

Index

| | |
|-------------|-----|
| News | 1-3 |
| Opinion | 5 |
| A&E | 6-7 |
| Sports | 8-9 |
| Puzzles | 11 |
| Classifieds | 12 |

The Alestle

Alton - East St. Louis - Edwardsville

Tuesday's Online Edition

- E-mail issues mending
- Maya Angelou
- Comfortable fall for softball

www.alestlelive.com

Thursday, October 1, 2009

www.alestlelive.com

Vol. 62, No. 10



Derrick Hawkins/Alestle

Senior elementary education major Alyssa Bussmann from Edwardsville and sophomore nursing major Jessica Kostenbader sit at the Up 'til Dawn table. Up 'til Dawn starts Oct. 22 2 to 11 p.m. at the Vadalabene Center.

iRecognition

by Clay Beyersdorfer
Alestle Reporter

SIUE left a mark on the Internet world on Sept. 5, thanks to a group of locals from the SIUE community, who have a passion for space and astronomy.

Some alumni and students of SIUE recently won the Parsec Award for the Best Infotainment Podcast, for a podcast they created about the field of astronomy, titled "365 Days of Astronomy" or "365DoA."

"365DoA" is a series of podcasts, one produced daily by a different expert or group with knowledge of the specific day of the year. This year marks the 400th anniversary of the first year Galileo used his telescope to study the sky.

The award was given out at the Dragon*Con convention held in Atlanta, Ga. The Parsec Awards were started in 2006 to celebrate podcasting on a national level. Dragon*Con is one of the largest multi-media, pop-culture conventions held in the United States. The focus of the convention is on science fiction and media that involves topics related to any field of science in the United States.

"365DoA" was one of five finalists, after being selected from a field of 50 nominated shows.

Fans nominated the selected podcasts, and the finalists were chosen by a group of judges. Awards were given out in several categories, ranging from best audio quality to best content.

Podcasts produced by the SIUE alumni and students have had success in the past, but nothing on this level. In 2007

and 2008, the same group produced a podcast titled "Astronomy Cast" and was a finalist for the People's Choice Podcast Awards. This year, however, marked the first year that the group brought home a prize.

Pamela Gay, the head of the "365DoA" project and a SIUE professor in the Physics Department, said she was happy with the result the podcast earned.

"It was such a great feeling to know that we had won. I was shocked at first, just honestly speechless," Gay said. "It's amazing to see how passionate people around the world are about the field of astronomy."

Gay also credited other members in the group including graduate students Preston Gibson, the show's main producer, Georgia Bracey, Kortney Hogan, and colleague Nancy Atkinson, who acted as the project manager. Undergraduate students David Flateau, Michael Koppelman, Emily Lakdawalla, Stuart Lowe, Martin Ratcliffe and Robert Simpson also contributed to the project.

The team is responsible for the audio and overall production of the podcasts they receive, all done here on production equipment owned by SIUE.

Gay said the hard work of the entire team is what made the project such a success.

"The astronomy community here is really tight-knit, and when I was asked to be a part of this, I immediately said yes," Gay said. "I am so proud of the hard work

PODCAST/page.2

A cleaner slate

Blackboard receives upgrades with some smudges

by Sarah Jacobsen
Alestle Reporter

This fall, SIUE's course management system, Blackboard, acquired several new features with its update from version 6.3 to version 8.0.

According to the Information Technology Services Web site, Blackboard 8.0's interface is virtually the same, but the grade center and discussion boards have acquired new features. ITS made workshops and online tutorials available to interested faculty members to help them transition between Blackboard versions smoothly.

Many faculty members have familiarized themselves with the new system and identified its added features. Mass communications professor Musonda Kapatamoyo said the Blackboard's new enhanced features have increased its functionality.

"I can easily download paper assignments in the grade center, grade them online and post grades with comments without printing a single paper," Kapatamoyo said.

Professor of psychology Mike Dudley said not much is different in terms of posting items in Blackboard 8.0.

"The new version does provide professors with some pretty nifty assessment and evaluation tools, however," Dudley said.

According to mass communications professor

Tom Atwood, not all of Blackboard 8.0's updates are positive.

"The main difference I have noticed is the new version does not give students a running total of possible points during the semester, so it is more difficult for them to see where they stand," he said.

The new Blackboard still has a few kinks as well, according to Dudley.

"Links work OK on some computers, but not others, or [students] are sometimes prevented from retaking self-assessments, which are set up to all student to take them as many times as they like," Dudley said. "Overall, though, I definitely feel as though the advantages of Blackboard far outweigh the minor inconveniences it sometimes poses."

