first handwritten bible in 500 years.

For more information call (314) 535-5515 or (618) 692-3831.

East St. Louis

from page 1

we got the \$400,000," Atkins said. "It will go a long way towards accomplishing our goals."

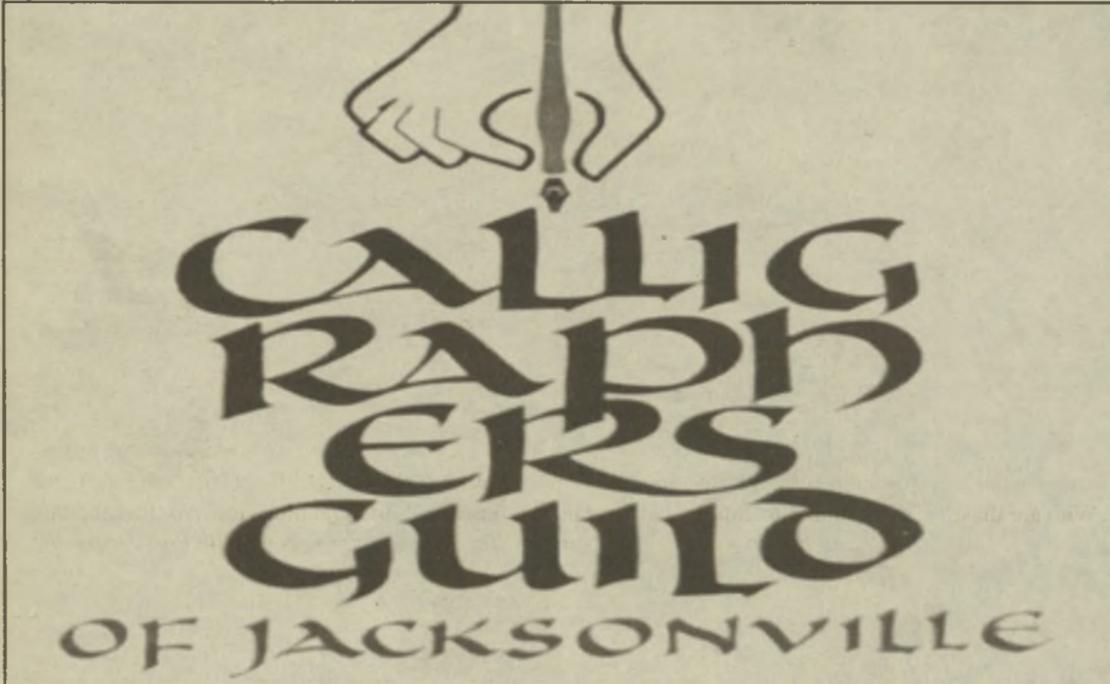
The Center's goals are to obtain plans and specifications for the new building. Once the actual cost of the new facility is known, requests to the state will be refined.

"As of now we are still submitting the old dollar amount estimated for renovations," Epps said.

"However, our tentative plans are that we will acquire another parcel of land very close to where the facility is now located."

Epps said he is looking forward to planning for a new facility.

"With a new facility, it gives us a chance to look at where we've been and where we want to go for the future," Epps said.



Michael La Rue/Alestle

Banner hanging above Goshen Lounge in the University Center that represents one of the groups that will attend the International Calligraphy and Lettering Arts Conference.

Special

from page 1

the federal funding. The program currently has a waiting list of 50 students. However, special services has extended its program by including a volunteer-based faculty mentoring program. The program also includes graduate students tutoring upperclassmen.

"We always try and stretch the dollar as far as it will go," Martin said.

Patterson said the volunteers were wonderful, but more are needed to stretch the lifetime of the program. The program currently is functioning with 40 upperclassmen volunteers that are former members of the

program.

"These juniors and seniors have navigated the pitfalls underclassmen could fall into, and they volunteer to be mentors for freshmen," Patterson said.

Patterson said the program has received a tremendous amount of outside the classroom support, and the success of the students proves that it works.

The increased funds will be effective Sept. 1, and the funds are allocated to support the program for the next four years.

