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Celebrate Mardi Gras safely

Sigma Pi is offering a shuttle service that will take students to and from the St. Louis Mardi Gras celebration this weekend

RYAN WARTICK
NEWS STRINGER

For students who want to enjoy this weekend's Soulard Mardi Gras celebration in St. Louis but are worried about finding a designated driver or a parking space, the Sigma Pi Fraternity has the solution.

Sigma Pi is offering a shuttle that runs to and from the St. Louis celebration Saturday.

Tickets are \$15 and are available from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursday and Friday at a booth in the Goshen Lounge of the Morris University Center.

"We hope this will cut down on the number of drunk drivers this year," Sigma Pi Vice President and event coordinator Justin Reeve said. "This idea comes from the question my friends ask year after year, 'Who's going to be the sober driver?'"

The shuttle will leave and return to Lot 9, across from Alumni and Founders halls. The first bus leaves campus at 9:30 a.m. and will drop off students as close to the parade route as traffic allows. The last shuttle leaves for Mardi Gras at 7:30 p.m.

"These are charter buses from Allied Transport," Reeve said. "The drivers are professionals, and the buses come complete with bathrooms."

The pick-up location in St. Louis will be the same as the drop-off location.

Buses will return at different times throughout the day with the last shuttle departing from Mardi Gras at 11 p.m. A complete list of departure and return times is available when tickets are purchased.

"The departure and return times are staggered so as to give students options," Reeve said. "There shouldn't be any problems with overcrowded buses."

Proceeds from the shuttle service will raise money for Sigma Pi, but Reeve said there is no guarantee the endeavor will make money.

"Whether or not we make money depends on ticket sales," Reeve said. "There are still about 100 tickets left, but they are selling fast. Hopefully this will allow everyone to have a safe and fun Mardi Gras."



Become more active on campus

CORY FREEMAN
NEWS STRINGER

Students wishing to become active in campus life can now apply for positions on the Campus Activities Board.

"Any student who has any involvement on campus shows potential," Campus Life Assistant Director Michelle King said. "This is a great way to create more diversity and gain a new perspective on campus life."

CAB members can plan and coordinate upcoming events and concerts. According to King, students are expected to develop leadership skills, work with agents and meet with educators, make decisions about student fees, develop skills for a resume and to be a positive and active

force on campus, according to King.

To be eligible for application, an undergraduate student must be enrolled full time with a cumulative grade point average of at least 2.5. A graduate student must be enrolled full time with a cumulative GPA of at least 3.0.

Any student who is interested in applying has to pick up an application from the Kimmel Leadership Center in the Morris University Center. The application must be returned to Kimmel by Friday, Feb. 25. When completed, the applicant also must sign up for an interview time.

Interviews will be held March 1-3, and decisions will be

see CAB, page 3

Give a kid a smile

ALESTLE STAFF REPORT

Soon, more than 200 area children are going to be given a reason to smile.

The School of Dental Medicine in Alton is sponsoring the second annual Give Kids A Smile Day from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday.

This event gives Metro East children the opportunity to receive free dental care.

According to a press release, the SIUE School of Dental

Medicine faculty, students and staff will participate in the event, as well as members of the Madison and St. Clair counties dental societies and the Lewis and Clark Community College dental hygiene and dental assisting programs. The free dental care can include examinations, X-rays, cleanings, fluoride treatments, fillings and extractions.

Children between the ages of 3 and 13, who are eligible for

see SMILE, page 3

Safe Zone educates faculty

RYAN WARTICK
NEWS STRINGER

The SIUE Safe Zone Committee will meet for the first time this semester from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. Wednesday in Peck Hall, Room 3312, to discuss the issues facing gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender students in campus life.

"Safe Zone is designed to provide education for faculty so that they can help students who have concerns," Safe Zone Chair and sociology professor Kevin

Cannon said.

The SIUE Safe Zone Committee was formed in 2001 and consists of about 15 faculty and staff members. All faculty members are encouraged to attend the meetings.

The Safe Zone Committee also conducts training sessions for faculty and staff so they can be more aware of the problems facing some students.

Trained faculty and staff are considered "allies" and are given a Safe Zone sticker that has an

see SAFE ZONE, page 3

Cougar Craze gets wild in the Goshen



ANDY RATHNOW/ALESTLE
Freshman Adam Stahlman rides the mechanical bull as part of Wednesday's "Wild Wild West" edition of Cougar Craze in the Goshen Lounge of the Morris University Center.

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Reggie Thomas receives award

RYAN WARTICK
 NEWS STRINGER

SIUE music professor Reggie Thomas is one of the hidden gems on campus.

"Reggie is one of the finest jazz musicians in St. Louis," Executive Director of Jazz at the Bistro Gene Dobbs Bradford said. "He plays on the same level as the touring artists that we bring in from out of town. He is also a great educator. That is a really rare combination."

Bradford nominated Thomas for the Excellence in Arts Award, which Thomas received Jan. 31 based on Thomas' achievements in performance. The award was presented by the Arts and Education Council of St. Louis.

For Thomas, mixing teaching with performance is a natural fit.

"The award was performance-based, but I can't separate myself from the education part," Thomas said. "The two areas go hand in hand for me."

At the awards ceremony, Thomas was honored with a video tribute that contained interviews from his wife, as well as SIUE faculty and students. After the video, several of Thomas' graduate students performed some of his works. Then, Thomas himself decided



PHOTO COURTESY OF LINDA WILSON

Reggie Thomas holds the Excellence in Arts Award, which he accepted Monday night. He is pictured with Arts & Education Council of Greater St. Louis Board of Directors member Bob Ciapciak and President James Weidman

to play.

"It is very rare that an honoree performs at the ceremony," Bradford said. "It was definitely one of the high points of the night."

Thomas says he was just expressing himself the best way he could.

"The ceremony was so overwhelming and the number of people who were there to help fund the arts was amazing," Thomas said. "It is hard to describe how I felt with words. I am just thankful that I had the opportunity to perform and convey how I felt through music."

In fact, Thomas was thankful to even be at the ceremony. He was performing in Milan, Italy, the day before

the ceremony.

"When I found out a couple of months ago that I was going to be honored, I was very thankful, but I knew I was going to be out of the country at the time," Thomas said. "Luckily, I was able to reschedule my flight. I landed at the airport and went directly to the ceremony. I made it just in time."

Those who wish to see the award-winning professor perform live are in luck. Thomas and his wife Mardra Thomas are performing Feb. 11, 12 and 14 at Jazz at the Bistro, 3536 Washington in St. Louis, Mo.

Tickets are \$20 and reservations can be made by calling (314) 531-1012 or by going to www.jazzatthebistro.com.

Ceremonies begin Black Heritage Month



DREW WILKE/ALESTLE

A dancer performs as part of Black Heritage Month's opening ceremonies Tuesday in the Goshen Lounge.

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‘The Vagina Monologues’ to be performed CAB

from page 1

SCHALENE HOUSTON
NEWS STRINGER

Making Waves is proud to present “The Vagina Monologues” on campus Friday through Sunday, Feb. 11-13, in the Abbott Auditorium of the Lovejoy Library.

“The Vagina Monologues” are excerpts from Eve Ensler’s play, which are based on real stories of women from all over the world. The monologues deal with violent stories of women, consisting of rape, battery, incest and sexual slavery.

Making Waves co-founder Schannon Dial said ignorance on the subject is due to lack of

awareness of the mistreatment of women, and this is why this program is important.

“The benefit of this global campaign is to increase consciousness, raise money and celebrate women,” Dial said.

Dial said to prevent this problem of ignorance, there should be more information provided about the situation.

“Continued awareness and ongoing education that doesn’t just extend to others but also to ourselves, as well as to the women and girls who are unaware of the opportunities they might have,” Dial said.

Laylonda Maines, also a

Making Waves founder, said she thinks the play will be good and people will be excited about it.

“It’s a pretty riveting play, and I think people who have seen it before really like it, and they’ll be happy it’s at SIUE,” Maines said.

Dial said if anyone is interested in volunteering to help out, they are more than welcome. The volunteers would sell tickets and merchandise at the door.

The proceeds from the play will go to four different women’s shelters, Call for Help, Phoenix Crisis Center, Safer and Oasis. Dial said it was hard to

see PRODUCTION, page 4

made March 4. Once students are selected for their positions, they are expected to attend meetings and events immediately.

“It’s a big time commitment, but it’s manageable,” King said.

About 17 positions are open on the Executive, Media Management and Committee Chair boards.

CAB is a student-run organization that is both an advisory programming board, according to King. It is a merger of the former Student Life Advisory Board and the University Center Board Council.

For more information, call 650-2686, e-mail CAB at CAB@siue.edu or visit the Web site, www.siue.edu/CAB.

SMILE

from page 1

public aid or the free lunch program, may participate.

Give Kids A Smile Day requires pre-registration with signed parental permission, and a parent or guardian must accompany the children at the event.

Those wishing to receive the

dental care are encouraged to arrive no later than 1:30 p.m.

According to the press release, Give Kids A Smile Day is a “national event sponsored by the American Dental Association to provide free dental treatment for under-served children.”

