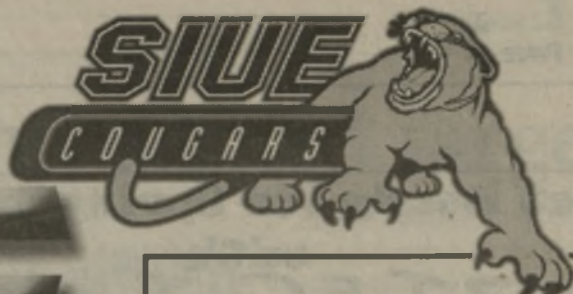


# THE ALESTLE

ALTON ■ EAST ST. LOUIS ■ EDWARDSVILLE



Find out how to make  
a human martini  
See Lifestyles

◆ THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2004

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY EDWARDSVILLE

Vol. 56, No.41 ◆

## Affirmative action panel is reformed

BRUCE KLOSTERMANN  
NEWS REPORTER

In response to the recent Supreme Court legislation concerning college admissions practices regarding minority students, SIUE has reformed its committee on affirmative action.

In June, the Supreme Court ruled against two University of Michigan admissions policies aimed at increasing diversity. The policies, which were based on a points system to determine which students the university would accept, automatically gave minority students a certain number. In its ruling, the Supreme Court agreed diversity is an important part of college education and college life but disagreed with the University of Michigan's policies.

SIUE's committee on affirmative action was formed during the 1996-1997 academic

year but has been inactive for some time.

Committee member and Financial Aid Director Sharon Berry said the committee is re-examining the university's practices to ensure they are in compliance.

"We are working to manage affirmative action practices within the law," Berry said. "But we don't expect to change anything right now."

SIUE has only one scholarship specifically designated for minority students, the Johnetta Haley Scholarship, which is given to freshmen or transfer minority students in math, science, nursing, engineering or computing.

In response to strong criticism from affirmative action opponents, as well as the Supreme Court rulings, many area universities have changed

see MINORITY, page 3

## Chili spices up the day



JESSICA BALADAD/ALESTLE

Members of the Wagner's Potters Association sell hungry students chili in bowls that are handmade Wednesday in the Hairpin Drive. The students purchased the chili and kept the bowls it was served in.

## SIUE welcomes new author to the shelves

KRISTEN REBER  
NEWS REPORTER

Copies of graduate student Edwin Aybar's "Soñando: Thoughts of a Young Latino" will be released Thursday in the University Bookstore.

Published by First Books in December 2003, the 105-page book focuses on multicultural social issues and conflicts.

"I first started to think about (putting together a book) in my fourth year as an undergrad," Aybar said. "My junior year, I was displeased with how the majorities and minorities interacted. I thought that when you're getting an education, you should try to meet with people different than yourself."

During his senior year, Aybar served as president of the Latin American Student Association at Wheaton College, near Chicago. Earlier in his college career, Aybar began penning articles dealing with issues such as dating, family, the Spanish



KWAME ROSS/ALESTLE

Edwin Aybar

language and spirituality.

"My junior year, I wrote articles twice a month for the student body," Aybar said. "(The book) has The Bulletin articles and some poetry of mine that I had put in The Bulletin. It was originally just for Latin Americans, but then it turned out that others wanted to subscribe to it too. I thought that was great."

Originally, Aybar shared his message by delivering The Bulletin to mailboxes, but as the

see AUTHOR, page 4

## Learn business for a week

MARISSA VICKERS  
NEWS REPORTER

While most students may look forward to spring break, the week before could be just as exciting.

The SIUE School of Business and the International Trade Center are hosting International Business Week Monday through Saturday, March 1 through 6.

Four of SIUE's exchange partners have lined up faculty members to visit the campus throughout

the week. Sara Isabel Garcia from Mexico, Hans Guhlert from Germany, Albrecht Sonntag from France and Chen Yan from China will be at SIUE for formal presentations and classroom visits to raise awareness about the growing importance of business.

A panel discussion will be at 7:30 p.m. Monday in the Maple-Dogwood Room of the Morris University Center. Rick Dreyer,

vice president of international sales at T.J. Gundlach Machine Co. in Belleville, and Stewart Dahlberg, manager of export sales at J.D. Streett and Co. Inc. in St. Louis, will join the visiting faculty members to discuss international trade and the state of international business.

"On Monday, each of the

**"International Business Week is really about raising consciousness."**

~Radcliffe Edmonds

visiting faculty will give a market update of their area, and two representatives of the local business community will talk about their experiences in global trade," economics and finance professor Radcliffe Edmonds said.

Following the presentations, which are open to anyone interested, there will be time to ask questions and discuss the information.

The faculty members will also speak from 11 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Tuesday in Room 2401 of Alumni Hall. The presentations will concentrate on global competitors of SIUE business students. Visiting faculty members will talk about business education in their institutions, pointing to differences in language training and internship service requirements, among others.

According to Edmonds, some of the people are scheduled for classroom visits in the School of Business and the Foreign Language and Literature Department. Others will

meet with local businesses wishing to explore the possibility of expanding.

SIUE has relationships with seven exchange partners, including Germany, the Netherlands, Mexico, two in France and two in the United Kingdom. The university is also working on an exchange program with China.

Edmonds said the university see BUSINESS WEEK, page 3



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## Support troops by making donations at Criminal Justice Club rally

NICOLE GAUDREAU  
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Troops may get to embellish in an early gift-giving season this year if all goes well when the SIUE Criminal Justice Club sponsors a Support Our Troops rally from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday at the Glen Carbon Wal-Mart.

The club needs help collecting items for the 415th Military Police Academy deployed in Baghdad, Iraq, where SIUE senior Roy Schumacher is stationed along with other troops.

The unit doesn't have access to supplies such as toothpaste, sunscreen, toilet paper, snacks and batteries and would

appreciate the help of anyone willing to lend a hand.

Criminal Justice Club

part of the rally and said it will be a good opportunity for people to support their fellow Americans.

"Although the war in Iraq is controversial, I think we are all in agreement to support our troops," Petrocelli said. "I would really like to see the SIUE community come out

**"I would really like to see  
the SIUE community come  
out and show support for  
one of our own."**

~Matt Petrocelli

President Chad Mellick said the club has no specific goal but hopes to collect a large enough amount of supplies to help out the hardworking troops.

"It's a chance to contribute to the war in Iraq by helping out soldiers who are so bravely fighting for us overseas," Mellick said.

Criminal Justice Club Adviser Matt Petrocelli is also

and show support for one of our own."

For those who don't have items to donate, the club will also accept monetary donations in the form of a check made out to the Criminal Justice Club to help pay for shipping for the rest of the items.

For more information, e-mail the Criminal Justice Club at criminaljusticeclub1@hotmail.com.

## Springfest offers activities and booths

BRUCE KLOSTERMANN  
NEWS REPORTER

The deadline for student organizations interested in participating in this year's Springfest organization fair is fast approaching.

This year's Springfest, titled I Love the '80s, will be Wednesday through Sunday, April 21 through 24. Events will take place on the Woodland Hall lawn, the Stratton Quadrangle and the recently

refurbished athletic fields across from the Early Childhood Center.

The first organization fair will be from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursday, April 22, in the Quad. The fair will then move to the athletic fields for two sessions, from 6 p.m. to 12 a.m. Friday, April 23, and from 12 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, April 24.

Organizations must submit their applications and all necessary paperwork by 4:30 p.m. Friday, March 26, to the

Kimmel Leadership Center.

The cost for non-selling booths is \$40 if no electricity is needed and \$60 with electricity. Selling booths are priced at \$50 without electricity and \$60 with it.

Booths are available on a first-come, first-served basis and are limited to 50 organizations. Student organizations wishing to participate must be registered with the Kimmel Leadership Center and must be in good standing.