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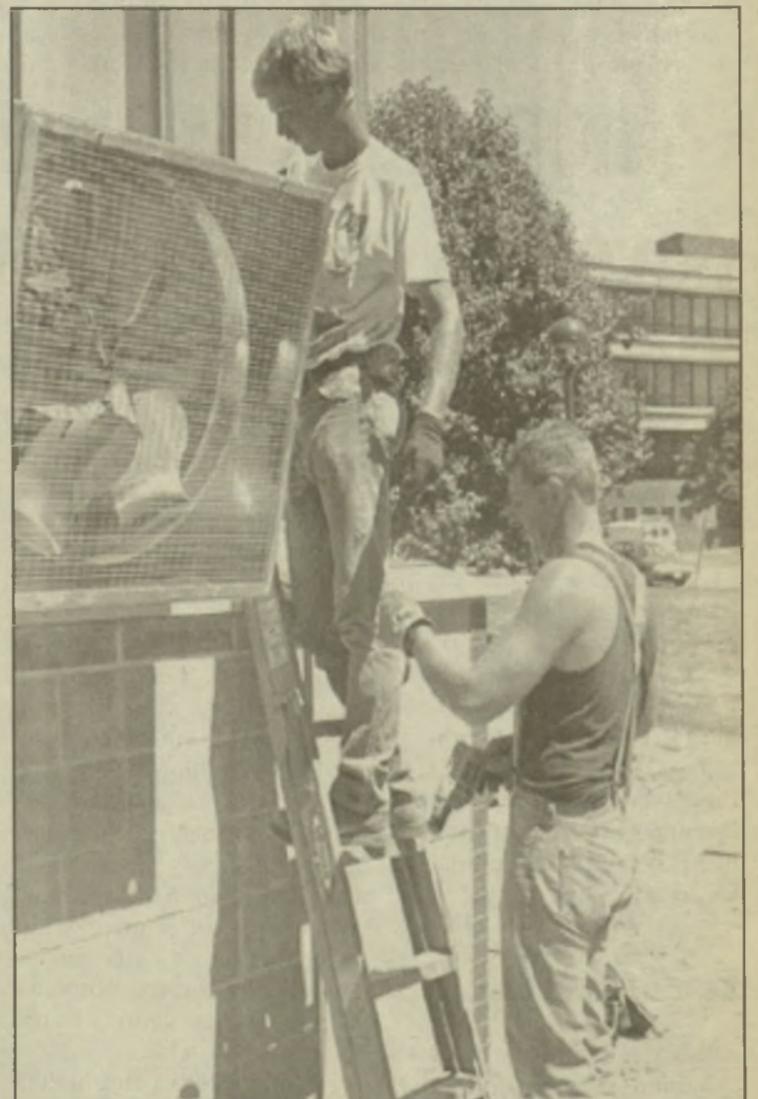


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Tom Hockett/Alestle

On the left, Kevin Lunsford and on the right, Richard Jones are installing a ventilation fan in the greenhouse being constructed in front of the science building by the Lunsford Greenhouse Construction from Eagle Rock, Mo.

Commentary

Editor challenges apathy on SIUE campus

Last week I received a letter of complaint about Lifestyle Editor Corey Stulce and the content of his columns. Unfortunately, I am unable to print it because it was sent to me anonymously, which is contrary to our editorial policy as outlined in the gray box below, and signed only "A Concerned Professor."

However, since I cannot answer this person on a one-to-one basis, I can share with the readers of the *Alestle* some of his or her comments and my responses to them.

First, it is cowardly of you to make a formal complaint to the *Alestle* without signing your name. Whether or not you believe Mr. Stulce's columns had substance, he at least is willing to sign his name to something he believes in and allows the SIUE population at large the chance to praise or criticize him.

Second, yours is the only letter of criticism the

Alestle has received concerning Mr. Stulce's columns. Your views would have had much more impact had you asked each individual you spoke for to write his or her own letter and sign it.

Third, you did not specifically challenge any particular item of Mr. Stulce's column. You spoke only in generalities that "he seems to revell [sic] in reporting about sexual traits that many of us find offensive." You went on to say that he writes about music, shows, lifestyles and actions that "many of us find offensive." As a "concerned professor," are you aware that the university's policy on diversity suggests harmony, agreement and unity?

Fourth, we have been advertising for reporters and copy editors - why don't you have several of your stu-

dents apply and give us the benefit of your knowledge?

Fifth, the *Alestle* is a college newspaper and, therefore, tries to represent the student population at large. If people are unhappy with what they read in the paper they should get off their apathy and say so.

Sixth, there were a multitude of spelling, grammar and punctuation mistakes in your letter. Please remember, when you criticize another you'd better look pretty good yourself.

As editor in chief, it is my philosophy that the section editors can cover the stories they deem worthy for college students to read. If anyone wants to make suggestions to Mr. Stulce, they are more than welcome to do so.

Rebecca Hopkins
Editor in Chief

Stulce defends style and content of writing

In reference to the anonymous letter:

First of all, I would like to say that anonymity is cowardice.

The real problem I have with your letter is the generic statements you make. You have accused me of writing tabloid-style articles when, in fact, you have written a tabloid-style letter, full of statements without one source to your credit. Who are these people who are so offended and disgusted by my writing and what writings in particular do they find offensive? I would hope the many articles I have written about organizations like GLOBAL and SETO didn't offend them. If you are referring to my columns, please say so.

