"The time to stop talking is when the other person nods his head affirmatively but says nothing."

- Henry Haskins

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY EDWARDSVILLE



http://www.siue.edu/ALESTLE/Alestle.html

IFESTYLES

St. Louis fans depressed over Korn's cancellation

see page 6

♦ Tuesday April 27, 1999

A STUDENT PUBLICATION

Vol. 51, No. 57 ♦

Graduation almost here

Janet McReynolds works to make event memorable

BY BRIAN WALLHEIMER NEWS STRINGER

With graduation approaching, many of us look forward to the event but not about the people who make the ceremony possible.

Associate Vice Chancellor Janet McReynolds has been a major part of the graduation commencements at SIUE since 1982. She is the one who writes the script, lines up the students and faculty and tries to make the ceremony as special as it can be for all those graduating and their families.

The unthinkable job of getting hundreds of seniors and faculty members lined up and walking into the graduation, without so much as a practice would be frightening to most, but McReynolds has no problems with it. "After you do it a few times, it's just a routine thing one learns to manage and assemble," she said.

McReynolds takes pride in the fact that the commencement is so professional. She wants to keep the ceremony as memorable as possible for all students and parents in attendance. She said, "It can't be too casual or it will get out of control."

McReynolds said many people see her as a quiet individual until they get to know her, but she said that she does not



SIUE file photo

Janet McReynolds

hesitate to voice her opinion. She is also very good at making directions clear during the commencement.

The most memorable commencement ceremony for McReynolds was the year that SIUE gave Hans Vonk, the St. Louis Symphony director, an honorary degree. She felt that

Vonk was very insightful and interesting. That's an important part of the ceremony, McReynolds said, if the event is to be a memorable occasion.

Before this graduation, McReynolds will help put on the Graduation Celebration May 6 in the Vadalabene Center for graduating seniors and their families. This is the third year for the celebration, which is sponsored by Alumni Services.

Some of McReynolds' other duties on campus include the Honors Convocation, new student orientation, advising the freshman honorary association, coordinating the freshman seminar course University 112, a program planning committee and many other duties in student affairs. Although she has many other jobs, McReynolds said she greatly enjoys planning the graduation commencement. "I'll do it for as long as people let me," she said.

For McReynolds, her satisfaction from hours and hours of work is reflected in the faces of the people at graduation. "I just enjoy seeing all of the students and parents really happy," she said

May 8 Graduation Ceremonies

9 a.m. School of Business
School of Nursing
School of Engineering
School of Education

1 p.m. College of Arts and Sciences

(All ceremonies will be at the Vadalebene Center.)

SIUE engineering students earn awards

ALESTLE STAFF REPORT

SIUE's chapter of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers has been recognized as the most active chapter in its region.

Thirteen SIUE mechanical engineering students participated in competitions at the ASME Region VII student conference in Des Moines, Iowa from April 15 to 17. This year's conference was hosted by Iowa State University.

SIUE's student ASME chapter won the Allied Signal Contest, which includes a trophy,

plaque and a \$200 check. The Allied Signal Contest assigns points for activities of individual chapters in a calendar year, then ranks the all the chapters in the region.

There are 21 student chapters in ASME Region VII, which includes schools in Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Minnesota, South Dakota and North Dakota.

SIUE was given the Highest Percentage of Member Award, an award to the chapter with highest percentage of student members attending the conference. The student chapter at SIUE was also awarded for having more than 50 percent of student body as members in ASME.

In the conference, senior Jennifer Mowrer was awarded the Outstanding ASME Student Member of the Year Award in recognition for her involvement and contributions for the student chapter in SIUE. Mowrer is the past chair of the ASME chapter.

Senior Darin Butcher won third place in the Old Guard Technical Poster Competition. Three teams also participated in the Student Design Contest.



Amy Wisneski/Alestle

Hannah Keck-Flory (left) and mother, Pam Keck, chemistry professor at SIUE, participated in workshop last week.

Mother-daughter act at work

BY BARBARA DUMOULIN NEWS EDITOR

Hannah Keck-Flory played hooky Thursday so she could go to school.

Keck-Flory, 10, came to SIUE with her mother, chemistry professor Pam Keck, as part of "Take Our Daughters to Work Day."

Keck-Flory, a fourth-grade student at Columbus Elementary School in Edwardsville, said she enjoys being a part of her mother's day.

"I like being with her and seeing her type on the computer and things," Keck-Flory said. "I'm helping her average grades and things, and later she's having a workshop and we'll go to that."

Keck said she thinks the annual observation day is important so that children can see what their parents do at work.

"It's to show them about the each year.

work force and get them in the work environment," Keck said. "I like having her be a part of my day. It's neat having a position where I can overlap my job and my daughter."

Keck-Flory, who has been coming to work with her mother for several years, said she has plans for her own future that may include teaching.

"I want to be a veterinarian or a doctor, or a teacher," she said, but not a chemistry professor.

"Take Our Daughters To Work Day" was created by the Ms. Foundation for Women in 1993.

The event, originally planned as a day dedicated to teach girls ages nine to 15 about the diversity of America's workplaces, has been celebrated on the fourth Thursday of April each year.

Circle K fasts for charity

ALESTLE STAFF REPORT

Members of the Circle K Club of SIUE will be skipping a meal April 28 and donating the cost to help eliminate iodine deficiency disorder, the leading preventable cause of mental retardation in the world today.

In partnership with the United Nations Children's Fund, Circle K clubs, along with the sponsoring Kiwanis, have pledged to raise over \$75 million to help nations virtually eliminate iodine deficiency disorders by the year 2000.

Iodine is needed by the human body to produce the hormones that regulate brain and nervous system development. Lack of iodine during prenatal development and early infancy can cause severe mental and physical disabilities.

IDD has been virtually eliminated in industrial countries like the United States by the universal consumption of iodized salt. But in the rest of the world about 1.5 billion people live at risk of iodine deficiency.

see CIRCLE K, page 4

Textbook Service

Textbooks available starting May 17, 1999

Extended Hours Edwardsville Campus

May 17	Monday	8	ANI	w	6:30	PM
May 18,19	Tuesday, Wednesday				4:30	
May 20	Thursday	8	AM	-	6:30	PM
May 21	Friday	8	AM	100	4:30	PM
May 22	Saturday	8	AM	***	2:00	PM
May 24, 25, 26,	27					
	M,T,W,Th	8	AM	-	6:30	PM
May 28	Friday	2	ARA		1.20	DAG

May 29,30	,31 Closed for holiday
June 1,2 June 3 June 4 June 5	Tuesday, Wednesday 8 AM - 4:30 PM Thursday 8 AM - 6:30 PM Friday 8 AM - 4:30 PM Saturday 8 AM - 2:00 PM
MILE	Textbook Services Summer 1999

REOUIRED

Students walk for AIDS victims

FOR THE ALESTLE

The 10th Annual AIDS Walk St. Louis will commemorate a decade of support and service in the St. Louis area May 2 at Kiener Plaza.

The ten-year journey has raised more than \$1.4 million for area AIDS programs providing direct-care services and education. This year's goal is to

increase the walk to 10,000 participants.

The Madison County AIDS Program has chosen to focus on participation by SIUE students.

