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WEATHER

Today: Partly Cloudy
35/54°

Wednesday: Partly
Cloudy 45/66°

the Alestle

ALTON, EAST ST. LOUIS & EDWARDSVILLE

Primary Colors!

The film is the image of an image of yet another image, a racy folk tale that has changed with every telling. See review on page 9.



Three students awarded Kimmel Scholarship

■ **BY ZHANDA JOHNSON**
NEWS EDITOR

Three SIUE students are the recipients of this year's Kimmel Scholarship. The scholarship is co-sponsored by SIUE and the Belleville News-Democrat.

The winners are Briana Beyers, of Pana, Ill., and a sophomore majoring in biological sciences and pre-dentistry; Jason Hulbert, of Mt. Vernon, Ill., and a senior majoring political science; Kyle Thompson, of Springfield, Ill., and a senior majoring in speech communication.

All three of this year's recipients will be presented the scholarships and plaques of recognition at the 10th annual Kimmel Leadership Awards Banquet, on Thursday, March 26 at 7 p.m. in the Meridian Ballroom.

The Kimmel Scholarship is an annual scholarship which was established in 1990



Briana Beyers



Jason Hulbert



Kyle Thompson

to recognize students for their outstanding leadership and community volunteer service contributions, in addition to academic excellence. The scholarship was named for Carol Kimmel, a former member of the SIU board of trustees who continues to give freely of her time and talent to volunteerism. The scholarship equals tuition for two semesters at SIUE

based on the Illinois in-state rate. The criteria on which scholarship recipients are chosen include several elements. The student must currently be enrolled at SIUE with sophomore, junior, senior or graduate class standing; have a cumulative grade-point average of at least 3.0; demonstrate volunteer contributions within the last two years in leadership, service or citizenship,

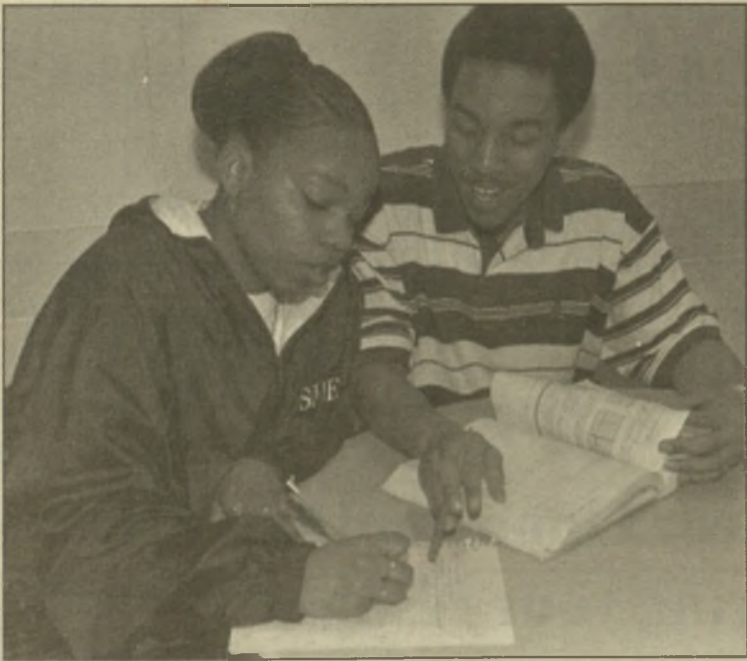
including leadership in a student organization or at least one elected office; and more than 30 hours of nonpaid service to a community agency or community organization. In addition, a nominee must provide two letters of documented university service and leadership, as well as two letters documenting community service and leadership.

This year's recipients fulfilled all of the criteria for the scholarship in a variety of ways.

Beyers is currently the president of the Dean's College Honor Society, Phi Eta Sigma historian, Biology Club executive officer, Alpha Phi Scholarship director, Intramural Basketball/Volleyball manager, Recreational Sports Advisory Committee Public Relations chair and an SIUE Chancellor's Scholar.

see KIMMEL, page 2

Special Services help students get through college with peer assistance



Lakeyisha M. Lane receives help from Wesley Thomas, a tutor in Special Services.

■ **BY DANIELLE BELTON**
EDITOR IN CHIEF

"It's like a small community over here," Wesley Thomas, 21, of St. Louis said. "I get a sense of home."

As part of the Special Services mentoring program, Thomas and Michael Vincent help freshmen students with the difficulties of

college life. "I just want to help people," Vincent said. "That's my nature." Earline Patterson, program director for Special Services in the office of Academic Counseling and Advisement, works to help organize the mentors and mentees and often is there to offer advice to all of her students.

A strong believer in the

program, Patterson helps uphold the program's motto, "Reach one, teach one." Though the program, they help students remain socially and academically focused at the same time.

"We're trying to send a message of balance," Patterson said. "Students that get started on the right foot, stay on the right foot."

Patterson said their goals are to reach freshmen as soon as they arrive then have them work with the mentor so they can receive the advice they otherwise might not have listened to if it had come from her or one of the other staff members at Special Services.

"(Students may be) not as apt to buy it (advice) coming from someone seen as an authority figure," Patterson said.

Patterson believes that by dealing with a peer, the mentee will pay more attention to the mentor, and may be more apt to follow the advice. Mentees are encouraged to handle problems early on and establish good habits rather than having to undo the damage that may have occurred due to bad habits.

"Freshman can see what being a successful student looks like," Patterson said of the program.

see SERVICES, page 2



Sarah Derr, a secretary at the Early Childhood Center displays a cougar notice.

■ **BY DANIELLE BELTON**
EDITOR IN CHIEF

It's a jungle out there. School officials have posted signs telling students to walk with caution around the campus due to a cougar sighting on the east side of the campus.

March 14, a Glen Carbon couple claimed to see a cougar on SIUE campus grounds. They then contacted Virgil Smith, the cougar research coordinator of Southern Illinois. Smith then

Cougar allegedly loose on campus

contacted the university police. Police and school officials were just made aware of this sighting last Friday. Police have been searching the woods for tracks or signs of a cougar, but so far have not turned up any signs of one.

"We haven't been able to substantiate it," said Chief Frank "Rich" Harrison of SIUE campus police.

The police have contacted the Department of Conservation about sending an official to look for signs of a cougar. Rumors have been spreading about mangled deer, but Harrison attributed the mangled deer to the large coyote population on campus.

"We haven't found anything that would indicate a cougar killed a deer," Harrison said.

For now, warnings have been posted for students and staff to exercise some extra caution until the sighting can be confirmed.

KIMMEL

from page 1

Beyer has volunteered with the Oconee Fall Festival, Adopt a Grandparent from Pana Nursing Home, HIS KIDS Christmas Party, Alpha Phi fundraising for Cardiac Care, Delta Theta Tau Tour of Homes, and the Shelby County 4-H Club, as well as SIUE's Student Leadership Development Program. She has also volunteered her time tutoring underprivileged kids.

As to her philosophy of volunteerism, Beyer said the personal interaction is an important factor in the work she enjoys.

"It's my way of giving back to people," Beyer said. "I have been very lucky in my life and I'd like to help others achieve similar opportunities. It also makes me

feel good to help people and I believe we should give back much more than we receive."

Hulbert is involved in several organizations at SIUE. He is currently the University Center Board vice president for Programs as well as Special Events chair. Hulbert has completed the Student Leadership Development Program and Steven Covey's Seven Habits of Highly Effective People. He has also been a peer assistant with University Housing, and has volunteered during freshman orientation, preview SIUE and for the University's Career and Volunteer Fair. Hulbert also is a member of Phi Eta Sigma Freshman Honor Society, Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society, and has been included in the national edition of Who's Who of American College and University

Students. At SIUE, Hulbert has put in volunteer hours on several planning committees, assisted with the Kimmel Leadership Banquet, SIUE Welcome Week, Student Leadership Orientation, HIV/AIDS Awareness Task Force, Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration and the conference of the Association of College Unions International-Region 9.

"When I undertake a volunteer project, I commit to it and ensure it is carried through," Hulbert said. "I believe that education outside the classroom is important to make well-rounded students who will be leaders in today's society and represent SIUE alumni."

Hulbert said helping others and establishing educational, social and recreational programs are what he enjoys doing.

Thompson has been involved with several

organizations at SIUE. As a member of Alpha Kappa Lambda Fraternity, he has held the positions of Public Relations Chair, Chaplain and Campus Relations Chair. Through his Greek involvement, he has been interfraternity council secretary and is a member of the Order of Omega Greek Honor Society. He has also been involved with the Student Government Constitution and Review Committee, Freshman Mentor Association, freshman orientation leader, Welcome Week, Springfest Planning Committee, University Center Board Public Relations Committee, Public Relations Student Society of America Treasurer, Student Leadership Development Program and Who's Who among American University and College Students.

Thompson has put in several

hours volunteering with Habitat for Humanity, Bowling for Kids and Gamble for Kids. He has been involved with the SIU School of Medicine community education program, "Think First/Risky Business," Operation Snowball, Sherman Pre-Prom Presentation, the Montgomery and Macoupin County Victim Impact Panels, the Sparta Community Crash Prevention Day and is a public presenter for the Stillmedow Drug/Alcohol Rehabilitation Center.

As a survivor of a serious motor vehicle accident, Thompson uses his experience to help youth.

"I provide my audience with real-life experiences as a result of alcohol and drugs in an attempt to reduce the likelihood of them becoming a victim," Thompson said. "If one kid listens it is always worth the effort."

SERVICES

from page 1

Though the benefit for the mentee is obvious, Patterson said that the experience is just as rewarding for the mentor. She said that many of the mentors were past mentees who wanted to help someone as someone helped them. Patterson

sees the success in the program because most of the students who become involved in it, go on to become college graduates.

"It demonstrates the value of the program," said Patterson of how her mentors often declare majors and graduate. "This program is very much a contribution to the volunteer."

The program accepts its mentors through applications and an interviewing process. Once made a mentor, students are sent to the mentor training program, where Danita Thompson teaches the "dos and don'ts" of mentoring. Future mentors are taught what is expected of them, how to respond to circumstances with

new freshmen, and on what their role is and isn't. Patterson urges mentors not to think of themselves or act like parents. Their role is meant to only be supportive.

After training, the mentors are then matched with their protege. Majors, interests, location and gender are some of the ways of pairing mentors and

mentees. Freshmen are given the opportunity to apply for a mentor during the PEAR sessions after being chosen to participate in special services.

This week the office is accepting applications for mentors. If interested in becoming a mentor or receiving more information about the program call 618-692-3790.