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**Big Fish (PG-13)** Daily 7:00;  
Fri & Sat 9:50; Sat-Mon Matinee 2:15

**Mystic River (R)** Daily 6:45;  
Fri & Sat 9:40; Sat-Mon Matinee 2:00

**Along Came Polly (PG-13)** Daily 7:15;  
Fri & Sat 9:30; Sat-Mon Matinee 2:30

**EASTGATE 254-5289**  
Eastgate Center • E. Alton

**\$4.00 • Before 6 pm • Students • Seniors**

**The Passion of the Christ (R)** Daily 3:45, 6:45;  
Fri-Sun 9:30; Sat-Mon Matinee 12:45

**Twisted (R)** Daily 4:45, 7:10;  
Fri-Sun 9:45; Sat-Mon Matinee 2:15

**Confessions of a Teenage Drama Queen (PG)**  
Daily 5:00, 7:40; Fri-Sun 9:55;  
Sat-Mon Matinee 2:00

**Welcome to Mooseport (PG-13)** Daily 4:00, 7:00;  
Fri-Sun 9:40; Sat-Mon Matinee 1:20

**50 First Dates (PG-13)** Daily 4:30, 7:30;  
Fri-Sun 9:50; Sat-Mon Matinee 1:40

**Miracle (PG)** Daily 4:15, 7:20;  
Sat-Mon Matinee 1:00

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Fri-Sun 9:30; Sat-Mon Matinee 2:00

**Eurotrip (R)** Daily 7:15;  
Fri-Sun 9:40; Sat-Mon Matinee 2:15

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**The Passion of the Christ (R)**  
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Fri-Mon Matinee 12:45, 2:00

**Twisted (R)** Daily 4:30, 7:45, 10:05;  
Fri-Mon Matinee 1:30

**Broken Lizard's Club Dread (R)**  
Daily 4:00, 7:00, 9:30;  
Fri-Mon Matinee 1:00

**Dirty Dancing: Havana Nights (PG-13)**  
Daily 4:10, 6:30, 9:00;  
Fri-Mon Matinee 1:20

**Welcome to Mooseport (PG-13)**  
Daily 4:50, 7:30, 10:00;  
Fri-Mon Matinee 2:15

**Against the Ropes (PG-13)** Daily 5:10, 7:50, 10:15;  
Fri-Mon Matinee 2:20

**Miracle (PG)** Daily 3:50, 6:50, 9:50;  
Fri-Mon Matinee 12:50

**Monster (R)** Daily 4:45, 7:40, 10:10;  
Fri-Mon Matinee 1:40

**50 First Dates (PG-13)** Daily 4:40, 7:20, 9:55;  
Fri-Mon Matinee 2:10

**Confessions of a Teenage Drama Queen (PG)**  
Daily 4:15, 6:40, 9:15;  
Fri-Mon Matinee 1:10

**Eurotrip (R)** Daily 4:20, 7:10, 9:40;  
Fri-Mon Matinee 1:50

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## Campus Scanner

**Taste of Culture:** Taste cuisine from other cultures when you take a break with Campus Activities Board from noon to 1 p.m. Tuesday in the Goshen Lounge of the Morris University Center.

**Gospel Explosion:** An evening of inspiration will continue the celebration of Black Heritage Month with poetry, rap, praise, dance and gospel music from 6:30 to 10 p.m. Friday in the Meridian Ballroom.

**Black Heritage Month Quiz Bowl:** There will be a "Hollywood Squares" style quiz of black history knowledge from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Thursday in the Goshen Lounge

of the Morris University Center.

**Music:** The SIUE Concert Band and Chamber Ensemble will perform at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday in Dunham Hall Theater. The SIUE Wind Symphony will perform at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday. Tickets are \$3 for the public and \$2 for students and seniors. For more information, call the SIUE Music Department at 650-3900.

**Food Chat:** Campus Activities Board will sponsor Food Chat from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Wednesday in the MUC University Club.

**Buddhist Meditation:** A Buddhist meditation will be available for beginners through

the experienced from 7 to 8 p.m. Thursday in the Religious Center.

**Tobacco Counseling:** The American Lung Association of Illinois is providing the Illinois Tobacco Quitline. Registered nurses, respiratory therapists and addiction counselors staff the toll-free line. Counseling is free to residents of Illinois. Those interested should call (866) QUIT-YES. Hot line hours are from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday.

**Alcoholics Anonymous:** The Gut Level Group meets at 7 p.m. Saturday in the Religious Center. This is an open meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous and Al-Anon.

**Have a news tip?**  
**Let us know.**  
**alestlenews@hotmail.com**



## MINORITY

from page 1

some of their policies regarding minority students.

St. Louis University has made its minority-only scholarships available to all students. Southern Illinois University Carbondale has changed its funding for the

program for minority engineering students from state to private, and the University of Missouri-Columbia has rewritten three of its minority scholarship programs, opening them to all underrepresented minorities.

## BUSINESS WEEK

from page 1

sends about six to eight students each year to study abroad with one of those partners. Also, the university accepts about 40 students from its partners to study at SIUE.

"International Business Week is really about raising consciousness," Edmonds said. "Get on board and learn something."

Edmonds said one of the reasons more students don't take advantage of studying abroad is the perceived monetary requirement. However, he said it can actually be cheaper.

"Students who study at our exchange partners pay SIUE tuition but not the fees," Edmonds said.

In addition to studying abroad for a semester or more, students also have the opportunity to go on travel study tours. The tours earn students a credit but are typically about two weeks long, as opposed to an entire semester. In 2004, the School of Business scheduled a

study tour to Germany Friday through Sunday, March 5 through 14, but it was canceled due to insufficient enrollment. The next study tour is going to China May 8 through 22. The School of Business is still accepting enrollments through Friday. A third study tour is being offered to Toluca, Mexico, Aug. 7 through 21. The application for the Mexico study tour is due Friday, March 26.

A recent Excellence in Undergraduate Education grant has helped with the expenses incurred in hosting the visiting faculty members. The EUE grant is supplemented by School of Business Dean Gary Giamartino and College of Arts and Sciences Dean Kent Neely.

"It is expensive to do this," Edmonds said.

Edmonds also said that last year, SIUE had only two faculty members participate in the faculty program.

"We hope to be back up to about eight (next year)," he said.

# Paint ball to hit desired target

## ALESTLE STAFF REPORT

If you long for the action of firing on enemies and dodging their shots in return, do it legally with Campus Activities Board.

CAB is sponsoring an off-campus paint ball tournament from 1 to 5 p.m. Saturday.



PHOTO COURTESY OF PR.ERAU.EDU

SIUE students are invited to join CAB members in the thrill of the chase and share in the fun of shooting paint balls at each other. The cost for participation is \$10, and a bus will pick up participating students the morning of the activity.

For more information, contact CAB at 650-3371.

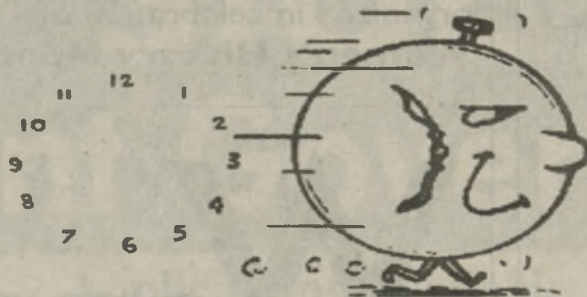
## Line 'em up, knock 'em in



KWAME ROSS/ALESTLE

Students compete in a 9-ball tournament Tuesday in the Morris University Center. The winner was junior Cavan McIntyre who beat out junior Bryan Meredith, who won second place, in the final round of the tournament.

## Attention Students...



# ... Don't Let Time Pass You By!

## CAREER NETWORK '04

Wednesday, March 3, 2004

9:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Vadalabene Center

## EDUCATION FAIR '04

Wednesday, March 3, 2004

3:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Vadalabene Center

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[www.siu.edu/CAB](http://www.siu.edu/CAB)

# Alestle staff wins awards

## ALESTLE STAFF REPORT

The Alestle and its staff picked up five awards at the Illinois College Press Association convention Saturday in Chicago.

Assistant Sports Editor Travis Ross won three of the honors. Ross received

honorable mention for a sports column, a sports story and a sports feature.

Photo Editor Kwame Ross earned an honorable mention for a sports photo.