The walk is a great way to promote campus leadership and at the same time allows individuals an opportunity to become involved in a healthy, fun activity, MadCAP officials said.

Individuals, friends, families and clubs are encouraged to put together a team. The walk consists of a three-mile stretch along the Gateway Mall in St. Louis. Exhibits, food, games and live entertainment will be part of the festivities with the walk.

For more information on AIDS Walk St. Louis, or to form or join a team, contact MadCAP at 877-5110.

ampus Scanner

Recognition program: The Achievement Outstanding Recognition Program, which honors students, faculty and staff, and community leaders for outstanding contributions in leadership and service, is scheduled for 4:30 p.m. Wednesday in the second floor Conference Center in the Morris University Center. For more information, call Cheryl Heard at 650-2686.

Noncredit activities: "Financial Strategies for Successful Retirement will be offered at 7 p.m. Tuesdays, from April 27 -May 18 in Peck Hall room 3417.

The instructor for the course is Robert Waugh. For more information call the Office of Continuing Education at 650-3210.

Driving instructions: The department of kinesiology and health education will provide driving instructions from June 21 - July 30 in conjunction with course HED 443, Methods and Materials in Driver Education. Those interested in signing up for the course should call 650-3252 to obtain an application. The cost of the course, \$50, is payable at the time of the first lesson.

Harassment

University Personnel Services is sponsoring Sexual Harassment Awareness Training from 9 to 11 a.m. and again from 1 to 3 p.m. on Tuesday, May 11.

The program, which is open to staff and faculty, will be conducted by a representative of the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. Each session is limited to 25 participants. To register for either of the sessions, e-mail wmisiak@siue.edu department, campus box number, and telephone extension. Confirmation letters will be sent

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Letters to the Editor -

Penny pinching pupils leave pizza delivery people peeved

As a local pizza delivery driver, I would like to begin by saying that all pizza delivery drivers appreciate those residents on campus who tip when their pizza is delivered. It would be unfair for me to complain that all students and campus employees do not tip their delivery driver. For all of those people who do recognize the efforts of their driver, we say a big "Thank You!"

For those who do not tip, I am going to let you in on a little secret. We remember you. Do not think for a minute that I am going to forget that I did not receive a tip from room 227 at Prairie Hall and 525 1A Cougar Village Sunday night. However, just the same, I remember those who do tip, like 403 1A Cougar Village.

When I complain about how people on campus, or anywhere throughout the area, do not tip, I often hear, "Maybe they can't afford it." See, I figure if you cannot afford to tip \$2, then you cannot afford to order \$20 worth of pizza! That \$20 can go a long way at the grocery store. I also hear, "Maybe they don't know they are supposed to tip." In the four years I have been in the business I have come upon two people who have said they did not know they were supposed to tip. I do not think that is the problem. But for those of you out there, who did not know, you do

Also, I would like to address those folks at the Cougar Village Commons or any other organization or department that requires purchase orders. The price in the purchase order does not include a tip. Please remember this the next time you see your delivery driver hauling

twenty pizzas up a flight of stairs.

If you are one of those people who does not tip because your pizza did not arrive in the time specified at the time you ordered, then please keep in mind that 95 percent of the time it is not the driver's fault. Sometimes orders get messed up and there has to be a re-make or the expected delivery time has been extended because there was a rush of orders. These are factors that cannot be controlled by the driver. When you do not tip the driver you are not getting at the heart of the problems for

As finals week approaches, I hope that those who do not tip will remember that the person delivering your pizza works hard for the money he or she earns and deserves a couple of bucks.

> Rebbecca Barsanti local pizza delivery driver

Lack of involvement reaches peak



One percent. The next semester's leaders were chosen by less than one percent of the school's population. In all only 663 ballots were cast; there are more than 10,000 eligible to vote. Bad enough that there was only one candidate for many offices, but a 1 **Danielle** percent turnout. To have such a major decision made by such a minor segment of the campus is sad. And the fact

that it didn't seem to bother anyone but the people who voted and were running was even more appalling.

I talked to people who did vote and they all had the same complaint: "Who are these people?" The voters were uninformed and confused about what our student government really does and stands for. With such minuscule involvement by the larger student population, why have a student government at all? It is obvious that SIUE students feel that the administration is capable of handling all our decisions without student input. Students don't want to join committees and they don't want to participate. Obviously students believe the administrators are capable of meeting student interests and needs without input. Therefore the whole situation should be a moot point.

Why is student government being treated like it is some sort of figurehead that just rubber-stamps popular university opinion? What decisions the student government leaders make and what issues they choose to explore have merit and impact every student's life.

Parking stickers, student fees, school events, money for school organizations, funding for events and projects all at one point are started, discussed or voted on in student government. The students who will help make decisions about these important issues shouldn't be ignored. They should be anything but ignored. Students need to take an active roll in how their school is

Students do not have to run for an office or join a committee to get involved. If they simply take the time to voice an opinion at a student government meeting or take the time to write a letter to an administrator or student senator, they are helping make an impact on the way this school is run.

The student government is our voice. Just as the Alestle is a student newspaper, used as an outlet for students to discuss and read about issues pertaining to this campus, so is student government. Our student senators and committee members represent us and our interests. When the administration wants to raise fees or change policy, they are our voices making our concerns known. Would we, as American citizens, be comfortable if we let 1 percent of our population pick who will represent us? Have we become that lackadaisical that we can't take five minutes out of our day to care that only one person ran for president, one ran for vice president and only one for secretary? This isn't the former Soviet Union where leaders trotted out only one presidential candidate who won by a landslide because the vote was moot in the first place. This should anger students. It should make them want to get involved or at least should make them want to support their student government by encouraging the candidates to do a better publicity job when election time rolls around next spring.

Everyone is at fault for the public ignoring the recent elections. Student government should do a better job of getting the candidates out there. But student government can't make students come to a meeting, it can't make students participate in events, it can't make students vote and it can't make them care about how their school is

What will it take before people begin to care? I'm frightened to see what that might take.

> Danielle Belton Editor In Chief

Guest column— Lucky Strike isn't so lucky for her any more

BY E.J. GALLO

Kentucky, but only a dollar more in Missouri and Illinois.

But research scientists began exploring the consequences of smoking. They learned it caused disease, emphysema, deprived the brain of oxygen and was highly addictive. The surgeon general issued warnings and manufacturers printed them on packages. A few people quit, but many could not begin their day without a cigarette to go with their newspaper and coffee. And people relished an after dinner cigarette with coffee and good conversation around the dining room table. Secretly, smokers wondered about the dangers because so much was written. So for many years, nonsmokers tolerated the carcinogenic air contributed by their friends until a few extremists raised their banners of doom, coughed, gasped and demanded a smoke-free atmosphere.

Smokers became as welcome as skunks at a picnic. Hotels, restaurants, airports became smoke free, and nobody smoked in other people's homes. With guilt came surrender.

government levied The exorbitant fines against the tobacco companies to satisfy lawsuits. The states were reimbursed for damages because somebody was going to pay for smoke-related illnesses and anti-smoking campaigns. And Congress, in its wisdom, imposed high, punitive taxes on the manufacturers, who in turn, increased their prices.

