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WEATHER
 Today: Rain Likely
 40/45°
 Wednesday: Mostly
 Cloudy 39/48°

The Alestle

ALTON, EAST ST. LOUIS & EDWARDSVILLE

Its all fun and games....!

Kathleen Madigan shares her life as a comedian. See story page 5



◆ TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 1998

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY AT EDWARDSVILLE

Vol. 50, No. 48 ◆

Mazrui focuses on Africa's passion



Neil Beitzall/Alestle

Dr. Ali Mazrui, world renowned author and speaker, talks with enthusiasm about the passion of Africa.

■ BY DOREEN VAN LEE
 NEWS STRINGER

Valentine's Day marked the third annual African Night Celebration at SIUE.

More than 100 students, faculty and guests gathered in the Meridian Ballroom in the

University Center for an evening of culture, entertainment and reflection.

This year's theme was "Power, Passion and Perspective in Africa."

"There is a great deal of passion in Africa but not enough power," Ali Mazrui, the keynote

speaker of the event, said.

Mazrui, a native of Kenya, is a noted author, special adviser to the World Bank in Washington, D.C., a television presenter and an Albert Schweitzer chair at State University of New York, Binghamton. He received degrees at Manchester University in England and Columbia University in New York.

Mazrui addressed major factors that he feels depletes Africa's power base. One of the problems is the "brain drain." The "brain drain" develops when young intellectuals and academicians, leave their countries.

"Many of the young minds of African are lured away by economic and political factors and by the media from the United States," Mazrui said.

Dr. Dallas Browne, associate professor of anthropology and advisor of the African Student Association, referred to Mazrui as one of the most distinguished individuals on the continent.

"Ali Mazrui is Africa's most distinguished son," Browne said.

Herta-Malita Shikapwashya,

president of the African Student Association, served as the mistress of ceremonies.

"It took us three years to get Dr. Mazrui to come to SIUE," Shikapwashya said.

Shikapwashya said they are now preparing for next year's speaker. Getting a speaker and planning entertainment is a yearlong process.

"The process of getting a reputable speaker and entertainment is arduous because there are issues of funding and some of the students are preparing for graduation," Shikapwashya said.

The participants were treated to a buffet of Senegalese yassa, beef stew, yam stew, nshima and ugali.

Entertainment included African dances and a play entitled "Coming To Africa."

The play centered around an African male who was sent to the United States by his parents to pursue an education. While in college he met and married an African American woman. Shortly

after their marriage, the couple returned to Africa to inform his parents of their wedding. His parents were overwhelmed because they were not informed of the marriage beforehand. The conflict caused by the difference in the cultures of the young couple also caused them anguish.

Closing remarks were given by Brian Ngororo, founder of the current African Night. He is an engineering major who graduates this spring.

"Many people of different cultures give praise to the creator and the land of which they come from," Ngororo said. "Americans pay homage to their land by saying God Bless America. I would like to express my appreciation and gratitude to Africa and say God Bless Africa."

African Night was sponsored by the University Center Board, Office of the Vice-Chancellor for Student Affairs, Office of the Provost & Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, Graduate School, African Student Association and the department of anthropology.

Focused Interest Communities offer students more interaction with others in their field

■ BY RENEE HOLLER
 NEWS STRINGER

Beginning fall semester 1998, students who wish to live in Woodland Residence Hall have the option of living in a Focused Interest Community (FIC). A Focused Interest Community is a group of students with the same major or similar interests living in the same area of Woodland Hall.

According to Michael Schultz, director of University Housing at SIUE, the FIC program is designed so that students can live in an environment suited to their academic interests.

"We are always looking for activities that will connect in-class activities with out-of-class activities," Schultz said. "We already have a floor at Woodland for scholar students as well as a floor for students that are

interested in nursing and it has been successful so far."

Schultz said that the FIC program was developed so that students will learn more about the academic field they are going into, not just in the classroom but in the Residence Hall as well.

A student may chose an FIC based on his or her major or other area of interest. One does not need to declare a major in order to be in an FIC. FICs available for fall 1998 include: Computers/Technology, Business, Engineering, Nursing, Scholars, Emerging Leaders, Healthy Lifestyles, Creative Arts, Foreign Language and International Experience. The Creative Arts FIC is to be made up of students who have an interest in art, music, theatre and dance.

The FIC program was developed by University Housing to help meet the educational needs of SIUE housing residents.