Chemistry Club seeking artists

ZACH GROVES
SPORTS REPORTER

The Chemistry Club finally has a room in the Science Building to call its own, but it will take some time to officially dedicate it.

Chemistry Club President Brandon Hatfield said he hopes to open and dedicate the room as soon as a few details are touched up.

“It has been put on hold until an artist can be found to paint the

mural of a periodic table and our club seal,” Hatfield said.

Even though it is still a work in progress, the room includes a lounge with a couch for relaxing and a computer with Internet access for chemistry purposes.

Hatfield said the room will only be open to regular Chemistry Club attendees.

He also said he’s seeking anyone who might be interested in painting both the mural and the seal.

For those interested or

for more information, e-mail Hatfield at chemtamaram@yahoo.com.



SAFE ZONE

from page 1

inverted pink triangle in a green circle.


By displaying the sticker by their office, faculty members are letting students know there is a safe place to discuss issues in a calm and non-threatening way.

According to Cannon, there have been few recent reported acts of discrimination.

“There was one report of a

discriminatory chalking last fall,” Cannon said. “There have only been a couple of incidents since I’ve been here.”

In the last five years, there has been rapid nationwide development of Safe Zone organizations, which have attempted to make the culture of a campus or workplace more aware and accepting.



MODULES

Student Leadership Development Program & Volunteer Services

Modules

2/8/05
Module 4, 2:00 p.m.
Effective Communication
Missy Churchman, Community Investment Associate
Tri City United Way
Board Room, MUC

2/8/05
Module 14, 5:30 p.m.
Major Influences in the Political Process
James Pennkamp, Executive Director
Southwestern Illinois Leadership Council
Board Room, MUC

2/15/05
Module 5, 2:00 p.m.
Group Process
Capt. Carla Hughes
SIUE Army R.O.T.C.
Student Fitness Center


2/15/05
Module 15, 6:30 p.m.
Community Change: What a Leader Needs to Know
Rudy Wilson, Assistant Provost
Social & Cultural Diversity, SIUE
Board Room, MUC

SLDP Reminders....

Volunteer Projects
February 5 – St. Vincent dePaul Thrift Store, E. St. Louis, IL
February 19 – Share Food, Granite City, IL
February 26 – Computer Rehab, Washington Park, IL
March 6-10 – Spring Break Trip, Cherokee Nation, OK

Image – February 19, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Morris University Center

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



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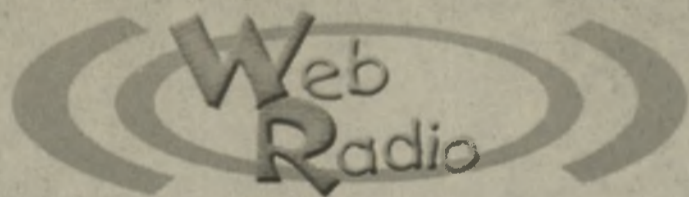
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Web Radio is always looking for new talent! Positions available include DJs, Producers, Promotion Coordinators, Graphic Designers, and more. Anyone interested in joining a fun and fulfilling student organization should contact Erin at eschaus@siue.edu or at 650-3267.

Web Radio, Morris University Center basement
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Police Incidents

Traffic

1/26

Police issued a citation to Michelle A. Charbonnier for failing to stop at a traffic light on South University Drive.

Police responded to a traffic accident at the Vadalabene Center. No injuries or road blockage occurred.

Police issued a citation to Raj Kumar Arcot Sivakumar for expired registration.

Police issued a citation to Janice L. Rabe for speeding and a written warning for no driver's license on New Poag Road.

1/27

Police issued a citation to Amanda Vernitte for speeding on University Drive near Lot 2.

Police issued a citation to Jeremy R. Zschau for speeding on South University Drive.

Police issued a citation to Robin D. Chomko for speeding on University Drive.

Police issued a citation to Timothy M. Lawrence for expired registration on South University Drive.

1/28

Police issued a citation to William E. Simmons for operation of an uninsured motor vehicle and a written warning for speeding on North University Drive.

Police issued a citation to Amy L. Collins for speeding on South University Drive.

1/29

Police responded to an accident at the Dunham Hall loading dock. No injuries or road blockage occurred.

1/30

Police issued citations to Salaymeh S. Majed for speeding and driving an uninsured motor vehicle and written warnings for expired registration and no driver's license on South University Drive.

1/31

Police issued a citation to Charon N. Muchison for speeding on South University Drive.

Police responded to Prairie Hall to take a report of a hit-and-run.

Police issued a citation to Mia R. Lewis for failing to stop at a stop sign on Circle Drive.

Other Offenses

1/26

Police arrested Jame C. Cole at the University

Center on a felony warrant from the Madison County Sheriff's Office for possessing cannabis with the intent to deliver. Cole was taken to Madison County Jail. Cole was released Jan. 27 after posting \$2,500 bond.

Police issued a warrant against Robert F. Sutter for criminal sexual abuse.

Police issued a warrant against David M. Moore for criminal damage to government-supported property. The warrant was served to him at Madison County Jail. Moore was released on his own recognizance Jan. 27.

1/29

Police arrested Elizabeth J. Fleer for illegal possession of alcohol and Kathryn E. Yearian for illegal consumption of alcohol by a minor. The vehicle was towed, and both were released with a notice to appear.

Police arrested Kimberly S. Denum for illegal consumption of alcohol by a minor. Denum was released with a notice to appear.

Police arrested Zachary J. Salisbury for possession of cannabis. He was released with a notice to appear.

Police arrested Augustin H. Kirchoff for driving under the influence of alcohol, driving under the influence of an intoxicating substance and possession of cannabis. Kirchoff posted \$200 bond and was released.

1/31

Police responded to the Cougar Village tennis courts to take a report of damage done to the net.

Police took a report of a damaged vehicle in Lot 5.

Police and firefighters responded to a fire alarm in Prairie Hall at 1 a.m. Smoke from burnt popcorn was found to be the cause of the alarm. The alarm was reset, and the resident was allowed to return.

Theft

1/27

Police took a report of a student's SIUE photo identification card being taken from a bench in the Vadalabene Center.

Police took a report of a hangtag stolen from a vehicle parked in Lot 5.

1/28

Police took a report of a cell phone being taken from outside Peck Hall.

Police took a report of two pairs of shoes stolen from a Cougar Village apartment.

PRODUCTION

from page 3

decide on one particular shelter.

Maines said 10 percent of the money will go to help women in Iraq.

Tickets are \$15 for the public and \$7 for students. Tickets go on sale Monday at the Information

Center in the Morris University Center.

Dial added that tickets will be sold at the door, but encourages people to buy them early due to limited seating.

Making Waves is also

participating in the upcoming Dirty Laundry Project in March. Dial said there are also several other events the organization is working on.

For more information, contact Dial at 650-4868.

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Black Heritage Month 2005

Tuesday, February 1-27

Art Exhibit – Warriors, Dreamers, and Rhymers: An Extra-literary Exhibit from the Eugene B. Redmond Collection

Art Gallery, Morris University Center

The exhibit focuses on the artistic and educational dimensions of cultural artifacts relating to African American literary art and performance. The exhibit will combine images with excerpts from African American writers and tribute poems by Eugene B. Redmond. Reception: Sunday, February 6, 2:00 PM-5:00 PM

Thursday, February 3

Blacks, Television, and History
11:30 AM – 1:30 PM

Goshen Lounge, Morris University Center

The panelists will provide historical, eyewitness accounts of the racial desegregation of television broadcasting in the St. Louis-metropolitan area. Invited panelists include: Dianne White, whom whites hired as the first, black newscaster in St. Louis at then KSD, channel 5, circa 1962; Bernie Hayes, a host of "Soul Brotherhood" and "Black Circle Hour" at KDNL-TV, channel 30, circa 1970; and Donn Johnson, a reporter and anchor for 20 years at KTVI, channel 2, beginning circa 1974.

Lecture – Steve Birdine

I Never Thought About It That Way: Linking Black History and Taking Responsibility for Your Own Success
7:00 PM – 8:30 PM

Meridian Ballroom, Morris University Center

This speaker will take a much needed look at issues impacting students on college campuses such as, academic excellence, diversity, Greek life, male-female relationships, motivation, "sell-outs," and more. It is guaranteed to be an audience involved, challenging, empowering, humorous, insightful, interactive, and thought provoking event.

Saturday, February 5

Voyage Through Africa (Family Event)
12:30 PM – 2:00 PM

Goshen Lounge, Morris University Center

Children will hear great stories and songs with morals, principles, and character trait themes. The children will portray characters using props, costumes, and puppets. Mama Katambwa (Janice Lesane Katambwa, African Culture Specialist) will provide a variety of fun-filled, hands-on, and interactive, educational activities for both adults and children.

Tuesday, February 8

Dr. King Jr. Birthday Celebration
11:30 AM – 1:30 PM

Meridian Ballroom, Morris University Center

SIUE's annual birthday celebration to commemorate the life and legacy of Dr. King Jr. Students: \$8 General Public: \$12.50

Wednesday, February 9

African American Women and Community Building
11:30 AM – 12:30 PM

Goshen Lounge, Morris University Center

This interdisciplinary panel will focus on the diverse ways in which African American women historically have conceptualized and built community. Scholars from the fields of history, sociology, and English will share their research on twentieth century African American women's community consciousness and activities.