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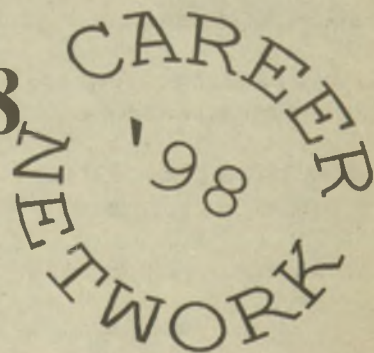
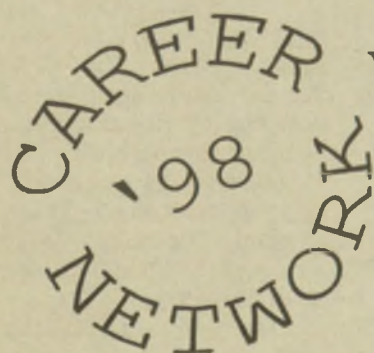
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Racism, Northern-style

You too can join the legions of modern day bigots, just pretend like it isn't there



**Danielle
Belton**

In the South, it's obvious.

Racism has always been a little more obvious in the South. Most don't even bother to try and hide it. Many Southerners hang their rebel flags proudly and even wear them on their shirts. Smaller versions of the rebel flag are even in the flags of many Southern states. How many countries do you know that allow a faction that attempted to rise up and overthrow them, still wave their flag? How many British flags were left hanging after the Revolutionary War? Not many. But it's the truth. Mississippi just banned slavery two years ago. Racism is just more obvious in the South.

In St. Louis, where I was raised, racism was a little more subtle. Though it's always been a dispute whether Missouri is Northern, Southern or Midwestern, it is mostly north of the Mason/Dixon line, so I'm going to say Northern. In the north, during my lifetime, most of the racism hasn't been obvious. If my mother hadn't taught me about racism, I might have even denied it existed, for a while.

In elementary, I went to an all black school in a predominately black neighborhood, the mostly white teachers at my school would tell us how we were the worst children and that children in other school districts did not act like us. They were good children and why couldn't we be as good as them? Now, the rest of my school district was overwhelmingly white, therefore as a child, I naturally assumed white children were somehow better behaved. Needless to say, I was wrong. But that's how it worked. They never said you black children are bad, white children are better. It was always implied.

This implied racism left many people confused. I've had teachers suddenly forget my papers throughout high school. They would conveniently lose them over and over again. I've had teachers with sudden bouts of amnesia about grades. If it weren't for my mother's diligence, I probably wouldn't have gotten the grades I deserved in high school.

But I got used to subtle racism. My parents hate it, because they're from the South, and at least if the racism was always obvious, they knew who the racists were. My racists hid behind smiles of understanding and phrases like, "most of my friends are black," or my mother's personal favorite, "I don't see color."

Getting used to subtle racism isn't a good thing, because it gives you a chance to deny that it really exists. "Oh, my teacher just lost my term paper, he wouldn't intentionally try to fail me!" But us Northerners get a wake-up call from time to time. A friend of mine started an internship in Belleville, Ill. While driving with a white female co-worker, the co-worker matter-of-factly remarked, "Oh, he's driving like a nigger," about a man tailgating her. After my friend informed the boss of this, the co-worker was promoted. She offered no apology till my friend brought it to the attention of the supervisor, four days later. It didn't matter that this newly promoted woman would carry this prejudice with her in her new position. It didn't matter that she uses that particular word so much that she mentioned it in casual speech to an obviously black person. And the most disturbing thing is it didn't really matter to her boss, because they probably saw it her way. After all, they probably saw it as only a slip of the tongue, but if it were as such it wouldn't hurt as much.

My point is, racism is just as bad in the North as in the South. Some people have told me that they don't want to drive in Mississippi because of "that whole 'race thing'" as if the Klan was going to be waiting at the turnpike for them, but black people get pulled over by the police in the South, and they get pulled over in the North. The only difference is, people up north like to act as if it isn't there. But it is, and there's no denying it. Northerners can smile in your face and try to suppress it, but it's still there waiting for a chance to seep out in all its ugly glory.

Danielle C. Belton
Editor In Chief

Letters to the editor

Featuring editorials from around campus about kindness in an unkind world, and some cultural criticism of an Alestle editorial

Touched By A Stranger?

In the midst of freezing weather, stressful midterms and a week of one problem after another, some strangers showed a warm heart. I was on the verge of a nervous breakdown and ready to explode ... when my book bag did. The zipper busted and four heavy books, an umbrella, a box of paper clips, several notebooks and 15 pens and pencils tumbled down the stairs of the Science Building and scattered down the hall.

Red-faced and nervous, I gathered the items closest to me as a swarm of people rushed down the stairs. Giggles and snickers echoed throughout the stairwell while I fought back tears. When I realized I was alone again, I looked up and found my books neatly stacked and my other materials piled up on top of them. I was very grateful but those who had helped left and I couldn't thank them.

This little act of kindness got me thinking. Maybe there were still good, decent people out there. Life really wasn't so bad. There were only a few days left until spring break ... I could make it so I put my stuff into my broken book bag and trudged through the snow to work with a smile on my face.

Those who stopped to help me deserve my thanks. I appreciate your taking the time to help me, but most of all, thank you for giving me a reason to smile. You brightened my dark day and I'm sorry I didn't get to thank you in person.

Jennifer K. Meyer
Soph., Speech Pathology

Cultural Criticism

I was somewhat taken aback by your suggestion that the color of your skin may be the result of "slave master." Evidently someone has confused you about your heritage and your history.

Granted some African Americans may lay claim to their complexion as a result of the atrocities of slavery, but there are many African Americans whose ancestors are from Africa, whose ancestors were never slaves, and whose complexion is similar to yours.

To discuss skin complexion as an example of master/slave relations is appalling and undignified. We are what we are. We are proud of who we are. I know I am.

Rudolph G. Wilson
*Assistant Provost for
Cultural and Social Diversity*

Editor's Note: *I would only like to say that when I said I was mixed with "slave master" that was in reference to my family in particular. I can only speak for my own family history, but what I said was the truth, and it is who I am.*

Don't you just love the smell of newsprint in the morning?

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

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

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

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

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News Reporters Renee D. Holler
News Stringers Anthony Watt
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Editor in Chief Danielle Belton

The Alestle
- Campus Box 1167
Edwardsville, Ill. 62026-1167
<http://www.siue.edu/ALESTLE/Alestle.html>

Army orders probe into Mckinney, Aberdeen investigations

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Army is looking into accusations that its own investigators coerced witnesses in the Aberdeen sex scandal and targeted black drill sergeants for prosecution because of their skin color, according to a published report Saturday.

Acting Army Secretary Robert M. Walker this week asked Inspector General Lt. Gen. Larry R. Jordan to also probe whether Army investigators acted improperly while looking into the sexual misconduct case of former Sgt. Maj. Gene McKinney, The (Baltimore) Sun said.

McKinney has said charges were brought against him because he is black. Though acquitted of sexual misconduct, he was found guilty last week of one count of obstruction of

justice and demoted one rank.

A widespread sex scandal unfolded in 1996 at Aberdeen Proving Ground, about 40 miles north of Baltimore, in which drill sergeants were investigated on charges of forcing female subordinates to have sex.

NAACP President Kweisi Mfume, one of those who raised such concerns, said Friday he was glad the Army was looking into the charges. But he said the Army may not be the best party to conduct such an investigation.

"I still believe it has to be an outside investigation if we are to get to the truth," said Mfume, suggesting a panel comprising both Army officials and civilians.

Walker directed Jordan to report as soon as possible, the paper said.

The Army's Criminal Investigation Command has long defended its procedures, vehemently denied racial bias or coercion and has defended its investigation as fair and thorough.

The command conducted 1,800 interviews with Aberdeen trainees who attended the U.S. Ordnance Center and School since January 1995, along with another 6,000 interviews worldwide.

Spokesman Paul Boyce said the investigation command "welcomes the inspector general review of its procedures and is cooperating fully with the independent investigation to ensure that any remaining allegations are examined

thoroughly."

The Congressional Black Caucus and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People pressed for an investigation soon after the Aberdeen scandal broke in the fall of 1996.

All 12 instructors charged with sexual offenses at Aberdeen were black, and most of the female victims were white. Five alleged victims at Aberdeen have charged that Army agents tried to coerce them into filing rape charges against instructors.

The Aberdeen cases ended last fall. One instructor was cleared, and the remaining 11 were either convicted or resigned rather than face courts-martial.

Mfume said "some

inappropriateness occurred" during the Aberdeen investigation.

"Bigotry may have played a role in who to investigate and also who not to investigate," he said.

Neither the NAACP nor the Congressional Black Caucus came up with evidence that Army agents were ignoring allegations against enlisted men or officers of other races.

Last March, Army Secretary Togo D. West Jr. pledged to look into the allegations, but only after the investigations into alleged sexual wrongdoing concluded.

West has said the Army can handle the investigation itself, and no independent inquiry is needed.

FOR the EDUCATION and RESEARCH COMMUNITY

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Illinois nominees look to heal wounds, build coalitions

CHICAGO (AP) — Peter Fitzgerald, in his first day as Illinois' Republican senate nominee, wasted no time Wednesday attacking Democratic incumbent Carol Moseley-Braun for secretly visiting Nigeria in 1996.

Moseley-Braun, the first black woman elected to the Senate and viewed as the most vulnerable Democrat seeking re-election, struck back by branding Fitzgerald a pro-gun, anti-abortion extremist.

The fast start to the November

campaign followed Tuesday's primary, in which Fitzgerald, a conservative millionaire who spent \$7 million on television ads, swept past moderate state Comptroller Loleta Didrickson.

In the primaries for governor, Rep. Glenn Poshard won a six-candidate race to take the Democratic nomination, while Secretary of State George Ryan easily won the GOP contest.

Democrats haven't held the governor's office since 1976, but Poshard began campaigning Wednesday by urging the party

faithful to stick together.

"There's nothing wrong with traditional Democratic values, and if we stand up for them, we can win," he said.

Ryan tried to fit Poshard with a traditional Democratic label — "tax-and-spend" — but had a more awkward situation to deal with the morning after the primary.

GOP leaders, including Ryan, had backed Didrickson in the primary because they feared a rerun of two years ago, when their pro-gun, anti-abortion conservative nominee was

crushed by a Democrat in the fall election.

Days before the primary, Ryan even said this about having Fitzgerald on the ticket: "We should never bid the devil good morning until we meet him."

He was far less colorful with Fitzgerald by his side Wednesday.

