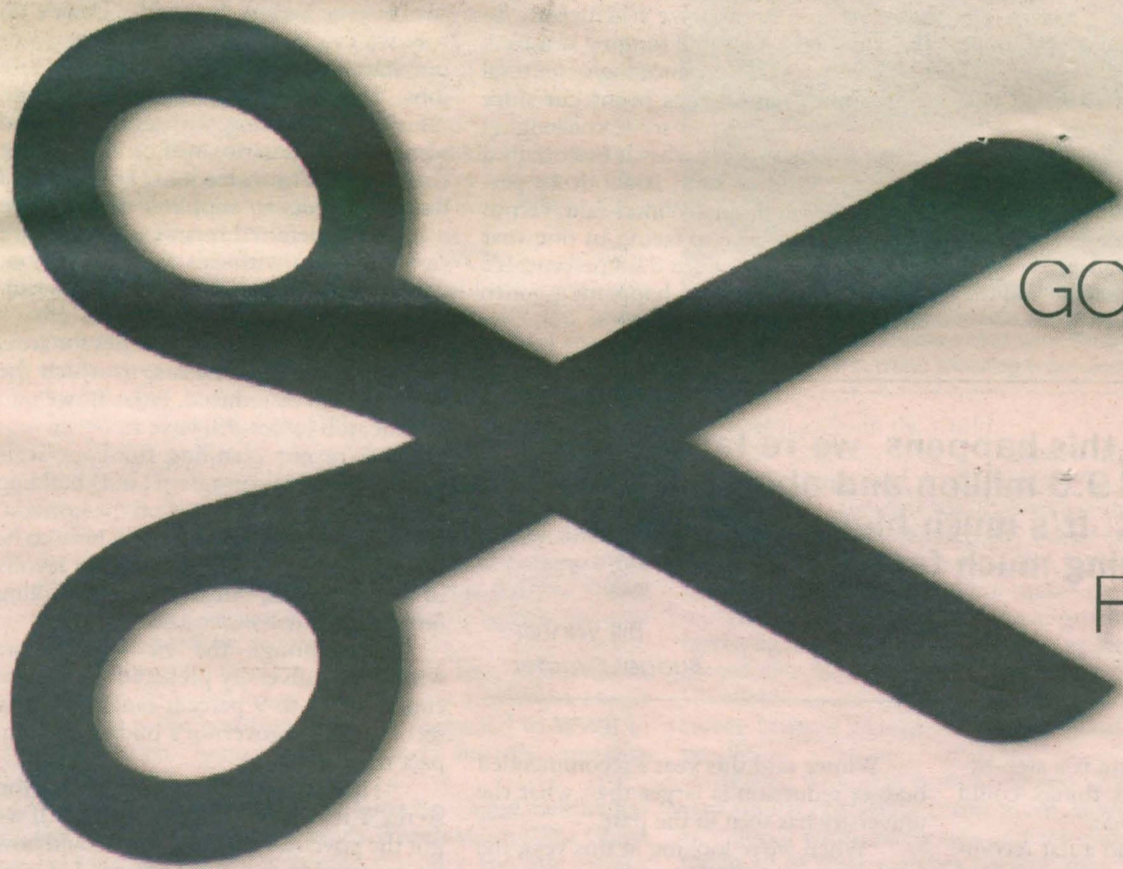
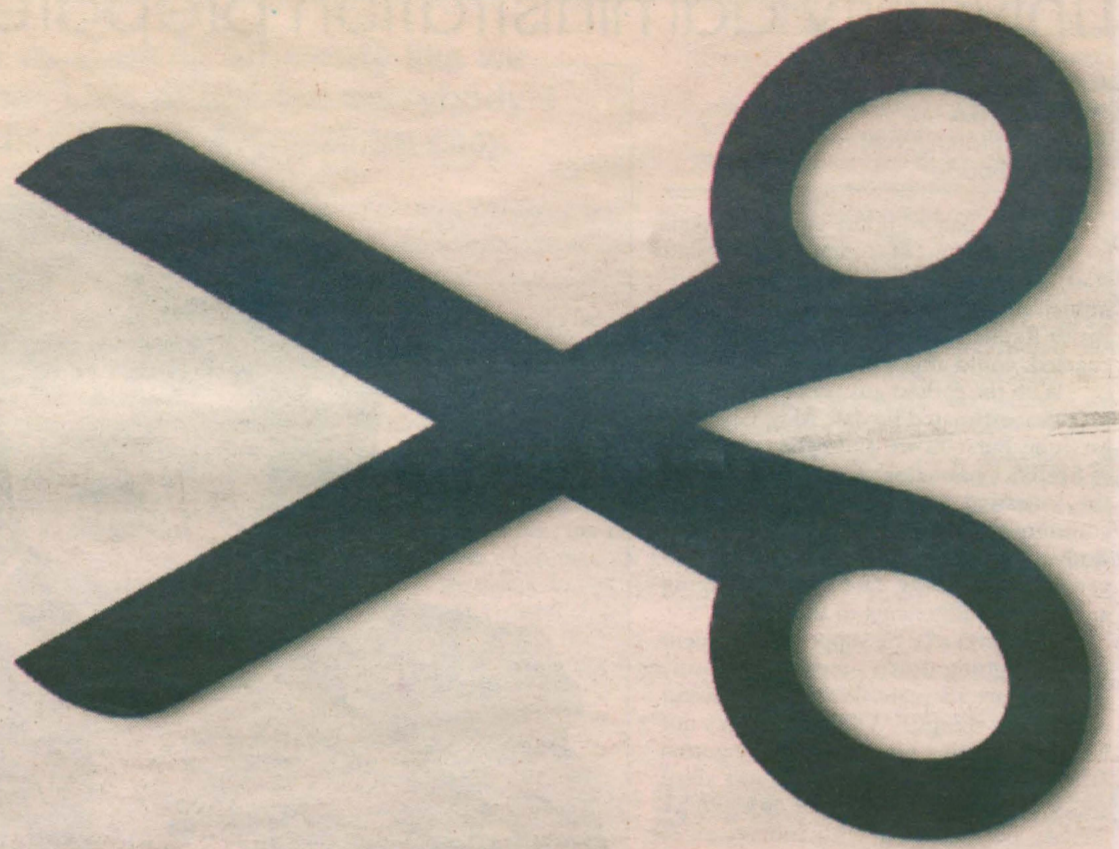