Remembering Our Past:



Building Our Future



Panel – Emmett Till: A Tragedy Remembered
6:00 PM – 9:00 PM

Abbott Auditorium, Lovejoy Library

A panel discussion and film exploring the impact of Emmett Till's 1955 lynching will be explored and its impact on the nation and the Civil Rights movement. Through open and honest discussion we hope to heal the still evident wounds of injustice. Sponsored by Iota Phi Theta Fraternity.

Thursday, February 10

Cultural Bazaar
10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Goshen Lounge, Morris University Center

African and African American vendors will sell books, clothing, crafts, jewelry, and other wares during this annual event. Additionally, there will be entertainment and prize drawings! Take a break between classes and stop by to see what merchants have to offer!

Sudan: Three Degrees of Genocide
12:00 Noon – 1:00 PM

Mississippi Room, Morris University Center

A panel discussion on the current genocide in the Darfur region of Sudan will focus on the roots of the conflict and the lack of international attention and action to what has been labeled one of the worst humanitarian tragedies of the 21st century. Co-sponsored by Iota Phi Theta Fraternity.

SIUE Concert Jazz Band
12:30 PM – 1:30 PM

Goshen Lounge, Morris University Center

Come hear the smooth sounds of the award winning SIUE Concert Jazz Band and visit African American vendors selling their wares during the Cultural Bazaar.

Friday, February 11

Cultural Bazaar
10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

East St. Louis Higher Education Campus

African and African American vendors will sell books, clothing, crafts, jewelry, and other wares during this annual event.

Second Annual Gospel Explosion
6:00 PM – 10:30 PM

Meridian Ballroom, Morris University Center

Join us for an inspirational evening to spread the gospel of healing, reconciliation, and unity to the campus and community. This event will feature poetry, rap, praise dance, and gospel music.

Monday, February 14

Open Forum – Mental Slavery Today
11:30 AM – 1:00 PM

Goshen Lounge, Morris University Center

The panelists will speak on the physical slavery of their ancestors and how it contributed to the mental slavery of the present African American generation today. Sponsored by the Black Student Union.

Tuesday, February 15

Storytelling with Rudy Wilson
11:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Goshen Lounge, Morris University Center

"Using myth, history, emotion and grace," the storyteller will weave tales about faith, hope, survival, and courage to illustrate African and African American contributions to American history.

Lecture – Francis Bok
Sudan: From Slavery to Freedom
7:00 PM-9:00 PM

Meridian Ballroom, Morris University Center

A former slave from Sudan, Francis Bok, will detail his life story and speak on the issues of slavery and genocide pertaining to Africa and the rest of the world. Organized starvation and deliberate systematic killing have devastated the country's population. Co-sponsored by Iota Phi Theta Fraternity.

Wednesday, February 16

Divine Nine
7:00 PM – 10:00 PM

Meridian Ballroom, Morris University Center

This event acknowledges the significance of predominately Black Greek letter

organizations on college campuses, and in surrounding communities since their founding dates. The National Pan-Hellenic Council, consisting of the nine predominately Black Greek letter organizations, will showcase their national programmatic initiatives both as individual organizations and as a unified body.

Thursday, February 17

Black Heritage Month Game Show
11:30 AM – 1:00 PM

Goshen Lounge, Morris University Center

Come compete against other contestants Street Smarts style and show your knowledge of Blacks in the entertainment field. This program will feature contestants who prove how smart they are by predicting how other people will answer. Co-sponsored by Alpha Phi Alpha.

Tuesday, February 22

Cosby's Comments: Criticism and Controversy
11:30 AM – 1:00 PM

Goshen Lounge, Morris University Center

Commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Brown vs. Board of Education decision, remarks made by Bill Cosby ignited a plethora of comments from Black leaders, the media and others. This panel presentation will discuss reactions to his statements.

Keepers of the Dream – Part III
6:00 PM – 9:30 PM

Meridian Ballroom, Morris University Center

Carl Mack, president of the Seattle Chapter of the NAACP, will speak on the importance of cultural awareness in today's society. Sponsored by National Society of Black Engineers.

Thursday, February 24

Blacks, Bullets, and Brigades
11:30 AM – 1:00 PM

Goshen Lounge, Morris University Center

A panel discussion will review the historical and current role played by African Americans in the U.S. Military.

7th Annual Black Heritage Month Talent Show
7:00 PM – 10:00 PM

Meridian Ballroom, Morris University Center

Come watch students perform their singing, dancing, poetic, and musical talents during this annual event featuring local performer "X-Man". Co-sponsored by R.A.M.

Friday-Saturday, February 25-26

Black Theater Workshop
7:30 PM

Dunham Hall Theater

A showcase of the work of African American playwrights.

Saturday, February 26

African Night
6:00 PM – 10:00 PM

Meridian Ballroom, Morris University Center

Enjoy an evening of African culture through dance, food, and entertainment. SIUE Students: \$10.00; SIUE Faculty/Staff and General Public: \$12.00. Sponsored by the African Student Association.

All events are free unless otherwise noted. Contact the Kimmel Leadership Center at 618.650.2686 for a detailed schedule of events, or go to the Campus Activities Board's website at www.siu.edu/CAB. All events are subject to change. Funded in whole or part by Student Activity Fee dollars. Black Heritage Month is sponsored by the Campus Activities Board.

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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.

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

The Alestle
Campus Box 1167
Edwardsville, Ill. 62026-1167

Opinions & Editorial viewpoints & commentary

◆ PAGE 6

A l e s t l e

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2005 ◆



We all know what we do in college and in our lives before we graduate is going to be evaluated and considered by future employers when we enter the work force. But what if, instead of being evaluated just on our skills, experience and knowledge, we were all judged on our bad habits as well.

You may be as surprised as I was to hear that Weyco Inc. in Lansing, Mich., has implemented a strict no smoking policy for all of its employees. The consequence for violation is job termination. That's right, people are fired if they smoke. Sure, smoking in the building or anywhere near the job site is one

Employers ban bad habits

thing, but the employees have to go through a mandatory drug test that not only can determine if illegal drugs are used, but also if any form of nicotine is in their body.

Now, I don't smoke. I know it is bad for people to smoke. And, I'm allergic to cigarette smoke, so normally I'd be all for getting rid of smoking. However, when a company begins to infringe on anyone's personal rights – and yes, it is a right to choose to smoke – then that company has stepped over a line. It is not a protected right everywhere. According to an article at the Health Talk Web site, www.healthtalk.ca, only 29 states protect smokers from being fired, and that does not include Michigan.

Yet this may be just the beginning. With insurance companies offering discounts to any company that has a low number of smokers or can prove they don't hire smokers, other companies have joined on board. Union Pacific stopped hiring smokers in seven states last fall,

and Alaska Airlines requires job applicants to pass a nicotine test according to www.sci-tech-today.com.

I'd like to say this is only a problem for the smokers, but it isn't. Where one change starts, another soon follows. Forget worrying about how to impress your boss or what to wear. We may have to worry about how much we weigh as well.

According to Weyco Inc.'s Web site, www.weyco.com, "Weyco Inc. encourages healthy lifestyles. (The company) sponsor(s) voluntary on-site programs for employees to attend during the workday on topics such as eating disorders, healthy meal planning, safety and others."

Doesn't sound that bad right? You get to join a health club, and healthy eating is promoted at work. Well, what if you choose to have a cheeseburger instead of a salad? What if you would rather eat a few cookies than some yogurt? Providing the opportunity for people to eat better and live

healthier is a great thing. Demanding your employees follow it is something else. Not that anyone would be fired. Being overweight is protected in Michigan.

However, we all know that when "encouraged" to follow certain guidelines by our employers, it is better to go ahead and do it – not to mention the idea doesn't seem that far-fetched. People in the military are required to maintain a certain health level, and many actors won't get parts if they are overweight. Why not the rest of us?

For now, the possibility of being fired for weight gain isn't an issue. It is not likely the case would stand in court. However, smokers beware, and everyone else stay on guard as well. If one company does it, and it is found to be legal, then others may follow Weyco Inc.'s lead. And with one bad habit gone, there is no telling what will come next.

Tyler Bennett
Editor in Chief

Constitution Day a bad idea, says columnist

PHILADELPHIA (U-WIRE) – In today's political climate, I generally applaud signs of bipartisanship, no matter how small or inconsequential. But when bipartisanship becomes mere political posturing, and when the posturing causes nonsensical, but drastic, policy

changes, it becomes difficult to support. Such is the case with the newly proposed Constitution Day legislation, which mandates that all schools — kindergarten through college — teach lessons about the U.S. Constitution on Sept. 17 or risk losing federal funding.

This well-intentioned idea was hatched by Sen. Robert Byrd, D-W.Va., a Constitution aficionado who frequently waves a pocket copy of the document when speaking on the Senate floor.

