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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2004

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY EDWARDSVILLE

Vol. 57, No. 25 ♦

Money approved for renovations

CORY FREEMAN
NEWS STRINGER

Baseball and dentistry will be polished up with a \$1 million renovation to the SimmonsCooper Baseball Complex at SIUE and a \$2 million expansion of the School of Dental Medicine in Alton.

Thursday, the SIU Board of Trustees approved the Executive Committee acting on its behalf in January when the \$2 million contract for the Alton Dental School Clinic goes out to bid. The board action was necessary because the full board does not meet until February.

According to Administration Assistant Vice Chancellor Rich Walker, waiting until February "would take too much time...we are working on a schedule."

The renovation, which is currently in design, is set to begin in January before spring semester begins so workers have an opportunity to remove a wall between the existing clinic and the addition, which would avoid an interruption in patient care. The clinic addition's tentative

completion date is next spring.

The clinic addition, which will be known as the Advanced Care Wing, will add about 6,000 square feet to the clinic, providing space for 24 new clinical "operatories" and a classroom for 75 students. The addition will also provide a special room for pediatric

contributions and gifts-in-kind, according to a press release.

The renovations at the baseball complex would include additional lighting, concession stands with restrooms, storage, an umpire changing room and a remodeling of the bleachers and press box. The project is expected to begin this winter and be completed by summertime.

"We just finished upgrading the softball field so this should be a nice addition to the athletic department," Walker said.

The \$1 million donation came from East Alton attorneys John

Simmons, who also serves on SIU's Board of Trustees, and Jeff Cooper. Other donations came from former Cougar baseball players Fernando Aguirre and Steve Davis, and current assistant coach Steve Haug.

The baseball complex project must be approved by the Illinois Board of Higher Education, which is expected to consider the matter in December.

"(The dental school renovations) will bring faculty and students together into one building instead of two."

Rich Walker,

Administration Assistant Vice Chancellor

dentistry.

"The graduate students are in one building and the undergraduates are in another," Walker said. "This will bring faculty and students together into one building instead of two."

The Board of Trustees also gave project and budget approval for a \$1 million renovation of the SimmonsCooper Baseball Complex at SIUE. The project would be funded through private

False report filed may lead to charges

BRENT NAYLOR
NEWS REPORTER

SIUE police are talking with officials in the Madison County State Attorney's Office about the possibility of bringing charges against a student who allegedly filed a false police report.

In a report filed with campus police early Sunday morning, a student alleged he was robbed of his wallet on a Cougar Village

parking lot. "Originally, there were concerns over whether or not the incident actually occurred," Police Chief Gina Hays said Wednesday.

"We received a phone call on the event of a robbery in Cougar Village, in one of the parking lots. An individual told us he had been robbed and his cell phone and wallet taken and the offenders were two black males."

Hays said, the events of the report never took place. Under further questioning because of inconsistencies in his story, police found that the accusations were not true.

"He fabricated the story," Hays said, "apparently due to an altercation he had earlier in the evening."

The student may also face disciplinary action under the Student Code of Conduct.

Chancellor talks to retirees on future plans



DREW WILKIE/ALESTLE

Chancellor Vaughn Vandegrift discusses his plans to make SIUE a nationally recognized university at Tuesday's State University Annuitants Association meeting.

KRISTEN REBER
NEWS EDITOR

Chancellor Vaughn Vandegrift thanked retired professors for their efforts in "building a great university" and promised that SIUE will gain national recognition.

Vandegrift spoke to the SIUE chapter of the State University Annuitants Association Tuesday in the Illinois Room.

"I've been 30 years in higher education. You've done a terrific job building a great university here," Vandegrift said. "We're on the move to an even brighter future ... This is a very good university and more people should know about what we do and be attracted to us."

Vandegrift repeated the same

theme he publicly announced at his first address to the university Oct. 7.

"What we value is right there for everyone to see every day," Vandegrift said of the mission banner that hangs in the Morris University Center.

Vandegrift shared three key ideas to working toward national recognition.

He discussed how the university needs to focus on the quality of students, adding that the university has already seen an increase in quality over recent years.

Vandegrift also discussed how the university is working on gaining more recognition in the marketplace.

In his talk, Vandegrift said

see SUAA, page 3

Thanksgiving changes hours

ALESTLE STAFF REPORT

In observance of the Thanksgiving holiday, university offices will be closed Thursday, Nov. 25 through Sunday, Nov. 28.

The Thanksgiving holiday break begins Monday, Nov. 22 and classes will resume on Monday, Nov. 29.

The Morris University Center will be open from 6:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday through Wednesday and will be closed Thursday, Nov. 25 through Saturday, Nov. 27. The MUC will reopen Sunday, Nov. 28 at 10

a.m. and close at 12 a.m. Monday.

Dining service areas will be closed Thursday, Nov. 25 to Saturday, Nov. 27.

The Service Center, located in Rendleman Hall 1309, will observe special hours of operation Nov. 22 through Nov. 28. Monday through Wednesday, the Service Center will be open from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The Bursar Satellite Cashier will close at 4 p.m.

Regular hours will resume Monday, Nov. 29.

The Alestle will not publish Tuesday, Nov. 23, and Thursday, Nov. 25, because of the Thanksgiving holiday.

Have a happy turkey day!





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Facilities Management retiree dies

KRISTEN REBER
NEWS EDITOR

Former Facilities Management employee Vera Whyers died Saturday. She was 78.

"She was a very easy going, likeable person," Facilities Management assistant payroll manager Sharon Kaufman said. "She hired me 20 years ago and

she was always there for you no matter what."

Whyers began at the university in 1974 as a payroll clerk for Facilities Management, which then was known as the Physical Plant. Whyers, who became an office manager at Facilities Management, retired in May.

Whyers continued as accounting clerk II at the plant

before becoming an office manager.

"She was always very helpful," Facilities Management Business Manager II Alicia Wainright said. "She worked at a variety of capacities and was always helpful in any way she could be."

A memorial service will take place at 2 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 27, in the Religious Center.

Former financial aid adviser dies

KRISTEN REBER
NEWS EDITOR

Former Financial Aid Adviser Virginia Anne Moore died Sunday, Nov. 14, at Care Partners Assisted Living in Plover, Wis. She was 80.

In 1969, Moore joined the university as financial adviser I before being promoted to adviser II in 1973 and adviser III in 1974.

Del Weston worked with

Moore from 1972 to 1991 when Moore retired from the university.

"She was an integral part of our financial aid office," Weston, an assistant director at the Office of Financial Aid, said.