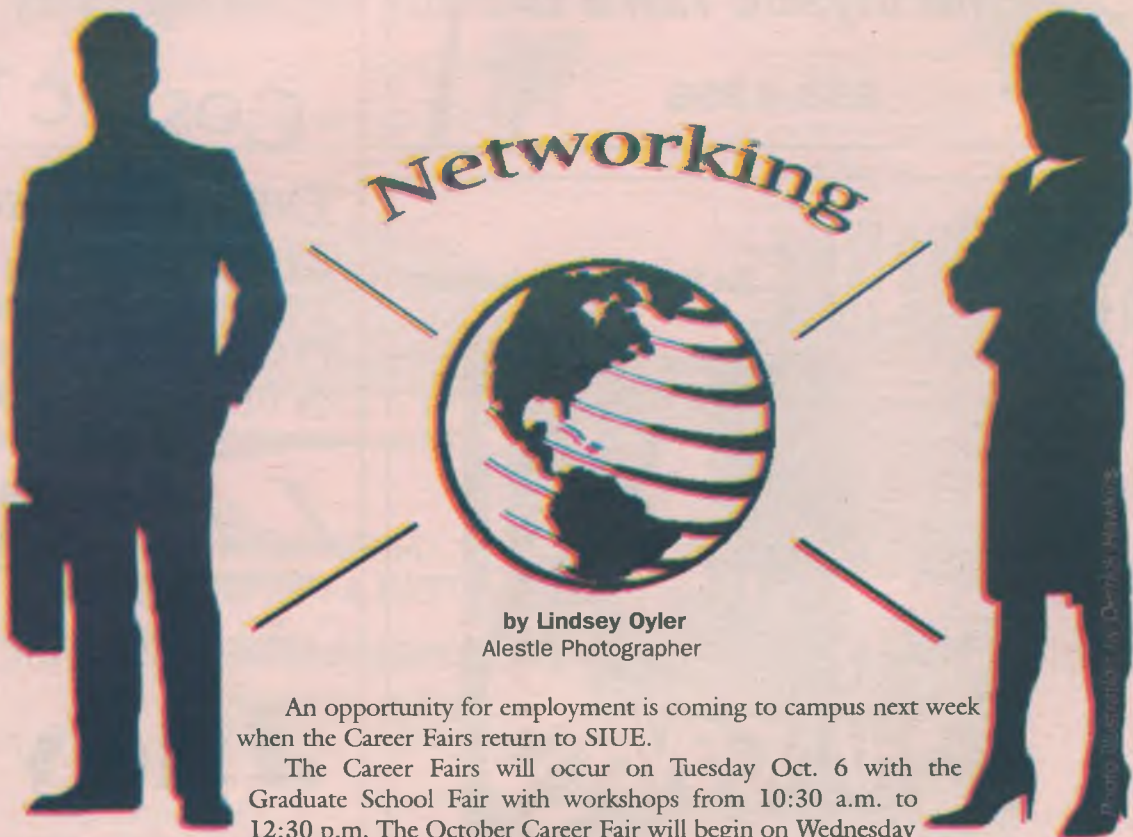
Students and faculty have found that Blackboard contributes both benefits and detriments to teaching and learning. Individual faculty members make decisions regarding the use of Blackboard as a classroom resource.

A professor in the Theatre and Dance Department, Lex van Blommestein, said Blackboard is an asset in lecture-based classes, but not in all classes.

"As a professor of the arts, Blackboard isn't something that I use. It doesn't have the personal touch that the work my students produce need," he said

BLACKBOARD/page.3

Career Fairs returning to SIUE



by Lindsey Oyler
Alestle Photographer

An opportunity for employment is coming to campus next week when the Career Fairs return to SIUE.

The Career Fairs will occur on Tuesday Oct. 6 with the Graduate School Fair with workshops from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The October Career Fair will begin on Wednesday and continue into Oct. 8. All fairs will be from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Career Development Center office worker Bailey Conover said the various fairs are a way to shed initial fears of interviewing.

"The fairs help with nerves when you get to know an employer," Conover said. "You can get an on-campus interview when some employers set up a later date in the office. They give interviews based on resume and personality."

Different focuses are on different days to help relieve heavy student traffic. Wednesday employers cater

GRAD FAIR/page.2

Crimes on campus decrease in 2008

by **Rosie Githinji**
Alestle Opinion Editor

Burglaries are on the rise but other crimes remain stagnant, according to the annual security report sent by e-mail to students.

Each year the university is required to send a copy of annual reports as mandated by the Jeanne Clery Act, which requires by federal law, formerly known as the Federal Student Right to Know and Campus Security Act of 1990.

The total number of reported burglaries is nine, going up from four in 2006 and 2007. According to Lt. Kevin Schmoll, of the SIUE police department, more burglaries are in the residential areas of Cougar Village and the residence halls.

There are also many types of offenses that are reported on the main campus and in the residential areas, according to Schmoll.

"There are different crimes that occur in the [residence] halls are underage drinking, unlawful possession or some type of verbal dispute," Schmoll said. "Really in the core area you do have some thefts during the day. Most common, day to day, is theft anywhere on campus and are mostly crimes of opportunity."

The SIUE police department also sends out e-mails and text messages to let students know what they should be aware of on campus, according to Schmoll.

"Every month there is a crime tip that goes out by e-mail," Schmoll said. "If something occurs then a safety bulletin is sent out."

The text message alerts are being used more to send students messages regarding events on campus, and Schmoll said students have signed up

for it by the thousands. Schmoll also said the alerts that are sent out are tailored to students, such as e-mails that are sent only to students on campus or in a particular residence hall.

Senior political science and history major Cory Bosco of East Alton does not live on campus, but spends a lot of his time on it. He said he feels safe on campus any time of the day or night.

"During the day I think nothing of it because there are so many people around," Bosco said. "It's just when I am walking down to parking lot 7, it is always really eerie. There is not that much lighting and there is nobody out there."

Bosco said there should be more patrols on campus.

"What I would like to see is more of a presence of cops patrolling at night," Bosco said. "I do think we have one of the safest campuses in the area."

Senior manufacturing engineer major Yonatan Gebre of Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, said there have been times when he spent the night on campus, even though he does not live in one of the residential areas.

"Around the buildings its pretty safe," Gebre said. "The farther off you get, past the engineering building and the dorms, it might not be as safe."

Gebre said there is not enough lighting and he would not try to walk from the campus to Cougar Village during the night, but he does not feel unsafe. He said that if the high traffic areas should have more of a police presence.

"Usually if you walk around the main campus area, it feels pretty safe," Gebre said. "I think I feel safe on campus."

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PODCAST/ from pg. 1

that everyone put in, and the success is just a testament to all of our hard days of work. I have people from Harvard and Oxford University ask me where these students are from, and when I tell them SIUE, they are blown away. These small groups of students are only the tip of the great science community we have here on campus."

The podcast episodes are written, recorded and produced daily by people around the world. Each day has a specific topic or theme based on the 365 Days of Astronomy calendar, a daily calendar of astronomical events, themes and ideas created by the International Year of Astronomy. Pamela Gay is an active member and is credited with much of the projects that are taking place.

Nancy Atkinson, the project manager of "365DoA," said the whole process has been one experience worth taking part in.

"It's been great to meet people from around the world who contribute to this project we started," Atkinson said. "We just put the word out there and the response we received was from a tremendous amount of people."

According to IYA's Web site, even though each episode differs daily, they all tie into the overall theme, which is the love and appreciation of astronomy.