It is tough to quit cold turkey, but I am a penny-pinching tightwad. The difference between \$12 for a carton of cigarettes and \$25 became the final, convincing argument. Besides, I rebelled against standing out in the cold rain like a pasty-faced addict puffing my way to pneumonia.

But do I proselytize, preach reformation, sniff the air with suspicion? Indeed not. I eat. Hershey Kisses, jelly beans and gummy bears have a shelf life of 10 minutes in my house. Instead of an after-dinner cigarette, I have a chocolate, hot-fudge sundae with whipped cream and nuts. I fully intend to convert to carrot and celery sticks as soon as I quit feeling sorry for myself.

stalling for time pulled out a pack, shook one out and lit a match. They were ground out under a heel or crushed in an ashtray. In other words, cigarettes were a multipurpose, all-occasion crutch. During the 1930s, Lucky

They were so much fun, why

did they have to be deadly? They

passed the time, relieved boredom,

were useful in a crisis. A person in

distress paced back and forth,

paused only to flick an ash. A

person with a flair for the dramatic

waved them around. A person

Strike cigarettes were bought in small, flat green tins for 15 cents. White paper packs replaced the tins in 1941 and the company motto was "Lucky Strike Green Has Gone to War." Suppliers sent them to the GIs serving in Europe and the South Pacific, and women took the habit as well. A pack of cigarettes cost about 35 cents. Nobody complained about the fog of smoke the country lived in or the grumbling concerning the price. "If they go up to 50 cents a pack, I

Nobody quit because a carton of cigarettes cost \$2.50 in

Letters to the editor policy:

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

We reserve the right to edit letters for grammar and content. However, great care will be taken to ensure that the message of the letter is

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

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

The name Alestle is an acronym derived from the names of the three campus locations of SIUE: Alton, East St. Louis and Edwardsville. The Alestle is published on Tuesdays and Thursdays during fall and spring semesters, and on Wednesdays during summer semesters. For more information, call (618) 650-3528.

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"I'm not really hungry, but I wouldn't mind eating."

- The mantra of the poor dieter.

Students avoiding high-tech degrees

SAN JOSE, Calif. (AP)—College students are opting away from high-tech degrees, even though the computer industry is desperate for well-trained graduates, according to a study being released today.

The report, issued by the American Electronics Association, found that high-tech degrees – including engineering, math, physics and computer science – declined 5 percent between 1990 and 1996.

Preliminary findings from 1997 and 1998 indicate the trend is continuing, the AEA said.

"Although there are some bright spots in the CyberEducation results, the bottom line is that the U.S. educational system is not adequately preparing our youth for today's information age economy," said AEA president William Archey.

The AEA said elementary and high schools must do more to get students ready to tackle a high-tech education.

Of the decreasing number of high-tech degrees awarded, the study found a significant portion

Students who have meal

plans may also "skip a meal" by donating up to \$5 from their meal

CIRCLE K-

went to foreign nationals. At the doctorate level 45 percent of high-tech degrees were granted to non-U.S. citizens.

Among the states, California's colleges conferred the most high-tech degrees, but it also had one of the greatest declines, awarding 1,600 fewer degrees in 1996 than in 1990.

Grey Baker, a 19-year-old freshman at Stanford University, said he will probably major in humanities, history or political science. He won't choose a high-tech subject, he said, because he's interested in examining more abstract ideas.

"I'm here at college mainly to learn to explore because I love thinking about ideas," he said. "I'm really not trying to study a subject which will get me a job."

Baker said that eventually, of course, he plans to have a career but "that's not my mindset right now."

Nationwide the unemployment rate for high-tech careers is extremely low – 1.6 percent for engineers and 1.2 percent for math.

SIUE bookworm turns page on his career

BY WENDY WOODY NEWS STRINGER

Nearly 40 years after the founding of Lovejoy Library, the building's first director has been chosen to receive the Illinois State Historical Society's 1999 Lifetime Achievement Award.

Dr. John C. Abbott was nominated in January for the honor given to those who have, according to historical society qualifications, furthered the collection, preservation or interpretation of an aspect of Illinois history.

"I cannot think of a more deserving recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award," Jay Starratt, dean of library and information services, said.

"Such an award is an appropriate recognition for a man whose significant accomplishments accumulated over many years and will continue to prove beneficial to the cultural life of southwestern Illinois for years to come."

Before the construction of Lovejoy Library, Abbott maintained the library's collections at the Alton and East St. Louis centers. Later, he aided in the planning and design of the central campus library

"He built collections that

continue to gird the research and instructional mission of the university," Starratt said.

Lovejoy Library's Archivist and Special Collections Librarian

In addition to his contributions to SIUE collections, Abbott will also be recognized for his work with local historical organizations.

According to Helen Delicate, first vice-president of the Madison County Historical Society, Abbott was an important part of the effort to raise funds to purchase the Weir House, where the County Historical Museum is now located.

Abbott also aided the historical society with maintaining its files in the society's library.

Abbott was also a charter member of the Goshen Preservation Alliance, organized in 1980 to preserve Edwardsville's historical information. According

to Susanne Webb, secretary of the GPA, he was active on a train committee, in planning tours and in obtaining good publicity for projects.

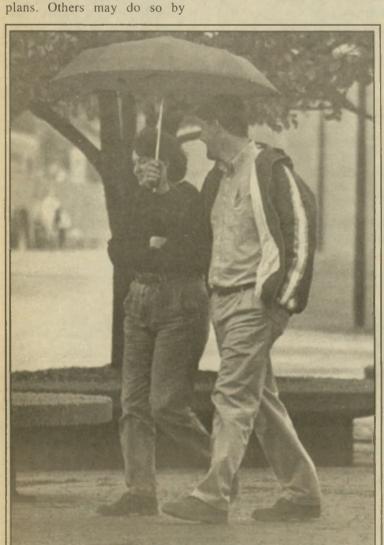
Abbott, an SIUE employee for 37 years, will accept the award at the historical society's 100th Anniversary Annual Meeting May 1 in Bloomington.

SIUE Photo Service

John Abbott

It only takes 5 cents to making cash donations through protect a child from IDD for a year, so the cost of one meal can protect 25 to 100 children. The project is the cost of the projects that Circle K will be considered. The project is the cost of the projects that Circle K will be considered.

projects that Circle K will be sponsoring for this cause. But this one event can have a great impact if everyone participates.



Jill Stevens/Alestle

Students protect themselves from April showers and anxiously await May flowers.

Congratulations Graduates

Stephen Kerber said, "Thanks to

his efforts, the Lovejoy Library

today enjoys significant holdings

of state and local history

materials, both primary and

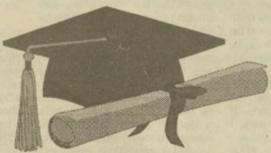
secondary sources, in its Rare

Book Collection, its circulating

book collection and its Louisa H.

Bowen University Archives and

Special Collections."



The University Restaurant will hold a Graduation Buffet

Saturday
May 8th, 1999
from
11:30am-1:30pm

adult price: \$7.95 child price: \$3.95



Please call for reservations at: 650-3040

Springfest winners

Clever captions bring chuckles, prizes

Here are the funniest captions submitted from the Alestle caption contest at Springfest.

Look for more winners in Thursday's Alestle.