"Virginia was committed to assisting students," Weston said. "She liked the opportunity to really get to know a student."

Visitation will take place from 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.

Thursday at Elias-Smith Funeral Home in Godfrey and services will be conducted at 10 a.m. Thursday at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Alton. Burial will take place at St. Patrick's Cemetery.

"Virginia was well liked by everyone, she really was," Weston said. "She was a really good person."

Memorials may be made in her name to the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation.

USITT brings trivia and fun to night

SCHALENE HOUSTON
NEWS STRINGER

Anyone wanting to add a little trivia to their life is invited to come out and enjoy a fun night of challenging questions to help various organizations in the Department of Theater and Dance.

Trivia Night is being sponsored by the United States Institutes for Theater Technicians, Student Experimental Theater Organization and the University Dance Organization.

Trivia Night will begin at 7:30 p.m. Dec. 10 in the Metcalf Student Center. "We welcome whoever wants to come out," Justin Hecht, vice-president of USITT said.

Hecht said the purpose of the

Trivia Night is to raise money for organizational use.

"This is to raise funds for trips we take for academic purposes," Hecht said.

Hecht said they go to different conferences for opportunities that will help the students to gain further insight about their majors.

The game will include 10 different rounds with various categories. Hecht said there will be all kinds of categories including literature, sports, history and other general topics.

There will be one question asked from each category in each round.

Trivia Night has been conducted before but recently took a hiatus.

"They've done it in the past

but it's been four years since we've done it," Hecht said.

He added that he hopes to continue with the game each year.

Hecht said due to limited capacity, only people who are participating in the game will be allowed to come to Trivia Night.

Anyone who wants to play is more than welcome to, Hecht said. There can be up to eight people on each team.

There is a \$10 general admission fee for each person. Hecht said the money from each person will go toward the grand prize and whatever is left will go to the organizations.

For more information, contact Hecht at jhecht@siue.edu.

High school students battle with bots

BRENT NAYLOR
NEWS REPORTER

Saturday the Engineering Building will look like the set of the popular television show "Battlebots," but don't expect anything to be destroyed with a buzz saw.

SIUE is hosting a robotics competition for area high school students.

This is the fourth year SIUE has hosted a robotics competition, and each competition changes the rules.

"This year, students' robots must collect golf balls and move them to a platform to score points," Associate Professor of Computer Science and event coordinator Jerry Weinberg said. "This is challenging

because two compositing robots will be in the arena at the same time. Additionally, the robots must act autonomously."

"In other words, the students do not communicate with or control the robots once a round begins," Weinberg said. "Each high school team's robot will compete in several rounds. The best robots will move on to compete against freshmen engineering students taking IME106."

The competition isn't just for fun, however.

"We have three overall goals," Weinberg said. "First, to give high school students a hands-on learning experience. The competition provides an opportunity for the students to apply math and engineering

principles to a hands-on activity so they can see these concepts in action."

"Second, with this competition we want to encourage high school students to take an interest in math, science, and engineering," Weinberg said. "We hope that some of them will choose to pursue careers in these fields."

"Last, we hope they see SIUE is active in these areas so they choose to go into (those fields) here," Weinberg said.

"Mechanical Engineering, Electrical Engineering and Computer Science have all contributed time and expertise to this event," Weinberg said. "Cem Karacal, Associate Professor of IME and myself are the main

see ROBOTS, page 3

ROBOTS

from page 2

coordinators. We have funding from local companies that allow us to hire graduate students from CS, ECE, and ME to help tutor the high school teams and run the competition."

"We expect to have as many as 120 students participating in this year's competition," Weinberg said. "This is an increase of 40 from last year."

The students participating will come from East St. Louis Charter School, Edwardsville High School, Triad High School, Columbia High School, and Highland High School.

"Teams typically consist of four to six high school students," Wienberg said.

"Some schools bring many teams to the competition. We are anticipating about 24 teams," Weinberg said.

Before they can participate, students have to attend a robotics seminar held by SIUE.

"We introduce the students to the engineering principles that they will need to apply in designing and building their robots," Weinberg said.

"Mechanical engineering principles such as torque, force, fulcrums, gearing; Electrical engineering principles such as sensor sampling and sensor shielding; Computer Science principles such as structured programming and multi-tasking."

"We also cover robot-control methods and design strategies," Weinberg said.

The robotics competition will be held from 9:30 to 12:30 p.m. Saturday in the Engineering Building. The 10 highest-scoring teams will compete against teams from IME 106 Dec. 7.

Anyone is allowed to watch the competition. For more information on the robotics program at SIUE, visit their Web site, roboti.cs.siu.edu.

Police Incidents

Traffic

11/12

Police issued Steven Kruse a citation for disobeying a traffic control device at the housing 4-way.

Police responded to a traffic accident involving a deer on North University Drive. No road blockage and no apparent injuries occurred. Police issued Everett W. Jackson a citation for driving with a suspended license.

11/13

Police issued Michael R. Lincoln a citation for expired registration on Residence Drive at Woodland Hall.

Police issued Trae M. Cotner a citation for disobeying a stop sign on East University Drive at the 4-way.

Police issued Jaclyn Burgess a citation for speeding on South University Drive near Stadium drive.

Police issued Bradley Wayne Walker a citation for speeding on Stadium Drive at Whiteside Road.

11/14

Police issued Darin R. Hulslander a citation for disobeying the traffic control device at Center Grove Road and 157.

Police issued David E. Henry a citation for operating an uninsured motor vehicle and a written warning for one headlight on New Poag Road and Stadium Drive.

11/15

Police issued Edward Knowles a citation for disobeying a stop sign at South University Drive crossover to Stadium Drive.

www.thealestle.com

SUAA

from page 1

faculty, staff, students and alumni are being questioned about their perceptions of SIUE.

"One thing we are doing now is we are surveying ... on the best parts of SIUE

(and) what we need to work on," he said.

Vandegrift has also begun working with groups on

campus.

"I've begun a series of town hall meetings with different constituent groups from around campus. When I finish those in February, they will be put on the chancellor Web site so everyone can know the issues," Vandegrift said.

The chancellor also

suggested ideas for a marketing campaign. "We don't have a tagline," Vandegrift said. "Should we have one? What should it be?"

Vandegrift said he hopes to find additional resources to help SIUE grow.

He noted that in the past three years, SIUE has lost

nearly \$12 million in state funding.

Vandegrift praised the core values and the vision of SIUE, which he thanked the retired faculty members for instilling.

"One of the things you can be proud of is the sense of community that you all created

here ... the legacy you left for this faculty and staff. We should challenge ourselves professionally in the goal we agreed on in the vision statement," Vandegrift said.

