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**WEATHER**  
 Today  
 Partly cloudy 49/34  
 Wednesday: Partly  
 Cloudy 50/35

# The Alestle

ALTON, EAST ST. LOUIS & EDWARDSVILLE

**Author, Author!**  
 Stephen White talks to Loyd Krop, an English professor, who has just published his fifth novel. See story on page 9.  
 Corey Stulce talks to funny man, Howie Mandela. See story on page 8.



Tuesday, November 4, 1997

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY AT EDWARDSVILLE

Vol. 50 No. 30

## BSA faces possible loss of office after twenty plus years, cites bias in committee meeting

■ BY DANIELLE BELTON  
 NEWS EDITOR

Two student organizations are crying foul over the possibility of the loss of their office space in the Kimmel Leadership Center. The Constitutional Committee heard their appeal Friday.

BSA (Black Student Association) and NSBE (National Society of Black Engineers) were notified early last week that they would be leaving their office for a cubicle

in Room A of the Kimmel Leadership Center. Both are currently appealing the decision.

The controversy started when space occupied by Office B, which is currently in use by BSA, NSBE, and the Indian Student Organization, was to be given to the Greek Council. The council is currently placed in an office on the second floor of the University Center. Their office was formerly a TV lounge, now remodeled. The Greek Council was not satisfied with their current office because the office door must remain locked. For this

reason, the Greek Council asked to be moved downstairs.

BSA and NSBE expressed anger over those chosen to handle the case, citing that the majority of members of the Constitutional Committee, which reviewed the case and made the decisions, were members of various Greek organizations on campus.

This was a concern for members of BSA and NSBE. They felt that their plight would be ignored by these persons. Their thoughts and feelings were voiced during Friday's meeting.

Christopher Nance, a mem-

ber of BSA, believes the head of the Greek Council is mainly responsible for the situation. "Connan Campbell is over the entire Greek system, which in our eyes constitutes a conflict of interest seeing that the entire constitutional review committee is a member of that Greek system."

Nance was very vocal throughout the meeting, citing that the potential bias of the committee would be detrimental to their (BSA) cause. He even called the situation an "ethical dilemma."

"Wouldn't it seem rather biased, even though you're not directly a member of the organization," Dr. James Jackson, a professor in the education department here at SIUE said.

Jackson continued to say that the committee's whole existence can be questioned. Since it is comprised of mostly Greeks, it can be easily seen as biased. This bias is what worried Jackson most as he asked the committee to try to see his point of view.

see BSA, page 6

## Proposition M goes to vote impacting Madison County

■ BY REBECCA HOPKINS  
 NEWS REPORTER

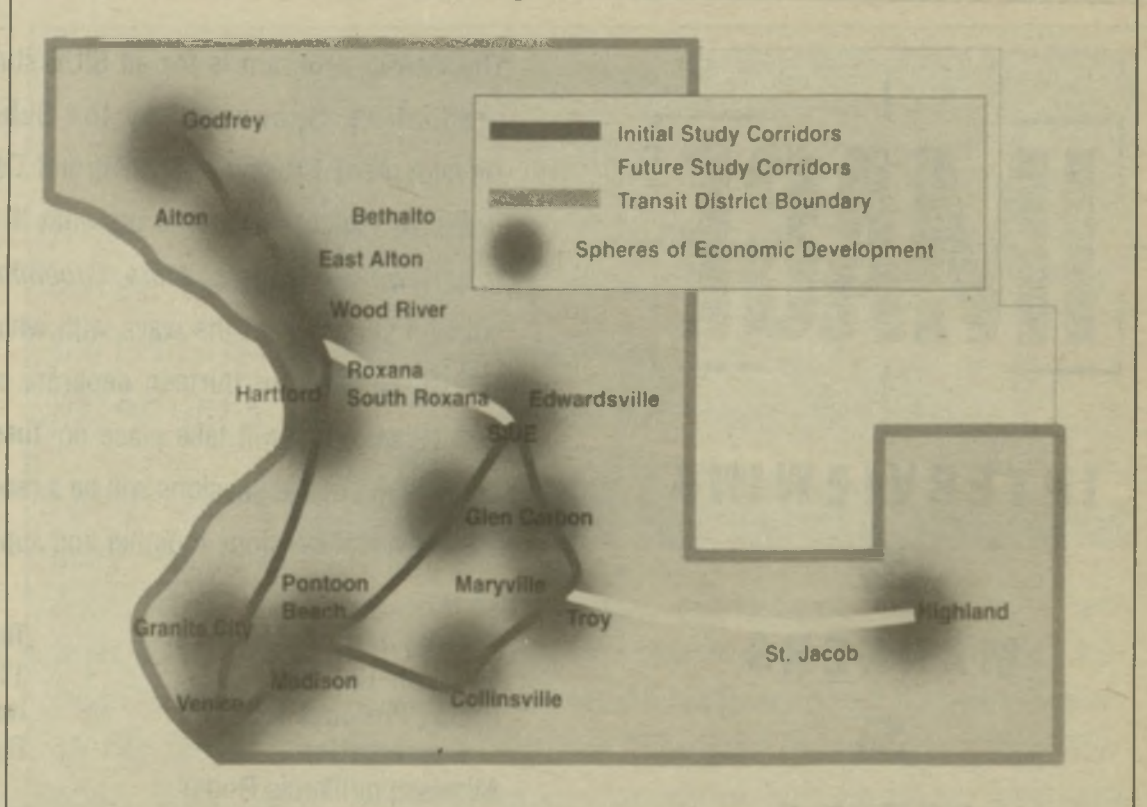
It's D-Day for Proposition M — the campaign that will bring MetroLink to Madison County, Ill. Voter turnout will decide whether the train will keep Madison County on the economic growth track into the 21st century.

Madison County Citizens for Proposition M requested that the ballot issue be named Proposition M in order to take advantage of the attention a similar proposition is getting in the St. Louis media. The success of the campaign is critical to get Madison County on the list of extensions of MetroLink in the future. Passage of Proposition M in Madison County will put it ahead of St. Charles County in Missouri in line to get an extension of the light-rail system, according to Jerry Kane of Madison County Citizens for Proposition M.

"Of course, we would like to see it pass," Kane said. "It won't come into Madison County at all unless Proposition M passes. Passage would permit Madison County to determine feasibility and potential alignment of MetroLink through a Major Investment Study (MIS) for route studies.

See METROLINK on page 2

### Possible MetroLink Alignments in Madison County



## Future engineers wait no longer, new building on its way

■ BY ZHANDA JOHNSON  
 NEWS STRINGER

For all engineering majors tired of sharing space in the Science Building or traveling the distance to University Park, help is on the way. Bids for the constructing of an engineering building are expected to go out in January.

For several years SIUE has tried to receive finance for the building of an engineering building, however, the proposal

ran into several legislative setbacks until a bond authorization bill was approved last February. The bill authorized the Capital Development Board to proceed with issuance of \$658 million in bonds to finance construction of projects for higher education as well as several other state improvements.

The School of Engineering, which consists of more than 700 majors, is in great need of a new building. In 1991 it outgrew space available in the Science building and had to begin leasing

space in University Park. It now occupies about two-thirds of the first major building in the park. When the new building is built the school is expected to expand to accommodate more than 1,000 students.