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GOV. BRUCE RAUNER'S
BUDGET PROPOSAL
FORCES UNIVERSITY
TO PREPARE FOR
FINANCIAL CHANGES

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Illustration by Hailey Huffines / Alestle

Gov. Rauner proposes hard-hitting budget cuts University administration prepares response to proposal

HAILEY HUFFINES
PUJA MEHTA
Alestle Editor-in-Chief
Alestle Reporter

It was a packed house at the Chancellor's Open Forum as students, faculty and staff waited to hear from university administrators about how Illinois Gov. Bruce Rauner's recent budget proposal, if enacted, could affect SIUE.

With the earliest answer to the budget proposal estimated for late May, Chancellor Julie Furst-Bowe and other members of SIUE's Chancellor's Council have taken the initiative to educate the university community on the impending cuts. Budget Director Bill Winter said the university has already budgeted a challenging amount of budget cuts in the past.

"The level of state support per student has been going down pretty significantly over the last 13 years. We've basically cut all the easy things," Winter said. "It's not like we're starting now where we've gotten all this money year after year, and all of sudden we're having budget cuts. We've already been dealing with four years of large budget cuts at least, out of the last 13. As a result, all the easy, low-hanging fruit, has already been cut."

According to Winter, the state of Illinois already owes the university a huge chunk of change.

"The state owes us, right now, about \$27.5 million for things we've had to expend on, which they have not been able to pay us back," Winter said.

But SIUE is not the only university who will be hit with cuts if the budget plan is enacted — all 12 public universities in the state of Illinois may see future budgetary changes.

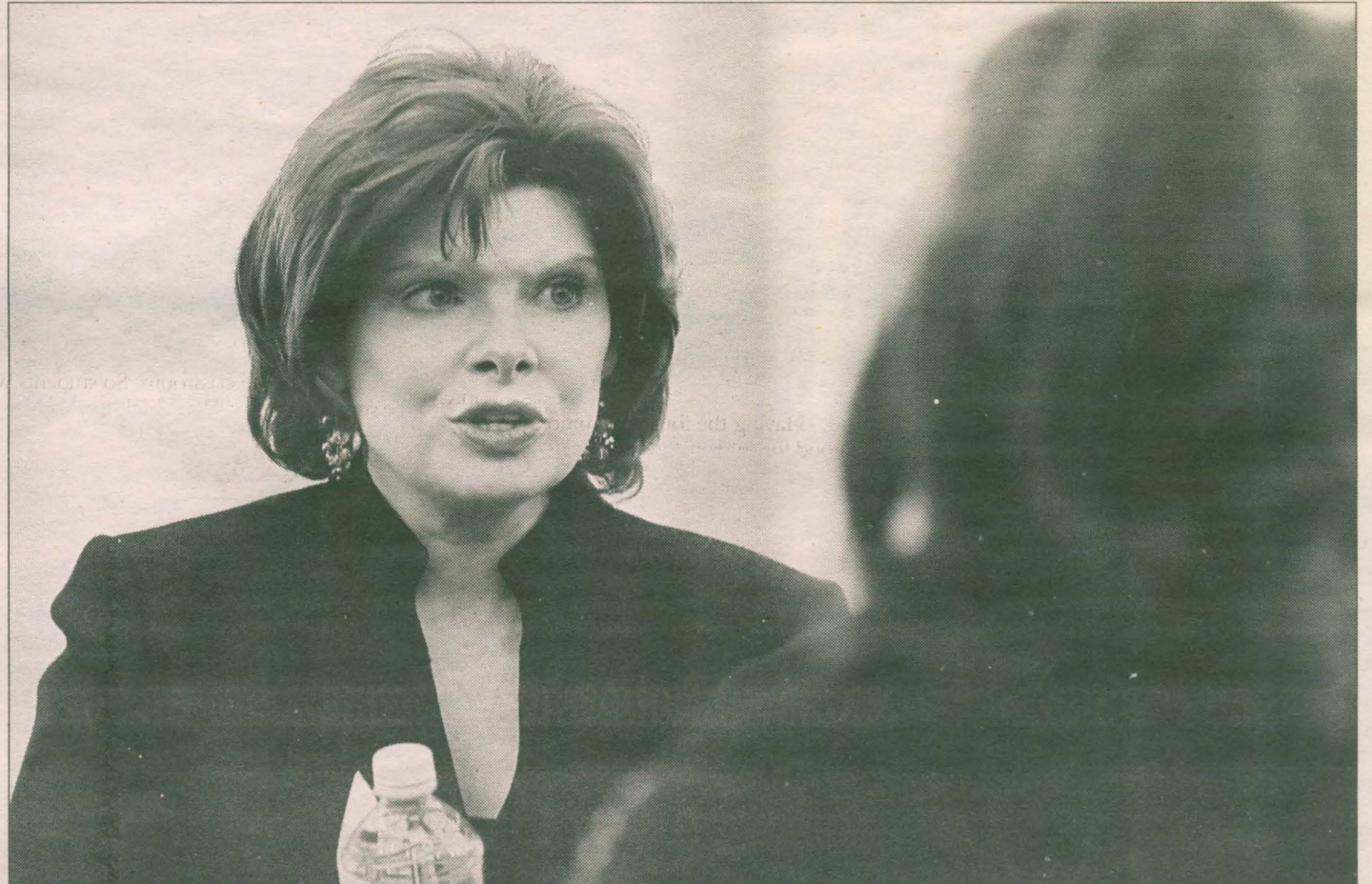
"Across the board, cuts for all 12 Illinois public universities are 31.5 percent of their [state] appropriation, [which is] close to a third," Winter said.