Former editor and reporter Brian Wallheimer and reporter Josh Stockinger won an honorable mention for their in-

depth reporting on the fight to find funding for the SIUE wrestling team.

The Alestle competes with 14 other non-daily newspapers at universities with more than 4,000 students.

The award period covers August 2002 through December.

## AUTHOR

from page 1

demand grew, Aybar began to take a business approach to his articles.

"It got to be expensive, so I invited businesses in the area to help cover the cost (by purchasing advertisements)," Aybar said.

Aybar took his work one step further when he bound together all of The Bulletin articles before deciding to search for a publication company.

"Before publishing this, I went to a print shop and had them do homemade rough copies, and mostly people who read The Bulletin purchased them," Aybar said. "I searched for publishing houses on the Internet, and I basically took the cheapest one for me that had the best service."

Born in Mayagüez, Puerto Rico, Aybar spent a small part of his early life in the Dominican Republic, where his parents did their studies.

"I was born in Puerto Rico in the western part of the island," Aybar said. "I was born in the same room that my dad was born in."

Aybar moved with his family to Rockford in 1991.

"We didn't plan to move to the United States, but my dad had an offer to continue his education," Aybar said. "He got a job offer in Minnesota, and it was a generous one, so we decided to stay."

Aybar, 23, also plays the saxophone and guitar and sings. He became involved in music while attending school in Minnesota.

"I got into music when I was in seventh grade because I had nothing else to do. After that, I progressed naturally," Aybar said.

Before continuing his education at SIUE, Aybar earned a degree in piano performance last year at Wheaton College.

"I really liked that it was a

conservatory of music, and it was a Christian college," Aybar said. "I was raised a Christian, and being in a Christian college, I got to study theology."

"Soñando: Thoughts of a Young Latino," which is recommended for young adults between the ages of 15 and 30, will be available for just less than \$12 at the University Bookstore.

While one of Aybar's goals is to earn a doctorate in music, he also has many other things in mind for his future.

"I don't think I would like to be a concert pianist. I'd like to have a steady job and raise a family in one place," Aybar said. "I have enjoyed the (writing) process. Sometimes, I go back and think that I should really change this or that, but I really enjoyed the process of sitting and thinking things through myself. I'd really like to even write a novel someday."



# MODULES

Student Leadership Development  
Program & Volunteer Services

## Modules

3/2/04

Module 17, 2:00 p.m.

Leading Your Peers

Billie Turner, Non-profit Coordinator

NTAC/ESLARP

Board Room, MUC

3/2/04

Module 7, 6:30 p.m.

Conflict Resolution: Negotiating Differences

Mary Kane, V.P. of Public Finance

Stifel, Nicolaus & Co., Inc.

Board Room, MUC

3/16/04

Module 8, 2:00 p.m.

Human Relations

Jack Holcomb

Stifel, Nicolaus & Co., Inc.

Board Room, MUC

3/16/04

Special Module

Module 18, 5:30 p.m.

Motivating Others

Sam Abell, Photographer

In collaboration with Arts & Issues

Board Room, MUC

## SLDP Reminders....

### Volunteer Projects

February 28 - Computer Rehab, Washington Park, IL

March 7-11 - Spring Break Trip: Cherokee Nation, Oklahoma

March 27 - Share Food, Granite City, IL

March 27 - Frank Holten State Park, Tri City Youth Council Volunteer Project

April 3 - St. Vincent DePaul Thrift Store, E. St. Louis, IL

For more information and the calendar, contact the Kimmel Leadership Center at extension 2686 or visit the website at [www.siu.edu/KIMMEL/SLDP](http://www.siu.edu/KIMMEL/SLDP)

Come join the panel  
organized in celebration of  
**Women's History Month**

# Women



# & News

**March 2, 2004**

**12.30 p.m. - 1.45 p.m.**

**Lovejoy Library  
Room 0044**

The panel will feature journalists  
from St. Louis newspapers.

Panel topics include women's portrayals  
in the media as well as employment  
issues for female journalists and aspiring  
media professionals.

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# Apply by March 1 for

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and

## 2004-2005 SIUE

## University/Foundation Scholarships

Links to the applications are available on the  
Office of Student Financial Aid's website

[www.finaid.siu.edu](http://www.finaid.siu.edu)

# SIUE Student Government

Applications Available

## 2004-2005 Elected Positions

- Student Body President
- Student Body Vice President
- Student Trustee
- Student Senators (12 seats)

### How to Apply:

**STEP 1:** Obtain an application and election manual from the  
Student Government Office (1st floor, MUC).

**STEP 2:** Return the completed application to the Student  
Government Office by 4:15p.m., Friday, March 5.

**STEP 3:** Attend Mandatory Candidates' Meeting on Monday,  
March 15, 4:30 p.m., MUC Board Room.



# Opinions & Editorial viewpoints & commentary

◆ PAGE 6

A l e s t l e

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2004

**EDITOR IN CHIEF:**  
NICOLE R. GAUDREAU

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JAMIE FORSYTHE

**LIFESTYLES EDITOR:**  
APRIL BUEL

**SPORTS EDITOR:**  
KEVIN CORRIGAN

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## 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. Letters may be turned in at the Alestle office located in the Morris University Center, Room 2022 or via e-mail at [alestle\\_editor@hotmail.com](mailto:alestle_editor@hotmail.com). All hard copy letters should be typed and double-spaced. All letters should be no longer than 500 words. Please include your phone number, signature (or name, if using e-mail) and student identification number.

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

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

The Alestle is a member of the Illinois College Press Association, the Associated Collegiate Press and U-WIRE.

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 650-3528.

**Have a comment?**  
Let us know!  
Send us an e-mail:  
[alestle\\_editor@hotmail.com](mailto:alestle_editor@hotmail.com)  
The Alestle  
Campus Box 1167  
Edwardsville, Ill. 62026-1167

## Set the table, the main course is coming soon

Let's take a few minutes and forget about the university budget problems, the coming presidential election and midterms. Let's focus on a bigger problem, the legion of geese that occupy this campus.

Every morning I wake up to the world's largest chorus of geese putting on the world's worst concert.

There are hundreds of those Canada geese, smothering the hillside in a dirty blanket. This army of unwelcome noisemakers has two weapons – an ability to honk like hell and, worst of all, they deposit their “artillery” on the sidewalks of our campus.

Some days I swear the little beasts are practicing English and working on military tactics in preparation for the day they formally take over our campus. Worse yet, I always feel like

they're looking at me as if I'm the one who doesn't belong in the picture.

Up until now, we couldn't act on any of the initial reactions we have to rectify the situation because we are on state property. We can't trap, shoot, catch and cook or do anything that would intrude on the comfy lifestyle of these protected geese. Although university employees regularly coddle the eggs, the goose population is ever growing.

But, there are always rational solutions to irrational problems.

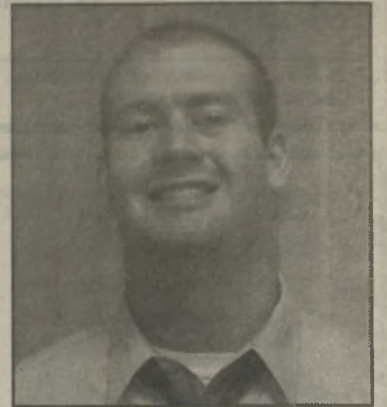
We have to start a program, or two, to scale back the geese factor of the university populace. I propose the Geese Elimination Program. In recognition of this country's obsession with acronyms, we will simply refer to it as the GEP, kind of like the

GOP but a lot less anal-retentive.

Under this program, we could have events like Geese on a Leash or Goose on the Loose Giveaway. We can treat it as a sort of freshman initiation. We will surprise all of the prospective students who take a tour of the university by giving them a goose to take home.

By doing this, we will take care of two problems. Not only will it cut back on the goose population, but since the university has talked about capping enrollment at some point, I'm sure this proposition will chase away its fair share of prospective students.

Another plausible solution is to introduce something into the SIUE wildlife community that is a fierce enemy of the geese, and at the same time, a lot less



annoying to students. While we're at it, let's show a little school pride by introducing 10 to 15 cougars. We bring back the school mascot to an original habitat and clean up the sidewalks at the same time.