I would like the public to know that my job at the *Alestle* is not simply to offend people with my so-called smut. I have a difficult task as Lifestyle Editor. Not only am I responsible for trying to design an attractive layout for the section, complete with graphics, I also have to coordinate story inclusion. If I don't have writers working for me, I have to report, write and edit the stories myself (with the help of our great copy editor, Rhoda). I also have to think about the future of the section and plan for future issues.

I would like to take this opportunity to do two things. First, I would like to make an open call to anyone who is interested in writing, or even submitting ideas for the section, to do so. If what I put into the section isn't your idea of how this university's Lifestyle section should be, please, by all means, send in ideas. I am open to suggestions, and I could use the break in the workload. I try to put in a variety of stories, many of which involve things that are interesting to me. The only way to write well is to write what you know. But, when a suggestion is made to me, and I feel it will add positively to the section, I will take it. I recently did an article about a lecturer on campus who is an active participant in a Harley-Davidson club. I am not a Harley rider, but it was an interesting story, so I covered it.

The second thing is to find out what the readers, in general, think of the section and my writing. If there are so many concerned professors, alumni and students who think what I do is disgusting smut, I would like to hear from them. Like I said, I am open to suggestion. I am only a student, and I am still learning, so instead of blasting me, try helping me as teachers should do. However, if there are those who do like my writing and the section, I would like to hear from them also. The "Concerned Professor" suggested a poll, and I am very interested in seeing the results.

I have already received ten times more positive reinforcement from my writing than I have negative. I most recently received an e-mail from an alumnus from Malaysia who thought my column on masturbation broke journalistic ground for SIUE. Also, syndicated columnist Elaine Viets remarked that she thought the article

was certainly appropriate for a college campus newspaper. I'm not trying to toot my own horn, just protecting my name.

Now, back to the Concerned Professor's letter. You must have some sort of misinformation about how a journalist gets a job. A portfolio, as I have been taught by our Mass Communications staff, is tailored for each individual interview. Would I include my masturbation column when applying for a reporting position at the *Post-Dispatch*? Probably not. I would, however, include it if I were to apply for a writing position at *Details* magazine. You see, editors don't want to see everything you have done, just what is pertinent to them.

The hard part of writing this reply is I have no idea to whom I am writing. You refer to yourself as "we" so many times, I'm wondering if a group wrote this letter or just a schizophrenic. You say students are afraid to take the paper home for fear their parents will think it reflects badly on SIUE. I hope our students and parents are brighter than that. Each of my articles has a by-line. My columns are simply my opinion and, in no way, reflect the opinions of the university. You also say that I only write about bizarre things and that I should write about things that involve the majority of our students' lifestyles. Well, the majority of our students are not gay, nor ride bikes, nor involved in Greek organizations, nor black leadership. Are you saying these topics should not be covered in the paper because they do not reflect the majority of the campus? For your information, I have done stories on all those topics in the last six months. I also write stories on new and interesting things in the entertainment world. If every topic isn't your cup of tea, you don't have to read it. If you would like to see stories on centuries-old music and classical literature, give me an angle. I'm not doing research papers, I'm doing feature stories.

I would encourage you to do more research and think before you ever write another letter like this, if only to avoid future embarrassment. It is obvious to me that you have only read a few of my columns, and because you did not necessarily agree with some of my ideas, you were inclined to write this letter. I do, contrary to your belief, get edited and censored on occasion. I will hang your letter up on the bulletin board next to my desk, like I did with the only other negative letter I have received over the last year, to remind me that I cannot please everyone.

Please feel free to respond again, but only if you will sign your name. If I can have the courage to stand behind my opinions with my name and picture, I have to expect the same from others.

Corey Stulce
Lifestyle Editor

Letters to the editor policy:

The editors, staff and publishers of the *Alestle* believe in the free exchange of ideas, concerns and opinions and will publish as many letters to the editor as possible. All letters should be typed and double-spaced and be no longer than 500 words. Please include your phone number, signature and social security number.

We reserve the right to edit letters for grammar and content. However, great care will be taken to ensure that the message of the letter is not lost or altered.

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.

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- News EditorLeah Holbrook
- Lifestyle EditorCorey Stulce
- Sports EditorTodd Spann
- Chief Copy EditorRhoda T. Harpe
- Graphics AsslstantMichael LaRue
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and Joanne Small
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The Alestle
Campus Box 1167
Edwardsville, Ill. 62026-1167
<http://www.siu.edu/ALESTLE/Alestle.html>

Thrill of the hunt



Laurel Hamilton has released six novels about Anita Blake, a vampire huntress living in St. Louis.