For example, Tuesday's podcast came from Harold Goldner, a lawyer from Pennsylvania who has been looking out his telescope since he was 6 years old. In Goldner's podcast, the issue of legality on whether or not anyone should be allowed to blast off into space is discussed in the 10-minute long audio production.

"I think about life outside of the world, and what lies beyond what we can see with a telescope," Goldner says in his podcast. "I wonder constantly if it is morally right to try and find what is out there, or just leave the beauty of space alone."

Goldner is one of the many types of people IYA is encouraging to be a part of the daily updates.

According to their Web site, "anyone with something to say about astronomy in grades K-12, college and graduate students, and even professionals in the respected field should step up."

More information about these events and IYA in general can be found at www.astronomy2009.us and www.astronomy2009.org.

Clay Beyersdorfer can be reached at cbeyersdorfer@alestlelive.com or 650-3524.

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FRIDAY FREE FLICK OCT 2ND 6PM ABBOTT AUDITORIUM



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Come watch the pre-home release of
The Hangover and enjoy some
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\$15 per lane, which gets you:

2 hours free bowling
Free shoe rental
A medium pizza from Pizza Hut (no special orders)

Late Night Espresso

Come listen to the relaxing music of

Judy Koen



Thursday, October 1st
8:00-11:30pm in Starbucks

Presented by the Morris University Center. Visit us online at www.siu.edu/MUC

BLACKBOARD/ from pg. 1

Dudley said, he “can’t imagine why a professor on campus would not use Blackboard.

“From a course management perspective, it is extremely helpful to provide students with a one-stop resource for course materials — notes, links, announcements, assignments, grades, etc.”

Dudley said his students “always know that anything they need for the class can be found on Blackboard.”

Kapatamoyo also uses Blackboard in his classes.

“It keeps a track record of my discussions, assignments, grades, course materials and PowerPoints for all who have access to check at any time,” Kapatamoyo said. “[Students] can never get lost with course materials all placed in one shell.”

Many students like this online availability of course materials, such as freshman accounting major Brook Mansfield.

“I think all teachers should have [Blackboard] because if they have it then we can print their notes off it,” Mansfield said. “My economy teacher uses it. I print her notes off because she goes through her PowerPoint slides so fast.”

Another widely-used Blackboard feature is the grade center.

“[Student’s] grades are kept current so students can always

gauge how well they are doing in the course,” Dudley said. “Using the grade book also helps me identify when particular students may be having trouble with the course, so I can then contact them and arrange a meeting to try to bring the performance back up to the level they would like.”

Atwood said the grade center also helps avoid grading mistakes.

“It also helps avoid confusion and clarify errors in posting grades,” Atwood said. “I like for all grades to be available where I can see them, and the students can see them, so if there is an error, or typo, it can be corrected quickly instead of at the end of the semester.”

Atwood said there are drawbacks to online grade books also.

“It does take some time to post grades for each assignment,” Atwood said. “Sometimes in the past, the server seems to be extremely slow, which makes the process take even longer. It would be easier to just keep the grades in my grade book, but I feel like it is worth the time it takes to post them online.”

Another popular Blackboard feature is the ability to organize assignments, according to Dudley.

“I use Blackboard not only as a resource for students, but also to assign reading quizzes,

which students take on Blackboard, and even self-assessments in preparation for exams,” Dudley said.

While online assignments are a positive feature for some students and faculty, others consider this feature a negative one. Senior math major Josh Jackson said it is a pain to have online homework and interactive assignments instead of physical one.

“Especially if you have Internet problems, it’s just frustrating,” Jackson said.

Senior psychology major Nate Geist said he does not think Blackboard should replace work done in the actual classroom.

“[Teachers] should not rely too heavily on the system to communicate class work. If I wanted to rely on electronic systems to earn class credit, I’d take an online course. I expect the majority of my learning and communication to come while in the classroom because that is what I’m paying for.”

Geist also said Blackboard should not be overused.

“[Blackboard] would be better used if it was even used less,” Geist said. “I think Blackboard should be for posting of grades and notes and syllabus only,” he said.

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GRAD FAIR/ from pg. 1

to School of Business and College Arts & Sciences, while Thursday is for engineers.

“The fairs are extremely helpful,” Conover said. “There’s usually a pretty big turn-out, and even if a student doesn’t get an on-campus interview, it’s a way to network themselves.”

According to the Director of Career Development Center Jean Paterson, career fairs are a pastime of college campuses, and the fairs cycle along with the economy.

“[The economy] has affected us. It always does,” Paterson said. “We’ve seen the ups and downs on a cycle, and as the economy goes back up, it’ll go back up.”

However, according to office workers, the changing economy naturally results in hiring freezes, or pauses on professional job availability because that’s how it is set up.

“They were doing [career fairs] in the 1970s,” Office Support Associate Letitia Schumacher said. “In the ‘80s, we were lucky to have 50 companies, but then our contact system changed a lot. You can’t even judge it this year because of the economy. We have 98 companies registered and spread out over two days so far. In recent years we’ve had as many as 200.”

Despite the current less-than successful economy, career fairs still have other purposes aside from hiring, and therefore, bring in an efficient turnout.

“I’ve been here for 15 years,”

Paterson said, “and the career fairs have grown even with the bad economy. It was not a huge decrease at the moment, and there are jobs out there.”

One suggested genre of employment remains with a company involved in everyday lifestyle.

“If a student is not looking into federal employment,” Paterson said, “they’re missing out. The government is looking to replace the baby boomers. There’s a lot of opportunities for students such as internships, co-ops and full-time hire at graduation.”

Another fair is the Health Careers Fair on Nov. 16 from 3 to 6 p.m. in the Morris University Center’s Meridian Ballroom as well. Also, career fairs not endorsed by SIUE may present on campus in the future.

“It lets employers see what SIUE is made of, and lets students look at employers that they might not ordinarily think about,” Schumacher said.

The Career Development Center can be reached at 650-3708 and offers a variety of “crash-courses” for inexperienced students in a professional sense.

“You can’t sit back and wait,” Paterson said. “Everyone should come prepared and talk to an employer. You have to have a co-op or internship before you graduate. This will help.”

Lindsey Oyler can be reached at loyler@alestlelive.com or 650-3527.