Jason Silvey wrote, "A soccer mom's nightmare: Siamese twins joined at the hip who play for opposing teams."

Marcy Kennedy wrote, "Concerned teammates rush to help the Siamese ballerina soccer twins cope with their deadly disease."

Allan Dorsey wrote, "Woowee, we're finally getting a football team!"

Ashley Stoneking wrote, "SIUE staff member steals a glance at this performer's backside, but is caught in the act."

Matt Caminiti wrote, "Baldy gets tribal while the thinker ponders his next move."

Jason Silvey wrote, "Rickey Ricardo tribute

tour kicks off while a stunned groupie looks on."

E r i c Middleton wrote, "You should see me play with my 'drumstick.'

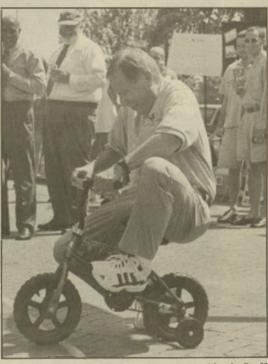
Allen Dorsey wrote, "Boy, I'm really impressing the boss now!"

A s h l e y Stoneking wrote, "Chancellor Werner practices his bicycling on his two-wheeler. Unfortunately, he still depends on his training wheels, but he hopes to one day graduate from them."

Becky Gould wrote, "Chancellor Werner unveils Madison County's newest Cougar Shuttle Service."

Jason Silvey wrote, "Lastplace contestant in Tour de France wishes his bike had a





Alestle Staff

sissy bar."

Marjorie Amizich wrote, "Biker chancellor rules!"

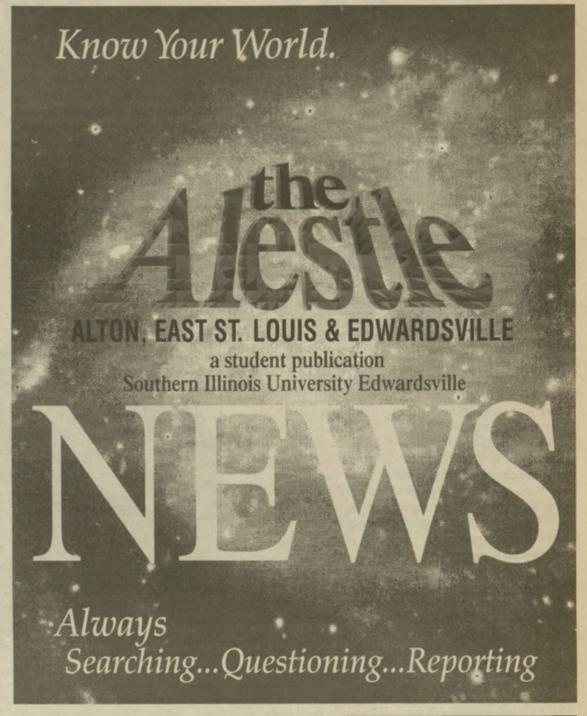
Eric Middleton wrote, "Parking Division purchases new vehicles for lot monitoring."

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Employee Fitness & Benefits Fair and Staff Senate Barbecue

April 28, 1999; 11:30am - 1:30pm

Student Fitness Center Southern Illinois University Edwardsville

Chancellor's Walk:

The annual walk with Chancellor David Werner and the Vice Chancellors begins at 11:30am from the front doors of the University Center and will conclude at the Student Fitness center. All walkers will be eligible to win a 1-year membership at the Student Fitness Center.

Information Exhibits Include: Area Hospitals, Health, Dental, and Life Insurance Carriers, State Universities Retirement System, Tax Sheltered Annuities, and Univdersity Program Units.

Attendance Prizes Include: Color TV and 25.00 Bookstore gift certificates.

Staff Senate Barbeque Fundraiser

Barbeque Buffet Includes:

Pork Steak or Chicken Breast, Green Beans, Baked Bean, Potato Salad, Bread, Dessert, and Beverage Cost: \$6.00

Advanced tickets for barbeque are recommended and are available from Staff Senate members, Union Station, and at the Student Fitness Center reception desk.

Carryout orders are available the day of the event.

Sponsored by:

University Personnel Services, University Staff Senate, Campus Recreation, & Health Services

Lifestyle

People, Entertainment & Comics

◆ PAGE 6

The Alestle

TUESDAY, APRIL 27, 1999 ◆

BREAKING THE HEARTS OF THOUSANDS

RN PULLS PLUG ON SHOW AT THE KIEL CENTER

BY SHERI MCWHIRTER **LIFESTYLES EDITOR**

It was a sad day for heavy metal fans across the St. Louis region. Extreme Radio 104.1 began broadcasting around 9 a.m. Saturday that Korn had canceled the concert scheduled for that evening due to an injury the drummer, David, had received the night before in Kansas City. Fans from St. Charles to Carlinville were confused as whether to cry or commit random acts of violence.

For a few lucky ones who were listening at 10 a.m., there was a light in the dark. Extreme Radio took pity on the heartbroken Korn kids and offered a bit of compensation. Anyone with a Korn ticket who was at the grand opening of Slacker's in Glen Carbon at 11 a.m. could win a chance to see Fear Factory, System of a Down, Head (p.e.) and Spineshank at Pop's instead. The truly depressed sat at home and wept and the concert fanatics drove to Cottonwood Mall as quickly as possible.

Only 20 people were placed on the guest list for the Pop's

guest. It was a good show, but it wasn't Korn.

This isn't the first time Korn has disappointed the fans in St. Louis. Korn canceled a performance at the Lollapalooza '97 show in St. Louis due to the guitarist, Munky, becoming very ill. The California-based Korn must not be able to adapt to our continental climate here in the Midwest. Either that, or we're just the most unlucky bunch of Korn fans on the face of the planet.

But don't fret! Korn has given us a promise! Because of Saturday's let down, Korn has made an oath to the people of St. Louis: the band will be back and Korn will do something "special" for our heartache. Nobody knows what that "special" something will be, but it better be good! We'll just have to wait for the concert announcement and see if Korn knows how to treat the fans.

It's hard to tell who's an

event and each one could bring a old-school Korn fan and who's not. If the only songs you know are "Got the Life," "Freak on a Leash" or even "A.D.I.D.A.S.," chances are you're a newbie.



Now that MTV is saturating the airwaves with Korn's latest videos, it seems like everyone is a Korn fan. In the good ol' days of 1995, Korn was still mostly an underground band and only the dedicated knew the lyrics.

But finally the band has reached complete stardom, and it's about time the band gets the respect it deserves. For those of you who are just coming around, here's a

synopsis.

Jonathan Davis is the front man for this powerhouse band, leading the way with gripping vocals and chilling bagpipe solos. Head and Munky create the characteristic heavy guitar riffs that Korn is known for. Fieldy provides support as the backbone of the band with his thumping bass guitar. And finally David is the genius behind the deep and entrancing drumbeats.

In 1994, Korn slammed into the music scene with the self-titled album that went solid platinum. Kids are still

buying this one (I'm on my second one)! This album is the basis for the old-school fans.