The program encourages students to design their own programs and experiences, such as workshops, study groups and faculty interactions outside of the classroom.

"I'm really excited about the program," Lisa McKirgan, marketing coordinator for University Housing, said.

It gives students another alternative to traditional campus living.

"I think we are providing a positive academic environment," McKirgan said.

"I feel the FIC embodies what this school is and will be about for the 21st Century," Timothy Mitchell, a freshman at SIUE, said. He plans to live in the Emerging Leaders wing at Woodland Hall next fall.

"The FICs will help students to be involved, because involvement is what SIUE is all about," Mitchell said. He also

feels that the FIC will help him learn more about leadership qualities and ideas.

"The great thing about the FIC is that I will be able to interact with other emerging leaders on a daily basis," Mitchell said. "We may not all have the same opinion, but we will all have the same ideas and that is important to me."

Not all students like the idea of FICs.

"[Most] students, especially freshmen, do not know what they want to go into," Taryn Riley, a junior at SIUE, said. "These students would not benefit from an FIC."

Although many educators and students do feel the FIC program will be beneficial to students, some universities and colleges do not offer programs similar to FICs due to the competition and close interaction students will have.

"[The only fear] is that academic competition will be negative," Schultz said. "But overall, I think the program will be positive."

University Housing stresses that the FIC program is open to all undergraduate students, not just freshmen. Students who do not wish to live in an FIC but who want to live in Woodland Hall, may do so as well. Current University Housing residents may choose to join an FIC during the University Housing Reservation process.

For more information about the FICs, please contact Kara Shustrin, assistant director of Residence Life for Residence Halls, by calling 659-4628 or by e-mail at kshnyder@siue.edu

"We are hoping everyone who can will try a Focused Interest Community," McKirgan said.

DuPage growth means big contracts and big campaign donations

WHEATON, Ill. (AP) — DuPage County's roads and infrastructure have grown dramatically in recent years, spawning another, less visible growth industry: no-bid contracts awarded to companies that have filled the campaign coffers of County Board Chairman Gayle Franzen.

While the county has become one of the largest governments in Illinois and a powerful political base, it has lagged behind in efforts to control the potential influence of political insiders. The state has brand-new restrictions to limit the use of no-bid contracts. Lobbyists in Springfield, Chicago and Cook County now need to file public

notice of who they are and who their clients are.

But in DuPage, lobbyists can operate under the radar screen because there is no registration requirement. And Franzen's term as board chairman offers a primer on how a politician can build a big campaign bank account the old-fashioned way — by collecting donations from vendors seeking business with government.

He has received more than \$150,000 in campaign donations from engineer consulting companies and other firms that in one two-month period early last year were awarded more than \$2 million in no-bid contracts. Millions more have been

collected from contracts awarded earlier in Franzen's tenure.

"Campaign contributions are the mother's milk of politicians," Franzen explains. He contends there is no problem with contributors getting no-bid contracts because there is simply no connection between the two. DuPage County Auditor William Jacklin, who polices county spending, disagrees, saying such behavior "gives the appearance — the key word is appearance — of preferential treatment."

Most contractors didn't return repeated telephone calls for comment, but a few who did said contributing is good business because it promotes goodwill.

"We support the candidate but there's absolutely no guarantee" of getting work in return, said Don Zimmer, a vice president at Rust Environment and Infrastructure, a consulting engineer company that pursues public sector work around the country.

Rust has contributed \$13,000 to Franzen since 1995. It has received more than \$500,000 for consulting work in 1997 and has more than \$700,000 in outstanding contract amounts yet to be paid.

"I think to take a passive role is just putting your head in the sand," Zimmer said.

Franzen had been building his campaign fund for a statewide race, but dropped out after one week last October in the Republican contest for secretary of state, saying his heart wasn't in it. He says he will retire from public life when his term is over at the end of the year.

He acknowledged in a recent interview that one concern about a statewide race was the specter of media questions about his political style, including pinstripe patronage — the practice of giving government contracts to campaign contributors.

"I was not going to get out there and get pummeled again by the press for not being politically correct," Franzen said.

Much of Franzen's campaign money has come from fund-raising events, some of which have been organized by a lobbyist who also helps his clients win no-bid contracts from the county.

The lobbyist, former state

lawmaker Al Ronan, declined to comment.