The breakdown of the university's budget numbers is handled by Winter, who also shared the numerical technicalities and percentages of state appropriation in response to the budget proposal for the university.

Breaking down hard numbers in the university's budget

According to Winter, the university receives the majority of its funding from two groups of money that are collectively known as the state operating budget. This budget primarily pays for the cost of instruction. One of those groups of money within the state budget is known as state appropriation, which comes from the state, while the other group of money is the income fund. The income fund is mostly revenue the university makes from tuition. The governor's budget is focused on the state appropriation money.

"It's been the historic view that providing a good college education is a public good. It's the college for the state and for society. At the state level, there are public universities, and they take taxpayer revenue from people in the state, and they allocate a small part of it to universities in what's called state appropriation," Winter said. "That state appropriation is a subsidy to offset the cost of tuition. For example, if you had the situation where your tuition revenue budget and state appropriation equaled each other, that would mean that every dollar a student is paying in tuition, the state is matching it with a dollar. And without that one dollar match for subsidy, it would be twice as expensive."



On Tuesday, Feb. 24, Chancellor Julie Furst-Bowe discussed the 31.5 percent budget cut proposed by Illinois Gov. Bruce Rauner that will affect the university. "It's serious; this could be the most serious budget cut we ever had to deal with," Furst-Bowe said.

| Photo by Christian K. Lee/Alestle

In order to figure out the amount of money the state appropriation fund will provide for universities in Illinois, Winter said a four-step process is used, beginning in the fall when the university turns its requests into the state. That is then followed by the Illinois Board of Higher Education giving its recommendations.

"So now we're at the third step, which is [Gov. Rauner's] recommended budget, and it's not the final step. The final step is when the legislature, or general assembly — the House and the Senate — approve a budget," Winter said. "What that means is during the next few months — March, April, May, perhaps June and July — there will be negotiating between the House and the Senate leaders and the governor for the final budget."

2015 serves up largest budget cut yet

According to Winter, the budget situation the university is facing is drastic in comparison to the previous year's budget struggles.

"Before, a 20 percent budget cut seemed pretty severe because it was much larger than anything we had before. In fact, our highest level of funding was back in the year 2002. And since then, our total state appropriation [has been] cutting since 2002 — and we've had some challenging years in there — over what is essentially a 13-year period [which] is about 13 percent, or \$18 million," Winter said. "Now, if this happens, we're facing in one year \$19.6 million and about 32.8 percent. It's much bigger, and it's happening much faster."

Winter said.

The severity of the budget cut is large, and Furst-Bowe said it comes with harsh truths, such as layoffs.

"This is a process that will play out over the next several months. ... It's serious; this could be the most serious budget cut we ever had to deal with. There's no way we can basically take out a third of our state-operating budget, and not lose jobs. That's a reality," Furst-Bowe said. "But we're working with everyone, and some of the scenarios will certainly make cuts that don't involve jobs. So those will be further cuts to supplies, to travel, to utilities, to deferred maintenance, but we can't come up with this amount without getting into personnel costs — it's as simple as that."

While the university searches for areas other than personnel costs, in which the spending can be reduced, Furst-Bowe said in time, job losses will have to occur.