■By COREY STULCE
LIFESTYLE EDITOR

Some people are unaware that a license is required for vampire hunting in Laurel Hamilton's world.

It's true, though, vampire hunters must be licensed through the state, just as doctors and teachers are. They must also have a court order of execution, otherwise it's considered murder. It's really the only way to be civilized in her world.

"The Killing Dance" is the sixth novel author Laurel Hamilton has released starring her heroine (and possible alter ego) Anita Blake. Blake is a vampire hunter, and in "Dance" she is dating both a master vampire and a werewolf. Confused? Well, it's all just a part of the vast world Hamilton has created for her characters, and it just happens to be smack dab in the middle of St. Louis.

Hamilton has taken a very original stab at the world of vampires taking away some of their mystery and making her main character a human.

"To my knowledge, I'm the only one who has a world where everyone knows that vampires and werewolves and zombies are real and you just have to deal with that," Hamilton said.

Anita Blake is mortal, but she also uses necromancy, which Hamilton describes as someone who has the power to raise the dead. "For Anita, though, it goes back to the old legend, that they [necromancers] have all power over the dead," Hamilton said.

Since Hamilton writes her Anita Blake books in the first person, it is easy to assume that some of Hamilton might be in Anita and vice-versa.

"We were more alike when I started the series. Anita's voice is very much like mine. Her mannerisms and speech are very close to mine," Hamilton said.

"I get more like Anita as I write. I don't cuss [but she does], and after a book it takes me about six weeks to stop. And I have a two and-a-half year old, so I really have to work on that because she can pick it up," she said.

Hamilton started writing when she was very young, and was lucky enough to sell the first book she ever wrote. With "Dance" she recently made the USA Today's bestseller list.

This has opened up many new doors for Hamilton, but she's taking the whole thing in stride. "The readership has grown, so I'm getting to play with more people now, which is nice. I recently had a signing and there were actually people waiting in line...[Success] lets me know that I'll be able to write Anita for as long as I want," she said.

Hamilton has finished the seventh Anita Blake novel and is working on the eighth, so she has gotten her writing process down to a science.

When she finishes a novel, she either makes notes for the next or even writes the first chapter. "When I start a new book, I don't have a blank screen staring back at me," Hamilton said.

Hamilton has done tons of research for her novels in the past so now she only has to do minimal research when starting a new book. She has always written her books the same way and she advises new authors to try it.

"When I wrote my first book...[I learned] the biggest thing to do is don't rewrite as you go, just do it. It can be the biggest pile of crap you saw, and after you're done you can fix it. If it's not real, you can't fix it," Hamilton said.

"The Hamilton rule of first draft is, 70 percent of any first draft is garbage, and 30 percent is keeper. But, you'll never get that 30 percent without the garbage," she said.

Hamilton writes with a lot of physical detail and paints the reader a very vivid picture of what characters and locations look like.

"I'm very visually and character oriented," said Hamilton. "It really bugs me in books if I don't know what a character looks like. I start with a name, I'm very name oriented. Once I have the physical description and the name, I can tell a lot about them. A good main character attracts good secondary characters and attracts good plot. I'm a charac-

ter-oriented writer. Everything comes from characters," she said.

With horror novels, fear and gore are going to come naturally, but Hamilton does not want gore to overshadow her stories.

"It has to be necessary gore, but it is in there. The best clue is the body at a murder scene, and they're pretty gory. It has to be necessary to the plot and necessary to the characters. Gore has to earn its place just like everything else in the book," Hamilton said.

She also discovered, doing research, that the things she was writing were not nearly as disturbing as some of the real things she was reading about.

"I could tell you some true crime stories that would scare you," Hamilton said. "Anytime I think what I'm doing is out there, and then I read what people are really doing, I'll think, 'I'll never top this.'"

With her new-found success, Hamilton is considering many things for the future. She has pondered about movies (her fans have even given her casting ideas) and comic books starring Anita Blake, but nothing is certain yet.

The only real certainty is that books starring Anita Blake will continue to surface.

"I have 15 more plots and each new book gives me ideas for more things," said Hamilton.

Apparently vampire hunting has become a very lucrative business.

Box Office Biggies

"Men in Black" hung on to the number one spot for the third week in a row, with the Disney comedy, "George of the Jungle," following close behind. "Contact" is also hanging in strong, and it still has the highest per-screen viewer average of any film in the country.