"While our educational system is good at ingraining feelings of respect and reverence for our Constitution, that same system is in need of great improvements in teaching what is actually in the Constitution and just why it is so important to our daily lives," Byrd said in a written statement.

Accordingly, Byrd slipped the Constitution Day Act into the 2005 federal budget bill to "protect and perpetuate our precious Constitution," according to www.constitutionday.com. President George W. Bush signed the proposal into law last month, and students at Pennsylvania State University will start observing Constitution Day in September of this year.

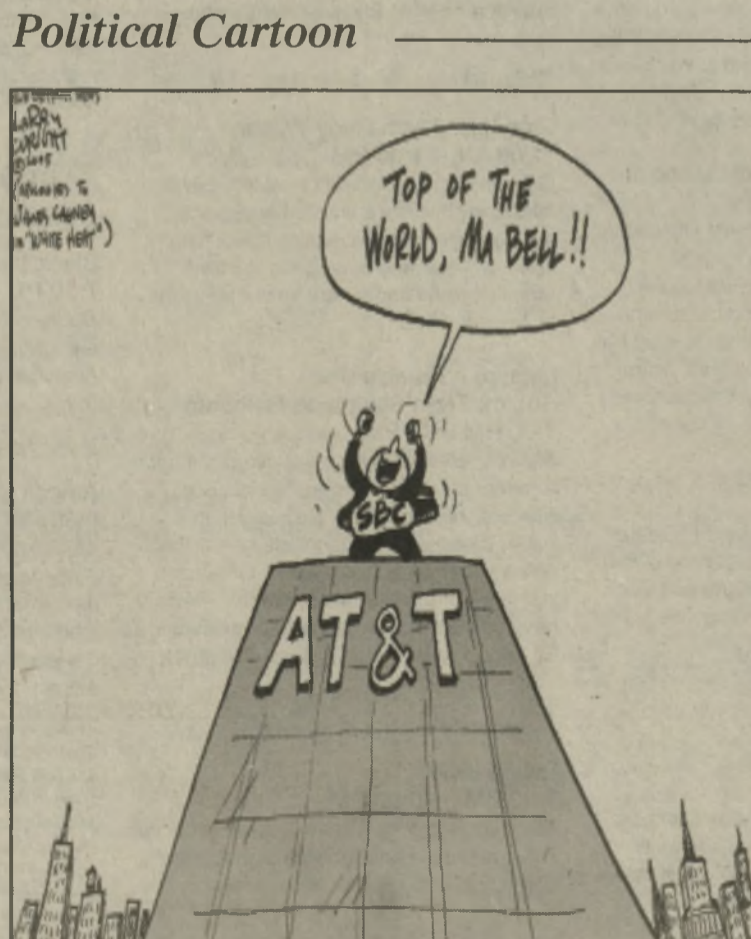
On the surface, I can agree with many of the proposal's goals. I agree the U.S. Constitution is a valuable and significant document. I also admit many Americans are misinformed about its contents, and that our educational system bears some responsibility for this situation. I can even agree

Congress has the right to mandate Constitution Day. After all, when Congress gives schools money, it seems reasonable it might influence their policies. Moreover, congressional laws affecting education are not without precedent. According to the Yale Daily News, during World War I, Congress passed a law requiring schools to teach a course on American values.

Nonetheless, I cannot agree with the Constitution Day Act. First, the circumstances of the law's passage seem highly suspicious. Because Congress has no direct power to regulate education, Byrd's act was hidden in a \$388 billion budget appropriations bill, manipulating fiscal policy to pass a law that is, at best, only marginally fiscal. It is disturbing that something designed to promote Constitution education was passed using means and powers not allocated by the Constitution. More importantly, if Byrd and his allies wanted to require Constitution Day, they should have submitted it as an independent proposal so senators could debate it on its own merits.

Second, even if the government has the power to change education policy, that does not mean it should. In

see CONSTITUTION, page 7



CONSTITUTION

from page 6

general, the trend of American policymaking has been that Congress grants money, and the money is given to experts who decide how to use it. Career politicians, such as Bush and Byrd, whose only educational knowledge stems from their decades-old experience as mediocre students, are no more qualified to design curricula than they are to design aircraft carriers.

Third, requiring observance of Constitution Day has numerous practical problems. For example, Sept. 17, 2005, is a Saturday, and some students may not be able to attend school to receive Constitution lessons. Even if the observed day were moved to the previous Friday or the following Monday, implementation remains unclear. Would engineering and fine arts professors be required to give lectures on the Constitution in their regular courses? Would students miss class to attend campus-wide programs? More importantly, could we all agree on how the Constitution should be taught?

Some schools, such as the University of California, are not yet in session on Sept. 17. In general, the overwhelming impracticality of the Constitution Day legislation only reveals Congress's embarrassing ignorance of how educational institutions work.

It is possible that authors of

the law intended Constitution Day to become something like Martin Luther King Jr. Day – a day devoted exclusively to the study of the Constitution. However, although King Day has become successful through an emphasis on activism and service, the solution to every important and under-taught subject isn't to make a "day" for it.

Ultimately, such a solution shirks our duties as educators. Like the lessons of King Day, the contents of the Constitution need to be a part of everyday education, not reserved for an annual ritual.

There are numerous alternative solutions to improving Constitution knowledge. Teacher-training programs should be encouraged, not required, to include classes on the Constitution so the information can be passed to students. Schools should be encouraged, financially and culturally, to include Constitution courses. Constitution buffs, like Byrd, could even create scholarships for students displaying knowledge of the Constitution – and monetary incentives would definitely have been approved by the Constitution's framers. Unfortunately, the Constitution Day Act of 2005 is simply the wrong way to go.

Jennifer Weiss
Daily Pennsylvanian
University of Pennsylvania

Correction

Parti Gras, a student Marti Gras celebration Friday night, was sponsored by Campus Recreation.

A story in Tuesday's Alestle incorrectly identified the sponsor. The Alestle regrets the error.

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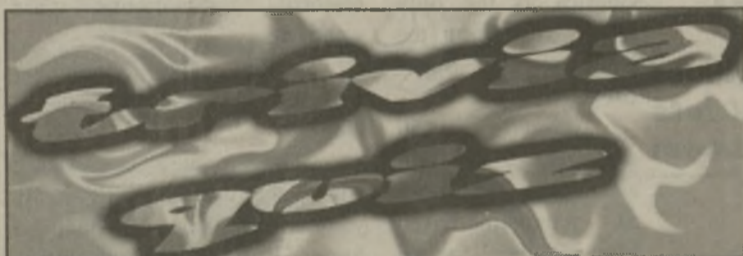
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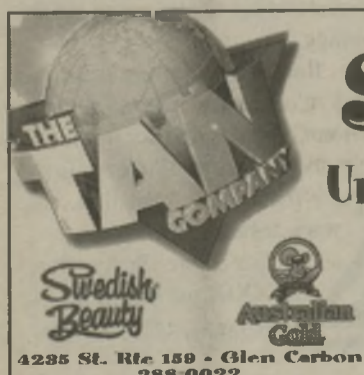
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*Jocelyn Powell won last week's trivia
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More than just a game

For more than 35 years, the Super Bowl has been a symbol of sportsmanship to loyal fans. Today, the game is characterized by multimillion-dollar commercials, extravagant half time shows and theme parties.

CHAVON CURRY
LIFESTYLES STRINGER

Super Bowl XXXIX is right around the corner. The New England Patriots will return to the Super Bowl as the American Football Conference champions for the third time in four years when they face the Philadelphia Eagles, the National Football Conference champions, Sunday at Alltel Stadium in Jacksonville, Fla.

The Patriots will make National Football League history if they win this year. They will be the only team to win three Super Bowl victories in a four-year span.

The Super Bowl is a well-anticipated event for football fans and onlookers.

Dallas businessman Lamar Hunt decided to form the American Football League Aug. 14, 1959. The league was organized and began to play in 1960.

At the time, critics thought the idea of a new conference was crazy, so they called the teams in the new conference the Foolish Club.

The newly founded AFL had an effect on professional football that caused the merging of the American Football League and the National Football League June 8, 1966.

According to www.superbowlhistory.com, the very first Super Bowl took place Jan. 15, 1967, at the Memorial Coliseum in Los Angeles.

The NFL Green Bay Packers and the AFL Kansas City Chiefs went head to head in that game, which resulted in a 35-10 victory for the Packers.

A potential audience of one billion viewers will watch Super Bowl XXXIX. A record 44.4 million viewers watched last year. The Super Bowl is annually the nation's highest-

rated TV program and the most watched single-day sporting event.

Criminal justice junior Valerie Young has faithfully watched the Super Bowl for five years.

"It's something you shouldn't miss, like the (National Basketball Association) playoffs," Young said.

Young, a Philadelphia Eagles fan, said she thinks the Eagles have a good chance of winning because they have a good defensive and offensive line.

For most football fans, the Super Bowl is about sportsmanship and serves as a tradition to watch with friends.

Computer science senior James Mallory said he plans to watch the Super Bowl on a big-screen TV and explained he is a big Eagles fan.