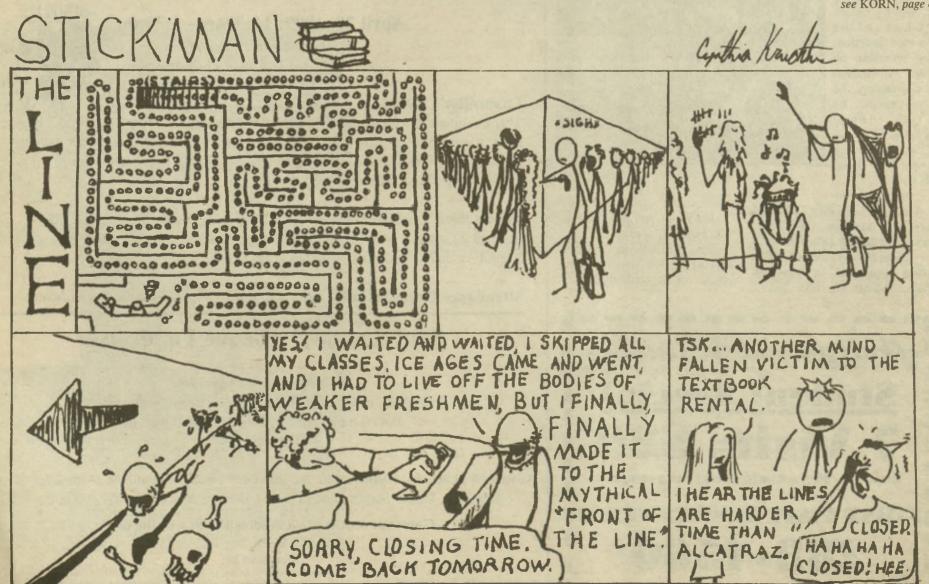
The first song ever heard from Korn was "Blind," the first track on the debut album. This is a climax at any show. The heartnoncommunicative frenzy and become in tune with band. Jonathan's lyrics are so very personal that they apply to nearly everyone. You may not have the same experiences as he. but Jonathan feels your pain. He screams "Are you readaayyyyyy?" and the crowd explodes

"Divine" is track five on the album and carries emotional lyrics like "F*** you/ fed up with you/ I'm not as good as you/ f*** you/ I'm better than you." "Faget" follows and is equally gripping.

The famous "Daddy" and horribly overplayed "Shoots and Ladders" are also found on the album.

In 1996, Korn had a fanbase of more than 2 million strong in support of their release, "Life is Peachy." This album was criticized as being too sloppy and not as well produced, but the fans bought it anyway. Yes, Korn did put this one together pretty fast, but that's what you have to do to keep the record labels happy.

No matter if "Peachy" wasn't as strong an album as the see KORN, page 8



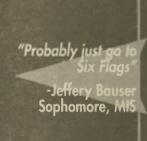
Say What!? by Bob Brown What will be your

What will be your most exciting adventure this summer?



"I'm going to McKesler, Oklahoma, for reserve duty."

-Charles Fuller, Senior, Social Work







"The only adventure I have is getting through class."

-JoAnna Steele, Sophomore, Psychology

"Plan on climbing to the top of the catsup water tower in Collinsville."

-John Palasz,
Freshman, French





"to find as many hot single women as possible." -Michael Trefzger, Sophomore, Art

Hum breaks sound barrier

BY TOBIE DEPAUW LIFESTYLE REPORTER

"I had never heard of them before, but I loved it, I really loved it," SIUE freshman Isabella Parlatore said about Hum's April 16 midnight performance at the Side Door. "I like the way they changed rhythm within each song. They were a great line band because all their songs didn't sound the same"

I can empathize with Isabella very much. I have heard of Hum before, and I know some of the stuff, but I would never consider myself a fan. Hum's music was very strong and powerful, and I can see why the band members have the incredible fan base they do. I never realized how faithful their fans really were.

Waiting for the show to start, I met a couple guys who had come to see Hum like it was a pilgrimage. Michael and Aaron Knopp, cousins from Staunton, Va., drove 11 hours to see this show. I was very impressed and gave them the props they deserved.

"It is totally worth it," Michael Knopp said. "I would drive to California to see Hum."

The Knopps admitted that by the end of the show, we would be embarrassed to know them. As the band took the stage, the cousins exploded with excitement, hopping up and down and shouting. They held that level of excitement throughout the entire show.

They were the happiest guys in the room without a doubt.

Hum was incredible. The band members were so strong. and loud, I couldn't help but totally immerse myself in the music. Although I didn't know any of the lyrics, I felt right at home with the words coming from the singer's mouth. A few years back, Hum hit the highlight with the radio and MTV hit "Stars," and I knew some other songs from that album. Although I felt like a poser and a hypocrite, I belted out the words I did know, like I was Hum's biggest fan. I didn't care because I was having a good time.

The lead singer, Matt
Talbott, unloaded lyrics in a
rushing current of mumbled
sound that put spikes into the
audience's emotional psyche,
until he poked and prodded the
audience to an emotional
overflow. You know the peace
is about to break when the hair
on your neck stands up. With an
unbridled roar, Talbott breaks
the soft sounds, barely altering
his placid expression.

I thought another Hum member was doing the screaming, but at second glance, the protruding veins in Talbott's neck were obvious clues it was his voice. The heavy, slow, droning effect of the music was broken by turbulent guitar streams, and it began to sound like a style all its own. It is rare these days to

have only one singer and no backup vocals, but Talbott accomplishes the complexity of the vocals extremely well. The lead singer is this scrawny guy who you just know everyone picked on in grade school. Well, everyone, I hope it feels like a kick in the groin to have to pay to see the guy you used to pick on do what he loves. I don't consider myself part of everyone because getting beat up as a kid was just as much of a part of my daily routine as eating breakfast.

And who would have known that picked-on kid would be a big football fan? We all found out when Talbott took a few minutes out to talk about football, his gastrointestinal problems and recent medical procedure horror stories. He was hilarious. It is a good thing, too. The humor brought the people in the audience out of the deep emotional state they were in. Who knows what kind of trouble that leads to. In the immortal words of Bart Simpson, "Making teen-agers depressed is like shooting fish in a barrel."

This was all but true at the Hum show. The fans were excited to see their band, and everyone left happy. I did, but there was so much more to be happy about. So if you ever get a chance, check them out. Who cares if you don't know the words, just hum.



Sheri's picks:

If you're looking for enlightenment or at least a good time, check out one of my ace pick concerts. You'll have a hell of a time, but I'm making no promises. But if you look hard enough, you'll probably find me there!

With finals coming up, I probably won't go to any shows this week. But if you get a break, go check out one or all of these great concerts.

Another Society and

The Concormists
Tuesday
Creepy Crawl,
St. Louis
412 N. Tucker

I don't know much about Another Society, but I can tell you that The Conformists' stage show will leave you in wonder! Static-X, LoCash and BIG BLUE MONKEY

Friday
Galaxy,
St. Louis
1227 Washington

Once again I'm only familiar with one band: LoCash. They're awesome and since they're not opening, the others must be good too. Stir

Saturday Side Door Club, St. Louis 2005 Locust

For a little bit of hometown style, check out Stir. I saw them rock out at the first annual Homegrown.