"Peter is going to be at the top of the ticket, and we're proud to have Peter there," Ryan said.

National Republicans, meanwhile, have been looking to use Moseley-Braun's visit to Nigerian Gen. Sani Abacha

against her at the ballot box.

The first-term Democrat made the visit despite the regime's record of executing political opponents and without informing her congressional staff or the State Department. Her chief of staff resigned over the trip.

Moseley-Braun defended her visit, saying she saw it as a way to elevate concern about Africa.

That's not the way Fitzgerald saw it Wednesday.

"She's been consorting with a brutal dictator who has mowed down a lot of his own citizens," he said.

Despite GOP majority, democrats would be decisive in impeachment

WASHINGTON (AP) — Republicans would run the show, but Democrats would be decisive in writing the last act should it come to impeachment proceedings against President Clinton.

A majority isn't enough to undo a president.

Two-thirds of the Senate would have to vote to convict on impeachment, which takes a majority in the House. It could be done on party lines in the House, which wouldn't be politically smart. And it would take Democratic votes in the Senate to force the final step.

Beyond that, though, as a practical, political matter, it would take a consensus against Clinton, in and beyond Congress. At this point, there's no such mood.

And to proceed without one would put the Republicans into uncertain and possibly risky territory during the campaign for the off-year congressional elections.

Clinton is still scoring approval ratings in the two-thirds range, although those polls come with majorities also saying they would turn against him were it proven that he lied and tried to obstruct justice.

Polls can plunge, as Richard Nixon's did in Watergate. By early 1973, he had dropped from the kind of numbers Clinton

enjoys now to under 30 percent.

The Nixon case is the only modern precedent. And his fate — resignation to avoid impeachment and conviction — hinged on fellow Republicans, who told him he had to go after disclosure of his own tape-recorded words of Watergate cover-up days after the 1972 break-in.

Until then, he hung on, musing about avoiding conviction and ouster by the Senate even after he knew a House majority would vote to impeach him. But his time was up in 1974 when the Republicans said so, and the minority vote he'd thought might save him in the Senate shrank to a handful of last-line allies.

That was in a Democratic Congress. The House Judiciary Committee voted three articles of impeachment against Nixon, who got only 10 Republican votes and

lost them all after the evidence essentially proved the cover-up article.

But Republicans began turning against Nixon long before that point in the Watergate case. By the spring of 1974, two Republican senators had said he should resign, a third had forecast that he would, another had suggested that he stand aside temporarily.

Congressional Democrats aren't rallying to defend Clinton in the case of the women and Whitewater, but none has turned openly against him. Instead, they say they'll accept Clinton's denials of the sex and cover-up accusations special prosecutor Kenneth Starr is pursuing, unless there is proof against him.

Watergate unfolded in different circumstances, without the independent counsel law that is Starr's franchise for handling impeachment evidence. The

special prosecutor on Nixon's case told the House committee early in 1974 that he would not share his Watergate evidence because it was under grand jury secrecy. That's so in the Starr investigation, too, but the law now instructs him to deliver to the House any evidence of impeachable offenses by the president.

House Republicans are trying to decide how to handle that prospect, awkwardly so far. The Judiciary Committee is seeking \$1.45 million that could be used for an impeachment inquiry. It isn't earmarked, but it could draw Democratic opposition. The Republicans have been having their own debate on how to proceed, since House Speaker Newt Gingrich floated the idea of setting up a special committee to handle impeachment instead of assigning it to the Judiciary Committee, the traditional route.

That rankled the chairman, Rep. Henry Hyde of Illinois, who complained that it would be divisive and would risk politicizing the process. Another Republican committee member, Rep. Charles Canady of Florida, was more vehement, protesting publicly that it would be open to attack as a partisan "attempt to stack the deck."

An alternative may be to have a small bipartisan group go first, review the evidence and report to the 35-member Judiciary Committee later. But it all depends on Starr's findings and when he is ready to report them — and he isn't yet saying.

The early maneuvering is drawing Democratic criticism. "I think it's premature at this point," said Sen. Tom Daschle, the Democratic leader.

"I mean, how do they know what it is they are going to be looking at?"

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Man convicted in robbery and killing of college administrator

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (AP) — A Jefferson County jury needed three hours to convict a Trussville man of capital murder in the robbery-slaying of a Birmingham-Southern College administrator.

But the jury needed only 20 minutes on Friday to recommend sentencing Jason Michael Vann, 22, to life in prison for the August 1996 murder of Robert Dortch.

Deputy District Attorney Don Cochran said eight of the 10 jurors voted for life without parole for Vann, who was described in court as a street hustler who had sex with older men for money.

During the sentencing phase of the trial, defense attorney John Robbins told jurors that Vann wanted him to ask for the death penalty because as a homosexual, he

would rather be on death row than in the general population. But Robbins said he could not uphold Vann's request and asked the jury for life in prison.

Jefferson County Circuit Judge James Hard can either follow the jury's recommendation or sentence Vann to death.

Vann, who was acquitted in 1995 of killing his gay lover, is already serving a 20-year sentence for the 1993 armed robbery of a Huffman store. He was convicted of that robbery two months after Dortch was killed.

Vann was arrested in Maryland while driving Dortch's 1995 Honda Accord, a day after the 63-year-old college admissions director was found dead on Aug. 27, 1996. Police later found various articles of clothing in the car

that were instrumental in his conviction.

An Alabama forensic biologist testified that DNA from blood stains on those jeans and shoes matched the victim's DNA.

Dortch's body was found on the bathroom floor of his Mountain Brook home. Neckties were knotted at his ankles and wrists. He was shot in the head and stabbed three times in the chest and eight times in the back.

A blood-soaked bathroom curtain also had Dortch's saliva on it, apparently stuffed into his mouth to keep him quiet, Cochran said.

Dortch was brutally slaughtered on the floor of his own bathroom, he said. "If that's not a particularly heinous murder, I don't know what is."

Cause of chopper safety hazzard eludes army, flights continue

BOSTON (AP) — Several months after placing restrictions on military UH-1 helicopters, the military says it is unable to find the source of a potentially catastrophic mechanical problem, according to a published report.

Nonetheless, the Army and National Guard have decided to continue to operate the helicopters, despite predictions that gearbox failures are likely to occur more than once a month.

"It amazes us that they are continuing to let us fly," a Massachusetts National Guard pilot told The Boston Globe on

condition of anonymity. "I have never seen a situation where they are predicting engine failures and they continue to operate the aircraft."

The choppers have a history of gearbox problems, which were blamed for some near disasters last year. Pilots reported the engines would speed up while the gauges dropped to zero.

According to a Feb. 24 memo obtained by the newspaper, there were 22 "mishaps" related to the so-called N2 gearbox between August 1996 and January 1998.

None has resulted in a fatality.

"Since November, several additional N2 failures have occurred," the memo states. "At current (operational) tempo an average of 1.25 to 1.5 mishaps per month can be expected to occur."

So far, neither the Army nor the National Guard has come up with a solution for the gearboxes. The memo says it may be up to a year before any repairs are begun and three years before all Hueys are fixed.

The Army and the National Guard in November ordered nationwide restrictions on the

aircraft, including bans on night flying, flying over mountains and water, and operations such as firefighting, except for lifesaving operations.

Massachusetts went a step further by restricting the choppers' flight patterns and barring them from within 35 miles of Boston.

Bob Hunt, spokesman for the Army Aviation Missile Command at Redstone, Alabama, said a safety team reviewed options that include banning the helicopters.

"The Army has looked at the

situation and believes the flight restrictions currently in use will be adequate to ensure the safety of the operators," he said. "Should anything change they will change the status of those flight restrictions."

Alan E. Diehl, the Air Force's former top civilian safety official, said he thinks it's only a matter of time before a potentially fatal accident happens.

"It appears that the Army is pursuing this aggressively, but it is not enough and certainly not up to the standards that commercial aviation requires."

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Vernon states that his goal for his music is to simply be an empty vessel, willing to be used by God to speak to the hearts of men.

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Marines give purple heart to death row inmate

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Manuel Babbitt stood proudly as a Marine officer pinned the Purple Heart on his denim shirt in front of his teary-eyed mother and brother.

The officer shook Babbitt's hands, which were shackled to his waist throughout Friday's ceremony. Then the medal was removed.

Thirty years ago, rocket fire injured Babbitt's head and hand during the bloody siege of Khe Sanh, Vietnam.

That earned him the Purple Heart.

Eighteen years ago, Babbitt administered a fatal beating to a 78-year-old woman.

That earned him a spot on death row.

"The irony is, I guess, that 30 years ago he was facing a

different kind of death than he's facing now," said Charles Patterson, Babbitt's attorney. "It takes nothing away from the Purple Heart. He earned it, he deserved and I thank God that he got it."

Babbitt's foxhole buddies gathered at a news conference in San Francisco to remember the Marine who fought and bled on the fields of Khe Sanh, not the convicted killer.

"He was a model soldier. A model Marine," said John Hargesheimer, who fought alongside Babbitt. "You wanted him to serve beside you. He deserves the Purple Heart."

For 77 days, from January to April 1968, the Marines withstood a siege by communist forces at Khe Sanh, during the Tet offensive, which is widely

considered one of the turning points of the Vietnam War.

Gary Dahlheimer fought with Babbitt as part of an anti-tank battalion in the 3rd Marine Division.

"We were under constant bombardment by artillery rockets and mortar fire ... machine-gun fire. We were surrounded by 40,000 North Vietnamese," Dahlheimer said, choking back tears.

"It was a tragic time. A hard time for all of us. ... We have a tight, common bond and a love for one another that will never die. Today, I'd give my life for this man as I would at that time," said Dahlheimer, while looking at a photograph of Babbitt in fatigues.

Maj. Mark Aepli presented Babbitt with the medal at a small

ceremony at San Quentin prison, which reporters were not allowed to attend.

"I'm sympathetic to the families of his victims," Aepli said. "But it's important to realize that these are two separate and distinct incidents. And 30 years ago he earned that medal. Obviously one of the most important things you can give is your blood."

Aepli said he pinned the medal on Babbitt's prison-issued blue denim shirt while Babbitt's hands were shackled to his waist.

It was with those same hands that Babbitt delivered a severe beating to Leah Schendel, who lived in a senior citizen's complex in Sacramento. Babbitt also was convicted of the robbery and attempted rape of another woman the following night.

In his defense, Babbitt claimed insanity due to head injuries suffered as a child and again in Vietnam. His case is in a federal appeals court.

In a terse statement issued Friday, Attorney General Dan Lungren said "Babbitt earned his position on death row for his cowardly actions long after his military service had ended."