"I'm actually a big 49ers fan, but since Terrell Owens was traded to the Eagles, I'd like for them to win," Mallory said.

While some Super Bowl audiences

watch the game for its sportsmanship, other viewers wait for the commercial breaks, segments that have become a trademark of the Super Bowl. Advertising senior Bethany DuFrenne said she plans to watch the Super Bowl for the commercials.

"I'm not a big football fan, but I like watching the commercials and halftime show," DuFrenne said.

According to a survey taken by advertising agency Eisner Communications Inc. more than one-third of viewers will discuss Super Bowl ads the next day.

The 2005 advertisers paid an average of \$2.4 million for 30

Anheuser Busch, Visa and Pepsi are among the advertisers. New advertisers this year include Careerbuilder.com and Emerald Nuts. Advertisers use the Super Bowl's large audience to sell products.

Even though Super Bowl commercials are highly anticipated, the pre-game and halftime show are the icing on the cake.

Grammy Award winner Alicia Keys will sing "America the Beautiful" prior to the Super Bowl. Keys' performance will mark the third time in Super Bowl history that the song has been sung.

Keys, who has won five Grammys and been nominated for eight more this year, joins Vicki Carr and Ray Charles as the only artists to perform the song at the Super Bowl.

About 150 students will accompany Keys from St. Augustine-based Florida School for the Deaf and Blind, which Charles first attended as a young child in 1937.

This year, the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind is celebrating 120 years of

developing children's potential.

Legendary rocker Paul McCartney will perform in the Amerquest Super Bowl halftime show on Fox. According to www.sportspool.com, "McCartney lives up to this Super Bowl theme of building bridges because his music bridges all generations, countries, cultures and musical genres."

Super Bowl XXXIX kickoff is quickly approaching, and millions of people are already planning their parties.

Why do so many of us want people over for the Super Bowl?

Mass communications junior Stefanie Walker has made watching the Super Bowl a tradition with her family.

She said she enjoys the excitement of knowing the majority of Americans are watching.

Walker also explained why she chooses not to watch it alone.

"The game is boring when you are watching it by yourself," Walker said. "Having a Super Bowl party is always exciting."

Walker said she plans on having pizza, chicken wings and ribs at her party.

Super Bowl parties allow fans to grunt while watching the game and allow non-fans to talk while their friends are occupied watching the game.

Psychology junior Erin Higgs is taking part in a Super Bowl party on campus.

"An organization I'm in called A Cross Between, is hosting a party at 4:30 p.m. in Cougar Village Commons," Higgs said. "We'll have Imo's pizza and hot wings, among other things."

For more information on the Commons Party, contact Ryan Chesnut at 514- 6977.

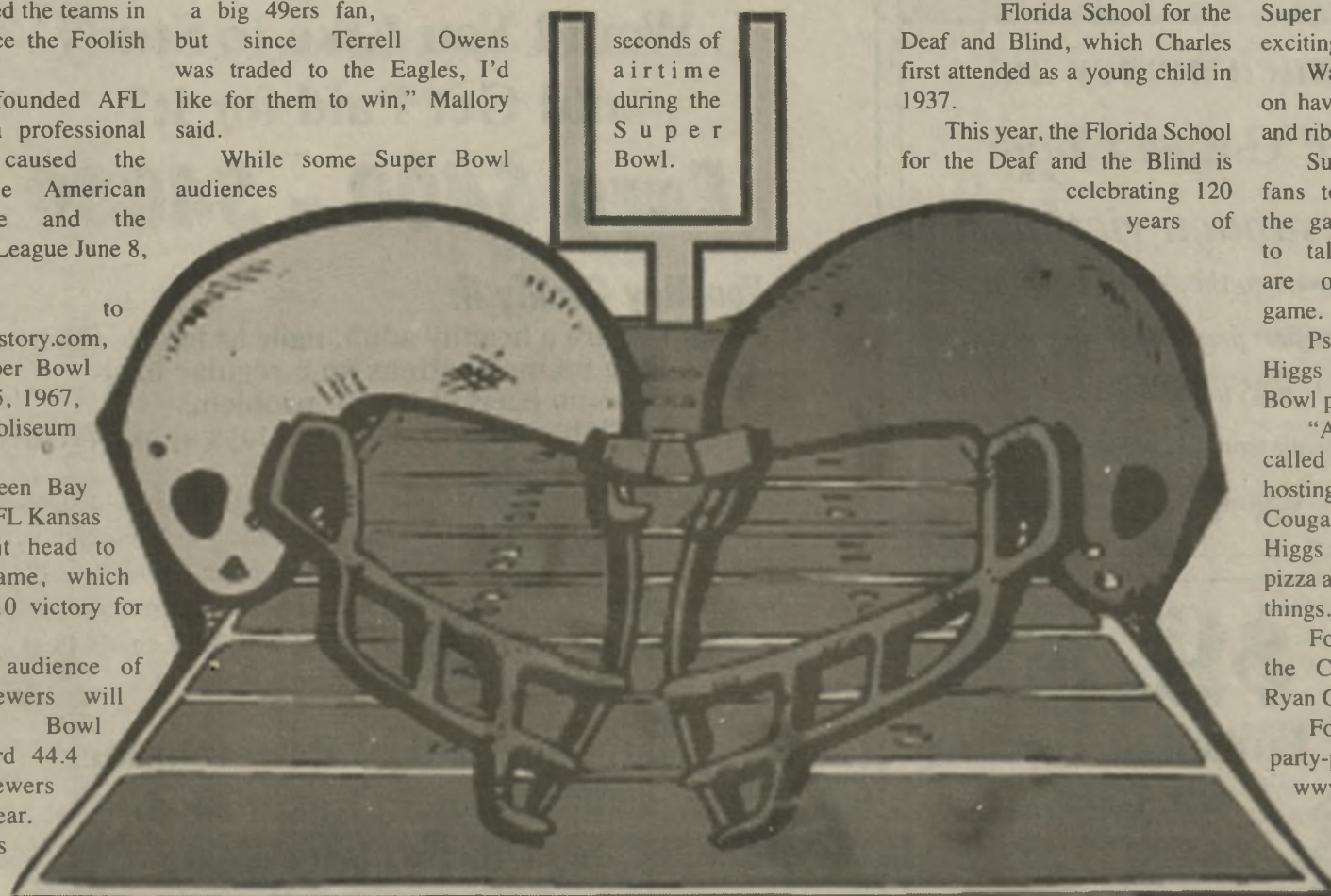
For more Super Bowl party-planning information, visit www.tasteofthenfl.com.

For more Super Bowl XXXIX information, visit www.superbowl.com

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Student starting music career on high notes



PHOTO COURTESY OF LUKE THOMAS

Luke Thomas poses with Richard Marx while volunteering at a Marx concert last fall.

AMBER ERNST
LIFESTYLES STRINGER

SIUE student Luke Thomas spent last summer in Chicago working as an intern for Virgin Records and as an extra in the new "Batman Begins" movie.

"I'm just an average student that happened to stumble across some really great opportunities," Thomas said.

While interning in Chicago, Thomas set up promotional tours for music artists.

His responsibilities included organizing itineraries, confirming hotel reservations and coordinating club runs.

Club runs are unannounced appearances made by artists in clubs to promote themselves by getting in the eye of the public.

Thomas has kept in touch with the people of Virgin Records, and he was able to volunteer at a few events in St. Louis last fall.

"I always asked for business cards when I was in Chicago so that I could maintain contact and keep my foot in the door of the company," Thomas said. "When I heard Lenny Kravitz and Richard Marx were coming to St. Louis, I called the Virgin Records office to receive permission to volunteer at the events."

Thomas was not paid for these particular events, but he enjoyed concerts, free demos, and T-shirts, while working backstage and reinforcing his name in the company.

"Music has always been a major part of my life," Thomas said.

Because his father is a preacher, Thomas has grown up in church and has sung in the choir since the age of seven.

"My whole family is very musical, but I owe most of my skill to my grandmother," Thomas said. "She was always sure to instill music in the kids of the family."

Thomas is predominantly a vocalist but also plays trombone. He sings in the SIUE concert choir, took part in the musical "Godspell" in 2001 at SIUE and has participated in many other theatrical performances.

Thomas' dream is to sing on Broadway, but he has pursued music business as a back-up plan.

"You almost have to get lucky to be a performer," Thomas said. "I have heard of very few performers making it on their own. It's definitely a matter of who you know."

Thomas plans to graduate this semester and apply to major recording companies such as Virgin Records, Capitol Records and EMI.

However, according to Thomas, recording companies are tending to downsize so the best way to find a job is to propose a need for a new position.

Thomas believes there is a need for the promotion of music and artists on college campuses.

"Statistics say that college students are the predominant consumers of recorded music so it only makes sense to promote music and artists to that particular audience," Thomas said.

He hopes to pitch the position of becoming a college campus promoter to these major record companies and start a successful career.

During his internship in Chicago, Thomas stumbled into a

job as an extra in the new "Batman Begins" movie.

"It was a complete fluke," Thomas said. "I gave a friend of mine a ride to the audition site of the 'Batman Begins' movie. My friend suggested I apply to be an extra since I was there, and I was accepted to play the part of a homeless person."