Franzen, as chairman, doesn't vote when the board acts on contracts. And he says the work of deciding who should get a contract is left up to staff members, the heads of county board committees and county administrator Don Zeilenga.

But staff members, the heads of some county boards and Zeilenga have also attended Franzen fund-raisers.

Michael Formento, a Franzen ally and head of the board's Transportation Committee, which handles lucrative road contracts, has attended Franzen fund-raisers and is running to succeed him. He also has received donations from some of the same companies that give to Franzen. "It certainly wouldn't influence my decision, because my decisions are based on the recommendations that staff make," Formento said.

Zeilenga has gone to Franzen fund-raisers despite language in the county code that says the county administrator "shall not be allowed to participate in political fund raising during hours of employment or personal non-employment hours."

Zeilenga and Franzen said the code was aimed at prohibiting the administrator from selling tickets to fund-raisers, not attending them.

Another candidate to succeed Franzen, Robert Schillerstrom, has called for restrictions on contributions from no-bid contractors and a requirement that lobbyists register with the county clerk.

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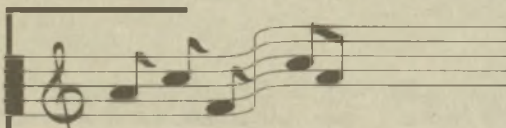
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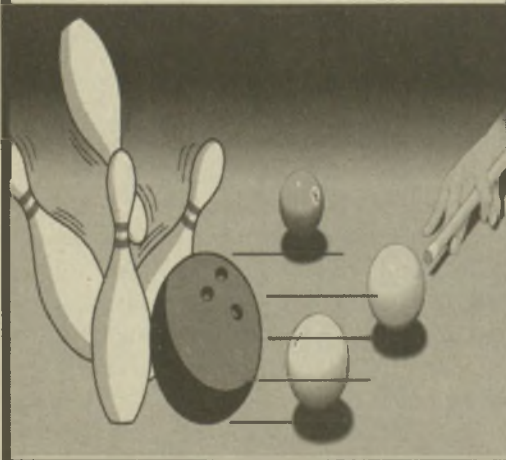
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Didrickson taking on gambles in campaign for U.S. Senate seat

JOLIET, Ill. (AP) — Loleta Didrickson sips coffee — fortified with a shot of espresso — from a Styrofoam cup adorned with a winning hand of cards.

She's about to do lunch with the Joliet Chamber of Commerce at Harrah's riverboat casino complex. Gamblers scramble past her to board a boat and try their luck. But Didrickson is not ready to roll the dice.

"I'm not much of a gambler," she says. Instead, she stays behind to work the room with handshakes and hugs.

For Didrickson, 56, a bid for the Republican U.S. Senate nomination is no game of chance. She has carefully plotted each move in the March 17 primary race against conservative millionaire Peter Fitzgerald, a state senator from Inverness.

Her battle cry is simple: "I can win."

Didrickson offers that phrase with a sly smile when a member of the Illinois Manufacturers' Association asks her to name the differences in their campaigns. It's an important point, considering recent Illinois history.

Didrickson, finishing her first term as state comptroller, is the favorite of the Republican

establishment. She lists Gov. Jim Edgar, former presidential candidate Bob Dole, Secretary of State George Ryan and House Minority Leader Lee Daniels among her cheerleaders.

That lineup looks much like the one Lt. Gov. Bob Kustra put together in 1996, when conservative millionaire Al Salvi, a two-term state representative, stunned the political establishment politicians with a primary upset. Democrat Dick Durbin then clobbered Salvi in the general election by painting him as a pro-gun extremist.

Didrickson wants to make sure history doesn't repeat itself.

She's appealing to her party's right wing with a full cache of fiscally conservative catch phrases: "smarter, smaller" government, a "flatter, simpler" tax system, an "overhaul" of the Internal Revenue Service.

Fitzgerald attacks her support of abortion rights and gun control and compares her to incumbent Democratic Sen. Carol Moseley-Braun. Didrickson scoffs and responds with television commercials proclaiming her "fundamental differences" with Moseley-Braun.

Didrickson says she's not

worried that Fitzgerald will probably outspend her. But she issued an early February fund-raising letter saying her campaign is "fighting for our financial life."

Even so, only her fingers — twisting and tapping behind her back or in her lap as she delivers speeches and answers questions — hint at anything other than a relaxed, confident persona.