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Schedule of Events • October 5-11

Monday, October 5 King and Queen Voting

10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
MUC Goshen Lounge

Soda Shop

11 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Peck Hall

Spirit Contest Chalk Mural Contest

Designs to be completed
by Noon
Various locations

Lobby & Lawn

Decorating Contest
Designs to be completed
by Noon
*Residence Halls &
Cougar Village*

Golf Cart Parade

Noon
Stratton Quadrangle

Tuesday, October 6 King and Queen Voting

10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
MUC Goshen Lounge

Free Donuts

Sponsored by TheBank
of Edwardsville
9 a.m. - 11 a.m.
Stratton Quadrangle

Cougar Cake Decorating Contest

11 a.m. - 1 p.m.
MUC Goshen Lounge

Red Cross Homecoming Blood Drive

11 a.m. - 4 p.m.
MUC Conference Center

Live Wire

11:30 p.m. - 12:30 p.m.
MUC Goshen Lounge

Recliner Race

Noon
MUC Stratton Quadrangle

Wednesday, October 7 Soda Shop

11 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Engineering Building Lobby

Cougar Karaoke

11 a.m. - 1 p.m.
MUC Goshen Lounge

Thursday, October 8 Homecoming Pep Rally and Bonfire

6:30 p.m.
Woodland Bowl

Student Government BBQ

6:30 - 8:30 p.m.
Woodland Bowl

Homecoming Dance

Sponsored by Residence
Housing Association
9 p.m. - 11:30 p.m.
*Student Activities Center
(Student Fitness Center)*

Friday, October 9 Eighth Annual Chili Cook - Off

6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Korte Stadium

AlumniZone Hospitality Tent

Begins 6 p.m.
Korte Stadium

SIUE Men's Soccer vs. Alabama A&M

7 p.m.
Korte Stadium

Homecoming King and Queen Coronation

Conclusion, Men's Soccer
Game
Korte Stadium

Kick For Cash - \$20,000 Prize

Conclusion, Men's Soccer
Game
Korte Stadium

Casino Night

9 p.m.
*MUC Goshen Lounge
and Meridian Ballroom*

Saturday, October 10 SIUE Cross Country

Border Wars
10 a.m.
SIUE Cross Country Course

SIUE Club Baseball Alumni Softball Game

Alumni vs. Current Players
10:30 a.m.
Rec Plex Softball Field

SIUE Club Volleyball Alumni Game

10:30 a.m.
*Activity Center
(Student Fitness Center)*

Reunion Row/ Tailgating/Live Band

11 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Korte Stadium

AlumniZone Hospitality Tent SIUE Club Football Game

Begins 11 a.m.
Korte Stadium

SIUE Club Football Game vs. University of New Orleans

1 p.m.
Korte Stadium

Ice Hockey Club Alumni Game

3 p.m.
East Alton Ice Arena

SIUE Alumni Hall of Fame Dinner

6:30 p.m. Cocktails
7:30 p.m. Dinner
*N.O. Nelson Center
(By invitation only)*

Sunday, October 11 SIUE Women's Soccer vs. Drake

1 p.m.
Korte Stadium

The Alestle
Alton - East St. Louis - Edwardsville

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Letters to the Editor Policy:

The editors, staff and publishers of the Alestle believe in the free exchange of ideas, concerns and opinions and will publish as many letters as possible. Letters may be turned in at the Alestle office located in the Morris University Center, Room 2022 or via e-mail at opinion@alestlelive.com.

All hard copy letters should be typed and double-spaced. Letters should be no longer than 500 words.

Please include phone number, signature, class rank and major.

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

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

We reserve the right to reject letters.

About the Alestle:

One copy of the Alestle is no charge. Additional copies cost 25 cents.

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

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Have a comment? Let us know!

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Get your name in the paper without the court date. Become a guest columnist at the Alestle.

Hispanic Heritage Month largely ignored by SIUE

The contributions and cultures of Americans of Spanish, Mexican, Caribbean and Central or South American descent are celebrated in the United States each year during Hispanic Heritage Month. On campuses across America, including our Carbondale counterpart, students will learn about prominent Latino and Hispanic culture through guest speakers, dance lessons, musical performances, film screenings, photography exhibits and other such cultural activities.

SIUE students, however, may not even be aware that Sept. 15 through Oct. 15 is national Hispanic Heritage Month.

A performance by Teatro Milagro, sponsored by the Department of Foreign Languages, is listed on the university's events page as "part of Hispanic Heritage Month." Though the implication is that other activities will be taking place to commemorate HHM, a search for other events turned up no matches.



Liz Lebron

The university's inactivity is surprising given that Latinos, which make up 15.9 percent of Illinois population, have been at the forefront of the nation's cultural and political landscape during the past year.

Henry Cejudo, son of Mexican immigrants, brought honor to the United States when he came home with a gold medal in wrestling from the Beijing Olympic Games.

As a crewmember aboard the space shuttle Discovery, Joseph Acaba became the first Puerto Rican-American in space last spring. Bill Richardson, New Mexico's governor and one of the nation's top diplomats, ran for president during the last election cycle. Then there is Justice Sonia Sotomayor, whose confirmation as the country's first Hispanic Supreme Court justice continues to dominate the headlines.

Add to this list the accomplishments of prominent sports and entertainment figures like Roberto Clemente, Albert Pujols and Chita Rivera, a recipient of this year's Presidential Medal of Freedom, and it's even more puzzling that SIUE is not celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month.

While the university has a responsibility to promote cultural understanding on campus

and should incorporate HHM into that mission, it is ultimately up to the students to take action.

If you are concerned about U.S.-Mexico trade relations, invite the consul general to campus for a discussion of NAFTA's effects on Mexico's economy. If someone in your family is undocumented, host a round table discussion on immigration with community leaders. If you take issue with media portrayals of Hispanics, invite a faculty member to talk about diversity in the media during a Food Chat. Only your own complacency can silence you.

During the course of the next year, I pledge to start a new trend on campus. I will reach out to relevant organizations like the Campus Activities Board and work to create greater awareness of HHM on campus.