"We're not planning for large-scale layoffs, large-scale program [and] building closures — none of that is on the horizon. Although, like I said, there will have to be reductions, there will probably be layoffs in isolated areas, but the sky isn't falling quite yet," Furst-Bowe said.

Even though the vice chancellors within the university prepared for budget cuts of the 4-to-9 percent range, the new recommended governor's budget will impact these plans.

"That's what we were told to plan for, so the 4-to-9 [percent budget plan]. If we got the governor's budget, [it] would now be increased to over 13.2 percent," Winter said. "There's some other stuff in the governor's budget that shifts costs onto us and when you have to pay for things you didn't have to pay for before, or if you don't get any more revenue to offset it, it was essentially an increase in the budget cut. If we got this budget, it could even be above 13.2 percent."

“Now, if this happens, we're facing in one year \$19.6 million and about 32.8 percent. It's much bigger, and it's happening much faster.”

Bill Winter
Budget Director

Although the procedure is a step-by-step process, Winter said things could change as decisions are made.

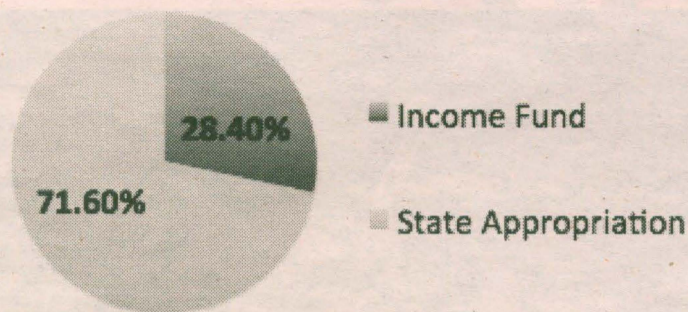
"Historically, we've had a flat recommendation, meaning the same level of funding in the governor's budget, and we wind up having a cut. Or sometimes, we have a cut in the governor's budget, and we get flat funded," Winter said. "I don't know if we'll have a reduction at the level of [Gov. Rauner's] budget, and I don't really have any inside knowledge on this, but being at the level it's at, I would still expect us to have a large cut."

Winter said this year's recommended budget reduction is larger than what the university has seen in the past.

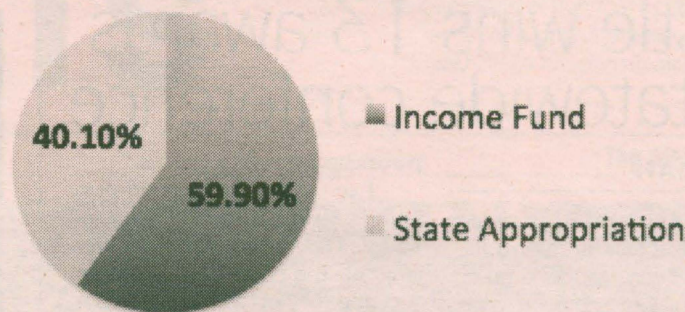
"When we're looking at this year, the level of cut for SIUE in state appropriation — now this is not the total state operating budget, this is one piece of it — would be 32.8 percent. Our worst actual budget cut was right after 9/11 happened in the early 2000s, and it was just over 8 percent. I think there was two years in a row where we had back-to-back budget cuts leading to a total of about 14 percent. This is almost 33 percent in one year,"

Total Percent Shift of State-Operating Budget

Fiscal Year 2002



Fiscal Year 2015



Information courtesy of Budget Director Bill Winter | Illustration by Mady O'Reilly/Alestle

BUDGET CUTS | from pg. 2

Because of the proposal, the university is asking its vice chancellors for more planning, and the University Planning and Budget Council plans to continue its meetings until the final decision.

"Now we're asking the vice chancellors to provide one more scenario at the governor's recommended level," Winter said. "The University Planning and Budget Council, which includes faculty, staff and student senate representatives, has been meeting and will continue to meet throughout the spring semester to plan for the challenges ahead."

According to Winter, the increase in the recommended budget cut is due to factors that are out of the university's control — it has to do with the state income tax being at a lower level in comparison to previous years.

"We had been paying three percent [of] state income tax years ago, and there was an increase to take it to five percent. Now it's gone back down, and it hasn't gone down to three [percent], I think it's down to about 3.75 [percent]. It was reduced Jan. 1," Winter said. "We were hopeful last fall that the state would work to increase the taxes again because it was just for about a three-or-four year period, and that expired — we hoped it would be renewed. Well, up to this point, it hasn't been. So that was already going to create a loss in funding. And [Gov. Rauner] is having to recognize that."

As the amount of state funding required for other schools increases, Winter said the university's state appropriation will decrease.

"Higher education has to make up more than its fair share because there was actually a funding increase in [kindergarten through 12th-grade] education," Winter said. "There was virtually flat funding for community colleges, and there was a flat funding for [the Monetary Award Program], which is a good thing for our students who have MAP funding. But because they basically got flat funding, or an increase, universities had to make up even more."