According to Thomas, the cast and crew spent countless hours on the main streets of Chicago shooting take after take. He was also able to meet celebrities such as Christian Bale and Katie Holmes.

"It was a great experience but very tiring and very repetitive," Thomas said. "A great way to meet opportunity is to simply make time for people. I would have never ended up in that movie had I not taken the time to give a friend a ride."

Many people dream of meeting celebrities and making a name for themselves in society, but they figure it is just a dream.

"Just keep your eyes open and keep your options open," Thomas said. "Be careful not to become too focused on one specific goal because often times it becomes hard to see other doors opening right before your eyes."

Thomas explained that he is simply an average student who does not particularly care for school, but found great opportunities through perseverance.

"Don't give up and don't be afraid of new adventures," Thomas said. "At first it was a little scary going up to Chicago by myself and knowing no one, but had I not gone, I would have missed a world of opportunity."

Local bands battle for prize

Shaun Pilat
LIFESTYLES REPORTER

Musical mayhem will break out from 7 p.m. to 1 a.m. Saturday in Dunham Hall Theater during the 6th Annual Battle of the Bands.

The event features 12 local punk rock bands, each performing for 30 minutes. Students can purchase tickets in Dunham Hall for \$5 at the door. Doors open at 6 p.m.

"[The \$5] will get you in and out all night long," Justin Hecht, vice president of the United States Institute of Technical Theater, said.

He said students will have their hands marked, allowing them to come and go as they please. Hecht said this helps students pick and choose which bands they want to see.

The bands include Amnesty Letters, Evil Illegal, Basic, Behind the Stars, Caleb Engstrom, Lark Stur, Faze 3, Star Scream, Hollywood Machine, Con Artist and The Evolutions.

Hecht said each band is part of the leading local punk scene.

He added that their music includes a mix of mellow and hard punk from both experienced and newer performers.

In past battle of the bands, students judged which band was the best. This year a panel of four to five judges will decide the outcome.

"They're part of the music culture in St. Louis," Hecht said about the judges. He said

although the event is going to be judged by a professional panel, the event itself is organized and run entirely by students.

The best band receives a \$220 prize, followed by \$90 for second place and \$50 for third place.

Hecht said he expects the show to attract a lot of people.

"Typically we have a pretty good crowd," Hecht said.

By the middle of the night we'll fill the house completely."

The price of admission helps sponsor a trip to the USITT Annual Conference and Stage Expo. This year the conference is held in Toronto.

Hecht said it's an educational conference featuring workshops and information on new technology and products for the theater industry.

The USITT web site said the conference offered performing arts and entertainment professionals "over 175 sessions featuring design, technology, costume, sound, architecture, management, engineering and production."

Hecht said the battle of the bands functioned as both a fundraiser for USITT and as an annual school tradition. He added that the institute would still sponsor the event even if they stopped using it to raise money for the conference.

For more information about Battle of the Bands, contact Justin Hecht at jhecht@siue.edu or 779-0373.

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DREW WILKE/ALESTLE

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Brewer repeats MUC Late Night Espresso show

Thomas C. Phillips III
LIFESTYLES STRINGER

Grab a seat and a choice beverage during the next installment of the Morris University Center's Late Night Espresso Concert series Feb. 10 at 8 p.m.

The series, which has featured several musicians since its beginning, will showcase the talents of Curtis Brewer on guitar.

Brewer, a junior at SIUE majoring in guitar performance, will perform for the audience during a three and a half hour

showcase.

"We've heard nothing but great things about him," said Tolun Ozarslan, a MUC general assistant. "We look forward to featuring him during our showcase."

A native of Perryville, Mo., Brewer is well-versed in guitar, having taken classes ranging from theory of music to jazz guitar ensemble and beginning improvisation, among others.

In addition to his musical talent, he is a member of the Beta Tau chapter of Alpha Kappa

Lambda Fraternity.

"We want to entertain those who come out to listen to (Brewer) perform," said Ozarslan. "Come out and have a good time."

Those who have Starbucks Frequent Buyer cards will receive a free punch on their card for attending the concert.

The next concert will take place in Starbucks on Thursday, Feb. 17.

For more information on the upcoming Late Night Espresso Concert series or other MUC events, call 650-2305.



Matt Steel and Curtis Brewer performed at a recent Late Night Espresso. Brewer will return Thursday.

PHOTO COURTESY OF TOLUN OZARSLAN

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Cougar kids travel to Africa for Black Heritage Month

Emily Taul
LIFESTYLES STRINGER

With Black Heritage Month just beginning, the Campus Activities Board is sponsoring Voyage through Africa for campus families from 12:30 to 2 p.m. Saturday in the Goshen Lounge of the Morris University Center.

"Because of Black History Month, we wanted to have an event to teach the children about the unique heritage," CAB Family Programming Chair

Erika Sanders said.

Children who attend will have the opportunity to make hats and play trivia from 12:30 to 1 p.m.

There will also be a storyteller, a troupe of drummers and puppeteers.

"The African culture is so unique and united that we want to teach more of the public about the strong background because it's extremely important to know," Sanders said.

African culture specialist Janice Lesane Katambwa will

provide interactive and educational activities with African morals, values and traditions.

The children will also be able to portray characters and interact in the lessons.

"It will be a fun time for all adults and children where they can incorporate their culture and experience a unique afternoon of fun and learning," Sanders said.

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



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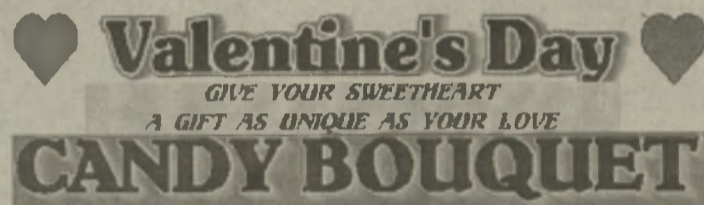
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Saturday, Feb. 5
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visiting artist
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Sports Quote of the Day

"Golf and sex are about the only things you can enjoy without being good at it."

~Jimmy Demaret

Coming Up

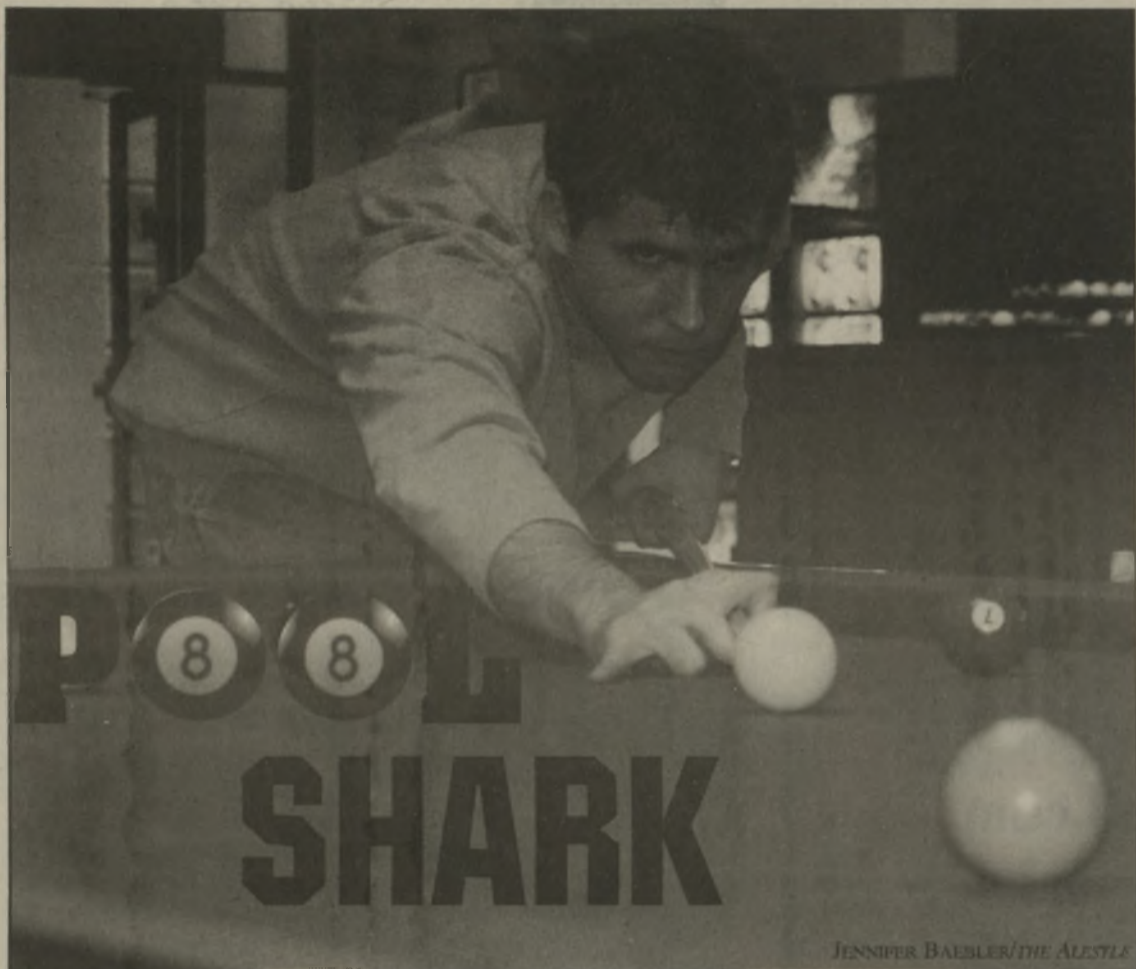
Men's and women's basketball travel to Wisconsin Parkside to take on the Rangers at 5:30, Thursday.