I urge the administration to embrace Hispanic Heritage Month next year, and I invite my fellow Latinos on campus to join me in making sure that we are represented next September.

Liz Lebron is a guest columnist and graduate student from St. Louis, Mo. She can be reached at mlcbron@siue.edu or 650-3527.

Government blows whistle on Facebook

Earlier this week a popular Facebook application was shut down thanks to some inappropriate material.

The application, a popular poll creating Web site, is designed to work with Facebook and allow its users to post personally made polls.

One Facebook user created a poll asking if President Barack Obama should be killed.

I won't argue with the law, threats made against the president of the United States are a felony, and the idiot who created that poll deserves to sit in jail for a while, if for nothing more than being the idiot he or she is.

What I don't like is the simple fact that our government is now policing Facebook

and restricting certain applications one person abused.

Under the previous administration, it became legal for our government to monitor our phone calls if they (the government) deemed us to be related to a terrorist organization.

No ground rules were set down for the population stating what constitutes a relationship with a terrorist organization or even what constitutes a terrorist organization. And considering the general opinion of anyone who expressed an anti-war sentiment, placing a "Make love, not war" bumper sticker on your car could have been relation enough for some.

Under our current administration, it has become common now to monitor our Internet use, even sites that give the user the space to create a personalized page meant to share with friends and family.

The content, unlike something like

child pornography, does not cause harm to anyone and did not cause harm in its creation. It's simple. It was an idiot unfortunately practicing their First Amendment right.

I could understand if the application creator removed the poll and put in place some safety that barred any user from creating a poll that voices some form of violence.

Many citizens would agree that free speech should not give anyone the right to voice violence.

But to completely remove the application is going too far. I should not be punished for someone else's stupidity, nor should anyone else. And I don't want the government snooping through my Facebook page making sure I'm not being stupid.

Jill Cook is a graduate student from St. Louis, Mo. She can be reached at jcook@alestlelive.com.

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PostSecret

Frank Warren asks SIUE for its secrets



by Aren Dow
Alestle Managing Editor

In an auditorium with the lights dimmed, students found courage to speak into a microphone and reveal their darkest secrets to 800 of their peers.

Their confessions Tuesday night ranged from sneaking into the show to feeling responsible for the death of their 6-year-old cousin.

The secrets were shared in the Meridian Ballroom as part of the project PostSecret, an event where anyone is invited to share their deepest secrets. Creator, Frank Warren, given the title of the "most trusted stranger in America," started the PostSecret idea as an art project five years ago. The idea was to have people send their darkest secrets anonymously on a postcard to Warren. Since then, it has taken a life of its own, accumulating 400,000 to 500,000 postcards, Warren said.

"To me it seems like a really simple idea, nothing complicated," Warren said. "Just mail me your secrets."

He was not intending for PostSecret to live beyond the initial idea of the project, but the idea had become infectious for those who had filled out the initial anonymous postcards.

"Not too long into the project, I stopped passing out the postcards. I thought that would be the end, but the secrets kept coming," Warren said. "That's when I realized I had tapped into something that had been there the whole time."

PostSecret has now evolved into a live tour, where people can share their secrets openly with the rest of the audience. Warren said the experience can help people face their secrets and begin a healing process.

"This is my favorite part of the project now, meeting the people face-to-face who have sent me postcards," Warren said. "It's a powerful thing for everyone who attends, to see your classmates expose themselves and become vulnerable, whether it's eating disorders or academic pressure, abuse, a sexual secret or a funny secret. It can create a spirit that lives beyond the event itself."

The event Tuesday began with Warren sharing how PostSecret had impacted his life, including the relationship with his parents. He intermittently told jokes and shared some of the secrets he enjoyed reading, including one in which an airline worker confessed sending luggage to the wrong city after being called an idiot.

Capping off the night, students came forward with secrets, this time without the veil of anonymity the postcards allow. Warren said the live events show how strong people are

and even helped him with his own secrets.

"I really feel now that the courage these people were expressing allowed me to face parts of my own life I've been hiding. I think there is such a level of earnestness in these confessions. It can inspire people to face secrets they've been hiding from themselves," Warren said.

Speech-language pathology sophomore Gina Thomas said she has enjoyed PostSecret because of the intimate nature of the project. Thomas said she has never sent a postcard, but after seeing the courage of those speaking in front of the crowd, she is considering it.

"I'm from a small town so I've always had that sense of closeness," Thomas said. "For me, it's just being close with other people, not just my community but around the world."

Psychology junior Christina Suggs said she has read the PostSecret blog religiously for a couple of years. She saves the cards to her computer screen saver and finds others' secrets help her in dealing with life.

"A girl shared tonight she wanted to be closer to her mother, and I can relate to that," Suggs said. "People submit things all the time that you can relate to, and it kind of makes you feel better about your situation."

Warren still reads all of the postcards mailed to him, currently about 200 a day, and said he is just as thrilled to read them now as when he read the first one. Even though he spends around 40 to 50 hours a week on the project, he is hesitant to call PostSecret a job.

Beyond mailing in postcards and the live shows, PostSecret has a Twitter account, blog and forum where people can share.

Warren has published five books on PostSecret as well, the latest available Oct. 6, titled "Life, Death, and God." Warren said with every book he has tried to tell a different story, with this one taking two years of collected secrets.

"I tried to knit the secrets together to create a longer narrative with scenes from people's lives," Warren said. "A



Frank Warren discusses PostSecret in Hunter Creel/Alestle Center's Meridian Ballroom on Tuesday.

lot of them are spiritual, too. It exposes our hidden morality. Some of the secrets I see remind me how selfish we can be and how selfless we can be."

Paul Rister, a Saint Louis University student who watched the event from the Goshen Lounge, said he was apprehensive when he first heard about PostSecret. During the three years since then, he has warmed up to the idea and even mailed in secrets of his own.

"I didn't really know about it until my girlfriend introduced me to PostSecret, and I always thought it was kind of sappy," Rister said. "But actually having been to one of these and listen to them, it kind of resonated."

Rister said he believes in the power of PostSecret and sharing his secret with the project has helped him talk about it. Rister said he knew his father was close to death, and the night his father died, he spent the night partying instead.