The budget cuts for the 12 public universities stands at 31.5 percent, but since the School of Pharmacy received an appropriation cut, which is kept in a separate pool of money, that made the total cut add up

"But because of our state appropriation for pharmacy also got cut, that adds us up to 32.8 percent," Winter said.

Budget reforms' effect on tuition rates

Tuition rates could fluctuate based on the potential upcoming budget changes. Winter said the university would go before the Board of Trustees to discuss tuition increases in March, but a numerical amount was not yet finalized.

"One thing about tuition increases is we try to keep a balance of being affordable for students, but also trying to increase tuition to the level that we need for operating," Winter said. "Having the four-year tuition guarantee is good for students because it does mean that

budget were to become SIUE's final budget, then we'd be looking at a reduction in state appropriation of about \$19.6 million, which is big, and it would be about 32.8 percent," Winter said. "But when you factor in tuition revenue and everything else, that would be just over 13 percent of our total state operating budget. And that's without increasing tuition."

Even though the budget cuts imply drastic changes to SIUE's spending money, Winter said everyone is doing their best to ensure some things remain consistent.

"One of our primary goals is to protect instruction in the classroom. So students will be sure that they will have high-quality professors and instruction. That will be a very high level goal," Winter said.

that temporary financial arrangement so that we can keep operating at the same budget we've been operating with. So there will be a lot of negotiating and lobbying, and we'll be working."

The news about the budget cuts is very recent, and planning is being done as quickly as possible on how to handle it. In the meantime, Furst-Bowe said communication between faculty and legislators is crucial.

"Try to stay informed — this is in the news all the time. We'll be sending out emails," Furst-Bowe said. "To all the SIUE employees, you can certainly feel free to contact your legislators — there's nothing wrong with that. Someone said, 'Well that's against our ethics code.' Well, it is if you spend all day doing that instead of your job. ... If you want to on your own time, phone, email or write to legislators on behalf of SIUE, on behalf of students, on behalf of employees. The more they hear about this issue, everyone else will be out there as well."

Even though input from everyone is critical, Winter said it is also the limiting reagent in budget situations like this one.

"The bottom line is that it's really too early in the process to tell. We haven't done planning, at this point, beyond the nine percent level. We'll be moving in that direction, but when you involve so many different people who have other responsibilities, it just takes time," Winter said. "The value of shared governance in this whole process is that you get a better product because you get input from everybody, but we can't do it in a day."

While the road ahead is seemingly a long one, it is not due to wrongdoings by the university. Winter said SIUE will find a resolution and handle the situation appropriately.

"At some level, it's not a situation which the university created. It's the hand we've been dealt. And it's not like anybody involved in this process enjoys this process. We just have to do the best we can with what has been given to us," Winter said. "One of our greatest strengths is when everybody pulls together, and works on a solution together, and I believe that will happen again."

News can be reached at news@alestlelive.com or 650-3527.

"It's serious; this could be the most serious budget cut we ever had to deal with. There's no way we can basically take out a third of our state-operating budget, and not lose jobs. That's a reality."

Julie Furst-Bowe
Chancellor

when you're an existing student for four years, you're not going to have a tuition increase. But what that does mean is that we can only raise undergraduate tuition on the new incoming students. So that is a very small percentage of the student population, meaning you don't get very much money from that increase."

In fact, Winter said the tuition would have to be increased by a value between about 120 to 130 percent, more than double current tuition, in order to even meet the deficit.

Now what?

Despite the fact that no final decisions have been made about the budget, Winter said the implications of Gov. Rauner's recommended budget largely impacts the state appropriation budget. However, it has a much smaller impact when the other funds of the state operating budget are taken into account.

"I can tell you that if the governor's

In order to begin planning the budget cuts, Winter said the budgets within the different colleges in the university will be analyzed by the deans.

"I can't tell you how much the 32.8 percent from each college because in the planning process we're evaluating things that are decisions that will be made at the deans' level. And they will be looking at a variety of factors, but they'll look at things like enrollment, demand for programs and we're also looking now at existing vacancies," Winter said.

The finalized budget will take place once Gov. Rauner, the House and the Senate come to an agreement. Winter said in recent years, the process has gone on until June, July or even August.

"And we actually start our fiscal year on July 1, so sometimes we start the year without an approved budget," Winter said. "The Board of Trustees has to take action that says

Kimmel Student Leadership Center calls for strong women

MADISON O'BRIEN

Alestle Reporter

Listen up ladies — this spring the Kimmel Student Involvement Center is hosting its first Women's Leadership Conference for any female students who exhibits outstanding leadership qualities.

Kimmel Student Involvement Center Associate Director Michelle Welter organized the conference to offer new leadership opportunities to students.

Welter said there are a lot of issues that do not get addressed at general leadership conferences, and she wanted to gear this conference specifically toward the needs of women.

"The event will offer a variety of leadership programs," Welter said. "We wanted to try several new options for student topics, specific to female leaders, that don't often get addressed."

Welter said from the responses they have already received from faculty and staff, this conference could become an annual event at the university.

The conference has already received 100 women nominees. Faculty and staff can nominate any female student who shows outstanding leadership qualities.