So, for any members of the SIUE administration who might be looking for a way to boost student morale, the answer is simple – get rid of the geese. As for me, I'll be doing my part by hosting a geese potluck TBA. I'll keep you posted.

Travis L. Ross  
Assistant Sports Editor

## The sanctity of marriage could be preserved if gays had a chance

AARON NORTH  
MINNESOTA DAILY

Minneapolis, Minn., (U-WIRE) — Over the last several months, marriage has been in the news and has made its way to the Minnesota and national political agendas. In his Jan. 20 State of the Union address, President George W. Bush said, “Our nation must defend the sanctity of marriage.”

Although recently married myself, the true import of marriage as “one of the most fundamental, enduring institutions of our civilization” never revealed itself to me until I walked down the aisle. The idea of pledging one's entire life to another person in a legal and spiritual contract is a solemn undertaking many of us might take for granted, especially if we are not married.

I agree with the president on this one, although I feel the language is muted. The “sanctity of marriage” has already been severely denigrated — possibly beyond redemption.

When one of our most sacred institutions is crumbling, talking softly is ineffective and inappropriate. Marriage, as Americans have known it for centuries, is on the verge of extinction.

According to the 2000

census, divorce rates in this country continue to hover around 20 percent for all men over 15 and 22 percent for all women over 15. Most divorced men and women are remarried. According to holy writ, this is adultery (Mark 10:10-12).

The Law of Moses called for women who committed adultery

in the baskets are those of millions of children and adults affected by the quick 'n' easy divorce process. But there are some solutions.

Imposing heavy fees for divorce certificates is one option; imprisonment of a cheating partner is another, and the Mosaic Law could be followed to the

sustainable marital commitments.

There are more verses in the Bible related to single topics such as divorce, idolatry, pride, priestly conduct, dietary regulation, lying and the love of money than there are collective verses related to homosexuality, prostitution, abortion, drug use and profanity.

So, based on the attention given to various issues by God's stewards, it is more appropriate for a homosexual couple to wed than for a lying or wealthy couple to do so.

Gay marriage is not a threat to the institution of marriage as long as drive-thru chapels turn a profit in Las Vegas or Elizabeth Taylor, eight marriages, and Michael Jackson, two marriages, can stand in as a maid of honor and best man, respectively, for nuptial fiascos such as the David Gest, one marriage, and Liza Minnelli, four marriages, ceremony.

Curbing the marriage rates of the very groups who have brought us to the brink of wedded oblivion makes more sense than not allowing same-sex couples, who haven't even had a chance to see if they can make their marriages work.

For me, though, marriage is a sacred proposition between two people who not only feel love for  
*see MARRIAGE, page 5*

**“Raw numbers suggest divorce is the primary threat to American marriages.”**

against their husbands to be put to death by stoning. If literal, biblical interpretation is going to be a guiding force in our public leaders' decision-making processes. If “sanctity” is a concept used on the most public of stages by our most public figure and if “marriage is a privilege, not a right” as Minnesota Gov. Tim Pawlenty indicates, then eliminating divorce is the first step to preserving marriage for privileged couples allowed to partake in it.

Raw numbers suggest divorce is the primary threat to American marriages.

We have a mechanism for ending marriage in this country operating with guillotine efficiency, and the heads falling

letter in Minnesota if the death penalty is reinstated. If we wish to avoid purely punitive measures, public resources could be devoted to mandatory premarital counseling, and allowing committed same-sex couples to wed could help restore the sanctity of marriage.

This last option might sound absurd to a society thoroughly enmeshed in male-female unions, but just because something has been done a certain way for a long time is not sufficient justification to keep doing it.

If the Christian Bible serves, at times, as the moral compass for our leaders' policy direction, it might not be wholly inappropriate for common folk like us to use it when trying to solve as miasmic a problem as



## Letter to the Editor

### 'The Passion of the Christ' editorial not taken too well

I would just like to take a moment to respond to Stella Ramsaroop's opinion in Tuesday's issue of the Alestle.

Well, there's no real polite way to say this, but if you don't have anything original to bring to the discussion, then just stay out of it. Seriously, stay out of it.

Please don't insult my intelligence or the intelligence of my fellow readers by regurgitating what has already been said about this movie. Anyone who has had any exposure to the media in the last month already knows everything you wrote about the movie.

Another thing I'd like to know is what gives you the right to comment on a movie you haven't even seen yet?

Well, I guess the First Amendment gives you that right. But, I've always heard it's better to stand there and let people think you're ignorant than to put pen to paper and prove it.

You commented that you were interested to see how Christ would be portrayed in this movie since he has always been portrayed as humble and gentle and thinking of the needs of others above his own.

Now, I'm not a particularly religious sort of fellow, but everything I've ever read, seen or heard has led me to believe Christ was humble and gentle and always thought of the needs of others above his own. So, what kind of Christ are you looking for in this movie?

A Christ as big as Arnold Schwarzenegger, boasting an Uzi and a sawed-off shotgun, laying the "wrath of God" on anyone who stands in his way?

Or would you like a superhero of some sorts, battling aliens and monsters while

carrying the cross? Just curious.

And then you said Western Christians dismiss those aforementioned qualities of humbleness, gentleness, etc. as the American "capitalist" dream.

Now, I don't know which America you're living in, maybe some parallel universe America or something, but humbleness, gentleness, etc. have absolutely nothing to do with capitalism.

In fact, last time I checked, the ideals in Christ's teachings of love and peace and gentleness and humbleness are about as polar opposite as you can get from the theories of capitalism.

The driving force behind capitalism is money. The driving force behind Christ is love. I just don't understand how the two can be bedfellows.

Furthermore, all of the Western Christians I know embrace the humbleness and the gentleness and the love Christ taught and lived as an example for the way they want to live their own lives.

I guess, in the end, I'm just wondering if you thought about these things you wrote to any extent at all, or was it just some random stream of consciousness kind of thing?

Because it just seems to me that to be a good columnist, one needs to do a bit more research and careful analysis before sitting down and writing a column.

I know it might take a bit more time out of your day, but it's a courtesy your readers, especially this one, would like to see you take.

Andrew Lehman  
Senior

## MARRIAGE

from page 4

each other, but also have decided to still love each other even when it is not the path of least resistance. The sanctity of marriage lies in these choices: to love each other even when you don't like each other, and to stay together even when the only thing preventing separation is the

simple decision not to separate.

If more pairs of adults were willing to make those promises to each other and abide by them, the president, the governor and all the other 21st century Pharisees can rest assured the true sanctity of marriage is not only being defended — it is being secured.

## Quote of the Day

*"The more a government chooses to provide information to its citizens on a 'need to know' basis, the more citizens probably need to know what their government is up to."*

~Editorial, Detroit Free Press, 2002

## WWW.THEALESTLE.COM

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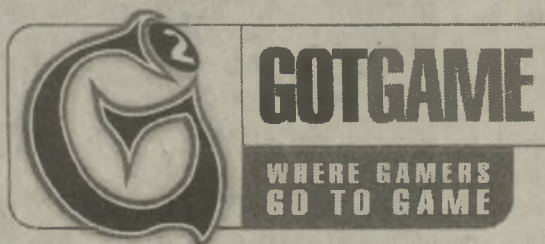
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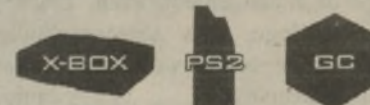
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# Lifestyles

PEOPLE, ENTERTAINMENT, & Arts

*Editor's note: In celebration of Black Heritage Month, the Alestle will feature influential African-Americans at SIUE. This article is the last in a series of five.*

## It's all about the students

THOMAS C. PHILLIPS III  
LIFESTYLES STRINGER

Even at the end of a normal day, Morris University Center Director Mary Robinson is still on the job.

Making time to do a phone interview is one thing. Summarizing her love for her work in a 10-minute period, however, is another story.

Robinson said her love for her position as MUC director grows with each passing day.

While she is approaching 10 years in her position, her passion for the university and its students shows no signs of diminishing.