SUAA has 100,000 members throughout the state and 350 of SIUE's retirees are members of the organization.

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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.

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Have a comment?

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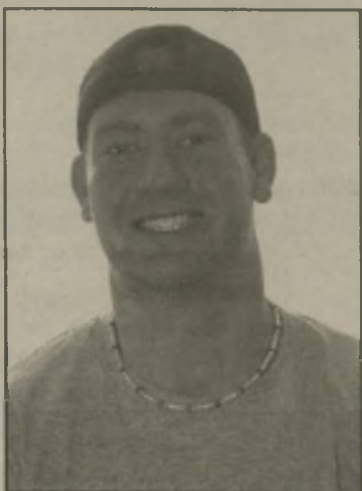
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Opinions & Editorial viewpoints & commentary

◆ PAGE 4

A l e s t l e

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2004 ◆



God save the U.S. job market

say, God help the job market.

In case you haven't heard Kmart is buying Sears for about a gajillion dollars, which will cost jobs in the short term, and might produce jobs in the long term, and will, I'm predicting, lead to the implosion of the new company, Sears Holdings, in April. Wal-Mart and Bill Gates flip a coin every other month to determine who will screw the economy next and move that posse of Lexuses up five spaces on the Monopoly board of life.

American Airlines is so strapped for cash the company is removing pillows from some of the planes – the effort is expected to save the airline nearly \$1 million by cutting replacement costs and saving cleaning time. I understand the company, in a continuing effort to save money,

will be turning off the heat where the lowest level workers of the airline are stationed and will instead be burning the pillows.

Isn't it funny that, in this beautiful democratic society, our economy hinges on Alan Greenspan, who was created using stem cell research in an effort to manufacture a perfect person to lift our economy to heaven's gates or send our economy straight to hell based on whether he reaches for the regular or decaffeinated coffee in the morning

But, have no fear, there are a few job openings out there. I hear that Russia is looking for scientists to help develop a missile that is nuclear powered. Yay, rah.

And, all of you aspiring rappers out there can put those

demo tapes to good use and mail them to G-Unit. After Dr. Dre got decked, somebody got stabbed and Young Buck took off from the Vibe awards and has yet to be found. I hear there's an opening in his group.

I think every football fan in St. Louis has sent a resume to take over for Mike Martz after he gets fired. In an effort to find the first professional replica of Rudy Ruettiger, you know, the Notre Dame football kid, the St. Louis Cardinals are taking applications for starting pitchers.

And, contrary to popular belief, there are job openings in mass media – they're just in China.

Travis L. Ross

Columnist

Radiomn1@hotmail.com

Give thanks for the commercialized holidays

NORMAL (U-WIRE) — Thanksgiving is still a week away but a number of Americans have already completed their Christmas shopping for this year.

That might seem crazy, but it's the truth.

For the many Americans who have not yet completed their shopping, they have likely begun or at least will begin during Thanksgiving week.

The bulk of those shopping Thanksgiving week will be doing so Nov. 26, the day after Thanksgiving which holds the title of the busiest shopping day of the year.

In such a consumer-driven society, one must wonder how

well the busiest shopping day of the year and one of the most important traditions in America can coexist hours apart from each other.

Talk about the odd couple.

It's sort of like having Donald Trump sit next to June Cleaver from "Leave It to Beaver" in a semester-long class.

This doesn't sound like a match that would work out too well.

The idea of Christmas essentially is the same as Thanksgiving, enjoying a peaceful break from work or school to spend time with family and loved ones.

However, it seems as if for

many families the holiday gradually becomes more about shopping each year and less about the values on which it is based.

This consumerism is in a way an indirect attack on the family.

Instead of spending energy on conversations with relatives a person hasn't seen in awhile, many shop for all those mostly meaningless gifts that will be boxed, wrapped and handed over to a person whom will in a few years likely forget who the gift even came from.

Buying gifts for people feels good but having memories of time spent with them will be

worth more than any gift in the long run.

This is especially true for college students, who spend most of the time away from their families at school.

Why spend part of Thanksgiving break battling traffic on the road and in a mall to shop for gifts for family members when a student could spend time with those family members during their time off for Thanksgiving break? Here's an opportunity to be with a parent or sibling, aunt or cousin, and instead students are out looking for a gift for them for the next time they see them on Christmas.

Not to sound like Scrooge (Christmas is certainly an exciting time of year), but it doesn't make sense.

And with the ever-increasing consumerism tied to Christmas, Thanksgiving seems likely to slowly wither over time.

Of course it still remains one of the most important days of the year for the majority of families in the nation, but most people from older generations will say its role in our society has changed a great deal.

In the past, if Thanksgiving was not on the same level as Christmas it was close to it.

Some could argue this slippage is based on higher divorce rates splitting up families in modern society, but the fact that stores prepare so much earlier for Christmas now than they did decades ago seems to lead to a better explanation.

Stores like Hobby Lobby

see THANKSGIVING, page 5

Political Cartoon

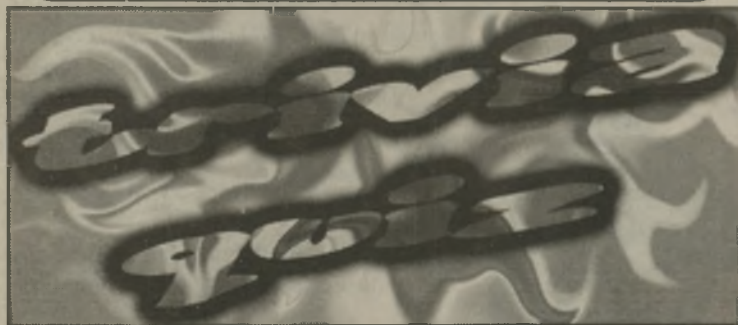


Political Cartoon



Quote of the Day

“Loyalty in a free society depends upon the toleration of disloyalty.”
~ Alan Barth



*According to the article
“Party smarter, not harder”
how many drinks is
considered binge drinking
for men?*

Read the Tuesday edition of the Alestle and submit answers to the Alestle office by noon Monday.

The first person with the right answer wins \$5 in movie money.

Last weeks trivia contest winner was senior Sara Donoho.

THANKSGIVING

from page 4

and Hallmark begin bringing out their Christmas material after the Fourth of July.

Take a few moments to let that sink in.

Christmas marketing begins in July.

How can anyone think about Christmas shopping during the summer?

This sort of obsession over Christmas shopping has made Thanksgiving merely a foreshadow to the December holiday in the minds of many.