Lungren asked that the public "not forget (Babbitt) sits on death row for the scars he has left on the family and friends of Leah Schendel when he callously took her life."

Babbitt was not allowed to keep his Purple Heart or the citation that came with it. They were given to his mother immediately after the ceremony.

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Thomas Regulus Social Work

Deborah Smith Music

Reginald Thomas Music

Bill would provide more protections for youngsters arrested

TOPEKA, Kan. (AP) — The idea of a youngster being detained alone with a police officer who wants a confession isn't good state policy as far as Rep. Tom Klein is concerned.

"People are concerned the police have gone too far and parents want to know when their child is in custody," said Klein, D-Wichita. "You put a 13-year-old in a room without a parent and an adult can get him to say anything."

The Kansas Supreme Court recently mandated that children under 14 must be allowed to consult parents, a guardian or attorney before waiving their rights, known as the Miranda warning.

But Klein, an attorney, wants to take it a step further by requiring that children be given a Miranda warning when taken into custody — not at the start of questioning — as is done with adults.

His bill also would require officials to immediately try to notify a parent, guardian or attorney after a child is taken into custody — which currently isn't

required by law, but is done as a matter of policy by many police agencies.

"A child should have more protections than an adult. We protect children in so many ways with expanded protections," said Klein, whose bill will be reworked this week by a House Judiciary subcommittee before the full committee acts on it.

House Judiciary Chairman Tim Carmody, R-Overland Park, also wants the subcommittee to address other concerns, such as who must be notified before children could be questioned.

Critics say such notification could impede an investigation if a parent or guardian couldn't be quickly located and an attorney had to be summoned.

Klein said that could be dealt with by allowing an interested party — a clergyman, teacher or family friend — to be contacted if a parent or guardian can't be found, or if the parent is involved in the crime.

Police officials and prosecutors have lined up to condemn the bill as an impediment to law enforcement

that would allow young criminals to go free and crimes to go unsolved.

Besides, they argued, there are enough safeguards already in place with the Supreme Court ruling and juvenile laws that protect youngsters.

"It will make their job more difficult and they don't like things that make their job harder," Klein said. "But the sky isn't falling like they say."

Both chambers this week will be busy with a pile of bills poised for debate. At the top of the heap is the second part of the House's higher education restructuring plan.

Last week the chamber passed and sent to the Senate a proposed constitutional amendment to replace the Board of Regents with a Council on Higher Education.

The focus this week will be on a companion bill that would implement plans to create an 11-member council to govern the state's six universities and Washburn University and would coordinate programs of 19 community colleges and 11

vocational schools and technical colleges.

Leaders of both chambers say that if the enabling legislation falters in the House, the proposed amendment will be shelved in the Senate — and the first major change for higher education in three decades will die, at least for this session.

The House Appropriations Committee has endorsed plans to add \$93.8 million for universities over the next four years.

Also on the front burner this week is the promise that the House and Senate will reach agreement on a final version of tax relief legislation. Negotiators have been shuttling between the

two chambers to discuss various options on the \$182 million tax cut proposal.

The House wants to include an earned income tax credit for the working poor and a food tax credit that was rejected by the Senate, which wants to repeal the state inheritance tax and adopt a state estate tax tied to the federal estate tax code.

The bill also increases basic state aid to public schools by \$44.9 million, compared with a \$35.9 million increase proposed by Gov. Bill Graves. The public education aid amounts to more than \$2 billion in the proposed state budget.

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Who Said It?/
What Movie?

**"People say crazy
sh*t during sex.
One time, I called
this girl Mom."**

(Hint: First film of the
trilogy)

Answer on Thursday

Thursday's answer: Jon Lovitz in "A
League of Their Own"

Lifestyle

People, Entertainment & Comics

Box Office Big Ones

1. Titanic	\$17.3
2. Primary Colors	\$12.4
3. Man in the...	\$11.3
4. Wild Things	\$9.6
5. U.S. Marshals	\$7.4

(All figures in millions)
Titanic is the highest
grossing picture of all time
with \$494 million + to date.

◆ TUESDAY, MARCH 24, 1998

The A l e s t l e

PAGE 9 ◆

RANTS & RAVES



■ BY COREY STULCE

LIFESTYLE EDITOR

cstulce@siue.edu

Once anything becomes extremely popular, people automatically want to scrutinize it. Take for example, the mammoth trash talk show, Jerry Springer. Sure, it's pure candy for the eyes and ears, and it has no redeemable value. But, because it's a ratings smash, people can't quit talking about it.

Two weeks ago, I was asked to be a guest on an MSNBC talk show because of an article I wrote about the Jerry Springer show. There were to be four guests on this debate/talk show; two who liked Jerry, two who didn't. I told the producer that I enjoyed watching Jerry's show after a long day, that it helped me relax. I get a kick out of watching trashy people fight and curse at each other. It makes me feel a little better about my sad little life. Hey, at least no one is throwing a shoe at my skull on national television trying to kill me.

Unfortunately, the second guest who was pro-Jerry was a dim-bulb housewife from Podunk, USA. She takes the show VERY seriously and even has her family tape it when she is away. Plus, she seemed to have trouble forming a complete thought. This was my comrade in arms and we were facing off against the television critic from the Chicago Tribune and a psychologist. Suffice to say, I tried to do my best to avoid our side from turning into a James Cameron epic. She offered no help, so I did my best to keep her from not getting a word in. Unfortunately, the host kept picking at her.

see RANTS, page 12



Denise Richards is about to enter uncharted waters. She plunged onto the silver screen in the bug-attack sci-fi flick "Starship Troopers" and now costars with six degrees of A-list actors Kevin Bacon, Neve Campbell, Matt Dillon, Bill Murray and Robert Wagner in the sexy noir pic, "Wild Things."

I know you've guest-starred in "Doogie Hauser, M.D.," "Melrose Place" and "Against the Grain," in addition to your movie roles in "Nowhere," and "Starship Troopers." Have you always wanted to be an actress?

Yes, ever since I was little. When I was in high school, I took drama, but I wasn't pursuing it as a career then. I started out modeling in high school, but I wanted to quit that type of work really young so that I could start taking acting classes. After I graduated from high school, I moved up to L.A. and then got a theatrical agent, began studying with a coach, and started doing TV shows, to build my resume, and guest spots. I did some pilots and movies of the week. And then I just kept building my resume. Then I got "Starship Troopers," and then "Wild Things."

What do you find most rewarding about acting?

I like doing the work, but I'm not comfortable seeing my work. I would be more comfortable just doing it and then moving on to the next project. I saw "Wild Things" two or three weeks ago, and it was so hard to watch myself on the screen, really hard.

Really? Harder than watching some of the other work you've done?

It's very difficult to watch anything I do. It's hard to be so objective because I'm so critical. I'd like to get to the point where I can watch my performance, and then just critique it objectively. I love doing the work, though.

That must be tough, but I'm sure it will get easier the more work you do.

I don't know. I've talked to other actresses who are older, and have been working for a long time and they say the same thing. I don't know if you ever get over that.

How is it interacting with other people on the set? It probably differs from film to film...

Yeah, on "Starship Troopers," we were all the same age, we were all at the same level in our career, which was really great. We were all very excited. "Starship" really helped me. So many times, directors don't want

to hire a new face. The studio doesn't want to take the chance. That's why I'm so grateful to Paul Verhoeven, because he really took a chance on me. On all of us, because we were all new faces. Because of that, it helped me get "Wild Things." "Wild Things" was good because I got to learn from actors who who've been working for a long time. All of them were very generous, Kevin Bacon especially. He was the most professional person I've ever worked with. He is incredible, and I would love to work with him again. Neve was great to work with too. It was a great experience. I learned a lot on "Wild Things."

Could you tell us, in a few sentences, what "Wild Things" is about?

It's basically a film noir, a thriller. The film is about revenge, and lust and greed. It starts out where Neve and I set up Matt Dillon's character for rape, but that's not really what the film is about. That's just the beginning. Everything happens after that. It has a lot of twists and turns in it. It's like a "Scream" meets "Body Heat."

Can you tell me a little about your character Kelly?

see RICHARDS, page 12

Red, White and Bull

"Primary Colors" provides a fast, fun look at the dirty dealings on the road to the White House

■ BY HILLEL ITALIE

AP WRITER

How strange to watch "Primary Colors," an adaptation of a fictionalization of a presidential candidacy that at times played like a romance novel. The film is the image of an image of yet another image, a racy folk tale that has changed with every telling.

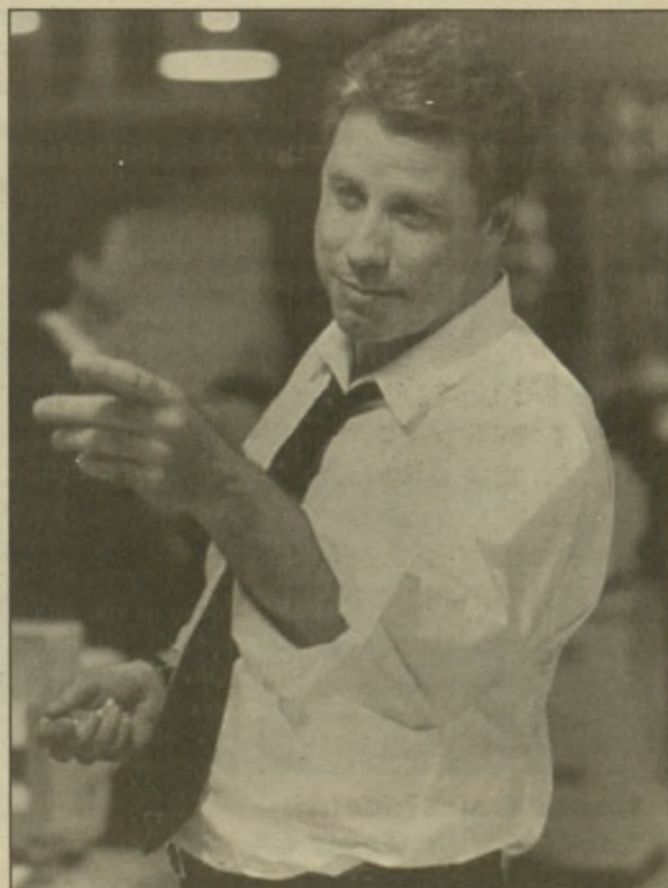
Forgive this critic for giving away the plot. Pudgy, people-hugging Jack Stanton, a Southern governor, runs for president and promises to change America. Allegations of womanizing damage his campaign, but not enough to keep Jack and his blonde, brainy wife from dancing a victory waltz on election night.