The Alton native moved to St. Louis about 35 years ago after receiving her undergraduate degree in sociology and her master's in management from Webster College, now Lewis University. She began work at St. Louis University.

Around 1995, the desire to be further challenged arose in Robinson.

"Someone called me and said that SIUE was looking for a student union director," Robinson said. "So, I applied. I thought SIUE had tremendous potential for growth, and I was

ready for another challenge in my life then. I had amassed many accomplishments, and I thought that it would be a great move for me."

After a series of interviews, Robinson accepted the position, and since then, she has been an instrumental part in the revamping of many facilities used by students, staff, faculty and visitors on an everyday basis.

"In 1995, there were two residence halls on campus, with plans for a third," Robinson said. "That was exciting because I knew that the student union could be the center for commuter students, as well as students living on campus. Currently, I oversee Dining Services for the entire campus. I'm also responsible for vending, Textbook Services rental and the University Bookstore. It's my role and responsibility to ensure that students get the best possible services that we can provide for them."



PHOTO COURTESY OF PHOTO SERVICES  
**Mary Robinson, Morris University Center Director.**

Getting the best possible services includes the recent addition of MUC favorites like Auntie Anne's and Starbucks, along with the new Dining Services options of the Grille and

Chick-fil-A, among others.

"We make sure that the space can provide updated and upgraded facilities, as well as bringing in other types of venues," Robinson said. "Starbucks has been tremendously popular. Students enjoy the setting, socialize with one another, with employees, etc. It has turned out to be a tremendous asset to our campus."

Acknowledging that some installments have not gone over as well, such as Casa Ortega, the Mexican dining-turned-comedian-spot, is also part of Robinson's job.

"We've also brought in Casa Ortega because it had more to offer us than our Mexican concept at the time," Robinson said. "It has not gone over quite as well as the others, so we're still looking for new ways to improve on it."

If it's improvements students want, they are on the way.

Robinson is in the process of surveying students about the possibility of adding a smoothie

stand on campus for a quick but healthy alternative for on-the-go students.

"Right now, we're looking at the possibility of a Freshen's Smoothies stand," Robinson said. "We're trying to make a good balance of the things that students want, so they have the things that they are interested in and so they can feel more at home and comfortable on campus. It's all about the students, and that's what we're about. After we take care of the student needs, we take care of the entire community."

Robinson is known for maintaining good working relationships with students at SIUE, and she expressed great joy in working with them throughout her career at the university.

"I really enjoy working with the students," Robinson said. "The students are my life. I think that it's great when you can reflect on what you do ... I get up every morning, looking forward to going to work. There's so much that needs to be done and needs to be evaluated. My days end up being pretty long, but I end up being happy at the end of the day. And that's a good thing."

## Black Film Series opens eyes

ADRIENNE SMITH  
LIFESTYLES STRINGER

The Black Film Series took place Monday and Tuesday in the Meridian Ballroom of the Morris University Center.

The film series showed the changes in black film from some of its earliest films to the present.

The series helped show how far black filmmaking and filmmakers have come.

"Lying Lips," directed by Oscar Micheaux, and "The Learning Tree," directed by Gordon Parks, were screened Monday.

"Lying Lips," a black and white film released in 1939, was a murder mystery. It included musical performances and humor, and the film also portrayed blacks in a more positive role than drunks and rapists, like other films did during this era.

"I've never seen a film like this before," sophomore Stacey

Howard said. "I've seen old films before but none by an African-American director. It was an interesting change."

According to the Web site [www.africanamericans.com](http://www.africanamericans.com), Micheaux was the first African-American to direct, write and produce a full-length feature film. He also started his own film company, the Micheaux Book and Film Company.

The Black Filmmakers Hall of Fame honors black films in the Oscar Micheaux Awards Ceremony. Micheaux is also honored with a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

"The Learning Tree," released in 1969, offered symbolism between good and bad people while depicting the life of an African-American boy. It portrayed the struggles and racism African-Americans faced, as well as other issues of the time.

According to the Web site

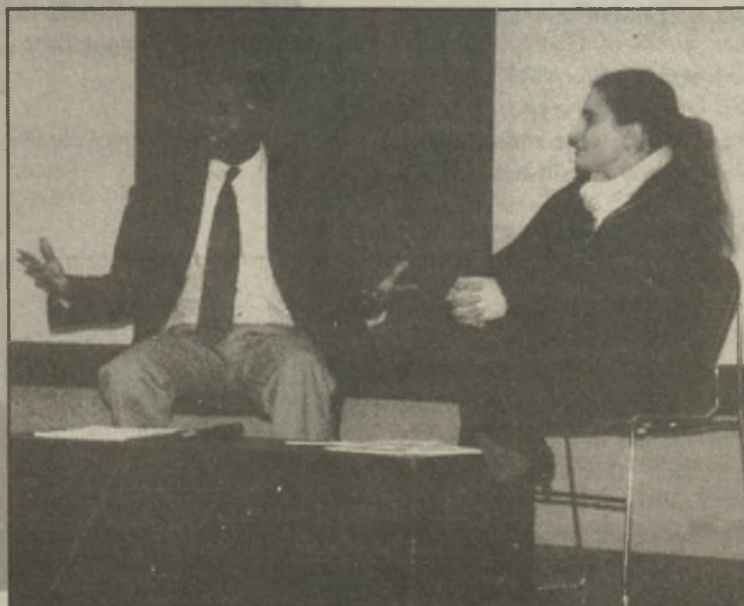
[www.galegroup.com](http://www.galegroup.com), Parks also made it into the Black Filmmakers Hall of Fame in 1973.

"The Learning Tree" was Parks' first film and was one of 25 films put on the National Film Registry of the Library of Congress in 1989.

Along with being an award-winning filmmaker, writer and photographer, Parks is also a musician and composer of orchestral music.

Janell Smart, another viewer at the series, said, "'The Learning Tree' provided a tutorial on elements of black history. It makes a great conversation piece for the younger generation."

Mass communications professor Elza Ibroscheva and the Black Heritage Month Planning Committee said the committee chose these particular films because they best portrayed the talents of some African-American directors of their time and also because of the



SHARA REYNOLDS/ALESTLE  
**Mass communications professors Bala Baptiste, left, and Elza Ibroscheva hold a discussion on racial stereotypes in film.**

availability of each film.

Each film helped show how much black films have grown over time.

The evening was also to include a presentation by Joystna Kapur, film scholar and photography professor from

Southern Illinois University Carbondale.

However, her presentation was canceled, and instead Ibroscheva and mass communications professor Bala Baptiste, held a conversation on *see SERIES, page 11*



# Food more fun for students than a big barrel of laughs

SUZANNE SCHMIDT  
LIFESTYLES STRINGER

Comedian Al Ducharme was welcomed Tuesday night on the Cougar Den stage as part of the Just for Laughs series sponsored by Campus Activities Board.

Ducharme performed for a crowd of about 40 students eating their dinners.

Performing stand-up comedy for 14 years, Ducharme has appeared on television, at comedy clubs, corporate shows and colleges.

Ducharme starred in "Mission Organization" on the Home and Garden Network.

"They wouldn't allow me to be funny, so I am not doing the show anymore," Ducharme said.

Ducharme is also the star of another show, "Comedy Cooks," which might come out soon. "Comedy Cooks" is about real chefs who prepare food, and then Ducharme, the comedian, tries to duplicate it.

The pilot has already been

taped, but the producers are looking for a network to air it.

"I would prefer Comedy Central, but it might end up on the Food Network," Ducharme said.

Ducharme was born in Rhode Island. He said the state is the "speed bump between Connecticut and Massachusetts."

The comedy routine he performed for SIUE students was centered on family, observational and physical humor and organic sound effects.

Most of the comedian's act was improvised.

Ducharme's last big college show was at Monmouth College in Monmouth. Ducharme said the room was packed, and it was "electric."

Ducharme said the Cougar Den location disturbed him.

"This is the worst atmosphere, with the students all eating. It is better when the students are all focused on me," Ducharme said.

The Cougar Den was not Ducharme's idea of a good place

to do a stand-up act.