"It is important that an engineering building be built in order to allow the programs within the school to grow," said Harlan Bengtson, dean of School of Engineering. "It will give us the opportunity to expand graduate programs to disciplines which we do not have space for

now."

Bengtson said the new building will provide newly equipped updated instructional and research laboratories and classrooms. It will also include faculty and administrative offices, conference rooms, and work areas for student workers and graduate assistants. All departments of the school will be housed in the new building, including electrical, civil, construction, mechanical, and industrial engineering and the department of computer science.

"It will provide more interaction among the different engineering disciplines because they will all be in one place," Bengtson said.

The new building will be located north of the new Art and Design Building. Parking Lot E, which is west of the Communications Building, will be expanded to accommodate parking for all the buildings in that area, with a new access road connecting to Circle Drive.

## Egyptian gives birth to sextuplets and is furious

CAIRO, Egypt (AP) — The birth of a child normally brings great joy, but when Amal Abdel-Fattah delivered no fewer than six girls, she was furious.

Abdel-Fattah, 27, believed she had been grossly misled by her doctor, who had told her to expect twins.

She was "hysterical and extremely angry," said officials at Cairo's Heliopolis Hospital, where the sextuplets were born at 12.30 p.m. local time (1030 GMT) Friday.

The children are healthy and in a stable condi-

tion, weighing between 2 and 2.25 kilograms (4.4 to 4.95 pounds), hospital officials said.

Meanwhile, another mother has had a large delivery in Cairo.

Samia Ahmed Ibrahim, also 27, gave birth to four boys, and she was delighted.

Ibrahim has named her quadruplets Mohamed, Hosni, Mubarak — the names of Egypt's president — and Barakat.

Barakat is the Arabic word for blessings.

### Notice from University Police

The SIUE police Department will conduct monthly Crime Prevention Seminars at Woodland Hall and the Cougar village Commons building. Seminars included are: personal safety, auto theft prevention, sexual assault prevention, security for student residence facilities, prevention of book theft, dealing with annoyance, malicious, and harassing telephone calls, parking lot safety, stalking prevention, jogging safety tips, and other topics. The Cougar Village seminar takes place on Nov. 18 at 7 p.m., the second will take place at Woodland Hall on Nov. 19 at 7 p.m. These particular sessions will be on auto theft prevention and personal safety in parking lots. All are invited to attend. For more information contact Lieutenant Ed Williams with University Police at 692-3324.

#### -also-

Due to the increase in the number of complaints received concerning vehicles speeding through the academic area and ignoring pedestrians at crosswalks, since Oct. 9, University Police have increased their enforcement action against individuals to insure that vehicles stay within the speed limits, as well as yield for pedestrians at crosswalks. Police will also be taking action against pedestrians who fail to use the prescribed crosswalks. University Police urges all to please obey all traffic regulations.

## METROLINK

### from page 1

"St. Charles County officials performed this same type of study before the citizens voted down an extension of MetroLink and wasted the taxpayers' money," Kane said.

If enacted by voters, passage of Proposition M would result in a 1/2 percent sales tax to be collected beginning in January, 1999. Investments on the collection would begin in April, 1999. The total tax and investment proceeds would generate nearly \$278 million in the next 15 years. This is the amount sufficient to build a 16-mile extension assuming 50 percent federal funding assistance, or an 8-mile extension without federal assistance.

"We have proven in this campaign that the extension of

MetroLink into Madison County would benefit everyone at very little cost," said Jim Grandone, campaign coordinator for Madison County Citizens for Proposition M.

"We have proven that MetroLink will relieve highway congestion, ease the commute, create jobs, attract growth and benefit the environment. We know that nine out of 10 people in Madison County think MetroLink is important and most are willing to pay for it," he said.

Proposition M is on the ballot in the 16 townships in Madison County that comprise the Madison County Transit District. The rural areas in the eastern portion of the County will not be voting on the proposition.

## Police Incidents

### Hit & Run traffic accident

On October 28 at 1:00 a.m., a student reported her car had been hit in the left rear bumper area while it was parked in cougar village lot 5H. There are no suspects or witnesses.

# IMAGE

## INTERVIEWING



## MANNERS



## ATTIRE



## GROOMING



## ETIQUETTE



The IMAGE program is for all SIUE students who will be looking for a job upon graduation. Sponsored by the School of Business, Student Leadership Development Program (SLDP), and Career Development Center (CDC), IMAGE seeks to educate students on what it takes to become employed. Focusing on *Interviewing, Manners, Attire, Grooming, and Etiquette* the IMAGE program will educate students on the ways with which to enhance their employment potential. IMAGE consists of thirteen separate sessions, each with their own focus. The IMAGE sessions will take place on Tuesdays from 11:00 A.M. to 12:15 P.M. The culmination of the sessions will be a reception and meal, where students will put all the individual sessions together and apply them in a mock business dinner.

Tuesday 11/04/97  
11:00am-12:15pm  
**Dining Protocol & Social Conversation**  
Mississippi/Illinois Room

Tuesday 11/11/97  
11:00am-12:15pm  
**Informational Interviewing (Networking)**  
Building II 2211

Tuesday 11/18/97  
11:00am-12:15pm  
**Interviewing Part I**  
Building II 2211

Tuesday 12/02/97  
11:00am-12:15pm  
**Interviewing Part II (Panel)**  
Building II 2211

Tuesday 12/09/97  
11:00am-12:15pm  
**Surviving First Year**  
Building II 2211

Wednesday 12/10/97  
4:00pm - 6:00pm  
**Reception and Meal**  
University Restaurant & Gallery



SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY  
Edwardsville



# Here's your chance...

## ...to speak up about your experience at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville

The University is committed to providing a wide range of educational opportunities and services, but we need your help. Please take a few minutes to complete this survey. The information that you provide will be incorporated into future efforts at SIU-Edwardsville.

Directions: Circle **SA** if you strongly agree, **A** if you agree, **D** if you disagree or **AD** if you strongly disagree with the statement.

- SA A D SD** I feel a sense of belonging to this institution.
- SA A D SD** During the times I am on this campus, I feel safe and secure.
- SA A D SD** I am able to experience intellectual growth in my classes.
- SA A D SD** I am satisfied with the number and variety of out-of-class activities sponsored by campus organizations in which I can participate.
- SA A D SD** I have observed a strong commitment to racial harmony on this campus.
- SA A D SD** My needs for learning assistance services are readily met on this campus.
- SA A D SD** I have all of the information I need for my academic program or major.
- SA A D SD** My adviser is available for assistance when I need him/her.
- SA A D SD** I seldom get the "run-around" when seeking information on campus.

What do you like best about being a student at SIU-Edwardsville? \_\_\_\_\_

What is the biggest barrier you face in making steady progress toward your degree at SIU-Edwardsville? \_\_\_\_\_

Which categories best describe you? Please mark all that apply.