If Christmas were a country,

the United Nations would send inspectors to check its weapons as its empire slowly encroached upon the smaller country of Thanksgiving.

Students should go home this Thanksgiving and hold it on the same level as they hold Christmas.

Spend time with families and value that time, especially for the sake of all those who are unable to.

Writing Thanksgiving off would be a smack in the face to soldiers who are stationed

overseas and can't have that time to spend at home with their loved ones.

So sit down on Nov. 25, look at the exquisite turkey sitting in the middle of the table with all the sides surrounding it and be thankful.

Be thankful to have the time to spend with those you care about, one day they won't be there.

Mike Hart
The Daily Vidette
(Illinois State University)

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Lifestyles

PEOPLE, ENTERTAINMENT, & Arts

Give thanks by giving back

The Kimmel Leadership Center provides students with the opportunity to spread holiday cheer and make a difference in the life of someone less fortunate through volunteer opportunities

SHAUN PILAT
LIFESTYLES STRINGER

Sharing good food with good friends can make the holiday season happy, even when that friend is a stranger.

SIUE provides students with numerous opportunities to spread holiday cheer this season. All students have to do is volunteer their time.

"I do think it's everyone's responsibility to give back," Suzanne Kutterer-Siburt, assistant director for leadership development, said.

She is not the only person who believes volunteering is important. Since 1993, the state of Illinois has mandated that all colleges and universities develop volunteer programs.

The Kimmel Leadership Center teams up with area charities to assemble food baskets, serve meals and interact with underprivileged guests over Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Holiday helpers are needed for Thanksgiving Dinner, Christmas Baskets, Christmas Warmth and Christmas Dinner. The events benefit not only the poor, but also single parents and the elderly.

Thanksgiving Dinner runs from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 25 in two locations. The first is at St. Luke's Parish Hall in Belleville. The second is at Cosgrove Kitchen in East St. Louis.

Volunteers can serve food, deliver meals, interact with guests and help clean up after dinner.

"I think they have over 600 handouts," Kutterer-Siburt said.

Christmas Baskets food boxes will be assembled Tuesday, Dec. 7 at St. Patrick Church Center in East St. Louis. The food will be packaged Dec. 8 through 11 and distributed Dec. 15 and 16.

Christmas Warmth is from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 18 at the Community Care Center in Granite City. Volunteers are needed to assemble and distribute food baskets.

Volunteers are also needed from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 5 at Cosgrove Kitchen for Christmas Warmth. They can help deliver more than 300 meals or help clean up.

The holiday programs are co-sponsored by Catholic Campus Ministry, Shurtleff Baptist Campus Ministry and United Campus Ministry.

The university also works with the metro-east area Catholic Urban Programs, Lessie Bates Davis Neighborhood House, Salvation Army, Urban League of Metro St. Louis and the Department of Children and Family Services.

SIUE provides other volunteer opportunities throughout the year.

Kutterer-Siburt said one of the more popular events is the spring break trip to Cherokee Nation, Okla.

During the five-day trip, students perform community services and participate in educational programs provided by the Tribal Government. The trip is designed to promote lifelong community involvement.

"We worked in a Head Start program, in tribal headquarters and also helped

vegetables.

The \$15 is then used by Share Food to buy bulk foods, which are packaged and distributed by the volunteers. The idea is to save money on the bulk foods with the help of the \$15 and the free labor.

Students don't have to buy anything to volunteer.

Students can also volunteer to work at the St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Store in East St. Louis. Volunteers sort donated items, arrange them in the displays and help clients.

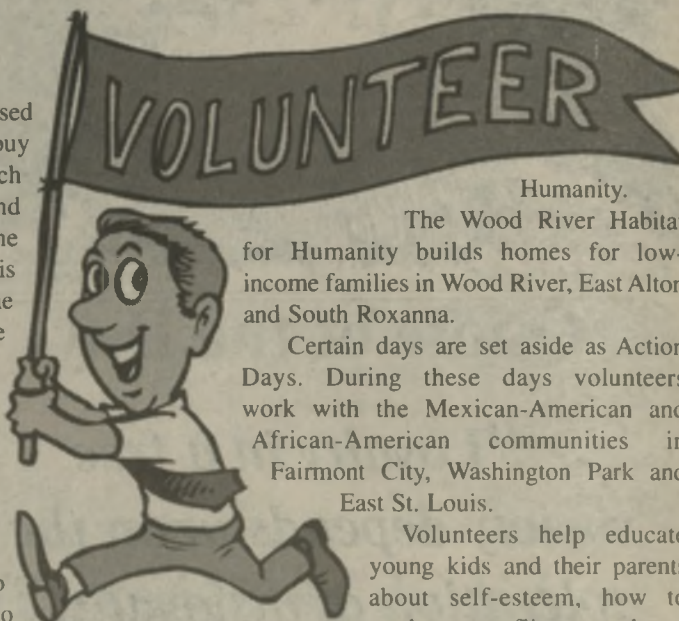
A nationally known volunteer program the university supports is Habitat for

"I do think it's everyone's responsibility to give back..."

~Suzanne Kutterer-Siburt, assistant director for leadership development

redevelop their community centers," Kutterer-Siburt said of past visits. Head Start is an early childhood development program

Another popular program is the Share Food Volunteer Project. In Share Food, participants donate two hours of their time and \$15 to receive a food package worth about \$30. Inside are frozen meats, fresh fruit and



Humanity.

The Wood River Habitat for Humanity builds homes for low-income families in Wood River, East Alton and South Roxanna.

Certain days are set aside as Action Days. During these days volunteers work with the Mexican-American and African-American communities in Fairmont City, Washington Park and East St. Louis.

Volunteers help educate young kids and their parents about self-esteem, how to resolve conflicts, cultural diversity, sexually transmitted diseases, drug abuse, the importance of staying in school and trust. Volunteers may also serve drinks during activities and workshops.

The volunteer program also provides interested students with a Volunteer Fair.

"We have that twice a year," Kutterer-Siburt said.

During the fair, students learn how to get involved in the community and learn valuable new skills.

Kutterer-Siburt said service project areas include hospitals, humane societies, the Edwardsville Children's Museum and Project READ.

Volunteers at the Edwardsville Children's Museum can conduct field trips through exhibits, assist in crafts and assist in other interactive activities.

Project READ is a literacy program for young children.

The Spring Volunteer Fair is from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 26 in the Goshen Lounge.

All SIUE students have to do is volunteer their time to provide someone with cheer this holiday season, whether packaging food, serving food or interacting with guests.

There are also other volunteer opportunities throughout the school year.