1. Men in Black \$19 million
2. George of... \$16.5 million
3. Contact \$16.1 million
4. Not...to Lose \$11.6 million
5. Face/Off \$ 8.9 million
6. Best Friend... \$ 6.5 million
7. Hercules \$ 5.1 million
8. ...Condor \$ 4.7 million
9. Out to Sea \$ 3.1 million
10. Batman... \$ 1.7 million

Sweet smell of sweat in the morning



■By COREY STULCE
LIFESTYLE EDITOR

What have I done to make you so angry Mr. Sun? Whatever it is, I take it back. I take it all back!

Whew, the rays from that wacky middle-sized star have sure been making me irritable lately. And I'm not the only one. Everyone I seem to come across has been a little crabby, and I'm blaming it on the heat.

Sure, summer's nice for a couple of weeks, but I can't stand three or four months of this stuff. I am a typically cold-blooded person, and the intense heat has been making my white, nightcrawler skin very uncomfortable.

To avoid the rays, I've been trying to take on a

more vampire-like existence. I've been going out mostly at night, trying to sleep-in as late as I can and even have tried sampling blood once or twice. It's pretty salty, though.

When is technology going to get in gear and start controlling the weather, anyway? No one is enjoying the hot, polluted air, so why don't we make our own.

Everyday could be a nice 72 degrees, with a small dip at night. That wouldn't be so bad, now would it?

But, no, we've got 100 degrees in the shade here, every single day. I leave my apartment in the morning and by the time I get to campus, I'm soaked and smell like a dock worker. This does not help my popularity around town.

I've even started taking two showers a day, just to try a save a little bit of my formerly fresh-smelling self.

The thing that really gets me are people like my mother, who love the sun and heat. She can't wait to get home from work and get into her swimsuit and go lay out in the sun.

I say to her, "Are you nuts? It's a million degrees out here and you're wasting away in all the sun's glory!"

She doesn't care. Oh well, I'll still love her when she's wrinkly and dried up like a leather purse. She is still my Mom.

Poet's Corner

LIFESAVER By SHANA SHARP

I am your mother so faithful and strong
the bearer of life, the wisdom of the land
My name, my song will forever live on.

I carry your burdens and I ease your pain,
when you are down I lift you high because
I am your mother so faithful and strong.

My face is stained with tears
I cried for you
while going through hell and
wishing you best, but still,
My name, my song will forever linger on.

I've walked through fire to

Fair By Teri Sharp

Your brown stubble lays on your
smooth face;
I wish I never said those words full
of mace.
While clasping your smooth, soft,
gentle hand,
my body begins to quiver and
your soft, low, sultry voice sends
chills down my spine to take me
away from town.

As I look into your light blue eyes
they show no proof of truth or lies.
A night of shared sweets comes to
my mind;
the hot, heavy, heat shows on

protect your soul
while weakened by pain,
crushed by decieit, I know
I am your mother so faithful and strong.

I've been raped of my passion,
scorned by my past
as they tried to strip me
of my hope, but I know
My name, my song will forever linger on.

When you are gone and decide to be free,
I'll pray for your life
and hope that you know,

I am your mother so faithful and strong,
My name, my song will forever linger on.

closed blinds.
Moans and groans come from
beneath covers
as two friends become lovers.

We'd lost complete control to our
appetite
and then we lost to the chilling
night;
doing wrongs and ending up in
fights.

All hurtfull actions gone from my
mind
and forgiven both ways to please
find
that weird, strange love and caring
to share
yet again in this hard, trying fair.

Attention!

The Lifestyle section is looking for creative types who want to contribute stories, ideas, comics, poetry, or anything else of interest. We can offer you money and free stuff. Now, is anything better than that? Contact Rebecca Hopkins or Corey Stulce at 3528, or drop off a letter at the Alestle upstairs in the University Center.

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GEORGE OF THE JUNGLE
1:00, 4:00, 6:45, 9:20 PG

MEN IN BLACK
2:00, 4:45, 7:30, 9:50 PG-13

NOTHING TO LOSE
2:15, 4:30, 7:00, 9:15 R

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Air Ball

■ By **TODD SPANN**
SPORTS EDITOR

Agassi

Andre Agassi will be back on the tennis tour. He announced that he will try to get his tennis career back in gear at the Infiniti Open in Los Angeles.

I wonder what happened? Did Brook's T V series get canceled?

Maddux

Nothing really changed in Chicago when former Cub Greg Maddux took the mound Tuesday afternoon, he won. In the first game of a double-header, Maddux had no problem getting past Chicago for his fifth complete game of the season, 4-1.

The amazing thing about his complete game is that he only pitched 78 pitches and 63 of them were strikes.

I see why he left the Cubs...So he could face them.

Cardinals

The rumors are going crazy around the city and why shouldn't they.

Everybody has a good idea that a trade will be made but the question is when and who.

Four top players have surfaced the most.

Mark McGwire is probably a long shot but still he is available.