Her path to politics has not been traditional. But even while growing up in Chicago, she signaled she was ready for a challenge — taking on boys in softball games at a time when girls were rarely encouraged to participate in sports.

"My mother pushed more dolls on me than I probably wanted," she laughs.

The product of a "rock-bed Republican" family, Didrickson says she got her own taste for politics and economic theory when she read her first Ayn Rand novel at the University of Illinois.

She dropped out after her junior year to get married, then stayed home to raise her three children. But she later finished a communications degree at Governors' State University before launching her legislative career in the 1980s.

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2. Wedding Singer	\$18.3
3. Sphere	\$14.1
4. Good Will...	\$8.0
5. As Good As...	\$6.4

(All figures in millions)

◆ PAGE 4

The A l e s t l e

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 1998 ◆

RANTS & RAVES



■ BY COREY STULCE
LIFESTYLE EDITOR
cstulce@siue.edu

I seem to get creative during the kookiest times. I went to two concerts last week and while being hyp-mo-tized by the rhythmic bouncing of the mindless fan-kids, a jolt entered my brain and a new idea was spawned.

I'm always thinking of new and exciting ways to make loads of dough quickly so I can quit school and not worry about getting a real job or slaving away at some daily rag.

Somehow, the wailing sounds of Smashmouth and Ben Folds Five caused me to come up with another scheme. I will become a concert promoter!

I already have a great idea for a tour. 80s music seems to be hip again, with retro club nights, 80s lunches and movies like "The Wedding Singer" celebrating the greedy decade of pop.

I will start a large stadium tour featuring the reuniting and comeback of not one, but two 80s supergroups.

That's right kids, prepare for the summer of The Go-Gos vs. The Bangles! I think it's about damn time for a good old-fashioned battle of the bands.

It will be a wild free-for-all. The show will feature two smaller stages on one large stage. Each group will perform a song from their repertoire and the audience will vote with their cheers and jeers who wins each round.

This is where it gets really exciting. During the intermission, there will be a huge tag team wrestling match with pudding or some other sloppy material. The losers of the concert might even have to streak across the stage or something. The details still need to be worked out.

I'm working on having Bananarama open the show.

Again, I will be accepting donations for this mighty effort.

Eyes wide
shut:
Chatting
with a
travelling
band



Third Eye Blind: from left, Arlon Salazar, Kevin Cadogan, Stephan Jenkins, Brad Hargreaves

■ BY RENEE HOLLER
LIFESTYLE STRINGER

For the masses, being a popular musician seems like a great job. Bands get to travel, see the world, perform for huge crowds and be mobbed by teeny-boppers who think they are gods. But for members of Third Eye Blind, the occupation has a downside as well as an amazing upside.

At a press conference held Thursday, prior to their performance at the American Theatre, Third Eye Blind band members Stephan Jenkins and Arlon Salazar gave all a glimpse of their lives, their music, touring on the road, their penises, their past and their future.

The one thing all the band members were NOT shy about discussing was the fact that their penises are not pierced.

"That's disgusting," said Jenkins, lead vocalist for the band. "It sounds too painful."

"I'm not too into the whole body piercing thing," said Salazar. "The only body part I have pierced is my ear lobe. That whole genital piercing thing is mutilation."

According to Jenkins, who co-writes the overwhelming majority of the band's lyrics, their music is about "flawed people who are somehow redeemable."

"Our music is fu*king awesome," Jenkins said. "People seem to love our music. I'm

grateful for the connection it has made with people."

Salazar, who plays bass, feels that, although public opinion is important, his own happiness with the music is more important than what fans think.

"I play music for myself. We write what we like, and if audiences like it, great; if they don't, well, so be it," Salazar said. He gave

Sometimes I feel like a nut, sometimes I don't.

-Arlon Salazar, bass player for Third Eye Blind on touring

some advice to young musicians just starting out. "Play music for yourself. Don't try to appease anybody or try too hard because it's going to show that you are a fake. Play music that makes you happy."

Salazar and Jenkins, both natives of Oakland, Calif., are grateful to be playing music for a living, but they do admit touring can be a bit stressful at times.

"Sometimes I feel like a nut, sometimes I don't," said Salazar. "Just being away from stability can be tough."

"You miss your family, you miss your friends at home and being in a hotel or bus can be a bit of a drag sometimes," Salazar said.

However, as much as Salazar dislikes the details that go along with touring, his music is

always there to make him happy.