"When you're in a packed club on a Saturday night, it could be magical," Ducharme said.

Some students said they did not enjoy the show.

"I'd rather be consuming a large amount of tacos than listen to this character," sophomore Chris Mowry said.

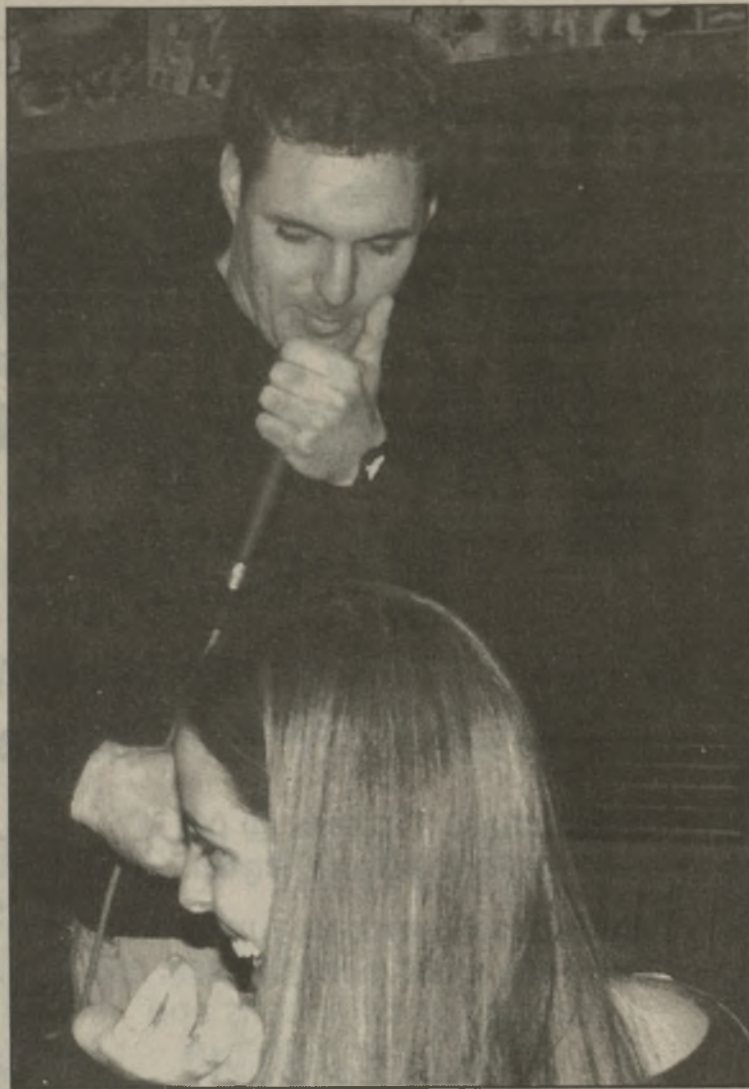
Other students voiced opposite opinions, and about 30 stayed just to watch the show.

Ducharme involved different members of the audience in the show, and one participant thanked him for the laughs.

Ducharme ended the routine with some tips for aspiring comedians.

"Always go to college because it is extremely important to have a backup plan," Ducharme said. "Stay out of the business; it is good for a hobby. If by chance you are approached by people who want to hire you for lots of money, then do it."

For more information about upcoming comedians, contact CAB at 650-3371.



SHARA REYNOLDS/ALESTLE

Comedian Al Ducharme attempts to pull the audience into his routine with his up-close-and-personal style.

## Take a break from spring break: get on a nature trip

NATALIE HEIL  
LIFESTYLES STRINGER

A group of 20 SIUE students will travel to Big Bend National Park in Texas for spring break Friday through Monday, March 5 through 15.

The trip will consist mostly of camping and hiking.

"We will all go out to different trails and stop occasionally to view the scenery, depending on how the group feels at the time," Fitness Coordinator and Campus Recreation Assistant Director Aimee Knitter said.

The students will have an opportunity to participate in a variety of activities, including park exhibits and ranger talks about the unique environment.

They will also be able to visit the famous park's hot springs which stay at a constant, yearlong temperature of 115 degrees.

The park is home to bird life, mountain lions, black bears, roadrunners, coyotes and javelinas, which are distinctive to the area. Although they look similar to a boar or a pig, javelinas are in a different family due to anatomical differences.

"We typically tend to see pretty blue birds, deer and javelinas from a distance of 50 to 100 feet," Knitter said.

Students will also come into contact with a unique array of plant life. More than 1,200 species of plants grow in the

park. Author Fredrick Gelbach describes the park as "a carpet of interlocking plants and animals deftly woven on a geologic loom."

Designated a U.S. Biosphere Reserve in 1976, the park attracts more than 300,000 people each year.

Scattered forests lie between rocky structures that students can climb to catch a better view of the surrounding areas and valleys. Big Bend National Park is the 15th largest park in the United States.

Much of the 801,000-acre reservation sits on the Mexico-U.S. border. In fact, half of the Rio Grand is considered part of the vast park.

Knitter said the trip is a good experience.

"It is a fun trip where the group bonds closely and gets plenty of opportunities to take great pictures and see interesting wildlife," she said.

Visitors in previous years have even enjoyed the day-and-a-half trip to Big Bend in an SIUE shuttle bus since they had a chance to camp in two other parks along the way.

The return trip features a stop in Del Rio, Mexico, for a day of souvenir shopping and dining in Mexican restaurants.

The entertaining aspects of the trip attract a diverse group of people.

"Everyone usually has a  
see TRIP, page 11

## What's going down AROUND TOWN?

If you're looking for music, don't look any further. Check out what's happenin'.

### Thursday

A John Mancuso Production, 7 p.m.  
The Creepy Crawl  
412 N. Tucker Blvd.  
St. Louis  
(314) 851-0919

Cannibal Corpse, Emaciation,  
Exhumed, Hypocrisy, Vile, 8 p.m.  
Pop's Nightclub  
1403 Mississippi Ave.  
Sauget  
274-6720

Ludacris and Chingy, David Banner,  
Knoc-Turn' Al, 8 p.m.  
The Pageant  
6161 Delmar Blvd.  
St. Louis  
(314) 726-6161

Dave Black, 5 p.m.  
Bennie Smith and the Urban Blues  
Express, 8 p.m.  
Broadway Oyster Bar  
736 S. Broadway  
St. Louis  
(314) 621-8811

### Friday

Jake's Leg, 10 p.m.  
Cicero's Restaurant & Basement  
6691 Delmar Blvd.  
St. Louis  
(314) 862-0009

Tom Hall, 5 p.m.  
David Dee and the Hot Tracks  
10 p.m.  
Broadway Oyster Bar  
736 S. Broadway  
St. Louis  
(314) 621-8811

### Guster, 8 p.m.

The Pageant  
6161 Delmar Blvd.  
St. Louis  
(314) 726-6161

12 Summers Old, Cope, Modern  
Day Hero, The Skyline, 6 p.m.  
Lucigen, Sullen, Target Market  
9:30 p.m.  
The Creepy Crawl  
412 N. Tucker Blvd.  
St. Louis  
(314) 851-0919

John McEuen and Jim Ibbotson  
8 p.m.  
Sheldon Concert Hall  
3648 Washington Blvd.  
St. Louis  
(314) 533-9900

Lojic: Nil 8, 8 p.m.  
Mississippi Nights  
914 N. First St.  
St. Louis  
(314) 421-3853

The Science Hip-Hop Spin, 9 p.m.  
Blueberry Hill's Duck Room  
6504 Delmar Blvd.  
University City, Mo.  
(314) 727-0880

The Jason Swagler Group  
Jazz at the Bistro  
3536 Washington Ave.  
St. Louis  
(314) 531-1012

### Saturday

Amazing Transparent Man, Codie,  
Deficit, Failing English, 6 p.m.  
Father Joe and the Consenting  
Youth, Hearts of Darkness, The  
Supermen, 9:30 p.m.  
The Creepy Crawl  
412 N. Tucker Blvd.  
St. Louis  
(314) 851-0919

Cave, Sonic Reducer, 9 p.m.  
Blueberry Hill's Duck Room  
6504 Delmar Blvd.  
University City, Mo.  
(314) 727-0880

Chris Botti, 8 p.m.  
The Pageant  
6161 Delmar Blvd.  
St. Louis  
(314) 726-6161

Even Flow, 8 p.m.  
Pop's Nightclub  
1403 Mississippi Ave.  
Sauget  
274-6720

Galactic, Mike Doughty, 8 p.m.  
Mississippi Nights  
914 N. First St.  
St. Louis  
(314) 421-3853

### Sunday

40 Below Summer, Din, Dog Fashion  
Disco, Skrimshanker, Slitheryn,  
Trypnotic, 7:30 p.m.  
Pop's Nightclub  
1403 Mississippi Ave.  
Sauget  
274-6720



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provided for all who sign up for  
the bus list, located at the MUC  
Information Center.[www.siu.edu/CAB](http://www.siu.edu/CAB)Tickets on  
sale now!!!**Artist's life showcases  
1960's American life****ALESTLE STAFF REPORT**

"bobrauschenbergamerica"  
is on stage at Dunham Hall  
Theater through Sunday.