Where do you live?	Class standing?	I take most of my classes?	Gender?	Are you an international Student?	Course load?	Age?
<input type="checkbox"/> Off-Campus	<input type="checkbox"/> Freshman	<input type="checkbox"/> Day	<input type="checkbox"/> Male	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> Part-time	<input type="checkbox"/> 17-20
<input type="checkbox"/> Residence Hall	<input type="checkbox"/> Sophomore	<input type="checkbox"/> Evening	<input type="checkbox"/> Female	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Full-time	<input type="checkbox"/> 21-25
<input type="checkbox"/> Tower Lake Apts	<input type="checkbox"/> Junior	<input type="checkbox"/> Weekend				<input type="checkbox"/> 26-30
	<input type="checkbox"/> Senior					<input type="checkbox"/> 31-35
	<input type="checkbox"/> Non-degree					<input type="checkbox"/> 36-40
	<input type="checkbox"/> Graduate student					<input type="checkbox"/> over 40

**Thank you for filling out this survey.**

Please drop it off today in a collection box in one of the following campus offices by **November 21, 1997:**

**UC Union Station/Information Center    Bursar's Office    Evening & Weekend Student Services**  
**Academic Counseling & Advising    Instructional Services Office    School of Business Advisement Office**  
**School of Nursing Advisement Office    School of Education Advisement Office**

# Stressed out dogs benefit from massage

SANFORD, Fla. (AP) — They pull you around by your neck, make you sleep on the floor and then expect you to wag your tail when they come home after leaving you there along all day.

Hey, it's a stressful life being a dog. And along with tension muscle aches, let's talk about stiff hips and maybe a little arthritis for those who aren't the pups they used to be.

So what's the answer for sore, stressed-out pooches?

Dog rubs. Or more precisely, canine massage therapy.

Angela Wills, a licensed massage therapist of the human variety for seven years, got interested in dog massage when she adopted a shar-pei puppy that had been abandoned in a trash bin. The dog was so high-strung it wouldn't sit still to be petted.

Two years ago, Wills of Winter Park went to Ohio for training in dog massage. The techniques helped calm her shar-pei and relieve its stress. So, along with her two-legged clients, she began offering massages for canine customers as well.

Her sideline spread by word of mouth, and she now has about a half-dozen dog clients a week.

"Some of them belong to people who have never had a massage themselves in their entire lives," Wills said. "One of them, his owner brings him in, and they both get a massage."

But the massages cost \$25 a session. And some dogs, with stress problems or in rehabilitation from injuries, need frequent sessions.

"Who's going to pay \$25 for

a dog massage three times a week for six weeks?" Wills said. "So I thought, why not teach dog owners how to do some of these techniques themselves?"

The result has been a series of seminars at the Best Paw Forward Dog Training Center in Sanford, in which owners learn techniques such as compressions, finger glides, digital kneading and effleurage.

Why dog massage? Well, why not.

Humans have long known the benefits of massage. Horse trainers for generations have seen the beneficial results of rubbing down their animals before and after races and practices.

Dogs are no different, Wills said.

Massage relaxes muscles, reduces tension, increases the

range of motion and stimulates blood circulation, which helps heal injuries, she said. For athletic dogs — those in agility shows or search and rescue dogs — massage warms them up before events and helps them cool down and relax afterward, just as it does a human athlete.

Even the techniques are similar — so much so that the first training step at Saturday's seminar was for the humans to practice on each other to help understand how massage feels.

Mike Harrison of Sanford brought his 8-year-old retriever Sahne for a recent seminar. Harrison works with a group that trains guide dogs for the blind and has raised seven guide dogs, keeping them until they mature and are sent away for training.

Harrison said he plans to use

the massage techniques on the young dogs to help reduce the stress — and on Sahne, who has mothered dozens of guide dogs over the years and isn't as spry as she used to be.

"She's getting a little stiff, and I think this might help her," Harrison said.

Juli Thompson's German shepherd show dog Briana turned out to be a big fan of the kneading techniques Thompson learned to use on her neck.

"I think my dog likes this," Thompson said.

Within minutes, the high-strung dog was sprawled blissfully across Thompson's lap, eyes drooping in the kind of contentment reserved only for dogs.

Every dog has its day.

## October season of love as a couple gets married in Halloween style wedding

ANDERSON, Ind. (AP) — What a guest list for a wedding — an escaped convict, a cowgirl, a Gypsy, an injured soldier, a cow with big pink udders and the Grim Reaper.

The bride was a witch. The groom was a ghoul. The maid of honor and best man were a nun and a friar.

But it was all befitting the theme.

After fairly traditional weddings for their first marriages, Carrie Blades and Junior

Potter opted for something off-the-wall the second time around. They decided to get married on Halloween, with costumes and all.

A huge stuffed spider hung over the rows of folding chairs. The groom stalked around silently in his black robe and death's head mask, either nervous or in character. The bride, a white veil fluttering from the point of her black witch's hat, clutched a bouquet

of autumn chrysanthemums, her long fingernails painted with spider's webs.

"We just thought that it would be a lot of fun," she said. "We've had a good time doing it."

She wasn't concerned about having her wedding on a day when the dead are supposed to walk the earth.

"Halloween's for kids," she said. "It's not evil, it's a day for kids." And for lovers.

*Know your world, Read the Alestle*

## Grandfather clause still up for debate in House Bill 110

■ BY ZHANDA JOHNSON  
NEWS EDITOR

A "Grandfather Clause" for House Bill 110 is still being considered by the Pension Laws Commission. The clause will add a provision to the bill which will make state employees hired before January 1998 exempt from the new pension plan.

All employees who would

like to see the clause added to House Bill 110 are being asked by Kurt Newmann of SIUE Food Services to show their support by writing Governor Jim Edgar.

"All letters should be sent off by Friday, November 7," Newmann said.

The clause will be considered in the next veto session which will be held Nov. 12 through 14. For a form letter see Newmann in Food Services.

The Alestle is looking for a Sports Editor. If interested, contact the Office of Student Employment at ext. 3997

**UCB**  
UNIVERSITY CENTER BOARD

GET INTO IT WITH  
**UCB!**

Today, November 4,

Soup and Substance

Substance Abuse: The effects on the  
Body, Mind and Academics

Noon - 1pm

in the Cahokia Room, UC  
facilitated by Betty Lawton,  
Coordinator Campus Recreation

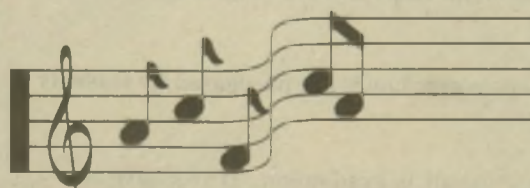


Wednesday,  
November 5

Classical Concert

Noon - 1pm

in the Goshen Lounge, UC



November 13

Secrets of  
Seduction

Noon - 1:30 pm

in the Goshen Lounge, UC  
learn how to flirt, turn-ons,  
and more

**Get Into It!!!! With UCB**

Become part of the programming team.

Call 692-3372 for more information

UCB Hotline (618) 692-3372

# BSA

from page 1

Constitutional Committee Chair Matt Noyse stated that the meeting's purpose was for BSA and NSBE to state why they should not be moved from their office, and that the issue of the move itself was not to be debated. This caused BSA members to question their rights because the first issue of 'why' cannot be discussed without the issue of the move.

"I do understand your concerns, you have heard our point of view, and like I said, we are not going to debate this issue," Noyse said. "We understand your views and we're taking this into consideration."

This point infuriated some members who felt that this was a matter that needed to be debated due to the impact the committee's decision would have on the parties at hand.