"Playing for folks every night and meeting new people and making people happy and seeing that reaction on their faces as you play, that's great."

"This past year has really changed my life and it's been the most flattering and enriching experience of my life," said Jenkins.

When asked about his rumored relationship with actress Charlize Theron, ("2 Days in the Valley," "The Devil's Advocate") Jenkins would not comment, except to say that, "Charlize is an absolutely stunning actress, and I think she is the most brilliant actress I've seen in a long time."

Salazar wouldn't comment on his personal life either, although he did mention that his goal is to have a home recording studio along with a dog, a cat, a wife and kids in ten years.

"I'm really a romantic kinda guy," Salazar said.

When asked about whether he would trade in his job for another, he said, "No, because playing music and getting paid for it is what I've always wanted to do, and I'm fu*king grateful I can do it and there is nothing I would do to change it. It's totally worth it, the pros outweigh the cons."

13 Inane Questions



Kathleen Madigan is an alumna of the SIUE department of mass communications and a stand-up comedian. Her new half-hour HBO special debuts Friday.

Madigan also has produced a documentary about female comedians, and is currently pitching the special to the networks.

What kind of material are you doing for your new HBO special?

A little bit of everything. Some sports jokes, some about jobs I used to have. There's no real theme.

What kind of preparation did you have to do?

I picked out a half-hour of all the material I have on the planet, which is about two hours worth. Then I ran around town doing 30 minute [sets] in as many places as I could.

Being on the road so much, what kind of difficulties are there as far as personal relationships go?

Oh, they are virtually impossible, unless you marry an airline pilot or somebody who is gone as much as you.

How long are you willing to sacrifice that for your career?

That's a good question. I don't

know. I guess I'll know when the time comes. When I'm sick of it, I guess. But to me, being home two weeks a month is a ton. I'm home a lot and I get bored very quickly.

How often do you get hecklers?

Not as often as the guys. First of all, I'm only 5 feet 1 inch; and since I'm a woman, guys feel a little more hesitant.

There seem to be a lot of vocal bachelorette parties at the comedy clubs, though.

Oh, they're the worst. And I'm a woman and I hate to say it, but drunk women are the worst, especially bachelorette parties. They probably haven't seen each other in awhile and they want to talk. It always boggles my mind why you would come someplace you have to be quiet. It's bizarre. Drunk women can be very brutal.

What was your first time

onstage like?

I was nervous at first, but then when I got up there it was no big deal. I bartended for awhile, so I was used to talking to strangers.

When you started, did you have a specific set?

Yeah, I thought about it. People who don't think about it, no matter how funny they are, are going to find themselves lost.

When you get a chance to see other comedians, who do you see?

The people I like to see aren't famous yet. Well, some are, like Kevin Meaney. A lot of people who are super goofy. I like the super silly more than the super poignant.

Do you think stand-up comedy is a man's world?

I think more men are inclined to do it. I don't think most

women have a desire or nerve. The lifestyle is more a man's lifestyle than a woman's. Guys just love the idea of going into a town, meeting a girl, dating her and leaving. When you start out, you're staying in crappy motel rooms and they don't care. I mean, look at a guy's dorm room.

I saw you on "Make Me Laugh" last year. Do you have a hard time thinking on your feet?

No, that show is a lot more staged than it appears. It was actually fun to do, even though the show's not that good.

If I was to say, "Make me laugh right now," what would you say?

I'd say I'm off the clock. I've been on planes before and I've assessed that the person next to me is normal, so I'll tell them I'm

a comedian. And they'll say, "No you're not, tell me a joke." And I think, you would never go up to a guy on a plane and go, "What do you do?" and if he said, "I'm a lawyer," you wouldn't go, "No you're not, tell me a law."

You're catholic. How far will you go with that in your material?

I'll go as far as I want with Catholicism. That's because most catholics have a good sense of humor. So, they're not as rigid about making fun of it. You say something about baptists in the south and it could get really ugly. They take it very seriously.

Stand-up was big in the 80s. Do you see a resurgence coming?

It dropped off, but it's slowly but surely starting to inch its way back.

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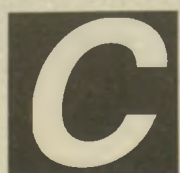
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Tue. Peck Building	11am-1pm
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Cougar ice hockey extends winning streak to 4 games

■ BY BRETT LICATA
SPORTS REPORTER

It doesn't get any better for a second year program to have a three-game winning streak, right? Wrong.