Director Mike Nichols has said "Primary Colors" isn't meant to be

about the Clintons, but by now their story is too famous, even mythic, to make us believe otherwise. The "Stantons" of both the film and the novel by "Anonymous" (later revealed to be journalist Joe Klein) can only be the Clintons. How we react is inseparable from how we feel about them.

A Clinton loyalist might be relieved that the director wasn't a left-wing critic of the administration. Forget sex. There would have been references to welfare cuts or campaign financing, maybe a subplot about Rickey Ray Rector, the brain-damaged Arkansas prisoner executed during the 1992 campaign. Then-Gov. Clinton had refused to grant clemency.

see COLORS, page 12



John Travolta stars as presidential candidate, Jack Stanton, in "Primary Colors."

Rudeboy's so confused

The world of ska music has exploded onto the mainstream, but has it become too bloated and mixed-up to

Trends in music come and go quicker than ever. But, before long every music style experiences a resurgence. Ska music is currently riding its third wave of popularity. With bands like No Doubt and the Mighty Mighty Bosstones enjoying Top 40 status, the Jamaican-based music is enjoying mainstream success.

But, are those bands really ska? Will there be a ska-overload? Why is a forty-year-old music style enjoying a resurgence? Before these questions can be answered, a little background material is required.

Ska music's first wave was hatched in the early '60s in Jamaica by bands like the Skatalites and Toots and the Maytels. Ska was born as dance music, a hybrid of rhythm and blues, jazz and calypso, for the working class people of Jamaica. It found popularity in the United Kingdom and eventually crept stateside.

Ska fans were known as "rude boys." They were originally thought of as hooligan boys who caused havoc in the streets, while dressed in black suits, porkpie hats and dark sunglasses. But, by the second wave of ska the term "rude boy" was revived, but by then being called a "rude boy" was the epitome of coolness. The Specials used a drawing of a rude boy to illustrate one of their album covers.

In the late '70s and early '80s, the second wave emerged with European acts like The Specials and Madness gaining popularity. This was known as two-tone ska, which was tighter, faster and involved more horns than the first wave.

In the last ten years, the third wave of ska has emerged. Underground acts like the Toasters and Bim Skala Bim started the resurgence that has since grown to unbelievable proportions. The sound changed again. Instead of the jazz and blues style, this ska music was more like punk rock with horns. Bands like Reel Big Fish, Save Ferris, Goldfinger and Less Than Jake emerged with a punk with brass sound. Ska was not clearly defined anymore.

"Ska is an evolutionary process," said Tom Rezabeck, an

SIUE alumnus who has been researching ska music since 1994. "It's a hodgepodge [of sounds]. Part of that is because of short attention spans."

The '90s cannot be pinned down as having one particular sound as have decades in the past. The '60s had British rock, the '70s had disco, the '80s had new wave, and the '90s has had grunge, punk-revival, electronica, gangsta rap, ska, among others. There is a glut of styles, and styles within those styles. People have more varied tastes, and musical trends come and go quicker than presidential scandals. So,

traditional ska has been around longer than some.

"As it gets old, it gets its own slant on it," says Bim Skala Bim. "I've said when they say ska, I think of bands in the entire world of ska bands through the years."

"I think it's taken all this time for people to adjust to this sound of music ... Ska is more of a feeling. It's easy to play ska, but the good ska that hits you."

-Alex Desert, lead singer of the Hepcats

why has ska returned to popularity?

"I think it's taken all this time for people's ears to adjust to this sound of music," said Alex Desert, lead singer of the Hepcats. "Ska is more about a feeling. It's easy to play ska, but the good ska is that ska that hits you."

Greg Lee, the Hepcats' other lead singer, agrees. "Ska is not easy. The way a lot of new bands play it is easy, because they're taking a ska-punk blend, and making it a hybrid. We're trying to play to the root, and this stuff is harder because you have to play it slower, with longer, sustained notes. I can run down a list of ska bands being played on the radio, and none of them are doing it with that kind of feeling."

The Hepcats are one of the few acts that are playing a traditional form of ska music. They are inspired by the Skatalites and use the slower, root-based sound in their music. Groups like the Hepcats are in the minority as far as

be here after the

Some bands without even knowing it, "Rolling Stone" described them as

"We kind of do it because people hate it to death. De Lisle of Smashmouth, only because to accent a verse, you got started."

De Lisle thought it was confusing. "It's not country, ska metal."

Reel Big Fish is a pop band. The



Band: Smashmouth

Locale: San Jose, CA.

Latest album: Fush Yu Mang

Ska philosophy: It's all over the place. What's next, like ska country, ska metal? -Paul De Lisle



Band: The Aquabats

Locale: The Isle of Aquabania

Latest album: The Fury of the Aquabats

Ska philosophy: All the fury that is 'he Aquabats, the terror, the horror.

Used

mainstream. survive?



bands go. But, they have been around much longer of the more mainstream acts. Older and older and evolves, people put their "Jim Jones of Bim Skala Bim said. "They or jazz or rockabilly, or anything else." Bim been together for over 15 years, and Jones started there were only about 10 to 15 ska tire world. According to a recent polling on gh the internet, there are now more than 500 e United States alone.

s ears to
e about a
ska is the

of The Hepcats

e trend."

are being put onto the ska bandwagon nowing it. Smashmouth was featured in the ling Stone," earlier this year in an article that as punk ska.

cringe at that label, and I'm sure hardcore ska oo, because we're not a ska band," said Paul ashmouth. "There's an element of ska in our ause in those particular songs it's a nice way e. I think that's how the whole punk ska thing

inks the current trend of ska music is s all over the place. What's next, like ska tal?"

h doesn't mind being classified as a ska band They just want people to listen to their music

Although, Jones likes many of the new ska bands, he sees a glut. "I'd like to see the current million ska bands settle down and sift down into the ones that are gonna last, rather than people who are on the bandwagon," Jones said. "We were here before the trend, we'll

and have a good time. "I'd like it to be that people go hear music because they like it and it's good music. But, it doesn't seem like we're pushing towards that right now. Everyone still tries to classify everything," said Tavis Wert, trumpet player for Reel Big Fish.

Rezabek concurs. "It's a natural process to category things, but it's not necessarily a bad thing." He said because of the large number of ska or ska-influenced bands, it's easier for critics and fans to label any band with a horn section or a certain sound as a ska band.

Unfortunately, an answer to the question of what the future for ska will be has to go unanswered. There are probably many less real ska bands than people think. Ska-influenced acts like No Doubt and the Aquabats will continue to stay popular because they are easily digestible, but they may not be longstanding.

Whereas acts like Bim Skala Bim and the Hepcats, who combined have performed ska over 25 years, may keep their low-profile status for years to come. Nevertheless, after this wave of ska popularity has come and gone, a fourth wave is imminent. Maybe country ska is not that far-fetched.



Band: The Skalars
Locale: St. Louis, MO.
Latest album: Skoolin with the Skalars
Ska philosophy: It will burn out.



Band: Bim Skala Bim
Locale: Boston, MA.
Latest album: Universal
Ska philosophy: I think it' s cool that they' re making people aware of what ska is. People know what the word is now. -Jim Jones



Band: Reel Big Fish
Locale: Orange County, CA.
Latest album: Turn the Radio Off.
Ska philosophy: There are so many bands who are kind of ska-influenced now ... it gets blended into stuff. -Tavis Wert



Band: The Hepcats
Locale: Los Angeles, CA.
Latest album: Right On Time
Ska philosophy: There are so many different types of ska, you can' t break it down. -Alex Desert

RICHARDS

from page 9

She's very wealthy, and Theresa Russell plays my mom. On the outside, she's very much put-together, but she's also manipulative, and has every dark side to her. She has a different kind of strength. In "Starship Troopers," my character was a fighter pilot, very strong, and ambitious and driven but this character, Kelly ... she'll do anything! And I think it takes a different type of strength to do that ... but on the other hand, it's a sign of weakness. But I had a lot of fun playing her — it was fun to play an evil woman. You know, everyone has a little evil in themselves.

Are there any similarities between you and your character, Kelly?

Well, I'll tell you. I wouldn't trust anyone in "Wild Things." If I knew all these people in real life, there's no way I'd be friends with any of them.

What was the hardest part for you about playing Kelly?

Our characters are all basically lying, and that was hard. We spent two weeks of rehearsal in Miami before we started shooting, and we all sat around, Kevin, Matt, Neve and I, going over the script to figure out who knows what at what point, so that we weren't confused. It was like lying on top of lying. The whole role itself was a challenge. I've never played a character like this. I'm totally opposite from her.

In "Wild Things," you obviously have more than a schoolgirl crush on Matt Dillon, who plays your guidance counselor. Did you ever have a crush on any of your high school teachers?

Oh yeah, Mr. Griffin. He taught science and looked like Christopher Reeve.

Denise, do you know what's coming up for you next?

Well, right now I'm trying to find a romantic comedy, or a really nice period piece. I'm just looking at scripts, and there are a couple of things



Denise Richards stars with Neve Campbell in the new thriller, "Wild Things."

we're trying to figure out. I haven't committed to anything at this point. I would love to work with some of the female actresses. I would love to work with Susan Sarandon, Jessica Lange or Michelle Pfeiffer. They've all got really great careers. They all seem like very classy women, have made great choices and they're amazing actresses. I've seen interviews with them, and they seem very professional.

Did you have someone in Hollywood, that you knew, that sort of took you under their wing?

No, I moved here by myself. It was hard, but it was something I really wanted to do. I got an agent, and just started the building process.

One last question. You obviously keep in good shape. What is your secret?

Pilates! It's the best. I've tried every form of exercise, but Pilates really elongates your muscles. Of course, every girl says they don't want to build their legs, and this doesn't build at all. It really lengthens the muscles. I do Pilates a lot. Before that, I was doing kickboxing, which is good, and spinning. I do Pilates four times a week and when I was doing kickboxing, I was going five to six times a week. But, I definitely do have to work out. I'm not one of those girls who can eat whatever I want and still weigh 100 pounds.

Interview by All Campus Media

COLORS

from page 9

But a Clinton supporter might be disappointed in Nichols, supposedly a friend of the president. Not artistically disappointed; the film is quite well done. But politically disappointed, for "Primary Colors" is surprisingly hard on Clinton as a man and ambivalent about his success.

The central character of "Primary Colors" is actually not Jack Stanton, but young Henry Burton (Adrian Lester), a congressional aide and grandson of a great civil rights leader. Tired of backing losing candidates, Henry risks his liberal ideals and lets himself be lured by the Stantons (John Travolta and Emma Thompson) into helping manage their campaign.