"Do we as students have the right ... to debate the reason why we have to be governed by your laws," Nance said. "You (Noyse) may not want to, but I do believe that we have the right to debate that. I think it's that type of arrogance that made this committee go forth with actions without even consulting one member of the organizations that are in that office. I'm sorry you don't want

to but I do think that we have the right to debate that."

Concerning the issue of potential bias, Noyse felt that many of BSA's claims were not justified. Many members of the committee that are also members of Greek organizations are not members of the organizations asking for the space change.

"What I want my committee to hear is how it will affect your organization personally and how it will be detrimental to your organization, not that it shouldn't be done because of who's moving in there or because somebody knows somebody," Noyse said.

To offer further explanation, Marc Hunter, a member of the student senate, explained the composition of the committee.

"I appointed every student representative who is on this committee. Right now I don't believe they are all members of Greek organizations, but it does look like the majority are and that certainly wasn't done on purpose. I only appoint students who come to me," Hunter said.

Another reason, according to Noyse, for the Greek organizations requesting the move was in hopes of building unity within the various Greek organizations here on campus by putting them in the

same office.

"We attempted to put organizations together that could draw from one another by bringing the Greeks downstairs," Noyse said.

This statement caused groans and protests from the students in attendance when Noyse later responded that the Greek organizations were currently already together in the office on the second floor.

"If they are currently together and they're not joined with one another, then what would moving them into another location (do). What would that do to insure that they draw from one another," Terrance Gaddy, president of BSA said.

Several members of the audience felt that moving BSA and NSBE in order to achieve better relations between Greek organizations on campus would make one group appear to be more important than the other, as well as damaging to BSA and NSBE. Noyse stated that quite possibly BSA and NSBE are much stronger organizations and will not be harmed much by the move.

"You're willing to destroy a community in order to build a community and is that right," Jackson said. "Where's the humanity in that. Here you are saying that you want to build a community at the expense of

destroying a community and then you're saying that you want to enhance this community. I'm saying that what community do you want to enhance because certainly when you move these individuals and their organizations out of that space where there is a sense of community you've given some destruction to that community.

"But you're willing to do that in an effort to enhance the Greek community? Are you saying to me that the Greek community is more important than the other students on this campus?"

Both organizations admitted that their occupying the office was a privilege and not a right, but according to the Space Allocation 1998 policy, offices that contain organizations which have been there longer than one term will receive more consideration. Review of spaces are based on need, utilization probability, and contributions to the university.

BSA has been located in this office in the Kimmel since the 1970's when BSA was the Black Christian Student Association. Terrance Gaddy also stated that the office is put to great use. He spends many hours there working on various projects for the university and students.

Many of the cubicles in Office A where BSA and NSBE could be moved, do not even contain phone jacks or electrical outlets. The BSA offices utilize both a computer and a phone.

NSBE, a smaller organization, felt the move would stunt it's growth and the separation from BSA could hamper the fledgling organization.

"As for being a representative of NSBE, I feel that we should not be moved because of the fact that ... this chapter is now starting to get really established. We're starting to gain more members, new members, and a lot of people are not aware of our space location now," NSBE secretary, Tina Henton said. Henton believes that a move would "mess up everything" that the group has worked for."

NSBE and BSA believe that the move will also break up unity between their two organizations and cause confusion among students on campus trying to utilize their services.

"Right now we just feel that this organization or this committee (should) look at what has

been brought out this afternoon and how it is important for us to communicate with one another to operate as a functional organization considering what we've done and continue to do on campus," said Gaddy.

Michelle Williams, a member of the constitutional committee, tried to shed some light on the tense conversation.

"I want you guys to think on the essence of the committee, we have to think of what is in the best interest of every organization," said Williams. "Instead of focusing on your organization and what they're doing we have to focus on what can we do to make all organizations happy. We don't want to knock anyone down for their efforts."

Gaddy felt that a simple solution could be found to this problem: the Greek organizations should file papers with the Kimmel and the University Center to have the door to their office remain open at all times.

"The problem itself is not being solved," said Gaddy.

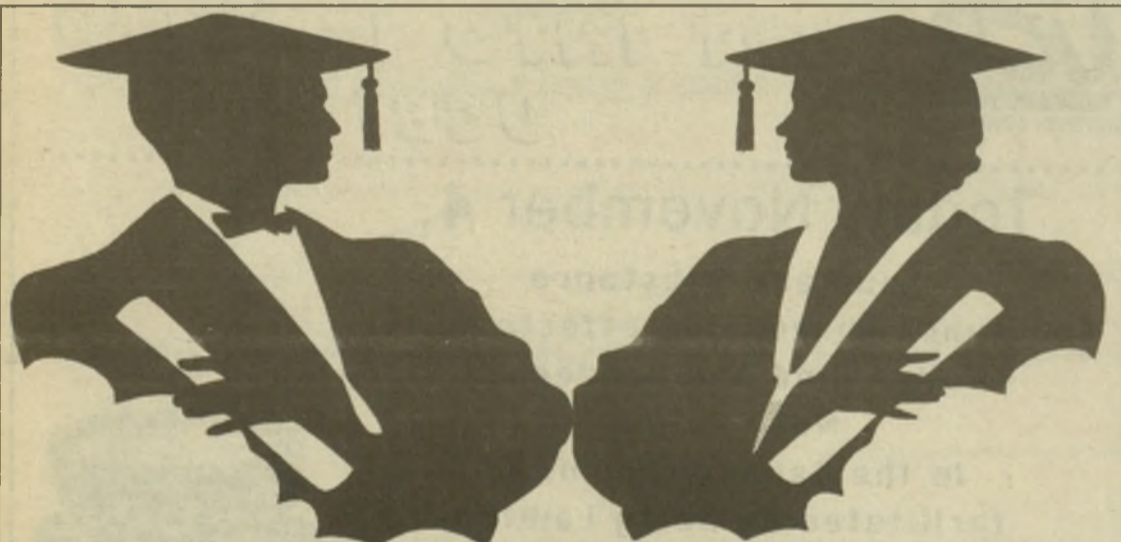
Nance also felt that the "essence of the problem the groups are facing is not being solved." The problems that the Greek Council face will become the problems BSA and NSBE will face.

"Before this decision was made, there should have been some type of communication between the body that made the decision and the people that this decision would affect," Nance said.

The debate continues with the committee holding back office allocation till the appeals process is finished. No organization will be expected to vacate their space till the committee has found their decision and is approved by Kimmel Leadership Center Director Steve Sperotto.

Even after their appeal many members were still very upset over their treatment by the board and over the possible outcome of the meeting. Nance questioned whether their cause was even of importance to some.

"We're quick to fight over an extra half hour for a dance and then we say, that's progress. But when we're willing to allow a historical black organization on this campus to be downgraded, degraded, disrespected and bullied and that is not progress," said Nance.



## Student Cap & Gown Measurment & Distribution for December 1997 Commencement At University Center Bookstore

Wednesday & Thursday

November 5 & 6 - 10 am to 6 pm

Bachelor	\$22.00	Gown, Cap & Tassel
Master	\$41.00	Gown, Cap, Tassel & Hood
EdD	\$54.75	Gown, Cap, Tassel & Hood
Specialist	\$54.75	Gown, Cap, Tassel & Hood

**Note:**

Fee must be paid at time of distribution. Caps/gowns/hoods are purchased by students to keep as souvenirs.