"We are aiming to have 60 participants, but if the response is high, we will allow extra space," Welter said. The Kimmel Student Involvement Center will send

out invitations to all of the nominees, but any female student can apply as well. To apply, students can go on the Kimmel Student Involvement Center website and fill out the application in order to attend the conference.

"This is an opportunity for the woman population of SIUE to come together for all female student leaders to attend sessions they wouldn't normally feel comfortable doing without other women."

Michelle Welter
Kimmel Student Involvement Center Associate Director

"The conference consists of a welcome from the chancellor [Julie Furst-Bowe], dinner and three, one hour-long break-out sessions that students have the choice to attend," Welter said.

Women have the choice to attend several different sessions focused on their personal interests. By attending the conference, students will also be able to receive credit

for the Student Leadership Development Program.

"The Kimmel Student Involvement Center hopes to provide additional leadership skills to students on campus, while also providing a forum specifically to female leaders to gain more experience and self knowledge," Welter said. "This is an opportunity for the woman population of SIUE to come together for all female student leaders and attend sessions they wouldn't normally feel comfortable doing without other women."

The Kimmel Student Involvement Center continues looking at leadership programs that target additional leadership opportunities for students, such as a leadership program for freshmen and sophomore students. The Kimmel Student Involvement Center is also open to any other ideas that students may have.

The Women's Leadership Conference is scheduled from 4 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 31, in various rooms in the Student Success Center, but is subject to change if the number of participants exceeds room space. For further information, Welter can be contacted at mking@siue.edu.

Madison O'Brien can be reached at mobrien@alestlelive.com or 650-3527.

Lucky No. 13

Alestle wins 13 awards at statewide conference

ALESTLE STAFF

The Alestle won 13 awards last Saturday, Feb. 21, at the annual Illinois College Press Association conference. At the Chicago conference, Feb. 20-21, the Alestle earned four first-place awards, placed in six other categories and earned three honorable mentions.

The Alestle competed with 37 Illinois colleges and universities in 15 open categories. Additionally, the Alestle competed in 18 categories against 13 non-daily student newspapers on campuses with more than 4,000 students, including Columbia College in Chicago, Loyola University, University of Illinois at Springfield, DePaul University and others.

Former Alestle Chief Copy Editor Michelle Yee won first place in the Editorial Cartoon category for her piece "Tis the season for overlooked holidays."

Lifestyles Editor Caitlin Grove won a first place award in the Feature Story category for "A picture is worth a thousand words: Student brings his world of photography to campus." Grove also won an honorable mention in Feature Page design for "Metro East Eats Fall Favorites."

Photo Editor Christian K. Lee won first place in the Spot News Photo category for his work covering protests in Ferguson, Mo. Former Alestle Editor-in-Chief Alexis Cortes, former Alestle Lifestyles Editor Karen Martin and Editor-in-Chief Hailey Huffines won first place in the News Story category for their piece "A kiss, selfie & invitation to talk about God: Evangelist elicits unique responses from students."

Managing Editor Mady O'Reilly brought home second place in Headline Writing for "Budget cuts cause hang ups: Campus de-

partments lose office phones."

Lee won two second-place awards — in the Photo Essay and Feature Photo categories for his coverage of the protests in Ferguson, Mo. and for "In case you missed it: Fair St. Louis," respectively. Lee also won an honorable mention in the Photo Essay category for "Protests Arise From Grand Jury Decision In Ferguson."

Cortes won third place in the In-depth Reporting category for "We should probably discuss the future of the museum," a piece about the future of SIUE's University Museum.

Former Alestle Photo Editor Brian Armea won two third-place awards in the Sports Photo and General News Photo categories for his photos accompanying the stories "Men's basketball ends four-game skid" and "A kiss, selfie & invitation to talk about God."

Reporter Puja Mehta won an honorable mention in In-Depth Reporting for her piece "Budget cuts cause hang ups."

"I'm proud of this year and last year's staffs for such a wide variety of first through third place awards. They did some important work in in-depth reporting and photography this past year, and the awards reflect that hard work and more," Alestle Program Director Tammy Merrett said. "And the fact that we brought home more awards than in recent years is great news as well."

More than 1,250 entries in the competition were judged for excellence by members of the Illinois Press Association and working journalists in Missouri, Tennessee and Ohio.

News can be reached at news@alestlelive.com or 650-3527.

SIUE hosts Africa Night 2015



Dancers perform an African dance piece at Africa Night in the Meridian Ballroom on Saturday, Feb. 21. | Photo by Adam Mason/Alestle



Aluma Jamila Ajanaku, of Chicago, prepares a plate of African cuisine before her dance performance at Africa Night in the Meridian Ballroom on Saturday, Feb. 21. | Photo by Adam Mason/Alestle

Chancellor's Open Forum updates campus on dean searches

HAILEY HUFFINES Alestle Editor-in-Chief

University administration shared good news with students, faculty and staff at the Chancellor's Open Forum Tuesday, Feb. 24, in light of Illinois Governor Bruce Rauner's recent budget proposal, the original reason for the meeting.