The Stantons and their followers are an attractive bunch: smart, sassy, resourceful. They have answers for everything, and they will have plenty to answer for.

The events Henry witnesses are slight variations on what is now popular history: the Gennifer Flowers scandal and the Clintons' joint appearance on "60 Minutes"; reports about Clinton's opposition to the Vietnam War; the antics of such campaign insiders as strategist James Carville and troubleshooter Betsey Wright.

This film is somewhat softer than the novel, if not the actual campaign, but it's disturbing in a way only those close to Clinton could get across. Henry will come to wonder just what happens when you get involved with people who seem to know more about you than you do about them.

RANTS

from page 9

I managed to get the last word in, but not before the host threatened to smash a chair over my head.

The main argument of the anti-Jerry movement was that his show was exploiting these poor people he had on as guests. They said the show encouraged them to fight and argue. Sure, Jerry may stir the pot like a good puppeteer from time to time, but these people don't need much encouragement. They're all hopped up on rage and stupidity.

Jerry Springer cannot be blamed for the ignorance of the people in this country. These people are going to fight and curse and act obnoxious wherever they are. By putting them on national television, we get to enjoy their therapy sessions. If anything, his guests are probably proud of their short

"Primary Colors" is Nichols' second feature with screenwriter and former stand-up comedy partner Elaine May, and is mainstream filmmaking at its most accomplished. Nichols' direction is lively and confident. May's script is tight and nuanced, its balance between satire and drama almost up to the standards of Preston Sturges.

The actors, especially Thompson, do a great job of suggesting their real-life models without getting lost in them. And there are a couple of nice bonus performances; Larry Hagman as a melancholy presidential candidate and Rob Reiner as the nasal-voiced host of the radio talk show, "Schmooze for Jews."

Travolta's is the riskiest performance. He looks a lot like Clinton, maybe too much, and he has mastered the president's soulful drawl. When you watch him throw temper tantrums and whine about the media you get the feeling this is how Clinton himself behaves.

You could dismiss this as simply an impersonation, but Travolta's an actor playing a man who is essentially an actor. Nothing Stanton says or does seems connected to who he is. He's hollow, an empathetic puppet, and his smile can be as scary as a skeleton's.

Nichols and May might have wanted "Primary Colors" to make us more accepting of political leaders, but Travolta undermines that. How good can you feel when the story ends with a man such as Stanton asking you to trust him?

"Primary Colors," a Universal release, was produced by Nichols and is rated R, for profanity and adult situations. The running time is 140 minutes.

fifteen minutes of fame. And hey, they get a free trip to Chicago.

If they are foolish enough to go on "Jerry" without watching an episode first, they deserve whatever they get. Who could possibly be surprised about what they're going to find out during the big "Shocking Surprise" episodes? No one ever gets good news on "Jerry." There's no fun and no ratings in good news, is there?

If I were ever to become a guest on "Jerry," which would probably never happen, (Prerequisites include: missing teeth, a butt-cut, numerous sex partners, no job and a fired-up mother-in-law) I would always be wary. I would never turn my back on someone, or even pretend that anyone on that stage was my friend. Of course, if Jerry ever had guests who thought that deeply about it ahead of time, he would find his show in a ratings free-fall.

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Cougar softball betters record, tans over spring break

■ BY BRETT LICATA
SPORTS REPORTER

The Lady Cougars were bettering their tans and their record as they traveled to the Sunshine State for the Rebel Spring Games last week.

The SIUE softball team pulled their record over the .500 mark after starting the break with four straight losses.

The Lady Cougars stopped in Columbus, Ga. to battle Columbus State in a double-header on March 14 before heading down to Ocoee, Fla.

Offensive struggles left SIUE scoring only two runs in the two games. Columbus State peppered the Lady Cougars for ten hits in each of the two games to sweep SIUE with a 4-2 victory and a 9-0 win.

SIUE was hearing the crack of

the bat a bit more in their opening contest of the Rebel Spring Games. The Cougars scored six runs on 11 hits and held a 6-1 lead after two and a half innings, but South Dakota State scored two runs in the bottom half of the inning and stormed back in bottom of the seventh to tack on four more runs and steal a 7-6 victory. Kari Franzen, Mandy Uhrhan and Kim Messinger each had two hits in a losing cause.

Shippensburg University of Pennsylvania also proved to be too much for SIUE as it had a four-run fifth inning en route to a 5-1 win.

The Cougars were in need of a confidence builder and they got it in the game against Long Island-C.W. Post. SIUE jumped out to a 2-0 lead in the second before Long Island tied the game in the top of the sixth. Morton's Niki

Mitts took the game into her hands in the bottom of the inning when she blasted a solo home run to give the Cougars the 3-2 win.

Momentum was on the side of the Cougars as they continued to win in another tight game. SIUE's nine hits were enough to down Southampton 3-2. Kim Wagner and Sarah Sollberger both had two hits including a double. Sara Obrecht pitched all seven innings to pick up the victory.

SIUE faced Southampton College of Long Island University again the next day, but the Cougars took control and never looked back gaining a 10-0 win. Wagner had two RBI and a home run, Uhrhan went 3 for 4 and added two RBI and Gwen Jackson contributed three hits. Senior pitcher Deanna Smith allowed only one hit in

picking up the shutout.

Jessica Silbe recorded SIUE's fourth straight win against the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics' No. 15 ranked team, Saint Xavier University, 8-3. Franzen went 2 for 3 with a triple and two RBI. Messinger, Uhrhan and Sollberger also had two hits.

After a loss to Merrimack College, the Cougars downed Adelphi 5-3. Erica Connett had two hits and Deanna Smith hurled a four-hit game to wrap up play in Florida. Games against Kutztown University of Pennsylvania and Texas Women's University were canceled due to rain.

On Sunday, SIUE started their conference schedule with three wins in Evansville, Ind.

Deanna Smith had another shutout performance and allowed

only two hits in a 2-0 SIUE victory over Kentucky Wesleyan College.

Sollberger led the Cougars to an 11-1 win over Bellarmine College. She went 3 for 3 with two long balls, a double and five RBI in the game. Messinger also added three hits and Cindy Kolda went 2 for 4 with three RBI.

University of Southern Indiana proved to be one of the top teams in the Great Lakes Valley Conference, but SIUE won the defensive battle. Amy Vandervinne knocked in the only RBI in the sixth inning and Jessica Silbe added a shutout to her stats as the Cougars nabbed a 1-0 victory.

SIUE is 12-11 on the season and continues its GLVC tour with stops in St. Louis, to take on University of Missouri-St. Louis tomorrow, and Quincy University this Thursday.

Cougar hockey ends season with winning streak, good attitude

■ BY GREG FRANKLIN
SPORTS STRINGER

What began as a disappointing start for the SIUE hockey team ended with a five game winning streak and many positives to look forward to for next year.

The Cougars finished their season beating the Missouri-Illinois Senior All-Stars, 9-8.

Defenseman Rob Maher led the way with four goals in the third period. Forwards Ben Fullbright and Dan Kennedy added two goals each.

"I was pleased with what I saw," said head coach Bill Misiak. "It was a shame to see the season come to an end with the kind of streak we were on."

Finishing with a 6-9 record, the Cougars could not buy a win early on. Although they won their first game of the season against Illinois State University 8-3, SIUE went on a nine-game losing streak.

"It took a while for us to gel," said defenseman Marc Popelar. "As we were losing games, we were losing players as well."

The Cougars lost eight players during the first half of the season including their captain and leading scorer, Derek Zirkelbach.

"At first it was difficult to get the players at the level they needed to be," Misiak said. "But after some hard work and dedication, the guys turned things around."

After the Christmas break, the Cougars lost only three games.

Misiak said one of the many reasons for the team's improvement was the addition of Maher and defenseman Dave Miskelley.

"Our defense was a big area of concern. We were giving up too many goals," he said. "Those guys came in and helped out a great deal."

Popelar said he believes the turning point of the season was against University of Illinois. Although they lost 10-1, he said the team came together.

"Even though the outcome didn't show it, Coach Misiak and all the players felt that had been our best played game of the season," Popelar said.

Their following game against University of Missouri-St. Louis began a five-game winning streak and snapped their long nine-game losing streak.

"It was exciting as hell to finally win a game," Popelar said. "After that the attitudes in the locker room and at practice were as high as they could be. It was like a monkey had been lifted off our backs. We knew we could win."

With this only being their second year in the American College Hockey Association and first in the Illinois-Wisconsin college hockey division, Misiak believes the team can only get stronger.

"I am really looking forward to next year," Misiak said. "There are a lot of things that we can improve to make us even better."



Photo courtesy of Lou Popelar

Cougar players congratulate goalie, Bill Day, after the 9-4 win over Washington University.

Interested in attending SIUE sporting events?

Then the *Alestle* wants you. The Sports section is looking for reporters. For more information contact the office of Student Employment at ext. 2563.

CHALK TALK

BY SARAH FINLEY

CLARK

As if breaking the freshman record is not enough, Misi Clark has been chosen to be one of 10 basketball players to be named to the Division II Kodak Women's All-America Basketball Team.

Clark was named as one of the best players in District 5. She, along with 39 other basketball players, will be reviewed by a panel of coaches who will narrow the field down to 10 players who will receive this honor.

The other 30 will receive an honorable mention.

STENGER, SHURN

Cougars Jill Stenger and Tommy Shurn have been selected to attend the second annual NCAA Foundation Leadership Conference at Disney's Coronado Springs Resort in Lake Buena Vista, Florida.

Stenger is a member of the SIUE volleyball team and Shurn is a member of the basketball team.

Both were selected from more than 850 nominations and are actively involved in the

Cougar Kids Club and are members of the SIUE Student-Athlete Advisory Board.

MEN'S TENNIS

Cougar tennis beat Kentucky Wesleyan 5-0 March 21st.

Jason Stephens, Mike Reither, Zaid Numani, Justin Lombard and Tim McKay beat their opponents in straight sets.

Morgan McAfoos and all three doubles matches were not played due to bad weather.

The Cougars play University of Missouri-St. Louis March 25.

Cougar Scoreboard

March 24-Baseball vs. Western Illinois

March 25-Men's Tennis vs. University of Missouri-

St. Louis at St. Louis

Softball vs. UMSL at St. Louis



‘Kid’ Mike Caruso aims for big leagues at age 20

TUCSON, Ariz. (AP) — He wants to make the jump from Class A to the Chicago White Sox and play one of the most visible and crucial positions in the game. At age 20.