You must be approved by your advisor to participate in graduation. If you have any questions, please see your advisor.

Personalized Announcements are available ONLY on the above dates.

No Refunds Given

**Hollywood ★ Tan**

**TAN FOR \$1**

UNTIL NOVEMBER 30, 1997

**FIRST  
TAN  
FREE**

**288-4560**

#2 Callowood, Glen Carbon (across from Dairy Queen) **NEW BULBET**

**Who?** will make a statement next?

Cashback  
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award\*

It could be **you** if you call  
**1-800 IT PAYS TO**  
and apply  
for a Discover® Card.

DIESEL.....

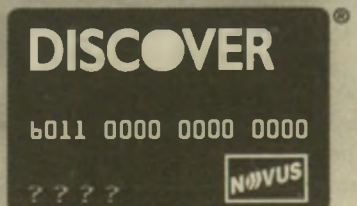
TOWER RECORDS.....

NORTHWEST AIRLINES.....

THE SHARPER IMAGE.....

Cash Advance.....

it pays to



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To apply online, go to [www.discovercard.com](http://www.discovercard.com)  
©1997 Greenwood Trust Company. Member FDIC. \*Up to 1% paid yearly based on annual level of purchases.

Who Said It?/  
What Movie?

**“First you  
want to kill me,  
now you want  
to kiss me.”**

(Hint: *Evil Dead*)  
Answer on Thursday

Thursday's answer: Matthew Lillard  
(Stuart) in *Scream*

# Lifestyle

People, Entertainment & Comics

## Weekend Box Office

1. <i>I Know What...</i>	\$10
2. <i>Red Corner</i>	\$8.3
3. <i>Devil's Advocate</i>	\$7.6
4. <i>Boogie Nights</i>	\$5.1
5. <i>Kiss the Girls</i>	\$3.6

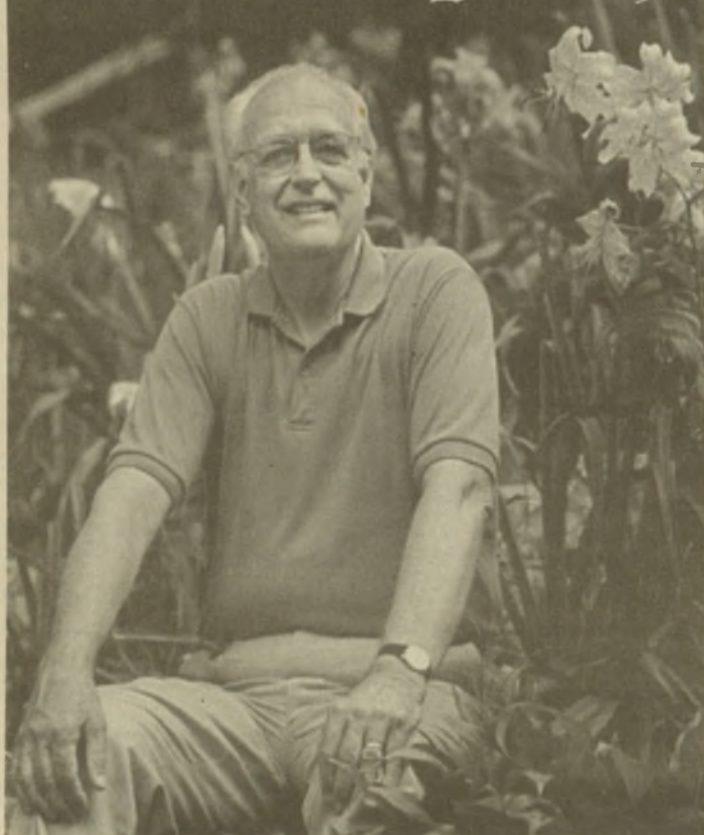
(All figures in millions)

◆ Page 8

The A l e s t l e

Tuesday, November 4, 1997 ◆

## Questioning faith:



■ BY CHRIS LITTEKEN  
LIFESTYLE STRINGER

Henry Firsching is a man with a dream. As a scientist, that dream is to tear away the blinders of religious self-delusion, instilling mankind with a sense of the factual and the rational. Obviously, this is no easy task, considering how many express a belief in the spiritual world. “The God Hypothesis” seeks to change that.

Written and published by Firsching, “The God Hypothesis” (Think About It Press, \$9.99 paperback,

■ BY COREY STULCE  
LIFESTYLE EDITOR

Being a stand up comedian is not enough for some, apparently, because there are now dozens of former stand ups with television shows, books, etc.

Howie Mandel has taken it one step further with a cartoon series, “Bobby’s World,” a series of children’s CD-ROMS, and coming in June, his own talk variety show.

He is now on what may be his farewell stand up comedy tour. He will be in St. Louis on Wednesday at Westport Playhouse. For anyone who is unfamiliar with Mandel’s comedy style, it should be quite a surprise.

“I usually arrive two minutes before the show. Preparation doesn’t help me. It’s mostly improv, so every show is unique. I just try to be the center of attention for the most part,” Mandel said.

He does stress that parents should not bring their children to the show, just because he does a cartoon. His stand up act is strictly adult. His style has not changed much over the years, although he does not do the trick with the inflatable glove over his head anymore.

“I have doctor’s orders not to do that anymore, but anyone else is allowed to do it,” Mandel said. “I punctured a sinus and was rushed to the hospital and told never to do

## Henry Firsching’s book takes a scientific approach to religion

available at the UC bookstore) exacts a purely scientific scrutiny into all basic premises of religious belief. Some of the concepts examined are: Is there a God or Devil? Why are there so many different religions? Did Noah’s ark really hold all forms of life during the “Great flood?” Is there such a thing as virgin birth? What about creation versus evolution?

Firsching believes that religion serves as a barrier and only creates animosity among people, which is why he feels that religion needs to change its point of focus.

“I’m not trying to tell people what to do, but what I think is, we’ve got all these diverse religions everywhere — just look up churches in the phone book to see what I mean — and we’ve got to do something about all this fragmentation. Look at the situation in Ireland. People killing each other over pure nonsense. The same goes for Arabs, Jews, most religions. Does God stand on the right hand or the left hand? Or when the president says ‘God bless America,’ what does he mean? Whose God? And just how does he go about bestowing his blessing upon us?”

Firsching said he firmly believes religion should concentrate more on social welfare and discard all mystic and symbolic talk of angels and demons, devils and gods, which to him is a waste of time.

“Did you know,” Firsching said, “that the earth adds about 250,000 more people to the world every day? The last thing we need is more people in the world! And the Catholic church is against birth control? That’s the stuff they should concentrate on! We need to change our sexual practices so that there aren’t so many children being born — or starving.”

Despite his criticism of religion, Firsching is in no way

devoid of humanitarian altruism. He greatly fears for the future of the planet. If the world keeps expanding the way it is now, he believes all it would take to plunge us into famine would be one or two large crop failures. The resulting consequence would be devastating: starvation, death, war, quite literally a hell on earth. And no manna falling from the sky. No God to see us out of our own mess.