Ask Krazi Kitty

Dear Krazi Kitty-

I really enjoy my job. I am an exotic dancer at a night club. I have been dancing for over a year now and it pays my bills. My problem is that just last night one of my professors came into the club. I didn't realize that he was at the club until my boss told me to do lap dances. When I went into the room he was blindfolded. When I started dancing for him he took the blindfold off and I almost pooped on myself. He was really shocked; probably because I am a straight A student. Well I did finish the lap dance and he did enjoy it. My problem is that I am afraid of going to his class. What should I do?

You got yourself into this trouble! I understand you are just trying to make a living, but there are many other ways to do that. If you are a dancer and truly confident about your work, then you wouldn't care who sees you at your job. But since you are writing me, I see you are not so sure. You probably need to start looking in the classified section of the paper and find a job that you can put on your resume. As far as your teacher goes, I'm sure he is more embarrassed than you are. So you should walk into class as if nothing happened. I bet you he will.

KORN, from page 6

self-titled debut album, it still totally rocked out. Singles off "Peachy" include "Twist/Chi" and the infamous "A.D.I.D.A.S." Jonathan demonstrates his ability to freak out with a mic on "Twist" and a hidden track is provided after "Kill You" with Jonathan singing a cappella.

"A.D.I.D.A.S." received a lot of airplay mostly because of such catchy lyrics as "All day I dream about sex." Most listeners never pick up the message that sleeping around is not a healthy thing to occupy yourself with. Huh? Lemmings.

Before coming out with the third album, Korn did a side project. The guys recorded "Kick the P.A." with the Dust Brothers for the "Spawn" soundtrack. Other artists on the soundtrack include Filter, Marilyn Manson, Incubus, Metallica and Prodigy

After another two long years, Korn released the revolutionizing "Follow the Leader." The album cover depicts a little girl playing hopscotch off the edge of a cliff with thousands of "Children of the Korn" following close behind. (Possibly a commentary on how modern society overexposes musical groups and the youth of America sadly follow in their footsteps including walking, talking and dressing like them. Lemmings, huh?) The cover is almost as if Korn is rubbing it in the overzealous fans' faces: "So you worship us now, huh?"

The old-school fans get the joke and keep right on listening, only spending far less money on T-shirts and more on the actual

"Follow the Leader" boasts many great new songs like "Freak on a Leash," "Dead Bodies Everywhere," "Pretty" and "Reclaim my Place." The important question that arises over this album is: why start on track 13? The answer: why not?

Ice Cube appears on "Children of the Korn," courtesy of Priority Records, and does a great job sharing vocals with Jonathan. Ice Cube isn't the only guest on "Follow the Leader." Limp Bizkit appears courtesy of Flip/Interscope Records on "All in the Family." It's an amusing track in which Fred Durst, front man for Limp Bizkit, banters back and forth with Jonathan. They slam each other and their bands including attacks on personal characteristics, musical talent and even their hometowns.

After this monumental release, Korn kicked off the most famous tour to date: the Family Values Tour. This tour got more attention than when Korn had to leave the Lollapalooza '97 tour when Munky got sick. Korn invited the best of the best to tour with it. The powerhouse group included Incubus, Orgy, Limp Bizkit, Ice Cube and the German band Rammstein. Korn used the recordings of the Fairfax, Va., and New Orleans shows to produce the latest album entitled "Family Values."

The album includes live recordings of "New Skin" by Incubus, "Dissention" and "Blue Monday" by Orgy. Limp Bizkit rocked the crowd with "Cambodia," "Faith" and a cover of House of Pain's "Jump Around." Ice Cube brings back a N.W.A. song, "Straight Outta Compton," and Rammstein has the popular "Du Hast" on the live album.

Korn keeps the fans happy with the "Shot Liver Medley," which includes portions of "Shoots and Ladders," "Justin," "Predictable," "Ball Tongue," "Divine" and "Kill You." Then Korn busts into "Freak on a Leash" and "Twist/Chi." Korn finishes out with a technically perfect version of "Got the Life."

Korn just finished the Rock is Dead Tour with Rob Zombie. The canceled St. Louis show was the last scheduled concert on

Korn fans around St. Louis are waiting, not all patiently, for the retribution they deserve. So, come on, Korn, hurry up to St. Louis. You've got some unfinished business here.



"Korn," the self-titled album has a controversial cover. The back of the case shows the swing with no little girl on the playground.



"Life is Peachy" helped to boost Korn into stardom with the popular song "A.D.I.D.A.S." which stands for "All Day I Dream About Sex."



"Follow the Leader" is the latest studio release from Korn. This album was promoted with the Family Values Tour.



"Family Values" is the live recordings of dates on the tour in Virginia and Louisiana.

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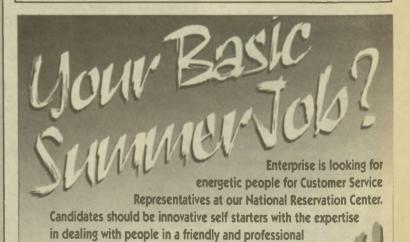
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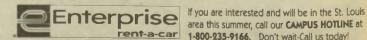


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Useless Facts

Fernando Tatis' two grand slams in the same inning on Friday were so rare that it probably hasn't even been done on a Nintendo game.

Sports Cougars

Coming UPNext

BASEBALL
Wednesday at Missouri Baptist, 3 p.m.
Saturday at IUPU-Fort Wayne (DH), noon.
Sunday at St. Joseph's (DH), noon.

SOFTBALL Wednesday at SIU-Carbondale (DH), 3 p.m. Friday-Saturday, GLVC Championships at Evansville, Ind., TBA.

♦ TUESDAY, APRIL 27, 1999

The Alestle

PAGE 9 ◆



BY TONY AMMANN SPORTS EDITOR

Hockey

Sunday afternoons provide a graceful painkiller for the average man's work week. Meandering aimlessly through the park or cruising down an old country road are very common remedies.

With recreation in mind, Sundays are also the busiest days in the professional sports world as well. Basketball and golf have just recently been joined with baseball and of course, playoff hockey.

The St. Louis Blues held the hottest ticket in town Sunday as they took on the Phoenix Coyotes. But at least 3,000 people in the St. Louis area were not inclined to visit Kiel Center Sunday, as the Blues' crowd was far less than capacity.

So where was everyone? There were no reports of overpopulation in Forest Park, Interstate 70 seemed free of congestion and the Cardinals were out of town. Whatever the case, Blues fans sent a strong message to the National Hockey League Sunday.

Perhaps the roughhouse style of play in the postseason isn't actually as popular to hockey fans as it may seem to be. Blues fans may have been intelligent enough to know that Sunday's game would include high-sticking and tripping, and even the goalies throwing jabs and counterpunches.

Maybe those 3,000 fans were fed up with that insanity, and rightfully so. See, a lot of hockey fans still like the skate, pass and shoot idea. That's why the World Wrestling Federation was invented and fittingly aired on the most boring night of the week, Mondays.

Players nowadays seem to think the final score is determined by the team's total checks plus total penalty minutes. Before you start whining about the referees favoring Phoenix Sunday, think about how good the Blues would be if they focused on putting a puck into the net instead of a Coyote in the hospital.

Cougars split with St. Joseph's

The SIUE baseball team exchanges shutouts in doubleheader with Pumas

BY CHAD BAALMAN SPORTS REPORTER

A doubleheader split with St. Joseph's University Sunday told the story of the SIUE baseball team's season.