"Instead of spending time with him, I drank," Rister said. "I should have been with him. (PostSecret) is a nice way to share the way you feel. I think people are afraid to share and put themselves out there, but if you can do it anonymously, you find

"It can inspire people to face secrets they've been hiding from themselves,"

-Frank Warren,
PostSecret Creator

the courage to do it."

Warren said his favorite secret is one he has not even seen. A woman e-mailed him a story about how she was going to write a postcard, hoping to feel better. Looking at what was wrote, she instead felt like she was being kicked in the gut. She tore up the postcard, and in that moment, decided she would no longer be the person to carry that secret. Warren said that story embodies what PostSecret means; sharing secrets is transformative and can help people change themselves.

Warren said he believes PostSecret has been embraced by this current generation so strongly because of their quest to find the truth in life.

"I think young people are more alive than the rest of us. They are in the middle of that search for what's authentic and what's bullshit. I think, too, there's a generational shift happening right now where young people feel more confident talking about parts of their lives where their parents would never ever share," Warren said.

Aren Dow can be reached at adow@alestlelive.com or 650-3531.

Now Rating: 'The Invention of Lying'



by Rosie Githinji
Alestle Opinion Editor



Mark Bellison has a power no one in his world can even fathom. He has the ability to lie.

"The Invention of Lying" is a story about a man who lives in a reality where people do not understand the concept of lying. Everyone speaks the truth, even when it is hurtful to others, and does not seem to understand why they should sometimes not say what is on their minds.

The movie has a few sad moments, which are quickly overrun with comedic relief, making you wonder why they bothered scripting a serious moment in the first place. The characters are engaging, somewhat naïve and leave the viewer wanting more personality.

Bellison (Ricky Gervais) is a man down on his luck and not very good at his job. There are no prospects in the romance department because he is not a good-looking guy.

His love interest in the movie, Anna (Jennifer Garner), refuses to give Bellison a chance even though he has a good personality. She feels that since Bellison is not a strong genetic match, one of the things she is looking for in her marriage, they could never work out.

Bellison does not have many friends because a lot of his neighbors and fellow workers see him and automatically label him a loser.

The first lie told by Bellison happens when he is asked a question and instead of giving the true answer, answers with what he would like it to be. Since there are no repercussions from the initial lie, Bellison goes on to experiment with his newfound abilities and discovers no one else in the world has any idea he is not being truthful.

The movie follows Bellison as he climbs up the ladder to fame and fortune because of his ability to

lie. As more and more people begin to believe that what he says is gospel, Bellison finds he is still not happy because he does not want to lie to get the woman he loves.

The movie is full of subtle allusions to biblical references, like using "the man in the sky" when referring to God and using old pizza boxes in the same manner as Moses and the Ten Commandments. It also shows what the world would be without propaganda.

It is a little hard to suspend disbelief while watching this movie, as one does when watching something with aliens or talking animals in it.

There are no advertisements proclaiming why one is better than the other, or politicians using lies to find their way into office. Movies consist of people reading stories from history instead of actors portraying different characters conjured from the imagination of writers.

The characters in the movie freely speak their mind, which is amusing at times, but there is a lack of imagination. The conversation is witty and sarcastic, but in a subtle way, making it hard to understand at various points in the movie.

Gervais delivers his lines with a dry humor, but not as well as some of his co-stars. Garner's character portrays an innocence that is a little insulting to women because, even though she is a strong businesswoman, she is not able to stand up for herself and give her own thoughts and opinions.

"The Invention of Lying" is an easy laugh that does not require much brainpower to follow along. The trailers did not promise much, so it was not as disappointing as expected.

Rosie Githinji can be reached at rgithinji@alestlelive.com or 650-3531.



Maya Angelou

Sunday, October 4, 2009, 2:00 p.m.
Meridian Ballroom,
Morris University Center
*Sponsored by the SIUE Graduate
School and the SIUE Foundation*

Hailed as one of the premier voices of contemporary poetry, Maya Angelou is also considered a remarkable Renaissance woman with many facets—poet, educator,

historian, best-selling author, actress, playwright, civil rights activist, producer and director. As a world traveler, Angelou spreads her legendary wisdom to captivated audiences who continue to enjoy the vigor and sheer beauty of her words and lyrics. Within the rhythm of her poetry and the elegance of her prose lies Angelou's unique power to connect with those she meets. Among her many honors are three Grammy Awards, along with nominations for a Tony Award, an Emmy Award and the Pulitzer Prize.

Saturday, September 26, 2009, at 7:30 p.m.
Meridian Ballroom, Morris University Center

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MODULES

Student Leadership
Development Program &
Volunteer Services

Modules

10/6/09

Module 3, 2:00 p.m.
Community Service: Opportunities & Responsibilities
Montrece Gregory, Student Organizer
Raise Your Voice, SIUE
Board Room, MUC

10/6/09

Module 15, 6:30 p.m.
Community Change: What a Leader Needs to Know
Matthew Matheny, Graduate Assistant
Kimmel Leadership Center, SIUE
Board Room, MUC

SLDP Reminders.... Volunteer Projects

October 3—Women's Leadership Workshop
October 3—St Vincent de Paul
October 8—The Gardens @ SIUE
October 9—The Gardens @ SIUE
October 10—CERTS Training
October 17—The Gardens @ SIUE
October 22—The Gardens @ SIUE
October 23—The Gardens @ SIUE
October 24—American Red Cross Training
October 24—Angel Food
October 24—SIUE Homeless Project

Issue Awareness Film Series, September 30- October 28, 4:00 p.m.,
Mississippi/Illinois Room,
Morris University Center

Women's Leadership Workshop, October 3, 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.,
Mississippi/Illinois Room, Morris University Center

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

VC floor gets upgrade after incident



The bleachers in the Vadalabene Center are moved as crews work to replace the floor underneath Tuesday. A storm in May caused water to flood onto the floor through an opening left by a roof contractor.

Hunter Creel/Alestle

by Allan Lewis
 Alestle Sports Editor

After heavy rains blasted through a tarp closing off the Vadalabene Center's roof in May damaging its year-old playing surface, installation of a new performance floor is almost complete.