Firsching wasn’t always atheist. Though raised Catholic, he received his first great religious shock while serving in World War II. US forces were allied with a “godless” Russia, while fighting against Germany largely composed of Catholics. Firsching began to grasp the correlation between politics and hypocrisy, government and religion.

“If a god exists,” he wrote, “he behaves as if he isn’t there at all.”

Religion, Firsching said, has done nothing but place blinders upon the clarity of scientific thinking. He is not directing his attack toward any one religion in particular, but all of them. Obviously, a large cross section of readers will likely be offended by some of these ideas but, he said, “You can attack the messenger, but can you disprove the message?”

Firsching was born in Utica, N.Y., in 1923. After serving three years in the Army during World War II, he earned a bachelor’s degree from Utica College. He later earned his master’s and doctoral degrees from Syracuse University. He has taught at the University of Georgia for five years, as well as SIUE for 28 years. Also he has written a newspaper column entitled “Think About It” for the past 17 years.

The “God Hypothesis” is a revolutionary work. It provides one with the groundwork for re-evaluating their own spiritual base, for looking to facts alone and dismissing universally accepted assumptions and suppositions. For those with the desire to question their faith (or purge it entirely) this book will come as a revelation.

HOWIE  
DOES  
IT ALL

that again. Besides, I don’t think it’s a real talent anyway”

Mandel’s talk show will give him a break from the road and a chance to spend time with his family. “I hear I have some very lovely children and I’d like the chance to meet them,” Mandel said.

With all his success, he has many fans and he does have one strange fan story.

“The one in the den; every time I pull the chain it doesn’t slow down, it just stays at that top speed. It’s supposed to have three speeds...I paid good money for that fan ...Oh, you didn’t mean that kind of fan?” Mandel said. “I thought I was being stalked for awhile. Everywhere I went, there she was. This woman knew where I lived. When I ate dinner she was there. As it turns out, it was my wife,” he added.

Mandel said he never gets to see his own show because he’s on stage and facing the wrong way, but he does like to get to know his opening acts. “[We] do slow dancing. I would say the lambada, but you know that’s forbidden,” Mandel said.

Perhaps someday all of his hard work will pay off and a movie will be made of his life. But who would play him? “I think that goes without saying, Yaphet Kotto,” Mandel said. “He can play young.”



# Award winning SIUE English professor finishes fifth novel

■ BY STEPHEN WHITE  
LIFESTYLE REPORTER

Lloyd Kropp, director of the creative writing department at SIUE and author of the award-winning book, "Greencastle," has completed his fifth novel, "The Book of Thoth."

"Greencastle," Kropp's fourth book, won a spot on the American Library Association "Best Books of the Year" list and an "Illinois Author of the Year" award from the Illinois Association of Teachers of English.

"The Book of Thoth," his longest novel, is an epic adventure of over 900 pages. Currently, it is in the hands of a New York agent. Kropp worked six years to finish the book. It is set in 1908 and is about the discovery of an ancient and magical manuscript in a Coptic monastery in Egypt. The book traces the lives of the people who owned the manuscript and the effect it had on each of them.

Kropp makes no attempt to explain to his reader in an expository way many of the Egyptian terms that some readers might be unfamiliar with. "All that needs to be dramatized," he said.

Kropp said that although he doesn't have a specific demographic in mind when writing his stories, he does write for a certain audience. "I have a vague sense in my mind of an intelligent, educated audience that's in tune with the arts, but not necessarily an audience that knows very much about any one thing," he said.

"American Memory," his sixth novel, which is almost finished, is set during the Great Flood of '93. The protagonist in the story is a college teacher, who is a liar, has a bad marriage, and is somewhat of a failure at everything he tries. Every summer he takes three weeks off to travel. He goes to the south to talk to waitresses, bus drivers — "regular people." Kropp compares the character's notion of "discovering America" to Charles Kuralt or John Steinbeck.

"The flood changes his life," Kropp said. "...It's related to the biblical story in a symbolic way. And it's also related to 'The Odyssey.' He's like Odysseus, he's trying to find his way home, and the water is what keeps him from finding his way."

"American Memory," is near completion. For his research on this novel, Kropp learned about the causes of floods and the things that engineers are doing to try to prevent floods in the future.

"The theme of the book is probably that Americans, espe-



Stephen White/Alestle

The covers to English professor Lloyd Kropp's first five novels.

cially in this part of the century, have very little sense of tradition... very little sense of being a part of something. As a result, Americans are people who wake up in the morning and reinvent themselves. This person (the main character) is kind of an emblem or a metaphor for a lot of what I see happening in this country. I think it has a special pertinence for Americans, especially in this part of the century."

Kropp first discovered he wanted to be a writer in the third grade. "I wrote a horror story about this house in which skeletons were wandering around cannibalizing anybody who came in the area," he said. "It was a perfectly awful story. All the kids loved it, but the teacher was just horrified. I came to realize at that point that language was power, that there was power in the imagination to move people."

Pulp fiction, horror stories, H.P. Lovecraft, Clark Ashton Smith and Edgar Allen Poe all played a crucial role in influencing the young Lloyd Kropp. "As a very young man I was very influenced by Robert Nathan, who was a very gentle fantasy writer," he said. "His most famous novel was called 'Portrait of Jenny'. A very quiet and gentle sense of wonder came out of his stories." Kropp later found inspiration in writers such as Ray Bradbury, William James and John Updike — all of whom have very different styles.

In college, as an undergraduate, Kropp thought he might want to be a poet. "So many of the poems that I wrote told stories. Rather than being lyric poems they were narrative. It was actually through writing poetry that I realized I wanted to write fiction."

For the last twenty years he has focused his efforts on fiction — almost exclusively writing novels. He once published a poem in a university magazine and said that from the time he was a senior in high school to the present, he has probably only

written about 10 or 12 short stories.

Kropp earned a master's degree in English language and literature in 1961, at the University of Pittsburgh, and has completed the course work for a Ph.D. from Ohio State University.

"After my second book was published, I quit working on my dissertation," he said. "It's turned out to be a very good thing. It would have taken me two more years to finish it, and I might have never gotten my third book finished. I really needed to get to that third book then. So I just made the decision to work on the third novel and forget about the dissertation."

"Everything I learned about writing I learned pretty much by wrestling it out on my own," he said. "I've never had a mentor, but I think a writer should have a mentor. I think all artists should be apprentices at some point in their lives. They should be with someone to whom they submit themselves completely. I think you need to submit yourself to somebody else's discipline, to somebody else's way of looking at things and really internalize that. And then of course you grow away from that."

Kropp, a full-time professor, who teaches classes in fiction writing, literary criticism, mythology, American literature, the novel, Shakespeare, and Egyptian hieroglyphs, is enjoying his tenure at SIUE.

"Teaching gives my life a kind of resonance," he said. "Writing is a very lonely profession. It's nice to reaffirm the idea that you're part of something, that you contribute to other people's understanding of things directly. There's a sense of being part of a community, and I think a lot of writers don't have that."

Kropp is grateful for his position at SIUE.

"I've had a lot of freedom here to teach a lot of different kinds of things that I wouldn't have had at most other colleges," he said.

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## Conference foe upsets SIUE men

■ BY BRETT LICATA  
SPORTS REPORTER

The SIUE men's soccer team found out just how hard it is to go undefeated for an entire season.