Provost for Academic Affairs Parviz Ansari said three current dean searches are underway for the School of Business, School of Education, Health and Human Behavior and the College of Arts and Sciences.

"The committees have been asked to do their due diligence, making sure that they pick the best candidates with the diversities in mind and making sure that they are working together in one team," Ansari said.

Candidates are being interviewed for the School of Business and the School of Education, Health and Human Behavior positions; for the College of Arts and Sciences, names have been selected and dates are being scheduled for the candidates to visit the campus.

The search for the vice chancellor for student affairs position has been underway, and Director of Retention and Stu-

dent Success Kevin Thomas, who is also a chairman on the search committee, said the original pool of 76 applicants has dwindled down to a smaller number.

"Through the work of the search committee, we narrowed that number to 38 [applicants], to doing some video interviews for about 11 candidates," Thomas said. "We will be bringing five candidates to campus in the month of March and we are scheduling those interviews right now."

A retirement reception will be held Wednesday, April 29 for current Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Narbeth Emmanuel. Further information about the location and time of the reception will be shared with the campus community.

Assistant Vice Chancellor for Enrollment Management Scott Belobrajdic shared numbers he and his department collected on recent student enrollment.

"The total enrollment for spring was 13,178 students, which is exactly 300 more than last spring," Belobrajdic said. "Now for fall, we are up 132 students from fall to fall. ... It's very rare to then grow even more than that from spring to spring."

Within the spring enrollment number, Belobrajdic said the number of full-time students was at 10,153, the largest full-time spring enrollment number in the university's history. Belobrajdic said the numbers for African-American, Latino and Hispanic students stand at a historic all-time high, with 1,736 African-American students and 481 Latino and Hispanic students. The Spring 2015 semester also saw a jump in international students, reaching a 12 percent enrollment.

According to Belobrajdic, the addition of the new winter session the past fall semester saw an enrollment number of 500 students. Belobrajdic said the increase in the number of new transfer students in the Spring 2015 semester brought the most surprise.

"Transfer enrollment across the state is down in community colleges, including our three feeder institutions; so it would be very logical for us to project, predict and assume we'd be down in transfer students," Belobrajdic said. "Typically in the fall, we'll roll about 1,250 new transfers, and in the spring it'll be about 350, or 1,500 students will join us every year as transfers. Fall and spring, this year combined, is 1,850 students

joining us this transfer, including 493 this spring — 150 more than last spring."

In other news, Vice Chancellor for Administration Kenneth Neher shared plans for upcoming construction and maintenance projects for campus buildings.

"Facility projects are really slowing down and the ones we would locally do are related to trying to prevent future damage to buildings from deficiencies, renovation projects and possibly trying to meet accreditation needs," Neher said.

According to Neher, the Science Lab Building East construction is the first project on the list, which is expected to be complete in spring 2017. Once that project ends, Founders Hall will follow suit in another renovation project.

"When that's done, physics, math and STEM will move back into it, and then there will also be a pretty big chunk of space left vacant that we will then be moving people into and out of as we go into our 21st century buildings program," Neher said. "This is the Student Facilities Fee that was passed some years ago. And the first building to go under renovation will be Founders Hall."

According to Neher,

Founders Hall will undergo renovations to its building systems and some adjustments will be made to meet programs' needs. The project is planned to be a two-year project in two different phases.

Neher said either this spring or summer, the Vadalabene Center will receive a new steel or metal exterior skin due to water damage and will update the look of the building.

"The water is coming through the walls ... It's literally penetrating right through the panels, and is causing damage to the building, providing leaks inside," Neher said.

An expanded weight room will also be added to the Student Fitness Center, paid for by the Student Fitness Center Fee. A workshop area is looking to be constructed for students that can be used to work on projects and engineering competitions, such as the Baja Car built by the Society of Automotive Engineers and the concrete canoe built by the SIUE Concrete Canoe Team. This summer, plans for roadwork on Circle Drive are expected as well.

News can be reached at news@alestlelive.com or 650-3527.

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OPINION

Questions or comments regarding this section? Contact Opinion Editor at 650-3527 or opinion@alestlelive.com.

Thursday, February 26, 2015

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the ALESTLE

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All hard copy letters should be typed and double-spaced. Letters should be no longer than 500 words. Include phone number, signature, class rank and major.

We reserve the right to edit letters for grammar and content. 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.

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One copy of the Alestle is free. Additional copies cost \$1 each.

The Alestle is a member of the Illinois College Press Association, the Associated Collegiate Press, Student Press Law Center, College Newspaper, Business & Advertising Managers.

The name Alestle is an acronym derived from the names of the three campus locations of Southern Illinois University: Edwardsville, Alton, East St. Louis and Edwardsville.

The Alestle is published on Thursdays in print and on Tuesdays online during the fall and spring semesters. A print edition is available Wednesdays during summer semesters.

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Parking Services should focus more on students than revenue

Many students can say they have braved the freezing winter wind to pay for parking, run inside for a warm cup of Starbucks, and return to a parking ticket clamped to their windshield.