Kutterer-Siburt said she believes it is everyone's responsibility to give back to the community through volunteering. She added that it is educational as well.

For more information on volunteer opportunities, contact the Kimmel Leadership Center at 650-2686.



Author shares life experiences

COURTNEY RAKERS
NEWS STRINGER

Through her readings, lively question and answer session and insight into her experiences as a writer, Nichelle Tramble captivated her audience Tuesday evening in the Morris University Center.

Tramble, author of "The Dying Ground" and "The Last King," was presented as the English Language and Literature Association's final speaker of the year.

Prior to her discussion, attendees had the opportunity to have a book signed by Tramble while enjoying refreshments and conversation.

Around 30 people were at the event.

Tramble began her presentation by reading excerpts

from "The Dying Ground". After the readings, audience members had the opportunity to ask questions.

When asked if she viewed writing about the opposite sex as a handicap, Tramble responded with a quote that she had read prior to beginning her book.

"Write what you know about what you don't know," she said. "I didn't see it as a handicap."

Tramble credits her success to a lifetime love of reading and the ability to listen to other people.

"Whenever I go anywhere, ever since I was a child, I have a book in my hand," Tramble said.

She added that when she goes out with her boyfriend and his friends, she gains insight by



PHOTO COURTESY OF WWW.NICHELLETRAMBLE.COM
Nichelle Tramble

keeping a low profile.

"They would forget I was there," she said. "They would talk more freely. Had I been actively listening, they wouldn't have been as open."

"I came from a family of

storytellers," she added. "Listening and picking up on your surroundings (is important)."

Audience members later asked about the possibility of a screenplay based on her word.

Tramble revealed that she has already written one screenplay, but was skeptical about the possibility of her novels heading for the big screen.

"It would take an actor or director to make it their passion piece," she said. "It's a period piece, it's a drama and then it's also an African American drama."

Tramble later discussed the devastation that seems to end all of her novels.

"My family insists I couldn't write a happy story," she said. "I didn't think 'The Dying Ground' warranted a happy ending though because of the things those boys participated in."

She also mentioned the challenges of working on a fiction series.

"If it gets boring to me, I can imagine what it must be like to read," she said. "If I set

challenges with each one, hopefully I can keep going."

She attended Long Beach University as a creative writing major, but left to pursue writing before receiving her degree.

When asked if she thought a degree was important as a novelist, Tramble expressed mixed feelings.

"I'd feel better if I was saying this in a bookstore, not a university," she said to a laughing audience. "(But) you continue to learn and you continue to build resources ... it gets lonely being a writer."

She then added that she plans to go back to receive her Bachelor of Arts. Although her family was not always entirely supportive of her decision to leave school or a high paying job to pursue writing, she said that they are now her biggest fans.

"Ever since I was a little girl I wanted to be a writer," she said. "I used to bring in short stories for show and tell in third and fourth grade. I just wasn't happy (when I wasn't writing)."

ELLA's speaker series will continue in the spring semester with its final four speakers.

Chamber music to fill the Abbott

NICOLE THORP
LIFESTYLES STRINGER

The SIUE Music Department is sponsoring the Student Chamber Music Concert from 7 to 9 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 4, in the Abbott Auditorium, in the basement of Lovejoy Library.

Five SIUE Student Chamber Music Groups will perform at the concert, including four trios and one quintet.

The groups will play music from famous composers such as Schubert, Brahms, Beethoven and Mendelssohn. There is no charge for the event and everyone is invited to attend.

Music professor Linda Perry encourages students to come to

hear music from "some of the greatest composers who ever lived."

Perry, along with cello instructor Kangho Lee and violin instructor Lenora Anop, have their own trio, but also work with the chamber music groups every week to help prepare them for the concert. Perry said the concert is performed at the end of every semester and has been done for seven or eight years.

She said for those who may want to come but don't want to stay the whole time, the concert is informal, so people can come and go, and she encourages people to at least stop by.

Music education and cello performance major Bruce Walker

said a lot of hard work and time is put into this performance and he also encourages people to come see what the groups have to offer.

"We spend all semester rehearsing two to four times a week. We put a lot of time, effort and energy into it," he said.

Walker said the concert is a good way for students to get away from the stress of school and do something different.

"It's a good way to relax and take a break from a long week," he said.

For more information on the concert, call the Music Department at 650-3900 or visit <http://events.siue.edu/siuevents/>.

Music and atmosphere are Late Night focus

THOMAS C. PHILLIPS III
LIFESTYLES STRINGER

According to the Late Night Espresso Concert Series programmers, some things sound so good that you have to hear them twice.

The series, winding down before Thanksgiving break, will bring back Larry Brown in the second to last of the popular coffeehouse series at 8 p.m. Thursday in Starbucks.

Brown, a student at SIUE, will be featured on guitar during his performance.

Tolun Ozarslan, head of marketing and promotions for special events for the Morris University Center, cites Brown's style and quality of performance as a reason why he was called to perform again.

"This is his second appearance at the Late Night Espresso Series in Starbucks, and for good reason," Ozarslan said. "We've heard him before from the Goshen Showcase, and he's a really talented musician."

Brown has not only good reviews from those who have

heard him perform in Starbucks, but also from those who have heard him perform in the classroom.

"He's currently pursuing a degree in music here at SIUE," Ozarslan said. "He's got good music reviews from his professors who note his talent, and from us, since we've heard him before."

In addition to being a musician, Brown is also a Student Government senator and president of the Iota Pi Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.

"He does a lot on campus, and finds the time to perform as well," Ozarslan said. "I hope those who come out enjoy him as much as they did last time."

The Late Night Espresso Concert Series is designed to provide students and faculty with live entertainment while relaxing on campus in Starbucks. Upcoming performers include Randy Carter, who will be featured on acoustic guitar Dec. 2.

For more information on the Late Night Espresso Concert Series or other events, contact the MUC office at 650-2305.

Worlds unite at International Night



JENNIFER BAEBLER/ALESTLE

Students from seven different countries perform a global dance Friday at International Night. The dance features a touch of culture from each nation. JoAn Kim, of Korea, choreographed the piece.

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Laughter moves to University Restaurant

THOMAS C. PHILLIPS III
LIFESTYLES STRINGER

Campus Activities Board is doing its part in helping students to burn off those extra Thanksgiving calories.

Brad Lowery will be the featured comedian for CAB's successful Just 4 Laughs series at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 30 at the University Restaurant, located on the second floor of the Morris University Center.

Lowery is a nationally known comedian who averages over 200 performances at colleges and universities per year.