The Cougars suffered their first defeat of the season to Wisconsin-Parkside, 1-0, on Saturday, but they captured the Great Lakes Valley Conference regular-season title with a victory over Lewis on Sunday.

Head coach Ed Huneke knew that this weekend would be a challenge for his No. 3-ranked team in the nation, but losing to the third place team in the conference standings was as big an upset as they come.

The only goal of the contest came in the 84th minute when Wisconsin-Parkside's Jason Zitzke beat SIUE goalkeeper Andy Korbesmeyer.

SIUE gained a little bit of momentum back as they topped the Flyers of Lewis University 3-1 on Sunday at Bob Guelker Field.

Granite City's Matt Little gave the Cougars a 1-0 lead on a nice feed from Springfield's Jerry Reed at the 17:43 mark.

Lewis came back to tie the game four minutes into the second half, but SIUE wouldn't be denied the conference title as Little returned the favor setting up Reed in the 63rd minute to put SIUE ahead 2-1.

Brian Douglas gave SIUE some breathing room at 86:59 with a difficult line drive from the right side off a touch pass from Little.

Both teams played physically with 46 fouls being called and four yellow cards being distributed.

After claiming the No. 1 seed over the weekend, SIUE will host the conference tour-

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Wednesday

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#6 Northern Kentucky at #3 Lewis

#5 Indianapolis at #4 Quincy

Saturday

at Edwardsville

Indianapolis/Quincy winner vs.

#1 SIUE

UMSL/Wis.-Parkside winner vs.

NKU/Lewis winner

Sunday

at Edwardsville

Championship game

ournament, which is set to start this weekend at Bob Guelker Field. Now 16-1-1 on the season, the Cougars will receive a bye for the first round, and they will play the winner of the Indianapolis-Quincy game to be played Wednesday.

## Cougars struggle to end season

■ BY JASON TRIPLETT

SPORTS REPORTER

Cougar's volleyball finished out its home schedule by stinging St. Joseph's College and getting stung by Indiana/Purdue-Ft. Wayne last weekend.

SIUE starters Christy Scheller, Jill Stenger and Michelle Gilman were all injured before Friday's and Saturday's matches. Gilman, playing on a sprained ankle, managed to put down three kills all weekend.

On Friday night, the 12-11 St. Joseph's Pumas hit only .028 for the match and registered 45 errors. SIUE beat St. Joseph's, 15-8, 15-4, 15-9.

"St. Joe's is a very sloppy team. We didn't have many attacks and our service aces got us through," Cougar coach Sandy Montgomery said.

The hindered SIUE squad didn't put up significant numbers hitting only .165 against St. Joseph's. Donna Henderson, an outside hitter for SIUE, put down nine kills, and Julie Litteken recorded 10.

"We did serve well against them," Montgomery said, "but IU/PU and St. Joseph's are two totally different teams."

On Saturday, IU/PU-Ft. Wayne definitely showed why it is 14-0 in the conference. They showed no mercy in defeating the Cougars 15-3, 15-6, 15-5.

The Cougars hit .099 in the match and recorded 23 kills with no one in double figures.

"We didn't do a whole lot right," Montgomery said.

The Mastadons, on the other hand, hit for .410 in the match. Middle hitter Andi Reichert put down 15 kills and marked an impressive .700 hitting percentage on the day.

"They are very quick in the middle," Montgomery said. "We have to be on our best game with everyone healthy to beat IU/PU, and even then it would be a challenge."

The status of Scheller, Stenger and Gilman is unknown. It is also unknown how the Cougars will finish up the season without the three starters.

The volleyball team will end its regular season with conference matches at Lewis and Wisconsin-Parkside this weekend.

## Hat tricks help in 2 Cougar wins

■ BY BRETT LICATA  
SPORTS REPORTER

It was a trick that gave head coach Brian Korbesmeyer a treat on Halloween night.

Janece Friederich and Lynda Bowers both had hat tricks last weekend as the SIUE women's soccer team topped Central Missouri State and Northern Kentucky at Bob Guelker Field.

Friederich took care of the scoring in the game against Central Missouri State on Friday. She scored her first at the 19:52 mark on a 28-yard blast with Megan Steward picking up the assist to make it 1-0. That proved to be all the scoring that the Cougars would need.

A corner kick resulted in Friederich scoring her second goal of the game in the 66th minute to put SIUE up two.

With less than 22 minutes to play, Friederich struck for the third time off a penalty kick.

The 3-0 victory was the ninth shutout of the season for goalkeeper Stacy Wade as she stopped all eight shots that she faced.

"They have a good second-year team," Korbesmeyer said on Monday. "They had some scorers on the field, but we played hard in the second half and stayed focused."

In the final home game of her SIUE career, Bowers gave the crowd a lasting memory of her soccer skill.

She helped the Cougars to their eighth win in their last nine games by scoring a hat trick in a 4-2 victory over Northern Kentucky on Sunday.

Megan Beagles started the

scoring early when she tapped in a ball off a corner kick with under a minute gone from the game.

Bowers did the same in the 26th minute as she found the net after a corner kick for her first goal of the contest. Friederich and Steward combined for the assist.

"She's one of the nicest young ladies that I've had the privilege of coaching," Korbesmeyer said about Bowers. "I just hope that she has a few more goals in her for this stretch run."

After a couple of late goals from Northern Kentucky's Jenny Tabe and Andrea Allen, Bowers completed her three-goal game on a pass from Beagles that she netted with under two minutes to play.

"We had a couple of unlucky plays that resulted in them getting

two goals," Korbesmeyer said. "Instead of getting tense with the game 3-2, we played composed soccer and ended up getting another goal. This was the best passing performance that I've seen from these ladies all year."

The victories take the Cougars to 15-6 on the year. There is still hope for SIUE to capture a spot in the NCAA Division II tournament, which starts Nov. 15, but they have work to do. SIUE will round out its regular-season schedule against No. 22 Missouri-Rolla at 1 p.m. Sunday.

"Rolla has been ranked 15th or 16th in the nation earlier this year," Korbesmeyer said. "It will be a tough game for us. We need to deny their good players the ball and play mentally tough the entire game."

## Top goalies bottoming out these days

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Buffalo Sabres usually go as Dominik Hasek goes. That's been their problem so far this season.

For years one of the NHL's most reliable goaltenders, Hasek is off to a rocky start — as are the Sabres.

He isn't the only top goaltender struggling these days.

For starters, try Mike Richter of the New York Rangers, Mike Vernon of the San Jose Sharks and John Vanbiesbrouck of the Florida Panthers.

Last season, the combined record of the four was 110-72-34. As of Saturday night: 14-20-7.

In all cases, the performances of these goaltenders reflect the performances of their teams.

Two overtime victories over the weekend,

including 4-3 at Florida on Saturday night, kept the Sabres from falling to the bottom of the Northeast Division. As it is, the Sabres remained fifth with a 5-7-2 record in a division they dominated last season.

"We don't have any more excuses," Hasek said. "We want to prove that last year was no fluke. We fought back tonight and we're doing the things that we weren't doing earlier. I hope it changes for us."

The Sabres want the changes to start with Hasek. Despite his victory Saturday, he was still 4-6-2 — quite a difference from his 37-20-10 record of last season when he won the Vezina Trophy as the NHL's best goaltender and the Hart as the league MVP.