Boston's John Valentin has had the Cardinal's interest for awhile but the elbow injury to Boston's Tim Lincecum might have the Red Sox wanting to keep Valentin.

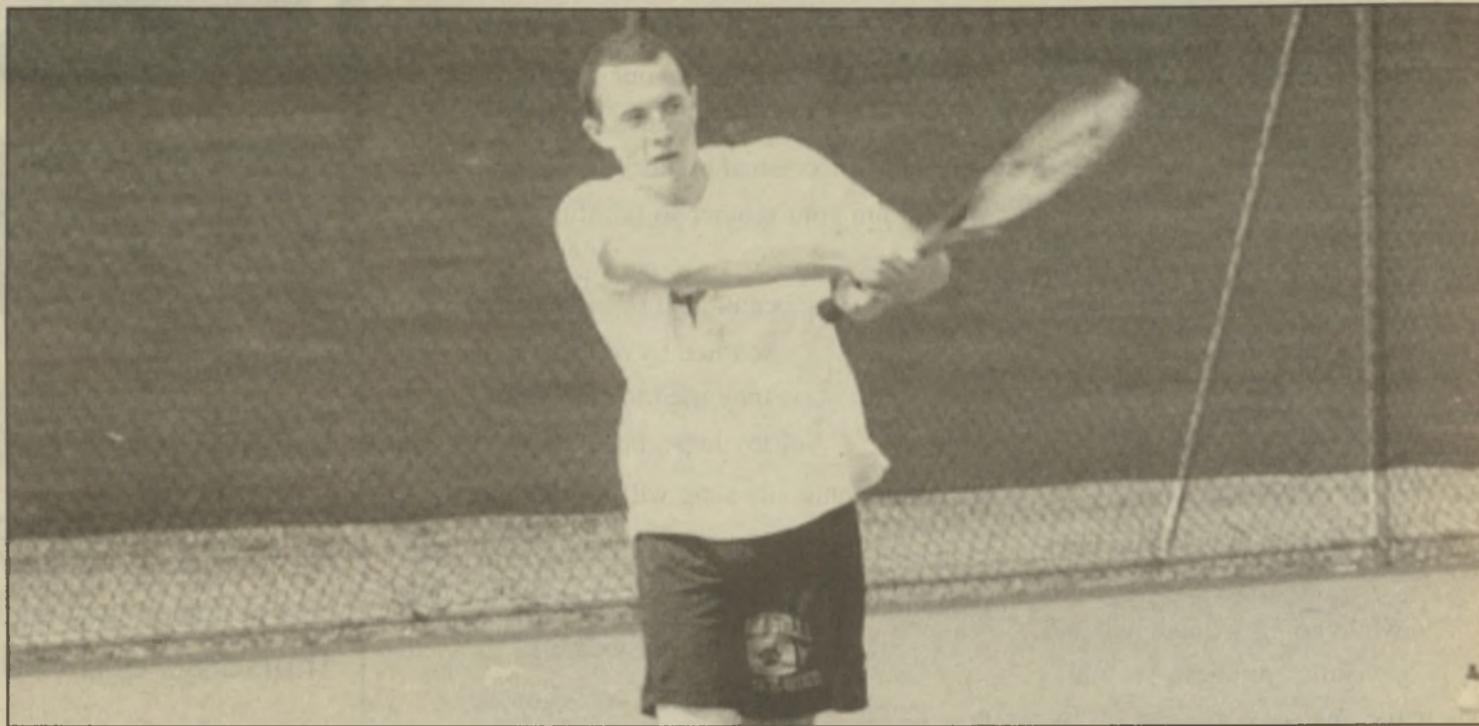
Don't be surprised if you hear Texas third baseman Dean Palmer come up in conversations in the very near future. Texas would love to dump his \$4 million a year salary.

Wade Boggs wants out of New York and going to a contending team is on his list.

But for the Cardinals to get Boggs they might have to depart with Ron Gant to satisfy New York's left field problems. Then if Gant is worked into the deal, New York will need to throw in left hander Kenny Rogers.

This week should be interesting so keep your eyes open.

Tennis anyone?



Mike La Rue/Alestle

Doug Hamilton finds some free time Tuesday afternoon to go down to the SIUE tennis courts to get a few sets in.

Rams try to stay on Pace during full squad workouts at Macomb

MACOMB, Ill. — (AP)

Asked how the Orlando Pace talks are going, Jay Zygmunt, the St. Louis Rams' contract negotiator, just shook his head and tried to change the subject.

As of Monday, the No. 1 pick in this year's draft had missed four days of full-squad workouts, three of them two-a-days, plus two more two-a-day sessions with rookies. From all indications, there will be a lot more days without the 6-foot-7, 340-pound Pace before his deal is finally done.