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AleStle

Thursday, February 3, 2005 ◆



Sophomore Lars Vardaman is very quickly becoming one of America's top young pool players

JONG CAMBRON
SPORTS REPORTER

Due to beginner's luck, sophomore Lars Vardaman has been racking up the competition since the day he decided to pick up a cue stick.

Vardaman ran the tables during his first tournament he entered and won first place when he was only 12.

"I got lucky. I didn't know what I was doing," Vardaman said.

Because of the win, Vardaman caught pool fever and started practicing to become one of the best. He played an average of eight hours per day.

While he didn't have any private training, Vardaman said his dad was a good pool player so banking the eight ball off of three rails to drain it in the corner pocket might be in his genes.

Vardaman hangs out at the Morris University Center Recreation Center during his breaks and provides pool tips when asked. People also ask Vardaman to attempt trick shots and he obliges even though he despises them. He once won a junior national artistic pool

championship when he was younger.

"I don't practice them, they are specialized shots only," Vardaman said. "It's harder to play a real game."

Last year at the Association of College Unions International 9-Ball Championship at Ann Arbor, Mich., Vardaman outlasted 15 other regional champions to be crowned national champion. He also participated in the Billiard Congress of America 9-Ball Championships and finished in the top 100 out of 2,000 total entries.

He plans on making a return trip to Las Vegas to participate in the BCA 8-Ball Championships in May. Vardaman will get a chance to repeat as national ACUI 9-ball champion beginning with the regional tournament being held at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis on Feb. 19 and 20.

During last year's BCA tourney, his team won \$5,500 for finishing fifth. He plans on playing the team 8-ball tourney, the scotch doubles, which is a mixed gender tourney with partner Kristin Werner and the

single men's 8-ball tourney.

The payout at the BCA is approximately \$8,000 for first place. Even that amount is not enough for Vardaman to want to turn pro.

"The top two to three pros make around \$100,000 a year, but there is not enough money to be a professional," he said.

Even with his tournament winnings, Vardaman says he enjoys betting up to \$100 while playing pool in local pool halls.

While he cannot remember the total amount of money he has won, he has never had to work during high school and while in college. He has lost money sometimes, but not enough to be seriously hurt.

"I don't play against people I would lose to," he explained.

His extensive traveling for pool has allowed Vardaman to have brushes with greatness. He met world-famous billiards player Jeannette Lee at The Billiard Bullpen in Collinsville. Lee's coach, Mark Wilson, owns The Billiard Bullpen where Vardaman competes in tournaments.

Vardaman once beat the number two men's singles player

Cougar men fall to 11th in latest poll

JONG CAMBRON
SPORTS REPORTER

SIUE men's basketball dropped four more spots to 11th in the most recent National Association of Basketball Coaches Division II poll following the loss to Indianapolis University 87-77 Saturday.

Head coach Marty Simmons has not even taken that into consideration at practice this week, as he is keeping the team's concentration on its play.

"After you lose a tough one like that to Indy, (the ranking) is not even an issue," Simmons said.

The Cougars maintain their perch in the top 25 for the fifth straight week. It is the first time the Cougars have sustained a top 25 ranking for five weeks since the 1987 season.

Simmons hopes the Cougars can regroup and push on as the end of the season nears.

"We have to find a way to bounce back and focus," Simmons said. "And, get that energy back that we had in the beginning of the season."

Since Jan. 4, the Cougars have gone from being ranked 16th to 6th and to 5th in the nation before dropping to 7th and now 11th.

The Cougars stand at 17-4 overall and 10-2 in the Great Lakes Valley Conference, now tied with Southern Indiana University in conference play, with a four-game road trip ahead, starting Thursday at the University of Wisconsin-Parkside. SIUE suffered its first home loss of the season at the hands of Indy on Saturday, making it 12-1 in its domain.

Simmons is taking a step back with the Cougars in terms of offense and handling the ball in pressure situations for the coming games.

"We have more of an emphasis on screening to get guys open and read the defense," Simmons said. "We're just doing a better job of delivering the ball and getting back to the basics to try to get ourselves ready for Parkside."

SIUE travels to play UW-Parkside Thursday at 7:30 p.m. in Kenosha, Wis.



AUBREY WILLIAMS/THE ALESTLE
Freshman guard J.B. Jones takes a 3-point shot against Northern Kentucky last Thursday.

Jose Parica in a match several years ago. Vardaman also defeated Danny Harriman, who was ranked as high as fourth.

"I wasn't scared, just a little nervous," Vardaman said. "I was better than them that day."

He might not be ranked as high as his opponents but they know that it will be a tough

match against Vardaman.

"I want to be the first four-time champion," he said.

"The best anyone has done is win the tournament twice and now they are pros."

With three years of eligibility left, Vardaman begins his quest to become a back-to-back champion in June.

Baseball swinging for a brighter 2005 season

ZACH GROVES
SPORTS REPORTER

Once the crack of the bat echoes through the Vadalabene Center gym, it is a sign that baseball season is just around the corner.

Head coach Gary Collins and his baseball squad spent most of the offseason picking up the pieces from a disappointing 2004 season, when they went 20-32 overall. Collins feels that the team did not necessarily have to make any major changes after the season, but to just play harder and prepare more for the next season.

"We are trying to take the same approach we always take," Collins said. "Last year we did not get very good results, so we're doing the same things, but we are working harder on the details."

Collins focused on upgrading the pitching staff during the offseason, which surrendered twelve losses in one-run games. He did so by signing four pitchers, two of them transfers from community colleges.

One transfer, junior Clay Zavada, was nationally ranked sixth in junior colleges (he pitched for Illinois

Valley Community College) in strikeouts per nine innings with 8.2, striking out 74 hitters in 57 2/3 innings.

In addition to pitching, the Cougars were looking to upgrade a batting order that scored the second fewest runs in the GLVC.

Four position players were signed, three of them transfers, with the potential to make the Cougars' lineup more of a threat this year.

Transfers junior outfielder Jeff Darnall hit .399 with 65 runs batted in at Parkland College and junior second baseman Jeremy Bond finished last season with a .327 average and six stolen bases for Southwestern Illinois College, the ideal leadoff man for Collins.

"(Last year) our bullpen did a poor job and we did not score many runs. Our offense was weak," Collins said. "I think we have improved in both of those areas."

Junior center fielder Joe Wargo is also optimistic about the acquisitions, primarily noting the experience the players will bring. He also liked the idea of improving the bullpen.

"A lot of that has got to do with the pitchers that come in and save the games for you" Wargo said. "(Collins) has brought in a

see BASEBALL, page 14

Schedules, stats and standings

COMING UP

Thursday, Feb. 3

Women's and men's basketball travel to play the University of Wisconsin-Parkside Rangers at 5:30 p.m. (women's) and 7:30 p.m. (men's) in Kenosha, Wis.

Intramural roller hockey faces the start of the season at the Vadalabene Center.

Friday, Feb. 4

Track and field competes at the Notre Dame Mevo Invitational in South Bend, Ind.

Saturday, Feb. 5

Women's and men's basketball travel to play the Lewis University Flyers at 1 p.m. (women's) and 3 p.m. (men's) in Romeoville.

Wrestling attempts to pin Truman State University, Eastern Illinois University and Newman University at 5 p.m. in Kirksville, Mo.

Track and Field continues its road trip in the Titan Open at Bloomington.

Sunday, Feb. 6

Fans, friends and families get together to watch the Super Bowl between the Patriots and Eagles.