After shutting down the Pumas 4-0 in the first game, the Cougars found a way to lose 2-0 despite outhitting their Great Lakes Valley Conference foe at Gil Hodges Field in Rensselaer, Ind.

The Cougars, 33-16 overall and 15-7 in the GLVC, have just three league games remaining and can't move any higher than second place in the GLVC South Division. Quincy University, which is ranked No. 6 in the latest national poll, is running away with the South title.

In the opener against the Pumas, SIUE pitcher Ryan Cox pitched a gem as the Cougars knocked three St. Joseph's pitchers around for four runs on nine hits. Cox (7-3), a senior from Stewardson-Strasburg High, allowed one hit and issued one walk while striking out eight.

Cox kept his team in the ballgame with a 1-0 lead through six innings before the Cougars erupted for three runs (two of them unearned) in the seventh inning to pull away from the

Pumas. Dave Crouthers was 2for-4 with an RBI and Mark Bugger also drove in a run for SILIF

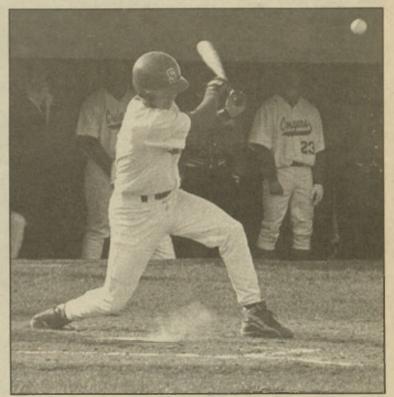
The second game wasn't so kind to SIUE. The Pumas bled the Cougars for single tallies in the second and third innings, and that was enough run support for St. Joseph's pitcher Kris Regas, who scattered seven hits and walked one.

The Cougars helped matters with two errors, which negated their hit advantage, 7-2. Overall, the Cougars out-hit the Pumas 16-3 in 16 innings yet came away with just one victory.

Aaron Rakers suffered the loss in the nightcap, but he deserved a better fate. Rakers (7-4) gave up one earned run while pitching the distance.

At the plate, Bugger and freshman Todd Haug each went 2-for-4 to account for the bulk of the Cougars' offense, which couldn't break through against the Pumas.

The Cougars will visit Missouri Baptist in St. Louis 3 p.m. Wednesday. SIUE will then wrap up the regular season and GLVC schedule on the first weekend of May, when Bellarmine College comes calling to Roy E. Lee Field for a three game series.



Jill Stevens/Alestle

The Cougars' slim chances of winning the conference title were decreased to none when the Quincy Screaming Eagles clinched the GLVC South Division last weekend.

Lady Cougars win three road games

SIUE gains momentum for GLVC tourney

BY CHRIS LAMB SPORTS EDITOR

The Cougars softball team gained a little breathing room this weekend. With the Great Lakes Valley Conference Tournament right around the corner, they were in first place by two games over Lewis University.

After this weekend's five wins in six games, SIUE is pretty comfortable in first place with a three-game lead and only one game to go before the tournament.

Friday, the Cougars traveled to Michigan to take on Ferris State University (27-14). Jessica Silbe started on the mound for the Cougars. She carried a 2-0 lead into the fourth inning when Ferris State tied the game at two. The

Cougars came out on top, though, scoring a run in the sixth inning and another in the seventh to win

Silbe improved to 9-7 on the season. Sarah Sollberger was 2-for-4 and Kim Messinger was 2-for-3, both with doubles.

After playing three games Saturday, picking up two wins and a loss, SIUE bounced right back Sunday to battle a very tough team in Ashland University (33-8) and then another solid team in Saginaw Valley State (33-11).

They handed both schools their hats, shutting Ashland out in game one 3-0 and edging Saginaw State in game two 3-2.

In game one Silbe was once again victorious with an impressive two-hit shutout. Silbe



Jill Stevens/Alestle

The Cougars hope their 15-7 GLVC record and 33-16 overall record will be good enough to get deep into the playoffs.

is now 11-7 with this win and the one on Saturday. Sollberger provided the offense for the Cougars with a big game, going 2-for-2 with two home runs and three runs batted in. Kari Franzen added a 2-for-3 performance with a double.

In game two, Dawn Farmer led the Cougars, winning her 10th

game of the year with only two losses. Both Erin Newman and Sollberger went deep for the Cougars. Sollberger's was a tworun shot.

SIUE is now 32-15 overall and 13-3 in the GLVC. The Cougars will travel to SIU-Carbondale for its final regular season game Wednesday.