The SIUE ice hockey team notched their fourth victory in a row over Washington University 9-4 in front of their biggest crowd of the season last Saturday in East Alton.

The Cougars had a problem staying out of the penalty box early on and Washington took advantage jumping out to a 2-0 lead.

"We had to regroup. I think that we were taking them too

lightly," head coach Bill Misiak said after his team went down by two. "We started working harder and picked up the pace."

Before the end of the first period, SIUE had come back to take a 3-2 lead.

Brad Brussatti jump started the Cougars when Jeff Rasch and Mike Gerling set him up to put SIUE on the board.

Dave Miskelley tied the game and Scott Cloin added the go-ahead goal before the first intermission with assists going to Bill Cloin and Matt Foristal.

In the second period, SIUE exploded with five goals to pull away from its opposition.

Gerling and Brussatti set up

Rasch early in the second period to give the Cougars some breathing room. Rasch added another goal in the period when he picked up a rebound in front of the net to give him 12 points in the last four games. Brussatti, Rasch's linemate, has ten points in the four-game winning streak.

Scott Cloin tallied his second goal of the game on a setup from Rob Maher and Dan Kennedy.

Foristal picked up his second point of the contest when he let a blistering, ice-level shot go, from the point, that beat the Washington goaltender.

Gerling extended the SIUE

lead when he put the puck in the top shelf, over the goaltender's shoulder, to collect his third point of the game.

Kennedy added an unassisted goal in the third to nail down the 9-4 victory.

SIUE goaltender Bill Day and a smothering defensive effort held Washington to only 19 shots while SIUE fired 51 shots on net.

"The reason that we've been winning is because we're taking two times the shots that we were earlier in the season," Foristal said. "It's a real credit to our offense."

Misiak thinks that his team's hard work at practice has been

the key to their success.

"What we practice is what we implement in our games," he said. "It's a simple system that we have. Sometimes simplicity works better than complicated drills."

The Cougars will try and extend their winning streak to five games when they take on the University of Missouri-St. Louis on Thursday at 10:30 p.m. at the North County Sports Complex.

"They [UMSL] have an aggressive forechecking team," Misiak said. "We need to adhere to our game plan and do what we've done in our last four outings."

Women's hoops need streak to clinch spot in GLVC

Cougars need two more wins to hold third place

■ BY JASON TRIPLETT
SPORTS REPORTER

With two games of regular season play left for the Cougar women's basketball team, peak performances down the stretch will help the Cougars clinch a berth in the Great Lakes Valley Conference tournament.

Junior Kim Lowe stepped into the limelight for SIUE in last week's action against Indiana University-Purdue University at Fort Wayne and St. Joseph's College.

Lowe earned the Great Lakes Valley Conference Player of the Week accolade by averaging 19.5 points and 12.5 rebounds in her two double-digit games.

Thursday, the Cougars traveled to Ft. Wayne where the Mastodons just didn't have

enough offense to hold off the red hot SIUE squad. In the last ten games, the Cougars have lost only to the two teams who are ranked above them, Lewis University and The University of Southern Indiana.

IU-PU at Fort Wayne came close only at the beginning of the second half. The Mastodon's came out of the locker room and took the lead 44-40 which was short lived when freshman guard Misi Clark hit one of her 4 three pointers and livened up the battle between the two teams.

The Cougars never led by more than 8 points throughout the game. A combined effort from Lowe, Clark and senior Alicia Harkins are what kept SIUE bending but not breaking in the 74-70 win.

Lowe led her team in Saturday's 73-68 victory over

St. Joseph Pumas. She made 10 out of her 16 shots from the floor and cleaned 15 rebounds. Lowe pumped her team up in the opening moments in Rensselaer by scoring 6 of the Cougars first 9 points.

The Lady Pumas launched a balanced attack scoring from both in the paint and out. Guard Jessika Henry set the pace for the Pumas with 18 points draining 2 of the 3 threes shot by St. Jo's. Center Angie Hupfer and forward Tammie Williams combined for 25 points and Mandy Witherby, the other guard, scored 11.

One quick home game and then a road contest highlights the Cougars' schedule this week. Winless Quincy University will be visiting the Vadalabene Center on Thursday.