Roof contractor Lorenz and Associates of St. Louis is being held liable for the \$250,000 replacement, after their storm protection system failed during a campus-wide roofing project.

The floor is scheduled for completion Oct. 15, right on time with the university's plan.

According to Assistant Vice Chancellor for Administration Rich Walker, a consultant came into the gym and conducted a moisture analysis test on the floor shortly after the accident, revealing the need for replacement.

"There was moisture throughout the wood on the floor and water sitting on top of the concrete below the floor," Walker said. "The results were worse in the east end of the performance area where the water came in, but you can't replace half the floor and expect it to still be playable."

The floor inside the Vadalabene Center is characterized as a "sprung floor," meaning it is raised rather than flat, and sits atop a bed of springs, allowing water to seep underneath the playing surface.

Walker said the project is 85 percent complete, and the new floor will be an upgrade from the one previously installed and feature a lighter grade of wood.

"The floor underneath the bleachers on the

east and west end is complete, and the bleachers are back in place," Walker said. "The under-flooring on the south end is in, and the top layer went on Monday. Soon, they will switch over to the north end of the performance court, and once that is complete, seal the paint."

Summer sports camps, as well as the volleyball team's first home game of the season, were displaced due to the floor's level of playability and construction.

Volleyball Head Coach Todd Gober said while it has been an inconvenience, the university, as well as his team, are making the most out of the situation.

"The big thing is you want to be able to practice more in the place you play," Gober said. "We will be in the Fitness Center again (Monday) against Western (Illinois University), and we are taking steps to prepare for whatever situation arises if the floor is done."

Gober said the administration has handled the inconvenience well, and the new Student Activities Center is a good substitute for the time being.

"Our fans and administration really made a great impression," Gober said about his team's Sept. 23 game against Evansville held at the SAC.

The new floor will provide added benefits in terms of quality, according to Gober.

"Knees, ankles and backs don't buckle as much on an upgraded floor," Gober said. "When you talk about an upgrade in quality, that is great for our athletes."

Allan Lewis can be reached at alewis@alestlelive.com or 650-3524.

Club bowling looks to cash in on new year

by T.J. Cowell
 Alestle Sports Reporter

With more than a dozen tournaments scheduled, the SIUE Club Bowling team will continue to make strides in the school record books for the upcoming 2009-2010 season. Last year, SIUE finished with a national team ranking in the top 40's.

As Club president, senior Brett Hinnen is in charge of arranging SIUE's lineup for tournaments.

"I started out as a freshman and progressively, each year, we have moved higher into the rankings," Hinnen said. "I have got a lot of hard-working guys. I think this is the strongest team we have had since I have been here."

According to Hinnen, a maximum of five bowlers can start a match in a single game in the tournament. Substitutions are allowed during match play, but that bowler must sit out for the remainder of the game.

With a squad consisting of four freshmen, four sophomores, two juniors and three seniors, Club Treasurer Dave Sweet said SIUE Club Bowling continues to grow.

"I think our program is headed in the right direction," Sweet said. "We have all of our starters returning this year. All I can

see is bigger and better things in the future."

Sweet said a goal for this year's Cougar squad will be looking to "cash" as much as possible. Depending on the size of the tournament, cashing happens when a team finishes high enough in the rankings that they get their tournament entry fees back along with a little extra funding. Hinnen said this funding helps SIUE Club Bowling financially.

"There are usually around 30 of 40 teams at tournaments," Sweet said. "Getting to travel is a thrill in itself. You have to strive to be that team."

SIUE Club Bowling reached a milestone for the program last year by making match play for the first time in school history. The Cougars will start their season off with an appearance at the Hammer Midwest Collegiate Classic on Saturday and Sunday in Wauwatosa, Wis. Hinnen said this weekend's tournament features nine of the top 10 schools and 16 of the top 18 bowlers in the nation.

"Overall, the competition is going to be a lot harder this year," junior and Club Vice President Blake Badillo said. "This weekend will set the tone for the rest of the season. If we place in the top 10 or 15 teams, that is going to be a big momentum booster."

BOWLING/pg.9

ESPN gives SIUE shot at BracketBusters

by T.J. Cowell
 Alestle Sports Reporter

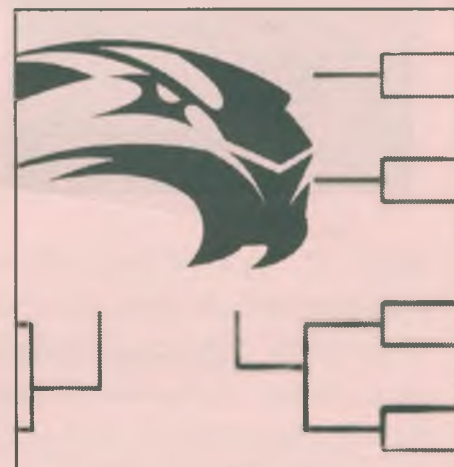
The SIUE men's basketball team will take their next step toward making school history by competing in the eighth annual BracketBusters event on Feb. 19 and 20.

The two-day experience is part of the ESPN college basketball franchise. Of the 98 schools selected to take part in BracketBusters, SIUE is listed as an away team.

"It is a very exciting thing," SIUE men's basketball Head Coach Lennox Forrester said. "It is another way to get the university exposure and be known."

The Cougars will find out their opponent on Feb. 1 when matchups are announced. All 11 members of the Ohio Valley Conference are scheduled to take part in BracketBusters. Other schools competing are members of American East, Big Sky, Big South, Big West, Colonial, Horizon, Metro Atlantic, Mid-American, Missouri Valley, MEAC, Southern, Summit and Western Athletic conferences.

BracketBusters was named because of the success of its teams in tournament play. The event will see 11 games televised nationally, with five contests on ESPN and six on ESPN2. Network



assignments for the games will be announced on Feb. 1. According to a press release by espnbracketbusters.com, teams participating in BracketBusters have made 89 appearances in the last six NCAA tournaments.