The production debuted  
Wednesday, followed by  
performances at 7:30 p.m.  
Thursday, Friday and Saturday,  
and ends with a matinee  
performance at 2 p.m. Sunday.

The play, written by Charles  
Mee, celebrates the American  
spirit that revolutionized the  
1960s arts scene.

Based on the life and work of  
the American artist Robert  
Rauschenberg, the play explores  
a variety of American pop  
culture.

Topics include chicken jokes,  
Walt Whitman, assassinations,  
square dances, checkers, bathing  
beauties, horror movies, broken  
hearts and how to make a human  
martini.

According to [www.nytheatre.com](http://www.nytheatre.com), the play has no  
traditional narrative structure.

Instead, the play is presented  
as a series of vignettes inspired  
by Rauschenberg's life.

The play takes the audience  
through his life, beginning with  
his childhood and traveling  
through his most exciting  
moments in life.

The production aims to

capture the excitement and anxiety  
of living in an era when people  
made up their lives as they went.

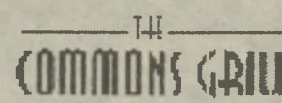
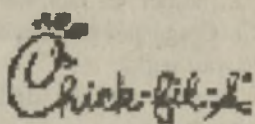
Mee's text includes writing  
from Rauschenberg, along with  
Allen Ginsberg, William S.  
Burroughs, Walt Whitman and  
Merce Cunningham.

In addition to  
"bobrauschenbergamerica," Mee  
has written several other  
works, including "Agamemnon,"  
"The War to End War," "The  
Trojan Women: A Love Story,"  
"True Love," "Big Love," "First  
Love," "Summertime," "Full  
Circle," "Time to Burn" and  
"Orestes."

Directed by theater professor  
Chuck Harper, the cast includes  
Alex Eichen as Wilson, Brad  
Brefeld as Carl, Joseph Garner as  
Becker, Alex Charles Moore as  
Phil the Trucker, Philip C.  
Leveling as Allen, Byron Hotson  
as Bob the Pizza Boy, Wendy  
Renee Greenwood as Susan, Kate  
DeVoss as Phil's Girl, Stephanie  
Weutshoff as Bob's Mom and  
Sherry Liliensiek as Roller  
Girl.

For more information about  
the production, contact theater  
professor Lana Hagan at 650-  
5748.

For information about  
tickets, contact the Box Office at  
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**New Extended Hours****Starts on Sunday, March 14, 2004****Pizza Hut:** Monday thru Saturday open 10:30AM - Midnight  
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Sunday 11AM - Midnight**Chick-fil-A:** Monday thru Saturday 10AM - 8PM**Common's Grill:** Monday thru Friday 11AM - 8PM  
Saturday and Sunday 12PM - 6PM



## SERIES

from page 8

racial stereotypes in film and the black filmmaker's response to those stereotypes.

"She's Gotta Have It," directed by Spike Lee, and "The Great White Hype," directed by Reginald Hudlin, were screened Tuesday.

"She's Gotta Have It" was released in 1986. According to [www.africanamericans.com](http://www.africanamericans.com), the movie was a light comedy about a woman and her relationships with three men. It was a shock the film did as well as it did in 1986, making more than \$7 million.

"The Great White Hype," released in 1996, was one of

many famous films Hudlin directed. The film is about an African-American boxer and his situation with a white male boxer.

As well as being a comedy, this film touched on issues that today's African-American people in the public eye are faced with, boxers in particular.

The film is similar to the philosophy of survival of the fittest; in the movie's case, people do what's necessary to make money.

Movies like "House Party," "Boomerang" and "The Ladies' Man" are among Hudlin's top-selling films, according to [movies.yahoo.com](http://movies.yahoo.com).

## TRIP

from page 9

wide range of outdoors experience and different backgrounds," Knitter said.

The trip costs \$190 for students, \$245 for guests and \$230 for faculty, staff and alumni.

The payment covers transportation, camping fees, a

guide and all necessary camping equipment.

Also, class credit is available through the Geology and Kinesiology departments.

Although only three spots are available, students interested in going should contact Knitter at 650-5392 as soon as possible.

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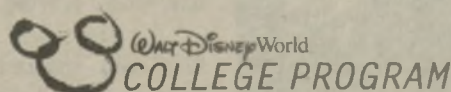
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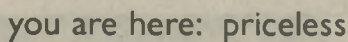
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## Sports Quote of the Day

"I was really glad to see Italy win. All the guys on the team were Italian."

~Tommy Lasorda, on Italy winning the World Cup.

## Coming Up

Men's basketball vs. Lewis

3:30 p.m. Saturday

Women's basketball vs. Lewis

1 p.m. Saturday



◆ Thursday, February 26, 2004

A l e s t l e

Page 13 ◆

# Softball starts year with split decision



AUBREY WILLIAMS/ALESTLE  
The softball team celebrates after another victory. The Cougars opened the season by going 2-3 in the West Georgia Invitational Tournament. The Cougars are ranked 20th in the nation.

## The Cougars go 2-3 over the weekend in West Georgia Invitational to start season

JUSTIN HELLER  
SPORTS STRINGER

University of West Florida quickly changed the mood of the Cougar dugout.

The SIUE softball team began their 2004 season in Carrollton, Ga., for a five-game opener this weekend.

This was the first time the team played on an actual field, and head coach Sandy Montgomery said it was very clear why the Cougars finished the weekend with two wins and three losses.

"We played very well in spurts and played very poorly in spurts," Montgomery said.

The softball squad opened up the weekend Friday with a shutout win against the University of West Alabama, 5-0.

The Cougars were led by sophomore Mary Heather White who pitched seven innings, allowed no walks and struck out 11.

In the top of the seventh inning, senior outfielder Jenny Esker gave the Cougars a 4-3 lead with her first home run of the year, and SIUE looked to knock off the strong opponent.

In the bottom of the inning, Natalie Manis hit a long ball of her own with a runner on first to give the West Florida Argonauts a 5-4 win.

Montgomery said she was pleased with junior pitcher Ashlea Hoheimer's performance.

"They had some tough hitters due up," Montgomery said.

"Ashlea pitched excellent throughout the game, and on the home run ball she even threw a good pitch," Montgomery said.

Two hours later, the No. 3

see SOFTBALL page 15

## Velten doubles up for Cougars

KEVIN CORRIGAN  
SPORTS EDITOR

The art of playing an intercollegiate sport takes much determination, time and, most of all, talent. Multiply that by two, and you get Tim Velten.

The Webster Groves, Mo., native will start his freshman year on the baseball field this spring for SIUE.

"I'm excited to get out there and play in an actual game," Velten said.

Velten was red-shirted last spring, so this will be his first year of eligibility. Velten said he made the right decision to red-shirt.

"I think it really helped me as far as getting used to the routine of playing two sports here at SIUE," Velten said.

If his SIUE baseball career starts anything like his soccer career, then he could be in for some major recognition.