Phillie's Lieberthal agree on new two-year contract at \$3.4 million

CLEARWATER, Fla. (AP) — Hours before they were scheduled to fly to an arbitration hearing, the Philadelphia Phillies agreed to a two-year contract with catcher Mike Lieberthal.

The deal will pay Lieberthal \$1.2 million this season and \$2.2 million next year. There are additional bonuses if he makes the All-Star team or wins a Gold Glove.

"If anything, it will make me play better," said Lieberthal, who hit .246 in 134 games with 20 home runs and 77 RBIs last year. "The longer

I thought about it, it was a deal I couldn't pass up."

Lieberthal, 26, also said his reluctance to attend the arbitration hearing, scheduled for Monday in Arizona, was a big part of his decision to accept the Phillies offer.

An arbitrator would have been asked to choose between the \$1.8 million Lieberthal wanted this year or the \$825,000 the Phillies offered. The blunt assessments of players by management during these hearings often leave hard feelings.

"I would have been affected

if I went to arbitration," he said. "I know what comes out of arbitration."

Phillies manager Terry Francona considers Lieberthal among the top three catchers in the National League, along with Los Angeles' Mike Piazza and Florida's Charles Johnson.

He also said he thinks Lieberthal will show more power this season "because of the way he hits. He's got the quickest bat on our club, and a level swing. At some point, he's going to do some damage."



Cougar Scoreboard

Feb. 19 - Men's and

Women's Hoops at home vs. Quincy University.

Ice Hockey vs. UMSL at UMSL

Kenny Schrader was 1.005 seconds from first place at Daytona 500

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. (AP) — The official clock said Ken Schrader came up 1.005 seconds short of winning the Daytona 500. Car owner Andy Petree measured his driver's performance by a different standard.

"He and I are real close," Petree said as he gulped hard, shook his head and rubbed his eyes. "This is probably going to make us closer."

Schrader, bidding for his first Winston Cup victory since June 1991, drove the entire 500-mile distance Sunday, less than three days after fracturing his sternum in a crash.

Outfitted with a flak jacket, a hard plastic shell on top of it and an electric impulse kit to help control the pain, Schrader drove his Chevrolet Monte Carlo to a fourth-place showing, matching his best finish since 1996.

After the race, while Dale Earnhardt was celebrating in Victory Lane several hundred yards away, Schrader pulled into the garage area. His celebration consisted of mustering enough strength to crawl gingerly out of the car.

"I really didn't think he should be driving the car at all," Petree said. "To make that

charge and a run like that, I can't put into words what it means to me."

Schrader, who started 36th on the 43-car grid, needed just 30 laps to power his way into the top 15.

He spent the rest of the day in contention, working his way up to second and repeatedly challenging for the lead at the front of two- and three-wide trains of 3,400-pound machines.

After the day's third and final caution flag came out on lap 174 and set up a sprint to the finish, Schrader moved up from eighth and nearly overtook Jeremy Mayfield on the last lap for third.

"I was worried about him at the end there because I knew there was going to be a shootout," Petree said. "I was praying for him not to get hurt."

"There was no need for him to worry," Schrader said. "I'm sore, but it ain't that bad."

Schrader chuckled when asked how much discomfort he experienced during the race.

"When them guys are laid up all over you like that, you don't think about a couple little hurts," he said. "I'll tell you, it was there, but I had bigger things on my mind."

S p o r t s
S h o r t s
B A S E B A L L

GUBICZA

Mark Gubicza, a former 20-game winner of the Los Angeles Dodgers, has decided to retire.

Gubicza, 35, spent 13 years with the Kansas City Royals before being traded to the Angels. Gubicza retires with a lifetime record of 132-126, a 3.96 ERA and 1,371 strikeouts.

STRAWBERRY

Darryl Strawberry, 36, is one of four players Manager Joe Torre will try out as his starting left fielder.

Strawberry has been in Tampa, Fla., rehabilitating his knee following surgery. He's been taking batting practice, shagging fly ball and running.

Torre will be able to choose from Strawberry, Tim Raines, Chad Curtis and rookie Ricky Ledee as his everyday starter in left.

N B A

Conference Leaders

Central

Indiana Pacers 36-14

Atlantic

Miami Heat 32-18

Midwest

Utah Jazz 34-15

Pacific

Seattle Supersonics 39-12

N H L

Conference Leaders

Central

Dallas Stars 36-13

Atlantic

New Jersey Devils 34-16

Northeast

Pittsburgh Penguins 29-16

0

Colorado Avalanche 29-13

N F L

OTTIS

The Arizona Cardinals re-signed reserve defensive end Brad Ottis to a two-year contract worth \$2.6 million.