Included in that list was a 2006 Bradley University squad who made it to the Sweet Sixteen after knocking off the University of Kansas and Pittsburgh University, respectively in the first and second rounds of that year's NCAA tournament. At the time, Forrester served as an assistant coach at Bradley, where according to Forrester, he worked with the Braves' post and perimeter players.

BRACKETBUSTERS/pg.9

BOWLING

from pg. 8

Badillo said the team trains hard both in and out of the alley to build chemistry. Since SIUE Club Bowling does not offer scholarships, Badillo said there is a lot of fundraising that has to be done within the program.

"There is a lot of stress. We are not able to hire a coach or anything," Badillo said. "The more guys we get in there the less pressure there is off us."

Despite the individual success the Cougars have had during the years, Hinnen said his squad is based on what is best for the team and will maintain that outlook for the upcoming season.

T.J. Cowell can be reached at tcowell@alestlelive.com or 650-3524.

BRACKETBUSTERS

from pg. 8

"It was an awesome feeling while I was at Bradley and a great run," Forrester said. "We will have the same feeling."

Although SIUE is still not eligible to compete in the NCAA tournament, the Cougars can qualify for three other postseason tournaments including the National Transition Tournament, the College Basketball Invitational and the CollegeInsider.com Tournament. Forrester said his team will look to make a postseason run.

"We have a tremendous opportunity to do something special," Forrester said. "Right now we are working very hard. All I want these young men to do is compete."

Forrester said that on paper, this year's Cougar squad looks bigger, but may not be as quick or athletic as compared to last year's team. SIUE will use their size to grab more boards this year, as Forrester said rebounding was an Achilles heel of his team a season ago.

"BracketBusters is more of a chance to play schools that you would otherwise have trouble scheduling," Forrester said. "A purpose of BracketBusters is it gives Selection Sunday teams the upper hand."

As part of the agreement involved within BracketBusters, whomever SIUE faces on Feb. 19 or 20 will play a game at the Vadalabene Center in November or December of 2011.

Throughout the year, SIUE will play teams during its regular season that will also compete in BracketBusters. Forrester said his team will be ready to fight when the time comes.

"These schools that we are playing are pretty good," Forrester said. "If you cannot get up for games like this, I do not know what you can get excited for."

SIUE opens its exhibition season against MacMurray College on Nov. 4 at the Vadalabene Center.

T.J. Cowell can be reached at tcowell@alestlelive.com or 650-3524.

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GRADUATE SCHOOL FAIR '09 AND WORKSHOPS

Tuesday, October 6, 2009, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Morris University Center, Meridian Ballroom

Don't miss this opportunity to learn about graduate and professional programs at SIUE as well as at other higher education institutions nationwide. This event is open to the public.

Workshops Offered Throughout the Day:

10:30 a.m. – Researching Graduate and Professional School Programs

11:30 a.m. – Building Your Resume to Prepare for Graduate School

12:30 p.m. – Writing Your Personal Statement



OCTOBER CAREER FAIR '09* AND WORKSHOPS

*Day 1: College of Arts & Sciences and School of Business
and non-teaching candidates in the School of Education*

Wednesday, October 7, 2009, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Morris University Center, Meridian Ballroom

Day 2: School of Engineering

Thursday, October 8, 2009, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Morris University Center, Meridian Ballroom

Workshops Offered Throughout the Day (Both Days):

10:30 a.m. – Interviewing Skills

11:30 a.m. – Learning to Network/Building Your Connections

12:30 p.m. – Professional Etiquette

**Students attending this event are REQUIRED to wear professional (business casual or business) attire and to bring current copies of their resume.*

This event is not open to the public and is open to students and alumni of SIUE and its partner schools only.

RESUME CRITIQUES

Call the Career Development Center (CDC) Office at 618-650-3708 for an appointment.

****Last-Minute Resume Critiques will also be available:**

Friday, October 2

Walk-ins in the CDC (SSC 0281) - 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Science Building - 9:00 to 11:00 a.m.

Monday, October 5

Walk-ins in the CDC (SSC 0281) - 8:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Founders Hall - 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. and Engineering Building - 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

For additional information about these and other upcoming Career Development Center (CDC) events and to view the lists of attending graduate/professional programs and employers, please visit the CDC Web site at www.siue.edu/careerdevelopmentcenter.

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► ZOMBIELAND (R)
12:20 1:45 2:40 4:00 5:00 6:20 7:20 9:10 10:00

► WHIP IT (PG-13) 12:45 3:20 6:40 9:30

► THE INVENTION OF LYING (PG-13)
1:00 4:20 7:50 10:20

► SURROGATES (PG-13)
1:30 2:30 4:15 5:10 6:30 8:00 9:00 10:15

► PANDORUM (R) 2:00 4:30 7:10 9:50

► FAME (PG-13) 2:10 4:50 7:40 10:10

► CLOUDY WITH A CHANCE OF MEATBALLS (PG)
12:10 2:20 4:40 7:00 9:20

► THE INFORMANT! (R) 12:30 3:10 6:10 8:50

► LOVE HAPPENS (PG-13) 1:15 4:10 6:50 9:40

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Notice

The Fall 2009 issue of the SIUE Annual Security Report will be available on-line 10/1/09 at:

www.siue.edu/securityreport

The report contains campus safety and security information and crime statistics for calendar years 2006, 2007, and 2008. This report is published in compliance with the Federal Student Right to Know and Campus Security Act of 1990, now known as the

“Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act.”

You may also access this report on the About SIUE Site off the SIUE Homepage <http://www.siue.edu>. Click on the Safety link under General Information then click on Annual Security Report under Other Links of Interest.

The report is also available for review at the Lovejoy Library Circulation Desk on the Edwardsville Campus; the Bio Medical Library Circulation Desk on the Alton Campus; the SIUE Satellite Police Station at the East St. Louis Higher Education Center; and the SIU Medical Library at the SIUE Springfield School of Nursing.

For those without computer access, a paper copy may be obtained upon request to:

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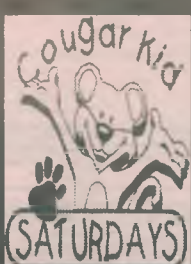
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