Aside from being nominated for the Comedian of the Year award four years in a row, Lowery has also opened for Adam Sandler, Chris Rock, and D.L. Hughley, and has appeared on "Star Search," "Showtime at the Apollo" and "Caroline's Comedy Hour," among other programs.

Lowery is a native of New York City, and travels the country performing his act.

Combining a high-energy style with physical movement and impressions of people he encounters on a daily basis, Lowery also ties in social commentary with messages to the

audience dubbed "Public Service Announcements."

Lowery's style of comedy also uses crowd involvement in an attempt to include the audience in most of his jokes.

"How many of you have cars?" Lowery asked the audience during a recent performance, available at sophieK.com. "I got carjacked a couple of weeks ago. I was driving a Mercury Cougar! The guy came to my window and pointed a gun at me, and said, 'Get out.' I was like, dude, it's a Mercury Cougar!"

Lowery's performance is notable not only because he marks the last of the Just 4 Laughs comedians for the fall 2004 semester, but because the comedy will be relocated due to the construction on the new Freshens and Taco Bell restaurants in the Cougar Den area.

The Just 4 Laughs series will resume after winter break in 2005.

For more information on Lowery, the Just 4 Laughs series or future CAB events, contact CAB through Kimmel Leadership Center at 650-2686, or check the SIUEvents Web site, <http://events.siue.edu/siuevents>.

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Sports Quote of the Day

"This (basketball) is the second most exciting indoor sport, and the other one shouldn't have spectators."

-Dick Vermeil

Player of the Week

Freshman guard Whitney Sykes knocked down eight three-point baskets in the Cougars' season-opening victory over Robert Morris.



Cougars flying high in openers

Men's basketball dominates Lincoln Christian College by 40 to begin season

ERIC CRAIN
SPORTS EDITOR

For head coach Marty Simmons, he expected nothing less.

Senior forward Tim Bauersachs poured in a career-high 19 points and 10 Cougar players got on the board to lead the Cougars to a dominating 91-51 victory over the Lincoln Christian College Preachers in the men's basketball season opener Monday.

"We played well. We had 31 assists, which shows that our guys were unselfish," Simmons said.

Also scoring in double figures for the Cougars were Junior forward Justin Ward with 14, Senior forward Joel Jaye with 11 and Freshman guard Anthony Jones with 10. Freshman guard J.B. Jones nearly recorded a double-double in his first game for SIUE, recording 9 points and 9 assists.

Simmons said having well-balanced scoring not only was key against the Preachers, but will also be key the rest of the season.

"We've got seven or eight guys who are capable of getting in double figures. If we're unselfish like we were (Monday) night, I think that only benefits us," Simmons said.

Shortly after tipoff, it looked as though the Cougars had gotten themselves into a dogfight. The score was tied at 5-5 three minutes into the contest and with just under seven minutes left in the first half, SIUE had clawed its way to a nervous 11-point lead.

Then, the floodgates opened. The Cougars went on a 14-4 run near the end of the first half and took a 44-25 lead into the locker room.

"I think it gave us a little breathing room," said Simmons.

Simmons added that during see BASKETBALL, page 10



AUBREY WILLIAMS/ALESTLE
Senior forward Kris Crosby goes in for the jam as the Cougars blow out the Lincoln Christian College Preachers Monday night.

Women bounce Robert Morris College with a barrage of three-point baskets

ZACH GROVES
SPORTS REPORTER

Freshman guard Whitney Sykes burnt the competition in her first ever collegiate game,



AUBREY WILLIAMS/ALESTLE
Amber Wisdom looks to make a pass during the Cougars' victory over Robert Morris College.

shooting eight for nine from three-point land, as the women's basketball team smothered the Robert Morris College Eagles Tuesday, 90-70.

Led by the record-breaking

eight three-pointers of Sykes, the Cougars recorded 16 three-pointers to sink the Eagles in the SIUE regular season opener.

Head coach Wendy Hedberg was impressed with the team's offense and aggression in its first game, but was not pleased with the defense.

"I thought offensively we did some nice things," she said. "But, I'm a little disappointed in the defense. We gave up some easy baskets and the three (pointers) too."

The Cougars jumped out to an early 10-point lead, but the Eagles came storming back to cut the lead to two. However, the Cougar offense regrouped and entered halftime with a modest 46-31 lead.

In the second half the Eagles made another attempt to catch up to the Cougars and nearly did so, trailing 50-47 with 13:37 to go in the game.

Once Sykes began her three-point barrage, there was no turning back for the Cougars. They played on to net 90 points

and rout the Eagles.

In the high-scoring match-up, the Cougars found a near-perfect balance of scoring between the starters and players who came off the bench. The starters scored 43 points opposed to the 47 picked up by the bench. Sykes came off the bench to lead the team with 24 points, all coming from three-point land.

"Whitney definitely had the hot hand," Hedberg said. "She's a good three-point shooter. People are going to respect her in our league, and if they lay off her she will put on a show like she did (Tuesday)."

Also scoring in double-digits was junior forward Lindy Carey, who nabbed 15 points.

The Cougars did not excel as much on defense despite forcing 21 turnovers. They trailed the Eagles in rebounds and committed 13 fouls. Junior guard Amber Wisdom fouled out in the second half.

"I'm not concerned about that," Hedberg said. "We wanted (the Cougars) to be aggressive

and get after them, so we're going to have fouls."

SIUE currently stands at 1-0 for the season, and hits the road for the Concord Tournament starting against Concord University Mountain Lions at 8 p.m. Friday in Athens, W.Va.



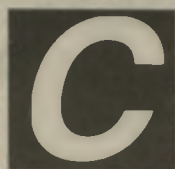
AUBREY WILLIAMS/ALESTLE
Julianne McMillen goes for two during the Cougars' first game of the season.

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SLDP Reminders....

Volunteer Projects

November 20 – Boy Scout food Drive, Granite City, IL
November 20 – Share Food, Granite City, IL
November 25 – Thanksgiving Dinner, Belleville & E. St. Louis, IL
December 5-8 & 13-16 – Christmas Baskets, E. St. Louis, IL
December 18 – Granite City Christmas Warmth, Granite City, IL
December 25 – Christmas Dinner, E. St. Louis, IL

Enjoy the Break!

See you next semester!

For more information and the calendar, contact the Kimmel Leadership Center at extension 2686 or visit the website at www.siu.edu/KIMMELSLDP



MATT KANE

I feel rejuvenated. After winning a couple games in a row, my record is 6-4 and I sit in second place in my league.

I barely beat my opponent because of a big game he got from Carolina Panther quarterback Jake Delhomme.