The Rams know it will happen, but only after much posturing and much wasting of time. Carl and Kevin Poston, who represent the mammoth former Ohio State offensive tackle, were agents for Michigan running back Tim Biakabutuka last year.

"He will be a Ram," coach Dick Vermeil said of Pace. "We'll get it done, sooner or later."

Running back Lawrence Phillips wouldn't

presume to offer advice, but he knows his 2 1/2-week holdout was not beneficial last summer.

"I really am not in a place to tell him what to do," Phillips said. "He has to do what he has to do and hopefully he'll be in here soon."

The Poston brothers did not return telephone calls from The Associated Press.

Vermeil fields the Pace question daily, and to his credit he's found a number of ways to say that there's no news, no news at all. A sampling:

Sunday, July 13, the day before the rookie report date: Vermeil notes there was a three-hour telephone session two days earlier, but no communication since. "So it doesn't look like he'll be here. I didn't expect him to be here."

Tuesday, July 15, following the first rookie workout without the offensive line's meal ticket: There's been another three-hour session to report, and a speck of optimism.

"When you're communicating and the tone of voice is respectful between two parties, I think you have a positive chance of getting things done."

Friday, July 18: Veteran offensive lineman

see Rams, page 7

1997 Schedule

Preseason

Sat. 8/2 at Minnesota	7pm
Fri 8/8 Arizona	7 pm
Fri 8/15 at Dallas	7 pm
Fri 8/22 Kansas City	7pm

Regular season

Sun. 8/31 New Orleans	noon
Sun 9/7 San Francisco	noon
Sun 9/14 at Denver	3 pm
Sun 9/21 N.Y. Giants	3 pm
Sun 9/28 at Oakland	3 pm
Sun 10/5 open date	
Sun 10/12 at San Fran	3 pm
Sun 10/19 at Seattle	noon
Sun 10/26 Kansas City	noon
Sun 11/2 at Atlanta	noon
Sun 11/9 at Green Bay	noon
Sun 11/16 Atlanta	noon
Sun 11/23 Carolina	3pm
Sun 11/30 at Wash	noon
Sun 12/7 at New Orlns	noon
Sun 12/14 Chicago	7 pm
Sun 12/20 at Carolina	3 pm

Fantasy Baseball

Who's hot:

Frank Thomas, White Sox, hit .750 (6-8) with 6 RBIs in his last two games.

Jason Kendall, Pirates, is batting .522 (12-23) and 5 runs scored in his last six games.

Will Clark, Rangers, has a .481 batting mark (13-27) with 7 RBIs in his last seven games.

Who's not:

Tony Gwynn, Padres, is not helping his cause to hit .400. He is batting .118 (2-17) in his last four games.

Melvin Nieves, Tigers, is batting .083 (1-12) with 8 strikeouts in his last four games.

Pat Borders, Red Sox, is hitless in his last three games (8 at bats).

Wilfredo Cordero, Red Sox, .125 (2-16)

In the news:

The Florida Marlins are at it again. It is rumored that they will try to acquire Kansas City Royal **Jeff King** for struggling first baseman **Jeff Conine** and a minor-league prospect. This is after they traded for **Darren Daulton**, on Monday.

The Chicago White Sox will have third baseman **Robin Ventura** back in the lineup on Thursday night. He has been out with a dislocated right ankle.

Slap Shot

■ By CHRIS CLAYTON
FOR THE ALESTLE

The temperature outside is 90 degrees and baseball has just entered its second half of the season, so this means it is time to talk about football.

Why football you ask, perhaps it is my thinking that with football comes cooler weather. But perhaps it is the fact that one of the most exciting parts of the season just started, training camp.

This is the time of year when everyone (even the Jets) have hopes of winning the elusive Super Bowl ring.

This is the time of year when that one sixth round pick, who got on the team by sheer luck has a chance to play in a professional game.

This is the time of year when the media focuses on two coaches who are returning to the game.

Huh?? Wait a minute, why is it that with all the possible stories going on right now, the media, in its usual shortsightedness, focuses on Dick Vermeil and Mike Ditka. Coaches of the Rams and Saints, respectively.

I agree that there should be some stories on these two, but on every national sports show, whenever the talk turns to the NFC West, it immediately goes to, "Will Vermeil lose it again?" or "Is Ditka ready to deal with the stress of coaching again?"

Don't you miss the old days when people were betting on which week the Niners would capture the division crown and not on when Ditka would have a heart attack or Vermeil a breakdown.

Enough about the geriatric part of the league and on to the younger and greedier part of the league, the player.