SIUE BASEBALL GLVC STANDINGS		WOMEN'S SOFTBALL STATISTICS		MEN'S BASEBALL STATISTICS		
NORTH DIV	ISION	BATTING AVERAGE		DATTING AVEDAGE		
1. Indianapolis	16-6	1. Newman, Erin	.378	BATTING AVERAGE 1. Dawson, Travis	.389	
2. Saint Joseph's	12-11	2. Messinger, Kim	.350	2. Bugger, Mark	.367	
3. Lewis	9-15	3. Mitts, Niki	.344	3. Crouthers, Dave	.355	
4. IUPU-Ft. Wayne 5. Wisconsin-Parksio	7-14 de 7-17	4. Wagner, Kim	.336	4. Collins, Ryan	.307	
6. Northern Kentuck		5. McCoy, Valerie	.306	5. Opel, Chad	.298	
SOUTH DIV		RUNS		RUNS		
1. Quincy	19-1-1	1. Newman, Erin	30	1. Dawson, Travis	46	
2. SUIE	15-7	2. Messinger, Kim	28	2. Friese, Brock	38	
3. Missouri-St. Louis 4. Southern Indiana	s 13-6-1 15-9	3. Mitts, Niki	24 22	3. Crouthers, Dave	36	
5. Kentucky Wesleya		4. Sollberger, Sarah5. Uhrhan, Mandy	20	4. Bugger, Mark5. 3 players tied	36 27	
6. Bellarmine	7-16	o. Ommun, manay	20	3. 5 players fied	21	
SIUE SOFT	RATI	HITS		HITS		
GLVC STAN		1. Newman, Erin	42	1. Dawson, Travis	70	
GEV C STAIN.	DINGS	2. Mitts, Niki3. Messinger, Kim	42 42	2. Bugger, Mark3. Crouthers, Dave	65 65	
1. SUIE	13-3	4. Uhrhan, Mandy	36	4. Collins, Ryan	47	
2. Lewis	11-4-1	5. Wagner, Kim	36	5. Opel, Chad	45	
3. Southern Indiana	11-5					
4. Missouri-St. Louis		RUNS BATTED IN	21	RUNS BATTED IN		
5. Wisconsin-Parksio6. Quincy	de 7-9 7-9	1. Mitts, Niki 2. Newman, Erin	31 29	1. Crouthers, Dave	47 42	
7. Northern Kentuck		3. Uhrhan, Mandy	26	2. Bugger, Mark3. Dawson, Travis	32	
8. Bellarmine	5-7	4. Franzen, Kari	19	4. Arview, Brady	29	
9. Saint Joseph's	5-8-1	5. Wagner, Kim	17	5. Opel, Chad	26	
10. Indianapolis	4-12	Line to the same				
11. IUPU-Ft. Wayne		TOTAL BASES	75	TOTAL BASES	05	
SIUE BASE		1. Mitts, Niki 2. Newman, Erin	75 74	 Bugger, Mark Dawson, Travis 	95 92	
BOXSCO	RES	3. Messinger, Kim	57	3. Crouthers, Dave	89	
Sunday		4. Uhrhan, Mandy	53	4. Opel, Chad	65	
Game 1		5. Sollberger, Sarah	49	5. Collins, Ryan	61	
SIUE		CLUCCING DEDCEM	TAGE			
SICL	AB R H BI	SLUGGING PERCENT 1. Newman, Erin	.622	SLUGGING PERCENT	.537	
Dawson If	4 1 1 0	2. Mitts, Niki	.615	 Bugger, Mark Dawson, Travis 	.511	
Friese cf	3 1 1 0	3. Messinger, Kim	.475	3. Crouthers, Dave	.486	
Bugger 3b	4 0 1 1	4. Sollberger, Sarah	.454	4. Opel, Chad	.430	
Crouthers rf	4 0 2 1 4 0 0 0	5. Wagner, Kim	.430	5. Abernathy, Jason	.410	
Opel 2b Arview 1b	4 0 0 0 0 3 0 0 0	DOUBLES		DOLINA EG		
Collins c	3 1 2 0	1. Uhrhan, Mandy	14	DOUBLES 1. Crouthers, Dave	14	
Bergheger ss	3 1 2 0	2. Newman, Erin	12	2. Bugger, Mark	13	
Haug dh	1 0 0 1	3. Messinger, Kim	9	3. Dawson, Travis	12	
Totals	29 4 9 3	4. Mitts, Niki	6	4. Collins, Ryan	10	
Errors-Opel. LO	B-7. 2B-	5. McCoy, Valerie	5	5. Opel, Chad	10	
Crouthers, Bergh		TRIPLES		TRIPLES		
Crouthers. S-Haug.	SF-Haug.	1. Mitts, Niki	6	1. Dawson, Travis	5	
100		2. Wagner, Kim	3	2. Crouthers, Dave	5	
SIUE		3. Franzen, Kari	2	3. Bugger, Mark	4	
	IP H ER K	4. Sollberger, Sarah	2	HOME BUNG		
Cox (W)	7 1 0 8	HOME RUNS		HOME RUNS 1. Bugger, Mark	3	
		1. Newman, Erin	5	2. Opel, Chad	2	
Game 2		2. Mitts, Niki	5	3. Haug, Todd	2	
SIUE	0	3. Sollberger, Sarah	4	4. Arview, Brady	2	
St. Joseph's	2	4. Franzen, Kari	3 2	CTOLEN DACEC		
- In the second		5. 2 players tied	2	STOLEN BASES 1. Dawson, Travis	29	
SIUE		STOLEN BASES		2. Friese, Brock	18	
		1. Wagner, Kim	10	3. Collins, Ryan	10	
D 16	ABRHBI	2. Newman, Erin	8	4. Crouthers, Dave	10	
Dawson If Friese cf	4 0 0 0 0 2 0 0 0	3. Messinger, Kim	6	EADNED DUN AVEDA	CE	
Bugger 3b	4 0 2 0	4. Sollberger, Sarah	6	EARNED RUN AVERA 1. Cox, Ryan	GE 1.91	
Crouthers rf	4 0 1 0	EARNED RUN AVER	AGE	2. Rakers, Aaron	1.94	
Arview 1b	4 0 1 0	1. Farmer, Dawn	1.61	3. Matzenbacher, Brian	2.52	
Collins c	3 0 0 0	2. Obrecht, Sara	1.92	4. Blackwell, Cory	2.70	
Bergheger ss	4 0 0 0	3. Young, Katie	2.31			
Haug dh Opel 2b	4 0 2 0 4 0 1 0	WINC		WINS 1 Matzanhacher Brian	0	
Totals	33 0 7 0	WINS 1. Farmer, Dawn	9	 Matzenbacher, Brian Rakers, Aaron 	8 7	
TO SHALL SEE		2. Silbe, Jessica	8	3. Cox, Ryan	7	
E- Bugger, Rakers. I	OP-1. LOB-9.	3. 2 players tied	5	4. Blackwell, Cory	5	
S- Friese.						
	IP H ER K	STRIKEOUTS	20	STRIKEOUTS	0.1	
Rakers (L)	9 2 1 3	1. Silbe, Jessica 2. Obrecht, Sara	39 21	1. Rakers, Aaron 2. Cox, Ryan	91 75	
		3. Farmer, Dawn	19	3. Matzenbacher, Brian	55	



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> Applications for graduation are available in the Service Center, Rendleman Hall, Room 1309.



I'm going to have to leave the country very, very soon.

Things are beginning to get out of hand and I know they are only going to get worse. The hype has been building for more than a year now, but with less than a month away, things are about to explode.

Yep, I'm talking about the release of the new "Star Wars" movie.

This thing is gonna make the death of Princess Di look like a news brief on the bottom of page four.

I started to notice things were a bit askew some months ago. Rumors started flying about the plot of the film. Crazy rumors. Things like the entire announced cast was just a hoax and a completely different cast would be in the actual movie. Or that there would be a cameo by E.T. Come on, people, let's not get silly.

Then, even though they were apparently being guarded like the Holy Grail, scripts started turning up on the Internet. Now I imagine the people who have to know everything about this movie are the very same who had to look in the closet each year to find out what they were getting for

Isn't surprise a part of the fun? Apparently not for these obsessed Internet-addicted freaks who wear "Spock Rocks" T-shirts and mutter "Nanu nanu" to each other.

Since people can't wait and relax for this little film, George Lucas and his team of cronies are treating it like the second coming of Christ. There are people right now sitting at Mann's Chinese Theatre in Los Angeles waiting for the movie to open. The damn thing won't be there for another three weeks, and I sure wouldn't want to be munching popcorn next to one of these unbathed, no-life cretins.

What were these people doing before the movie debut was announced? What employer in his right mind would give someone a month off of work to wait for some Wookies to arrive? My only guess is that the comic book or gaming store these jokers worked at shut down in respect of the Jedis for a month.

I do have to give it up for George Lucas, though. Since 1977 this man has been raking it in because 20th Century Fox gave him the merchandising rights for "Star Wars." Someone at the studio apparently thought he would never make dime one. So now this filthy rich genius can use his own money to make the films and keep all the profits for himself, making the "Star Wars" prequel the most expensive independent film ever made.

I'm sure he's got James Cameron on his speed dial just waiting to call him up and gloat once his movie passes up the grosses for "Titanic".

It's become madness, and as much as I want to see the movie, I refuse to wait in any three-hour lines with the dregs of society. And I don't want to flip my lid inside the theater listening to theories about Yoda or outrageous applause every 30 seconds. I just won't do it.

I say that now, but come May 19. I'm sure I'll be there with the rest of the mindless drones, wearing my "Chewbacca does it with fur" T-shirt. And I'm sure I'll see you there as well.

May the madness be with you.

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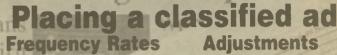
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