Ottis is insurance for the Cardinals in case they choose not to keep starting defensive end Michael Bankston, a free agent who signed a three-year contract with Cincinnati.

Bankston, a 6-foot-4, 287 pounds, started at left end and left tackle last season with the Cardinals.

Ottis, a 6-foot-5, 281-pound fourth-year pro, has been the team's top backup defensive lineman and also started four games last season.

ALDRIDGE

Allen Aldridge, who started at middle linebacker in the Super Bowl for the Denver Broncos, signed with the Detroit Lions.

Aldridge, 6-foot-1, 255 pounds, started 15 games at middle linebacker and also started in all four of the Broncos postseason contests.

Sprewell arbitration closed, waiting for final decision

NEW YORK (AP) — The Latrell Sprewell arbitration case came to an official close yesterday, starting the clock ticking on a 30-day window for arbitrator John Feerick to issue his decision.

Closing arguments will be made before Feerick at a Manhattan law office. Sprewell will have already missed 35 games — making his suspension the longest in NBA history.

Sprewell is hoping that the arbitrator reduces his one-year suspension to time served,

clearing him to return to the NBA before the end of this season.

The NBA has asked the arbitrator to uphold the suspension, arguing that it was not unduly harsh.

Sprewell also has filed a grievance against the Golden State Warriors for terminating the remaining three years of his four-year, \$32 million contract for the two attacks — one of which is in dispute — on coach P.J. Carlesimo at practice Dec. 1.

If Feerick allows Sprewell to return this season, he could join

the San Antonio Spurs in time to be eligible for the playoff roster. Spurs officials have privately confirmed speculation they that will offer Sprewell a contract for the prorated portion of the minimum salary of \$272,500.

Washington Wizards owner Abe Pollin has said his team might be interested in Sprewell. The Wizards, unlike the Spurs, could offer Sprewell their available \$1 million salary cap exception.

Four sessions were held in Portland, Ore., at the end of

January; four more were held in New York in the first week of February.

A total of 21 witnesses testified, ending with commissioner David Stern undergoing four hours of questioning on Feb. 5.

Feerick has given no indication of how long he will take to issue a ruling although it could come at any time between now and March 18. Before the hearing began, the arbitrator turned down a motion for an expedited ruling.

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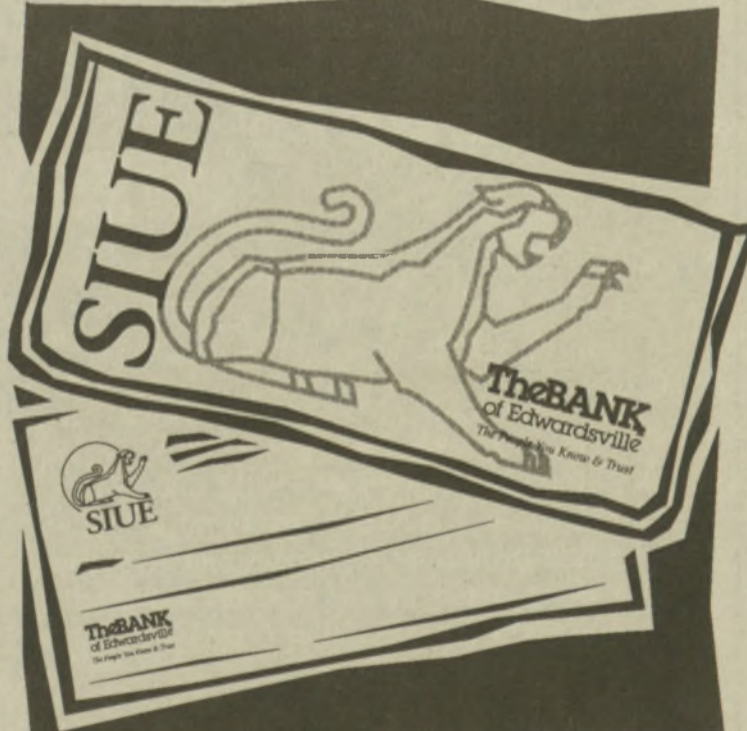
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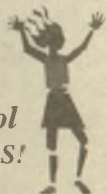
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