Before Saturday night, Hasek had allowed an average of 3.33 goals a game, a big change from the 2.27 of last season when the Sabres won the Northeast. This season's goals-

against average ranks Hasek 29th in the NHL.

"Not a lot of (fans) have been showing up (at home)," Hasek says.

The ones that do have booed Hasek this season — in part because of his early-season performance and in part for the controversy surrounding former coach Ted Nolan. Hasek's criticism of Nolan led to the eventual departure from Buffalo of the 1996-97 NHL coach of the year.

There has been reported animosity between Hasek and his teammates this season as well. But Hasek said Saturday, "The whole team is together."

The Sabres salvaged their recent four-game road trip with back-to-back overtime wins in Carolina and Florida.

"We're going home now," Hasek said. "It's not automatic — we have to start playing

# After eventful first season, Big 12 coaches look for more

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — The first season of Big 12 Conference women's basketball gave Texas A&M coach Candi Harvey all the competition she wanted. And a few other memorable experiences, as well.

The Big 12 came about by merging the Big Eight Conference with four schools from the old Southwest Conference — A&M, Baylor, Texas and Texas Tech. It was quite an adjustment for the Texas schools, who before never had to leave their state for a league game.

Along with Midwestern hospitality, they also got to experience a Midwestern winter.

"We played in Manhattan, Kan., and it was 32-below wind chill," Harvey said Wednesday at the Big 12's media day. "Then we went to Columbia, Mo., and it was 28-below wind chill."

"The next week we went to Ames and it was a balmy 10 degrees. Then we're back in College Station and it was 70 degrees. It was like, whoa, what is this?"

But the Texas schools survived and the league thrived. Kansas won the regular-season championship by two games over Colorado and Texas. Colorado won the league tournament, and six Big 12 teams went to the NCAA Tournament.

Colorado got the farthest in postseason play, reaching the Sweet 16 before losing to eventual national champion Tennessee. Kansas, Kansas State, Texas, Texas Tech and Iowa State also earned bids.

"It was an extremely strong basketball league, intense, competitive, there was a lot of excitement surrounding that conference race," Texas coach Jody Conradt said.

"The only disappointment is our teams didn't advance as far in the NCAA Tournament as we'd like to. But aside from that, to have six in shows a lot of respect for our conference."

Big 12 coaches were so buoyed by their first season that they see their league eventually matching the Southeastern Conference in women's basketball prominence. In one regard, it

already has.

The Big 12 has three coaches who have won NCAA championships — Conradt at Texas in 1986, Texas Tech's Marsha Sharp in 1993 and Baylor's Sonja Hogg at Louisiana Tech in 1982. Conradt leads all Division I coaches in victories with 697.

Only one SEC coach has won the national championship, although that coach, Tennessee's Pat Summitt, has captured five.

"Last year, we were probably the most talked about conference in the country," said Kansas coach Marian Washington, who has won 457 games in 24 seasons with the Jayhawks. "This year, I think we will be the most watched conference in the country. The Big 12, in time, will have an opportunity to rival the SEC."

"With the coaches we have, the recruiting, we are the conference of the future."

The league's coaching roster added another illustrious name when Nebraska hired Paul Sanderford from Western Kentucky to replace Angela Beck, who went to the San Jose Lasers of the American Basketball League. In 15 seasons at Western, Sanderford's teams made 12 NCAA Tournament appearances, reached the Final Four three times and won 75 percent of its games.

Iowa State coach Bill Fennelly said Sanderford's presence boosts the esteem of the entire league.

"Paul Sanderford is one of the names. My mother knows who he is," Fennelly said. "My mother doesn't know anything about anybody really, but she knows Pat Summitt and Geno (Auriemma) and Paul and Leon (Barmore)."

"There's certainly names that go with the sport and Paul's is one of those. Unfortunately, he's going to be right next door to me and I have to play against him twice. He's going to do great things at Nebraska."

Texas Tech is the favorite in the league's second season and is the Big 12's best bet for a Top 10 team nationally, at least early on. The Lady Raiders return four starters from last season's 20-9 team, including 6-foot-1 senior Alicia Thompson, the league's

preseason player of the year.

Tech also has some impressive newcomers, including junior college standouts Angie Braziel and Kyna Cosby. Braziel is a 6-3 post player. Cosby is a 5-9 shooter who made 46 percent of her 3-point attempts last season.

"Our league is pretty darn strong," Tech assistant Linden Weese said. "We have some great players. And we'll see some unknown players emerge. I hope they're wearing red and black with a double T on."

After Tech, it's a scramble. Kansas lost guard Tamecka Dixon, the league's player of the year. Colorado no longer has the strong inside tandem of Erin Scholz and Reagan Scott. Texas lost three starters.

"I think Texas Tech is clear cut," Colorado coach Ceal Barry said. "After that, I couldn't even pick two through 10. It could be anybody."

For the record, the coaches picked Texas for second and the media chose Colorado.

Sanderford is excited to be a part of it.

"There are no patsies in this league," he said. "We certainly don't want to be one at Nebraska."

## HOCKEY

from page 10

well at home. I hope after this trip, (the fans will) start showing up now."

The Rangers, meanwhile, have had no problem with attendance — only winning. Richter blames himself for the early-season failure, which had the Rangers fifth in the Atlantic Division with a 3-6-5 record.

"As of late, I've been absolutely pressing in trying to get wins," said Richter, who is 3-5-4 with a 2.72 GA. Last season, Richter was 33-22-6 with a 2.68 GA.

"I feel the motivation is there, but the result is a disaster," says Richter, who has a Stanley Cup to his credit from the 1993-94 Rangers team. "You have to worry about stopping the puck in shifts. It's something I try to address in practice — just being balanced and letting the puck come to me."

"Maybe I'm trying to do two jobs at once, or pressing too much. There have been a few periods in the last few games that cost us. I'm better than that, and I can help the team more than that."

Vernon was hoping for a better start — more like his finish last

season when he led the Detroit Red Wings to the Stanley Cup championship. The MVP of the playoffs, though, has struggled right along with the Sharks, who are fifth in the Pacific Division.

Vernon is 4-5-0 with a 3.43 goals-against, as compared with a 16-4 record and 1.76 GA in the playoffs. Admittedly, the Sharks are not the Red Wings.

"It's something you can't do much about sometime," says Vernon, noting the difference between the teams. "If I let in a bad goal for a team like Detroit, they can make up for it. Here, it's devastating. It sinks the whole bench. It's like the playoffs. You can't let in a bad goal. You have to go out and compete all the time."

"When you have a team like ours, you have to eliminate mistakes because we don't have the talent or offense other teams have."

The Panthers, with an injured Vanbiesbrouck trying to find his game, are sixth in the Atlantic Division. Vanbiesbrouck, who keyed the Panthers' run to the Stanley Cup finals two seasons ago, is just 3-4-1 this season with a 3.05 GA. Last year, he was 27-19-10 with a 2.29 GA.

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Boxing  
1/2 price appetizers w/valid SIUE ID

WED  
5th Hip Hop Night  
with Rockin Reese

FRI  
7th FRESA CITY  
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MIDNITE SHOW: TBA

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