Actually Delhomme is putting together a decent season. However, his numbers are hidden better than that Creed CD I bought in high school.

The casual fan would think the Panthers are a running team, but actually that isn't the case.

Delhomme is second in the NFL with 319 passing attempts, more than Ben Roethlisberger and Brian Griese combined.

Another number that may surprise fantasy team owners is

the reemergence of the tight end position.

Last year four tight ends each caught more than 50 passes. Halfway through this season eight tight ends have more than 35 receptions.

You may be able to trade one of your weaker receivers for one of those tight ends in hopes that your trading partner does not recognize the importance the tight end position could bring to a fantasy football team.

A tight end I would suggest is San Francisco 49er Eric Johnson. The Yale graduate is second in the NFL with 57 receptions.

Team defense is another position on your roster that could bring in some unexpected points.

Believe it or not, the Atlanta Falcons have a lot more on their team than Michael Vick.

Sure, he makes defenses more uncomfortable than Michael Moore at a National Rifle Association meeting, but there is a defense in the "Dirty South" that is tearing up the NFL.

In fact, Atlanta is one of the most productive defenses in the NFL.

Atlanta has 27 sacks and 17 take-aways. That equals 44 big plays and is tops in the NFC.

Criminal justice major Eric Heberer actually picked the Falcons to have a big defensive game.

With seven sacks and one interception, I'd say he was right. So Mr. Heberer and The Boostin' Boys will get this week's Alestle pen.

Next week is my bye week, at least when it comes to column writing. I'll be back here Thursday, Dec. 2.

Send all your questions to Kaneskorner@hotmail.com. That's all from Kane's Korner. For those about to rock, I salute you.

Cougar wrestling pinned by injuries

TRAVIS L. ROSS
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

Entering the season already hampered by injuries to four athletes, the wrestling team is off to a slow start.

The Cougars were defeated by the University of Missouri Baptist Spartans 33-13 Friday and did not place in the Central Missouri State University Open Sunday.

Against Missouri Baptist, sophomore Scott Audo picked up the win in the 125-pound weight class, sophomore John Ficht picked up the win in the 165-pound weight class and freshman Cory Scott earned the victory in the 184-pound weight class.

"We didn't look very good," assistant coach Ron Bessemer said. "We didn't wrestle aggressively and we gave away two weight classes because we

couldn't fill them."

The Cougars forfeited the 141-pound weight class because freshman Matt Wellner could not get down to weight, and the heavyweight class because the team does not actually have a heavyweight.

At the CMSU open, Bessemer felt the team made drastic improvements.

"We wrestled much better on Sunday," Bessemer said. "We came really close to medaling in a couple of weight classes."

Bessemer said, overall, the weekend was very good for the athletes.

"I hate to name just one or two guys (who stood out), because everybody looked good at times and bad at times," Bessemer said. "I prefer to say that we are definitely getting better."

The Cougars are wrestling

right now without junior 157-pounder Matt Warren, who is out with an eye injury, freshman 174-pounder Eric Scholle and sophomore Jamie Johnson, who are both out with knee injuries and sophomore Pat Healy, who will not be eligible until second semester.

But, for now, Bessemer said the team will have to make due.

"We had a long talk as a team after the Missouri Baptist competition about being more aggressive and getting after people, and I think they did that (at the CMSU open)," Bessemer said. "You can't really measure progress unless you measure it under aggressive circumstances. We looked a lot better, and I hope we look a lot better this weekend."

The Cougars will be in action Saturday at the Ryan Kaufmann Open in Omaha, Neb.

BASKETBALL

from page 9

practices, the Cougars have been talking about finishing strong, which was precisely what SIUE did in the first half.

SIUE carried its late first-half momentum well into the second half, blazing to a commanding 72-35 lead on the heels of a 32-10 run to begin the half. The stretch included a crowd-inspiring two-handed slam-dunk by senior forward Kris Crosby.

While the dunk got the crowd up and roaring, it didn't seem as though the Cougar faithful needed much of a reason.

It may have been the excitement generated by SIUE's

respectable showing against Division I powerhouses University of Illinois and Indiana University. Or maybe it was a newfound passion for the game from more students. Either way, the Cougars had a stronger, more excited fan base than SIUE had seen in years past.

"They were outstanding. We had a chance after the game to thank those students for coming out. Their enthusiasm was outstanding. Hopefully we can just build on that," said Simmons.

Though the Cougars didn't have any trouble scoring, it was the relentless ball-pressure defense of SIUE that controlled

the pace of the game, keeping the Preachers from getting into any kind of an offensive flow.

Simmons said that the defense is "kind of the backbone of our team right now. Hopefully, we can sustain that."

"We've got to be a team that is hard to score against each time."

Winning the first game of the season at home isn't anything new for SIUE. The Cougars have won their last 12 season openers.

SIUE will now take its high-flying act to Michigan, where the Cougars will face off against Saginaw Valley State University at 7:30 p.m. Thursday.

Buss digs her way into the record book

ZACH GROVES
SPORTS REPORTER

When it comes to good defense in volleyball, Allison Buss is the poster child.

Buss, a junior outside hitter, started playing competitive volleyball in high school, where she helped Normal High School finish fourth in the Illinois High School Association State competition her senior year.

Buss has recorded amazing numbers defensively while moving around in head coach Todd Gober's system.