Some days Mike Caruso looks ready. He leads off with a bunt single, slaps two other left-handed hits to the outfield and then nearly drives one out of the stadium in his next at-bat.

Minutes later, a routine grounder he knows he can handle rolls up his arm as he tries to throw before he has possession. Another error. He's made five this spring.

"I'm having fun out there, learning from the other guys and trying to make the team," Caruso

says. "It's really not up to me. I don't think about that at all, really. I'm out here to play baseball and improve my game. No matter what, I'm going to be playing somewhere."

One reason Jerry Manuel was hired as manager of the White Sox was his ability to work with young players as he did while coaching at Montreal.

"Patience," he says. "If the vote goes to keep him, you have to have a program in place for him to continue this development. Some things he has to learn by experience."

Caruso came to the White Sox organization last summer in a controversial nine-player deal with San Francisco when Chicago

traded three major-league pitchers to the Giants for six prospects.

The trade at the time was viewed as a "white flag" from the White Sox, who were only 3 1/2 games out of first place with two months to play.

Another player the White Sox received in the trade, Keith Foulke, pitched well for the team last season out of the bullpen.

Caruso, who batted .304 in two minor league seasons with 38 stolen bases and a whopping 80 errors, was invited to spring training as a non-roster player.

Chicago didn't bring back veteran Ozzie Guillen, so Caruso's main competition at short is Benji Gil, whom the White Sox acquired in a trade

with Texas.

Gil knows what Caruso is trying to accomplish. In 1993, he broke in with the Rangers at age 20 after spending the previous season at Class A. He was quickly sent to the minors and ended up playing just 22 major league games that season.

"I know that (Caruso) is a good prospect," said Gil, who batted .224 for the Rangers last season. "But this is a new start for me, and my approach is that I'm going to do all I can to win the job."

Gil wants the starter's role but is still free with the advice for his young competition.

"He helps me out when we take ground balls and stuff. I listen to him out there because he's got

more experience," said Caruso, who's batted over 300 this spring, while Gil is under .200.

Caruso's talent is apparent. It's just a matter of where the White Sox — who say they are emphasizing defense — want to cultivate it.

"I want to show them that I can play. I just need to concentrate," Caruso said.

"I need to work on my game. I want to show them that I can go out there and play every day and get on base for the big guys. I don't think age is that big of a deal. This is what I have been working for, what I've been training for."

Alcorn announces assistant football coaches before spring drill

LORMAN, Miss. (AP) —

New Alcorn State football coach Johnny Thomas, who will lead the Braves through spring drills beginning Monday, announced his coaching staff Thursday.

Mario Kirksey, who served as interim head coach after Cardell Jones was fired in December, will

remain on the Braves staff as defensive coordinator. The only other carryover from the previous staff is defensive back coach Anthony Woolfolk.

The other coaching positions filled by Thomas were Roger Totten as offensive coordinator, Riley Murry Jr. as offensive line coach and Tyrone Jones as

defensive line coach. The new head coach is still interviewing candidates for a running backs coach.

Totten, the brother of Mississippi Valley State offensive coordinator Willie Totten, was the offensive coordinator the past three seasons at Arkansas-Pine Bluff.

Murry was served as program coordinator at Pine Bluff from 1990-98, after serving as assistant football coach at Mississippi Valley from 1986-90. Jones served as assistant head coach/defensive coordinator at Alabama State from 1993-97.

Thomas said spring drills will be "a learning period for the

players and the staff. It will give the coaching staff a hands-on period to evaluate our strengths and weaknesses.

"We will use this period to assess and evaluate the talent level of this football team and at each positions," Thomas said.

Alcorn State has had three straight 4-7 seasons.

New England signs free-agent receiver

FOXBORO, Mass. (AP) — Brian Stablein, an unrestricted free agent who had 51 receptions the past three seasons with the Indianapolis Colts, has signed with the New England Patriots.

He had a career-high 25 receptions last year, seven of them against the Patriots.

The Patriots went after Stablein after they gave Vincent Brisby permission to seek a trade. He's still with the team. New England's starters are Terry Glenn and Shawn Jefferson with

Troy Brown as a backup.

The 6-foot-1, 193-pound Stablein was Denver's eighth-round draft pick out of Ohio State in 1993 but was released during training camp. He spent the 1993 season on the Colts' practice squad and didn't play in 1994 after suffering a dislocated elbow in an exhibition game.

Stablein, who also returns punts, had eight catches in 1995 and 18 in 1996 and has two career touchdowns.

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CSU's Eslinger to be team's starting quarterback

FORT COLLINS, Colo. (AP) — Patience has never been a virtue for Ryan Eslinger, Colorado State University's fifth-year senior quarterback.

He despises movie lines and red traffic lights.

Yet, he has waited for the chance to start for CSU, Western Athletic Conference and Holiday Bowl champions.

After four years of clipboard holding and working with reserve units, his wait is finally over.

On Monday, Eslinger will be the team's No. 1 quarterback when the Rams begin spring football drills.

"I am not by nature a patient person," Eslinger said. "But in

this case I had no control over my situation."

Eslinger's wait began when he and fellow freshman quarterbacks Craig Aikens and Moses Moreno arrived on campus four years ago. Moreno would become the team's starting quarterback.

Their sophomore year, junior college transfer Daren Wilkinson was brought in to compete with Moreno. The two shared quarterback duties the year after Eslinger's redshirt freshman season. Aikens departed. But Eslinger, a Pueblo native, remained a seldom-used reserve the past two years.

"I contemplated going and playing some baseball, something I had a chance to do coming out of high school, and maybe going to New Mexico where I could play both baseball and football," Eslinger said.

"I thought about trying to get on with a minor league farm club, but I never really dwelled on it," he said.

"I was skeptical of what the future would hold," Eslinger said. "I had to remind myself I had to hang in there, to stay focused and everything would work out."

CSU head football coach Sonny Lubick said of Eslinger,

"The guy showed a lot of courage. He hung in there tough and accepted his role and what was best for the team."

Eslinger is coming off a season in which he saw limited playing time. Last year, he completed 10-of-18 passes for 144 yards and a touchdown.

He played most of the fourth quarter of last year's Holiday Bowl and ran a fake field goal 23 yards for a touchdown.

Not long after bowl game he received the news he'd been waiting for from Lubick: "Eslinger is the No. 1 quarterback."

"I couldn't have been more

pumped," Eslinger said. "The announcement made the waiting worth it."

Eslinger, a conventional drop-back passer who had endured a high school program that employed the option offense, knows he is under the gun to perform well. He said he knows his collegiate career comes down to a one-year proposition.

"People will look at my background and say I don't have the experience of a three-year starter," Eslinger said. "What I offer is a quarterback with the experience of knowing the system and being comfortable with it."

Cincinnati Reds waiting for Rose fallout

DUNEDIN, Fla. (AP) — The Cincinnati Reds are waiting for major league baseball to decide whether they should be punished for allowing Pete Rose to talk to a group of minor leaguers.

Rose, who is banned from baseball because of gambling, visited the Reds' minor-league camp on March 11 to see his son, Pete Jr., work out. At the invitation of a Reds minor-league official, he talked to a group of farm hands - a violation of his banishment.

The Reds could be fined for

allowing Rose to talk to the minor leaguers. The club submitted a report after the violation occurred, but has received no indication what baseball will do, managing executive John Allen said Sunday.

"We made it very clear what happened," Allen said. "Ultimately it's my fault. I knew Pete was going to be down here. I should have pulled people aside (to tell them of Rose's restrictions) and I didn't."

Allen attended the owners'

meeting in St. Petersburg last week and talked about it briefly with National League president Len Coleman. Allen said there was no indication when baseball might have a decision.

He hopes baseball accepts the team's explanation that it didn't intentionally violate the terms of Rose's ban.

"As of right now, indications are that that's something that they'll view as an honest mistake," Allen said.

What baseball does to Rose is a separate matter.

Broncos' Braxton accused of sexual harassment assault

DENVER (AP) — Four women have accused Tyrone Braxton of the Denver Broncos of exposing himself and sexually assaulting them at a Denver nightclub in January.

Lawyer Anne Sulton, legal counsel for the NAACP in Denver, filed the sexual harassment and assault complaint on the women's behalf in Denver District Court on Friday.

The lawsuit contends the 33-year-old defensive back was at the I-Beam nightclub on Jan. 27 with teammates when he approached a group of women and began making

sexually explicit remarks and grabbing them.

On Saturday, police confirmed an indecent-exposure complaint was filed against Braxton on Jan. 30, but there was no mention of sexual assault or harassment included in the complaint.

Sulton said claims that sexual harassment and assault complaints were not made by her clients were "a lie."

She said the women called her after police did not press charges against Braxton. Sulton said she decided to file suit after discussions with the player's lawyers broke down.



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At age 42, Dennis Martinez gets a new start in Atlanta

KISSIMMEE, Fla. (AP) —

Dennis Martinez had given up hope. His right elbow, wracked by pain, seemed incapable of throwing another pitch. At age 42, it was time to get used to the idea of retirement.

"I thought it was over," Martinez said. "I was starting to enjoy my family and kids."

After resting the injured elbow for three months, Martinez decided to play catch with his 10-year-old son, Ricardo. Little did anyone know, but that was the beginning of a remarkable comeback.

"There was no pain at all," Martinez recalled Sunday, his youngest son at his side in the Atlanta Braves clubhouse. "'Well, hey,' I said to myself, 'I'll continue throwing and see where this goes.'"

Martinez then got together

with his 16-year-old son, Gilberto, throwing a little harder and still experiencing no pain. Finally, he moved up to his oldest son, 24-year-old Dennis, Jr., a minor-leaguer with the Cleveland Indians. It was like old times.

"If I had felt any pain, I would not have ever tried it," said Martinez, who hasn't pitched in a major-league game since he was released by Seattle last May with a 1-5 record and a 7.71 ERA. "But I never felt any pain."

He hooked on with a team in the Puerto Rico winter league, performing well enough to get a call from the Braves, who were looking for some insurance for their glittering rotation after John Smoltz underwent elbow surgery.

Now, "El Presidente" is assured of opening the season as a member of the best pitching staff in baseball.

"He has been a surprise," manager Bobby Cox admitted. "He's pitched good enough to make our team."

Martinez, who is 0-1 with a 4.15 ERA in 13 pain-free innings, will start out in the bullpen until the Braves need a fifth starter about 10 games into the season. But his performance has been so impressive that there's no need to rush back Smoltz, who has pitched only one inning this spring.