Already a two-time All Great Lakes Valley Conference defender in soccer, Velten was tabbed a National Collegiate

Soccer Athletic Association All-American in the fall.

"It's definitely a special honor," Velten said. "We had a great team this year, and it was nice to see us get recognized."

According to head soccer coach Ed Huneke, he sees no reason why he can't repeat that success.

"Tim is real low key, as well as stress free," Huneke said. "I think his personality helps him to be consistent in both sports."

As a freshman in soccer, Velten was selected as Freshman of the Year in the GLVC. He could win the award in baseball.

Huneke said he knows the Cougars benefited from Velten being a two-sport athlete.

"Tim could have played Division I soccer. He got plenty of offers," Huneke said. "Tim wanted to play both, however, and SIUE gave that to him."

In high school, Velten was a three-sport star at Webster Groves High School. He gave up basketball to pursue his other two loves. When it comes to which sport he prefers, Velten wouldn't

crack.

"I love them both," Velten said. "If I knew which one I liked more, I'd be only playing that sport. But that's not the case. I look forward to each season."

This spring, Velten should see much play on the diamond. He is slated to be the opening-day shortstop for the Cougars.

"I know it's going to be a transition," Velten said. "Actual games are way different than taking reps at practice."

Other than being a two-sport athlete, Velten is a quality student and a campus employee.

"He has a full plate and takes care of business," Huneke said. "Some people thrive in those situations, and Tim's one of them."

When Velten doesn't have a bat, book or soccer ball close by, he said he just likes to hang out with friends.

"I enjoy playing cards and just relaxing," Velten said.

Velten's relaxing days will soon be shortened as the baseball team starts the season Friday at Missouri Southern University.



AUBREY WILLIAMS/ALESTLE  
Sophomore Tim Velten will serve double duty for the Cougars as he will play shortstop this year for the SIUE baseball team.



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## Hard work needs recognition

Competing at a collegiate level should always bring out the best of an athlete.

Putting that together with a heavy load of schoolwork at a credible institution makes for a hectic schedule.

From experience, I can tell you it's not easy to maintain that level without putting in a lot of work. Believe me, I tested the theory firsthand and failed. It can't be one or the other. Equal time for each responsibility is mandatory if you want to succeed.

Student athletes at SIUE are sometimes stereotyped and prejudged for whatever reasons. Whether it was a bad experience with a student athlete, a lack of interest in the Athletic Department or just a lack of respect, there are always rumblings about how student athletes get shown favoritism.

I don't think a student athlete on this campus, or any campus for that matter, is any different than the average student. The only difference is the student athlete has chosen to participate in the Athletic Department. With that said, the time one invests in the classroom, as well as the athletic field, should be recognized.

Here at SIUE, that is not always the case. Our athletic events are about as crowded as a junior high basketball game. We have All-Americans, as well as Academic All-Americans, that couldn't be singled out of a lineup consisting of just a handful of athletes.

I'm not saying every student



has to attend every athletic event while they're in college. I understand what a student should experience while in college, and athletics is just one aspect.

The point is to take pride in what your university has to offer. These student athletes are representing you and the institution on your degree. They bring in revenue, as well as media attention.

In return, they expect to be supported. Strong athletic departments all have one thing in common: support.

Chances are you have class with a student athlete or live down the hall from one. They are just another aspect making this university so unique and diverse.

This university has made many strides lately to become a top-notch institution. Let's take pride in the resources we have so we can continue to build in the right direction.

Let's support our student athletes.

Kevin Corrigan  
Sports Editor

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AUBREY WILLIAMS/ALESTLE  
Top: A Cougar successfully slides into second base. Bottom: Sophomore Mary Heather White looks to strike out another opponent.



# Seniors set to say farewell to SIUE

KEVIN CORRIGAN  
SPORTS EDITOR

Battling through a tough season is always difficult, especially when it's your senior year, but senior guard Jessica Robert has done it with class.

The soft-spoken leader will play in her final home game as a Cougar Saturday when the Lewis University Flyers visit the Vadalabene Center.

Robert, along with senior guards Jacque Howard and Sarah Schweers and senior center Kristen Boss, will be honored before Saturday's game.

Boss has experienced a somewhat frustrating senior year offensively but still leads the team in blocked shots with 22 and is in ninth place on the SIUE all-time blocked-shot list

with 29.

Schweers is experiencing her most productive year as a Cougar. The fifth-year senior is the only Cougar to have started every game this season. She is also second on the team in steals and is averaging nearly eight points per game.

Howard has been a great bench player for the Cougars this year. Howard is averaging nearly 13 minutes per game while scoring a season high of 13 points in a victory over St. Joseph's College.

This has been Robert's year. She leads the team in points per game with 14.2, steals with 66 and three-point percentage with .484.

"She (Robert) has been the most consistent performer all year," head coach Wendy

Hedberg said. "She quietly goes out and gets the job done. That's all you can ask as a coach."

Going into Saturday's game, Robert is in the top five of scoring, steals and three-point percentage in the Great Lakes Valley Conference. Earlier this year, Robert owned the best three-point percentage in the country.

"She has the talent to knock down the open shot," Hedberg said. "She's proven that night in and night out."

For her career, Robert is closing in on some lofty numbers. Her 103 three-pointers ranks fourth all-time at SIUE while she also ranks sixth at SIUE in steals. With 11 points Saturday, Robert could break into the top 10 at SIUE in scoring for a career.

## SOFTBALL

from page 13

SIUE came back with a win over Georgia Southwestern State University 6-5 in eight innings. Junior pitcher Jessica Finch came in as a relief for senior pitcher Missy Koenig and pitched five innings for the win.

The Cougars dropped their final two games of the season opener, including losses to the State University of West Georgia,

4-3 and Lincoln Memorial University Lady Railsplitters, 8-4. The Cougars were tied 4-4 against the Lady Railsplitters in the final inning but gave up four runs in the seventh to suffer their third loss of the weekend.

"We made mistakes that we normally don't make," Montgomery said. "We wanted to come out and play better, but this

past weekend will serve as a warm-up for the team."

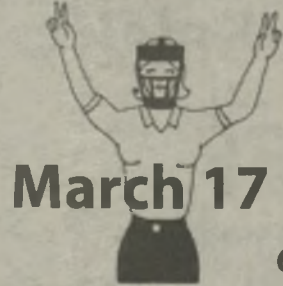
The Cougars came into their first weekend of play ranked No. 20 in the National Fastpitch Coaches Association.

The team will look to improve it's game in Orlando, Fla., Monday through Tuesday, March 8 through 16, for a total of 10 games.

Campus Recreation [www.siu.edu/CREC](http://www.siu.edu/CREC)



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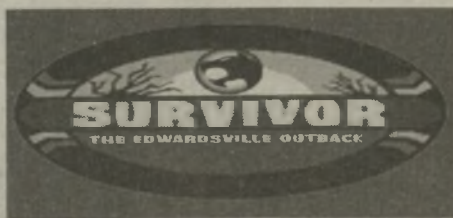
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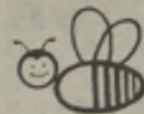
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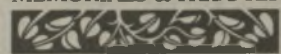
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# Classifieds & Personals

◆ PAGE 16

A l e s t l e

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**Roommate** wanted downtown Edwardsville. \$234/person plus utilities. (618) 659-2279. 2/26/04

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## PERSONALS

"The Passion of the Christ" movie tailgate! Come join the Student Religious Organizations February 26th to see this movie. For tickets stop by the booth. 2/26/04

**ΔΦΕ Crush Party.** February 27th 2004. Edwardsville American Legion 9:30p.m. until 1:30a.m. \$5 admission. 2/26/04

**Congrats to the AKA hockey team** on winning the first game of the season 9-3. 2/26/04

**Men of AKA** would like to thank the women of AΣT for the great mixer on Friday. 2/26/04

**The men of AKA** would like to thank everyone who bought roses from the Rose Sale. 2/26/04

**Congratulations Marshall!** I knew you could do it! Love, me and Snip. 2/26/04

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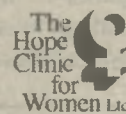
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