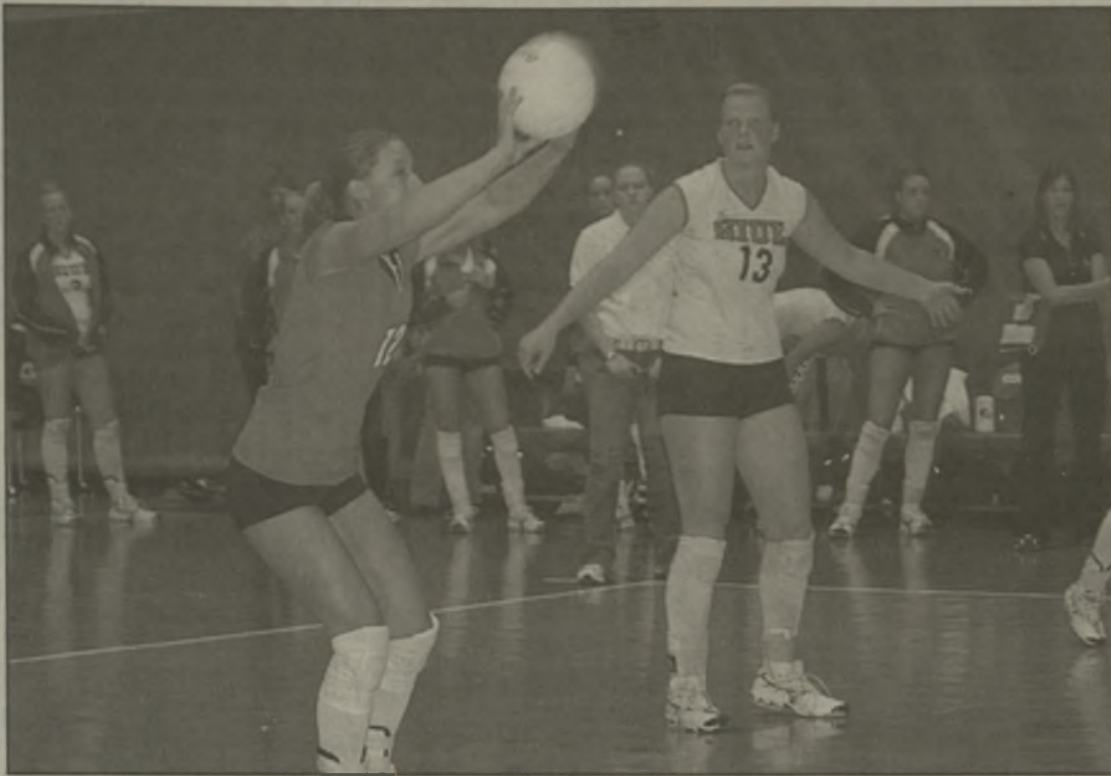
In her first season at SIUE, Buss nabbed 222 digs. Last season she nearly doubled those numbers with 415 digs. This season, Buss recorded 623 digs to break the single-season school record. The previous record was held by Yvonne Welch of the 1996 team with 614.

"(Allison) is a fantastic athlete, has a great work ethic and is an excellent student," Gober said. "She has turned in an MVP-caliber performance this year for us."

That MVP-style of play earned Buss first team All-GLVC honors in 2004.

Buss is dominating both on the court and in the classroom.

Buss' high marks at SIUE earned her the Chancellor's



Junior outside hitter Allison Buss was the catalyst for the Cougars' stingy defense in 2004. Buss broke the school record for digs in a season this year with 623 and was named to her first All-GLVC team.

AUBREY WILLIAMS/ALESTIE

Scholarship to complement her achievements throughout her athletic career.

Her individual achievements pale beside what she has done to help her teammates. Buss participated on a team that placed fifth in the Junior Olympic Nationals in Salt Lake City in 2001 and has played huge roles in the 20-plus win records SIUE has accomplished in the last three

seasons, earning her All-GLVC honors.

"This year I'm one of three captains and I'm really trying to step up my role and be more of a vocal player," Buss said.

Buss said it is the role shared by all of the team captains not only to be leaders on the floor, but off as well.

Gober said she's getting

the job done.

"Allison's a fierce competitor," Gober said. "The tougher the game is, the better she plays."

Junior setter Jenny Heimann said Buss has played a big role in her development as a player.

"When (freshman setter) Sadie (Zurliene), (freshman middle hitter) Tina Helphrey and I first came in, we were really

nervous," Heimann said. "We didn't know each other, but Allison was there to start up a conversation and she made you feel at home already."

While Buss was quick to take a leadership role with the Cougars, she credits fellow captains junior outside hitter Kindra Westendorf and junior setter Krystal Majernik for doing the same.

"I think (our) captains are especially doing a good job this season becoming very good vocal leaders," Buss said.

"We do leadership work with coach (Gober) every Thursday by book, and we work on different chapters. It gives you tips on how to make someone play better if they're not playing so well," Buss added.

Buss understands her role within the Cougars' defensive system and knows its importance down the stretch as SIUE takes aim at the Great Lakes Valley Conference title.

"We've been working a lot in the past two weeks on our defense," Buss said.

That hard work, dedication and leadership have made Buss a top-notch player for SIUE Volleyball.

"I've always loved the game. I think the more I play, the more I like it," she said. "That is what makes me competitive."

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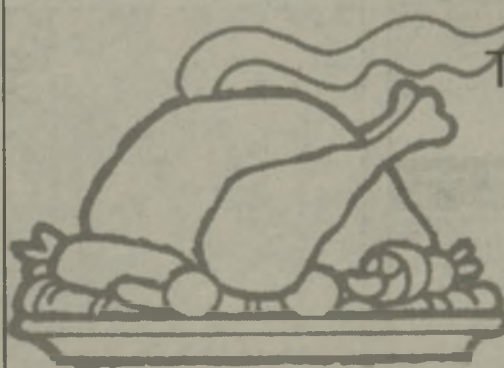
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◆ PAGE 12

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SHALL WE DANCE (PG-13) Daily 6:45
Sat/Sun Mat 2:30 Fri/Sat 9:15
SHARK TALE (PG) Daily 6:30
Sat/Sun Mat 2:15 Fri/Sat 9:00
ALFIE (R) Daily 7:00
Sat/Sun Mat 2:00 Fri/Sat 9:30

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Daily 4:00 6:30 Fri/Sat 8:45 Sat/Sun Mat 1:30
BRIDGET JONES 2 (R) Daily 4:15 7:00
Fri/Sat 9:30 Sat/Sun Mat 1:15
NATIONAL TREASURE (PG) Daily 3:50 6:45
Fri/Sat 9:40 Sat/Sun Mat 1:00
POLAR EXPRESS (G) Daily 4:30 7:15
Fri/Sat 9:50 Sat/Sun Mat 1:45
AFTER THE SUNSET (PG-13) Daily 5:15 7:45
Fri/Sat 10:10 Sat/Sun Mat 2:30
THE INCREDIBLES (PG)
Daily 4:45 7:30 Fri/Sat 10:00 Sat/Sun Mat 2:00

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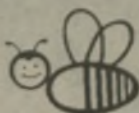
THE SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS MOVIE (PG)
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00
BRIDGET JONES 2 (R) 1:00 4:00 6:50 9:40
NATIONAL TREASURE (PG) 1:30 4:50 7:10 8:00 10:10
POLAR EXPRESS (G) 12:45 1:10 3:20 3:50 8:20 8:40 9:00 9:20
AFTER THE SUNSET (PG-13) 2:45 5:10 7:50 10:30
THE INCREDIBLES (PG) 12:30 1:20 2:00 3:30 4:10 4:40 6:30 7:20 8:10 10:20
RAY (PG-13) 12:15 3:40 7:40
SAW (R) 1:45 4:20 7:15 9:50
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