"I know Dennis has worked really hard," said Andres Galarraga, who played with Martinez for six seasons in Montreal and was reunited with him in Atlanta. "Guys like him and Nolan Ryan, they're special. You don't see many pitchers stay around that long."

Martinez has even drawn trade interest from Cleveland, another

of his former teams. A few months ago, when he first pondered the possibility of a comeback, the Indians wouldn't even return his phone calls.

"It's kind of weird," Martinez said. "But I also feel good about it. They had given up on me, but now they're showing some interest. I have no hard feelings against anybody. This is a game, this a business. I understand the system and I can deal with anything. I'm just here to pitch. If it's somewhere else, fine. But I'd rather be here, though."

Martinez, the last pitcher to throw a perfect game, seems to have blended well with the Braves' rotation, which includes former Cy Young winners Smoltz, Greg Maddux and Tom Glavine along with Denny Neagle, a 20-game winner in 1997.

"I'm trying to help them out every way I can, not only physically but mentally," Martinez said. "And I'm getting a lot of help from these guys. I talk to them a lot, getting pointers and feedback. There's a lot of good, common sense going around with everyone here. The chemistry is great."

If Martinez remains healthy, he feels confident about breaking Juan Marichal's record for most wins by a Latin American pitcher. Martinez has a career mark of 241-187, two victories behind Marichal.

"It means a lot to me," Martinez said of the Latin pitching record. "I'm here for that, too. I'm not kidding myself. It's a way to motivate myself, a way to achieve something that's good. We'll see what happens."

Junior college quarterback used to urge competition at Colorado

BOULDER, Colo. (AP) —

Mike Moschetti is in the middle of the race for the job as Colorado's quarterback, joining Adam Bledsoe, Jeremy Weisinger and Gabe Leonard in the fray.

But that position isn't new to the 23-year-old transfer from Mount San Antonio College.

"When I came to Mount San Antonio there were five quarterbacks and I hadn't played football in four years," Moschetti said. "I had to start from scratch to see if I still had it."

Moschetti had been a shortstop reaching Class A in the Oakland A's organization. During his final season at Modesto of the

California League he hit .350 and used his 4.5 speed in the 40 to be a base-stealing threat before turning his attention to football.

"I've heard some stories that the reason I am playing football is I struggled in the minor leagues which is totally false," Moschetti said. "I was coming off my best year and they were really excited

about me, but that is when it dawned on me that it wasn't for me."

He eventually won the starting job at Mount San Antonio and threw for 1,600 yards and 13 touchdowns while running for 520 yards as a freshman. His sophomore numbers were even better, with

535 rushing yards and 1,771 yards and 16 touchdowns.

Through two weeks of spring practice, the three other quarterbacks haven't been his greatest challenge. Knowing where the 6-foot, 190-pounder would be each practice was.

"I have retired from baseball. I want to be a Division 1 football player," he said.

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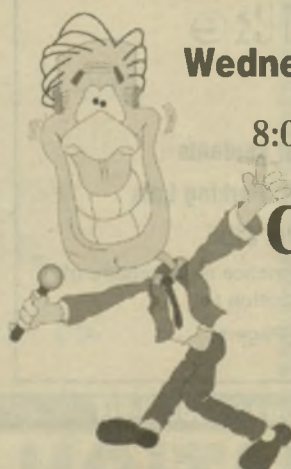
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Utah Utes celebrate a final four appearance, finally

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — Finally, a Final Four team for the University of Utah.

Thirty-two years after the Utes last made it to NCAA tournament semifinals, Utah has a chance to howl. The problem was, when the opportunity presented itself, there were only a few people around to do the howling.

The Utes returned home after their 25-point blowout of defending national champion Arizona to a campus deserted by spring break. So the celebration was limited to the players and the few staff and

students still at the school.

"This would happen on spring break, when there's nothing going on campus," said Michelle Graves, a secretary for the Utes sports information office. "There's nothing happening; I wish there was, but there just isn't."

But Graves wouldn't let that dampen her spirits.

"I'm going to San Antonio, the Final Four, baby!" she screamed into the telephone.

A thousand people greeted the team at the airport Saturday night, and freshman forward

Britton Johnsen was one of the first to wade into the sea of exuberant fans.

"We're in the Final Four — the Final Four!" he shouted, thrusting his fist in the air.

"This is great. We have great fans here in Utah," senior center Michael Doleac added, looking in disbelief at the airport crowd.

"It's unbelievable," said sophomore forward Alex Jensen, admitting he "couldn't believe (Utah had won) until there was less than a minute left in the game."

The state's chief Utes fan,

Gov. Mike Leavitt, also was elated about Utah's shot at its first NCAA championship since 1944.

"I can tell there's only one thing on the minds of Utahns tonight, and that's the Final Four and Utes Madness," he said. "I think we're in for a great week," he said.

Added Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, from Washington: "It was simply fantastic. If they play like this against North Carolina, nobody's going to stop them."

Anjee Barber, a pre-med sophomore, is making plans for a trip to the Alamodome. Reached

on the job at the Student Union, Barber at first could only exclaim: "Yay, yay, yay! I'm going to San Antonio!"

"I can't believe we beat them by the spread that we did. We were completely underrated," she added. "We knew we were going to have to play well defensively, and we did it. We totally did it."

Barber said she called a friend in San Antonio, and he planned to sleep out Sunday night to buy tickets to the Utah game for her and her friends on Monday.

"Pretty much everyone I know is going ... as many as we can to cut down on gas," Barber said.

Indians' Wright and Mesa beat Florida Marlins this time around

VIERA, Fla. (AP) — The last time Jaret Wright saw the Florida Marlins, they were ruining the masterpiece he pitched in Game 7 of the World Series.

A few months older and still calling himself "a normal guy who hangs out," Wright pitched five one-hit, shutout innings Sunday as the Cleveland Indians beat the Marlins 6-0.

It was the first matchup between the teams since Florida clinched its first World Series championship with an 11-inning victory in Game 7. Wright, a

playoff hero at 21, allowed one run in 6 1-3 innings and left with a 2-1 lead.

Jose Mesa blew the lead in the ninth, and the Marlins won it in the 11th, keeping the Indians without a Series title since 1948.

Wright didn't recognize many of the Marlins this time because of the dismantling of the team following the Series.

"There were a few guys I remembered from Double-A," said Wright, who struck out six and walked two. "People know that, it's the Marlins, and you

might want to turn it up some. People like to see those rematches."

How did it feel for Wright to sit on the dugout and watch his lead slip away five months ago?

"You can't imagine, and I can't explain it," Wright said.

Wright got the victory Sunday when Mesa finished the shutout, retiring three straight after a leadoff double by Ryan Jackson in the ninth.

After the final out, many Indians fans in the stands stood and pumped their fists in mock

celebration.

"It's no big deal," outfielder Brian Giles said. "It was just another spring training game against another team."


Wright is back for his first full season in the majors. He is expected to follow Charles Nagy in the rotation, but the Indians clearly see him as their ace of the future — maybe even the present.

"We've got a potential front of the rotation starter in Jaret," general manager John Hart said. "We've just got to finish him off."

After going 8-3 with a 4.38

ERA in 16 regular season starts, Wright beat the New York Yankees twice in the AL playoffs. He won Game 4 of the World Series and was chosen over Nagy to pitch the decisive game against the Marlins. He was 3-0 with a 4.73 ERA in five postseason starts.

"It's a memory that you'll never forget," Wright said. "But everybody knows it's a new year and you can't skate by on anything just because of what happened five or six months ago."



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Womack an anonymous star still on faceless Pirates team

BRADENTON, Fla. (AP) — Lou Brock. Vince Coleman. Tony Womack.

What do these seemingly dissimilar players have in common? All won National League stolen base championships.

Which raises this question among some fans: Tony Who?

Womack, to those who don't know him, was the Pittsburgh second baseman who made the All-Star game in his first season as a starter and was the first Pirates' player to win the steal title since Omar Moreno in 1979.

Too bad it seems like hardly anybody noticed outside of Pittsburgh and his hometown of Gretna, Va., which retired his No. 7 high school number last fall in tribute.

Maybe it's the curse of playing for a small market team that gets little national TV exposure. Maybe it's because he plays on a young team that has turned over its roster dramatically and still lacks a national identity.

And maybe it's because the Pirates seem determined to get rid of every single player known outside of Pittsburgh's Golden Triangle. Remember last season's pickups of Kevin Elster

and Shawon Dunston? Gone and gone.

"People still think we're a fluke," said Womack, who had a potentially breakthrough season in 1997 after toiling anonymously in the Pirates' farm system for six years. "Everybody was surprised when we were in the pennant race all season, and they'll be surprised if we do it again this season."

Womack's season — a .278 batting average, 50 RBIs, 85 runs, 60 steals in 67 attempts — is the perfect example of a team not knowing what a player would do until it gave him an opportunity.

"He might have been our MVP," left fielder Al Martin said.

Only the year before, the Pirates downgraded the 5-foot-9, 155-pound Womack as a prospect, and he won the second base job last spring only because nobody challenged him during spring training.

Even now, there is talk that his liabilities — he is an average fielder, doesn't walk much (43 times) and strikes out a lot (109) for a leadoff hitter — make him expendable as soon as prospect Chad Hermansen is ready.

Yet the Pirates may find it

hard to dismiss a player with Womack's work ethic, his play-every-day mindset and, yes, a stolen base percentage (.896) that was the highest in major league history for a player with so many attempts.

"I didn't set out to run, to steal bases just for the sake of stealing bases," said Womack, who broke the team record with 32 consecutive steals.

"I did it to manufacture runs for a team that was expected to have trouble scoring runs."

Will he run more in 1998, if only to pad his total so high that it forces others to notice him?

"Only if the situation calls for it. You don't run just to run," he said. "You've got to know and understand that it's not all about padding stats, it's about having a team win."

Womack insists will improve, especially on defense, but not because he is looking over his shoulder at the onrushing Hermansen.

"I've proven that I can play up here, if not here then somewhere else," he said. "But you just don't want to live on the success you've had in the past, you want to keep building on and on until you can't go any more."

Rockies place Bailey on 15-day disabled list

TUCSON, Ariz. (AP) —

Colorado Rockies right-hander Roger Bailey, whose control problems have led to a 49.09 ERA this spring, was placed on the 15-day disabled list with back pain Sunday.

Despite suffering severe whiplash in a car accident Feb. 24, Bailey said he pitched without pain in each of his four starts. Twice he was removed from games before recording an out.



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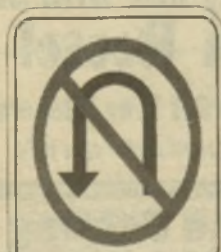
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