TRACK AND FIELD

Indoor Track and Field Invitational
Illinois State, Normal, IL
(Jan. 29)

Women's 1 Mile Run

1. CARDUCCI (SIUE)
2. Ainsley, (ISU)
3. WITTE (SIUE)
4. Callham (ISU)
5. Stockmaster (St. Joe's)

Women's Weight Throw

1. Hagen (Valpo.)
2. Salinas (St. Joe's)
3. Carbaugh (ISU)
4. Zylinski (ISU)
5. DEFEVERS (SIUE)
6. NOLLER (SIUE)

Men's Weight Throw

1. Jackson (ISU)
2. WEEDEN (SIUE)
3. Krantz (ISU)
4. Bell (Valpo.)
5. Hillard (ISU)

Men's Pole Vault

1. WEBER (SIUE)
2. Williams (UIC)
3. Savagnago (UIC)
4. Simpson (UIC)
5. Williams (Valpo.)

Women's Shot Put

1. Zylinski (ISU)
2. NOLLER (SIUE)
3. Hagen (Valpo.)

4. DEFEVERS (SIUE)
5. Mills (St. Joe's)

Men's Shot Put

1. Hillard (ISU)
2. Goodrick (Valpo.)
3. WEEDEN (SIUE)
4. Painter (ISU)

MEN'S BASKETBALL

NABC/Division II National Poll
(As of February 1)

- | | |
|--------------------------|------|
| 1. Minn. St.-Mankato(2) | 19-2 |
| 2. Bentley (5) | 21-2 |
| 3. Findlay (1) | 17-2 |
| 4. West Georgia | 17-2 |
| 5. Fort Lewis | 15-2 |
| 6. Tx. A&M-Commerce | 17-3 |
| 7. Metropolitan State | 16-2 |
| 8. S.C.-Upstate | 15-3 |
| 8. Virginia Union | 15-2 |
| 10. Edinboro | 17-2 |
| 11. SIU Edwardsville | 17-4 |
| 12. Kennesaw State | 15-3 |
| 13. Seattle Pacific | 15-4 |
| 13. Central Missouri St. | 15-4 |
| 15. Florida Gulf Coast | 18-4 |
| 16. Hawaii-Hilo | 18-2 |
| 17. Bowie State | 15-3 |
| 18. Nebraska-Omaha | 17-3 |
| 19. Southern Indiana | 15-4 |
| 20. SW Oklahoma State | 16-3 |
| 21. Pfeiffer | 12-3 |
| 22. Washburn | 17-4 |
| 23. Saint Anselm | 17-4 |
| 24. South Dakota | 16-4 |
| 25. North Dakota | 18-5 |

Campus Recreation www.siu.edu/CREC

Lead Climbing

Tuesday, February 8

5:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Climbing Gym, Vadalabene Center

\$10.00 for SIUE students

\$15.00 for SIUE faculty, staff,
and SFC members

Primary Card required.

Registration Deadline: Jan 24th
at the Student Fitness Center Reception Desk

Call 650-3235 or 650-BFIT

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Women's & Men's Divisions

Registration Due: Time of Event

February 7 & 8

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Saturday, February 19

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Tuesday, February 8
11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Goshen Lounge, MOC

Women in the Workplace

In recent years, women have ascended the corporate ladder to become leaders of successful businesses such as eBay and Avon. There are still struggles as women make an average of 18% less than men. Join Kim Kern, legal council to SIUE, as she leads students and faculty in an informal discussion on this topic.

Wednesday, February 9
11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.
University Club, MUC

Food Chat
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Unmasking the Cougar

JONG CAMBRON
SPORTS REPORTER

With only two games remaining to prove himself for next season, freshman Josh Renth, better known as SIUE's mascot "The Cougar," hopes to continue his role next year by impressing the cheerleading coach.

Renth said he became the lucky cat because the cheerleading coach, Ariene Cheney, noticed him at a basketball game before the semester break and popped the question to him.

"She saw me when I had my whole body covered in red paint with a giant cougar paw painted on my chest while I was wearing a wild afro wig," Renth said.

Renth began his mascot career on Jan. 6 and has been sweating and cheering during women's and men's basketball games ever since.

"I plan on doing it next season," Renth said. "(The coach) hasn't really said anything definite for next year though."

Renth said he would be very disappointed if he didn't get to be the "top cat" on campus, even though his mom and younger brother laugh about his job.

Acting as the team's mascot is no laughing matter to Renth. He is even trying to learn stunts and flips to try to retain the job next season.

Despite his efforts, Cheney wants Renth to keep the routine simple. It's not that she doesn't believe he can do it, but rather, it's a matter of keeping his head on straight.

A headless Cougar, it



JONG CAMBRON/THE ALESTLE

Freshman Josh Renth has made a name for himself at SIUE by being the Cougar mascot.

seems, is not part of the job description.

"I was able to do those (flips) in practice but there would be a lot of kids crying if my head fell off," Renth said.

Renth enjoys the attention he receives from the kids and parents who adore his fur and claws. He is asked to have his picture taken with children during breaks throughout the game. He has not been asked for his paw print, but it might be because he tries to keep his identity under wraps.

"I try to keep it on the (down low) about being the mascot, but more and more people are finding out about me," Renth said.

The only negative aspect of being the mascot is the temperature inside the costume. Renth is drenched in sweat at the end of games and has even lost weight since the beginning

of his run as the Cougar.

"It is ungodly hot in there," Renth said. "It surprises me that it doesn't smell."

He added that despite the temperature, the perks of hanging out with the cheerleaders and opportunities to meet new people outweigh the negatives.

While only allowed to dress up during home basketball games, Renth says he dreams about taking a girl out on a first date dressed as the Cougar.

Only time will tell if that will happen, but Renth really wishes for a chance to travel to the University of Southern Indiana to pick a fight with the Screaming Eagle.

"The little eagle is only four feet tall and getting in a fight with another mascot would be the highlight of the season," Renth said.

BASEBALL

from page 13

lot of good transfers from junior colleges and the kids have learned a lot there, so I think we should be pretty good."

Last season, the strength of the Cougars was starting pitching. That trend should continue this season, according to Collins.

"Our starting pitching was solid (last season) and we have four of our five starters back," Collins said.

Senior pitcher Ron Jones led the staff last season in wins with six and with a 1.42 E.R.A. in 12 appearances. He earned All-GLVC honors last season and second team All-Region for his performances. The involvement Jones has in Cougar athletics goes past the baseball diamond. He is also an assistant to head coach Marty Simmons with the men's

basketball program.

"Ronnie (Jones) was probably our best pitcher last year," Collins said.

Senior first baseman Craig Ohlau admits the toughest aspect of the offseason is the habit of getting up really early to practice. The Cougars start practice at 6:15 in the morning and finish up around 8:15.

"It's been pretty hard because we get up about 5:30 every morning coming in," Ohlau said. "But your body gets used to it and you go with it."

"It's fun," he added.

Throughout the mornings, the team splits up into sections, hitting in the batting cages on one end of the gym and taking fielding practice and pitching in on the other end.

Collins hopes to push the

team outside within the next two weeks before they travel to take on NCAA Division II national champion Delta State University on Feb. 19 in Florence, Ala.

"I realize they probably have been outside more since (Delta State) is from Mississippi," Collins said. "But the skills are the same. (The Cougars) have been playing baseball all of their lives, and you hope that they adjust pretty quickly to being back out on the field."

Even if it takes the team a while to pick up speed on the actual diamond, Collins is confident the Cougars will put up a good fight at the beginning of the season.

"I expect us to go down (to Alabama) and compete," Collins said.

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Peck Bldg., Room 3302, 3rd Floor*
- Sat. Feb. 5: 3 p.m.
*St. Louis County Library (East Room)
(Lindbergh Blvd., just South of Highway #40
across from Plaza Frontenac)*
- Sun. Feb 13: 3 p.m.
*Wild Oats Community Market
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SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
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Classified & Personals

◆ PAGE 16

A l e s t l e

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2005 ◆

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Web Radio is always looking for new talent! Positions available include DJ's, Producers, Promotion Coordinators, Graphic Designers, and more. Anyone interested in joining a fun and fulfilling student organization should contact Erin at eschaus@siue.edu or 650-3267. 2/03/05

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5th/6th Grade Volleyball Staff Wanted! The Collinsville Area Recreation District is hiring for 5th/6th grade Volleyball Coaches. Pay is \$6.50 hourly. Hours Monday & Wednesday 3:30 to 8:30p.m. Tuesday & Thursday 3:30 to 6:30 p.m. Season runs February through April. Please contact CARD at 346-7529 or apply in person at: Collinsville Area Recreation District, 10 Gateway Drive, Collinsville, IL. 62234. 2/03/05

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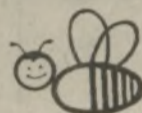
Ladies and Gentleman, come join the strongest people on campus. The SIUE Powerlifting Club has an informational meeting on Wednesday, February 16, 2005, at 5:00 p.m. in the VC, Room 2001. Direct questions or comments to Joshua Reyes at jreyes@siue.edu or 618-910-9449. 2/15/05

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THE WEDDING DATE (PG-13) 2:00 4:50 7:10 9:30
MILLION DOLLAR BABY (PG-13)
12:10 3:40 6:50 10:00
HIDE & SEEK (R) 1:00 4:10 7:20 9:50
SIDEWAYS (R) 12:30 3:20 6:20 9:10
FINDING NEVERLAND (PG)
1:50 5:00 8:00 10:30
ARE WE THERE YET? (PG) 1:10 4:00 7:15 9:40
PHANTOM OF THE OPERA (PG-13)
12:20 3:30 6:40 9:55
RACING STRIPES (PG) 1:30 4:20 7:00
IN GOOD COMPANY (PG-13) 1:20 4:30 7:40 10:15
COACH CARTER (PG-13) 12:00 3:10 6:30 9:45
WHITE NOISE (PG-13) 9:20 ONLY
MEET THE FOCKERS (PG-13) 1:40 4:40 7:30 10:20

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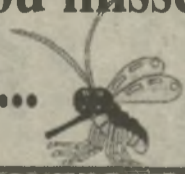
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