Let me first of all say, I was thrilled to see Barry Sanders get a 5 year, \$34 million dollar deal. If any player deserves it he does.

He has averaged 1,500 to 1,600 yards a

season with no offensive line and no one blocking for him.

Just imagine, how many times he would have hit the 2,000 yard mark if he had the offensive scheme of Dallas.

But, there is something that truly irks me about high money contracts. When rookies demand to be paid them.

I just don't get it, you as a coach go out and draft the number one pick, and granted he is one of the best offensive linemen in the league and will probably be a cornerstone in your line for the next 15 or so years.

But, he should still have to prove himself. I say make it mandatory for all rookies to get base pay for two seasons. Then after they have shown they can make it in the NFL give them a contract that is worthy of their abilities.

If the player has the motivation to get a better contract, you better believe he is going to perform.

Finally, this is a plea to the administration. I realize that with Chancellor Belck

leaving you have important things on your mind, but here is a thought.

For the past three years I've seen this campus grow into more of a university atmosphere, but there is one small detail missing from this.

A football team.

This campus needs a football team, like a dying man in the dessert needs water.

Football would bring in more students to the university, i.e. players and people who want to watch the sport. Football would help the student body to support the athletic program.

Think about it, wouldn't it be great to have a yearly football game against Carbondale. Just think of the rivalry and the school spirit generated.

This school spirit for the football team could carry over to all the other sports teams.

It is a suggestion that the university needs to look into.

Comments or questions email at cclayto@siue.edu



Rams

from page 6

Gerald Perry, expected to start next to Pace at left guard, fails to show for the first full-squad workout. It's assumed that Perry, who retired after a few days of training camp last summer due to a knee injury, has retired again.

The question is, has this development given Pace more leverage? Vermeil and Zygmunt think not because they only have so much money to give under the rookie salary cap. The Rams are basing their offer on the contract of Keyshawn Johnson, who got \$15 million for six years

from the New York Jets with a \$6.5 million signing bonus.

Sunday, July 19: Vermeil reports four more hours of negotiating, three hours Saturday and one Sunday. He speculates that agents for the players at the top of the list are waiting to see what the other guys do, resulting in a sort of paralysis.

Rams' workouts go on, while the No. 1 pick works out on his own in Columbus, Ohio. For now Wayne Gandy, who has started 32 consecutive games at left tackle and is eventually supposed to move to the other tackle, is working at Pace's spot.

Vermeil has hinted that Pace might begin the season on the bench if he's not signed by a certain point. But the coach hasn't set a target date yet, partly because he's busied himself with the 80 or so players who are in camp.

If the logjam continues, though, Vermeil said he may have to get involved.

"I think I'm better off staying out of it because I wouldn't want his agents to think I'm poisoning his thinking," Vermeil said. "They have a job to do, we have a job to do and hopefully we'll get it done."

Young Faces

First Round (from N.Y. Jets)
Orlando Pace OL Ohio St.

Second Round (from Chicago)
Dexter McCleon DB Clemson.

Fourth Round (Miami)
Ryan Tucker OL Texas C.

Fifth Round (from Denver)
Taje Allen DB Texas

Sixth Round (from Houston)
Muadianvita Kazadi OL Tulsa

Seventh Round (from San Diego)
Cedric White DL UNC

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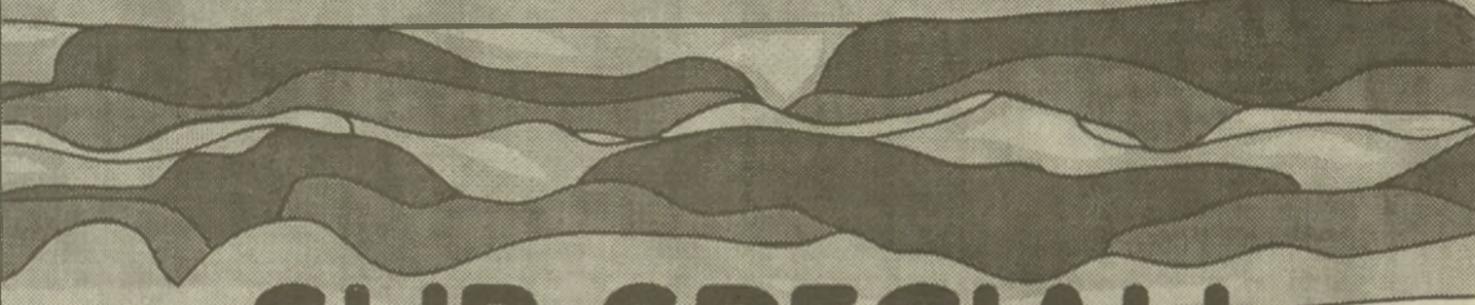
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