Madison O'Brien
Alestle Reporter

The Parking and Traffic Committee wants to raise prices on parking violations to lower the number of tickets received, because the committee believes it is in the best interest of the students.

Shocking news, but as college students, we do not have piles of extra money lying around to pay for the multitude of tickets received from arriving to our meters two minutes after they expire.

Parking Services workers have a sixth sense. Our cars are like drops of blood in the water, and as soon as our meters expire, they can immediately smell it from miles away and swim hungrily to its prey.

Thousands of dollars are paid every year just to attend college, and now all of a sudden, the Parking and Traffic Committee wants to add on to the already horrendous debt by upping the ante on parking violations.

This is not at all in the best interest of the students. The Parking and Traffic Committee does not want to lower the number of tickets, because that would affect their own income.

In the Student Government blog post, "Parking Tickets Going Up...On a Tuesday," written by Graduate Senator Jodi Cox, explains how students parking in lots without the correct permit was one of the reasons for raising the consequences for parking violations.

Walking through the Green Lots every day, it is apparent that there are plenty of parking spaces open for people who hold the correct permit. The Green Lots are rarely full, where as the Red Lots are filled to the brim every single day.

We, as students, are not even allowed to purchase Green Lot passes unless they are won in a raffle and then paid for. This is not at all reasonable. Green Lot passes should be first come, first serve.

You can register at the last possible second for the Green Lot pass raffle, and win it over people who registered months in advanced. If students are willing to pay for the Green Lot passes, it is not fair that a raffle determines who gets them.

The main issue is the overall size of the campus and the population of commuter students. When it is freezing or later in the evening, no one wants to walk a mile to his or her

class from the Red Lots, so students risk the chance of getting a ticket rather than parking in the correct lot.

Currently, a \$15 increase to parking tickets for each subsequent violation is being discussed.

If ticket prices are raised, it will not prevent students from parking where they want, it will only rack up more debt.

Many students on campus put off paying for their parking violations until they absolutely have to at the end of the school year. If the prices on tickets are raised, there is the potential that students will have an ungodly amount of money to pay to receive their grades after each semester.

To reduce the number of tickets, Parking Services could hold several Green Lot raffles a year, have more close, available parking spaces or reduce the hourly rate on meters and pay lots.

Parking Services needs to be more flexible to the needs of the students, because raising the prices of tickets will only further complicate the lives of both students and the Parking and Traffic Committee.

Although raising the prices can be beneficial to university funding, it is not in the best interest of the students who attend here.

Madison O'Brien can be reached at mobrien@alestlelive.com.

'50 Shades of Grey' romanticizes abuse, misrepresents actual BDSM relationships

With "50 Shades of Grey" premiering globally, protests are rapidly catching media attention; this romance between a billionaire and a lip-biting reporter is really no romance at all.

Amanda Turner
Alestle Online Editor

With the release of "50 Shades of Grey" last week, the protesting murmurs from social media exploded into an uproar. There is a community on the Internet that protests the 50 Shades book series and the recent film adaptation. I am not one to jump on any bandwagon rushing past, but I cannot help but take pause whenever I see the "50shadesofabuse" hashtags popping up all over the Internet. I usually live with the "just keep doing you" mentality and let people have their freak flag fly any way the wind blows. This travesty of what romance is however, is something I really just cannot understand.

We have all seen the jokes and memes about "50 Shades of Grey." They are good for a quick laugh. One meme that highlights the issue I have with calling this a romance is where they say something along the lines of "50 Shades is only

romantic because he is filthy rich; if he were poor, it would be an episode of "Criminal Minds." As a big fan of the adorable Dr. Reid, I found this to really hit home. What is tripping the trigger for fans of this franchise is something that would turn your stomach if you saw it on the news.

People argue Christian Grey is an anti-hero — someone so dark and twisted he just needs to be understood. As a big reader, I have seen my fair share of anti-heroes — Christian Grey is just sleazy. He is not into Bondage and Discipline, Sadism and Masochism; he is a bully with a little stalker thrown in for good measure. With BDSM there are rules, guidelines and mutual respect. Yes, one person submits to the other, but in a healthy BDSM relationship, it is the submissive that is in charge; they are the ones that set the hard limits for what is or is not allowed. Everything is agreed upon beforehand; anything else is just blatant abuse.

The greatest fear for what this franchise has unleashed is that some poor person will think that this is what love is. They will find someone that they think they can save — someone like Anastasia supposedly "saving" Christian — and they will be hurt irreparably in the process. This also allows predators more leeway as people protest their love for this anti-hero. Sadly, one such case has already made the news from the

University of Illinois at Chicago. A man restrained and beat a woman when she argued about consent. The man was then surprised that he could not go on his merry way when charges were brought against him.

I hope this series is just a passing fad and that people really will not want that kind of relationship. Being the center of the world for someone who is twisted in that way is not a safe thing to be. It is full of manipulation, stalking and pain; it will not make you feel cherished. If you are curious about it, just look into the #50shadesofabuse. These people dealt with their own Christian Greys. Some did not even survive it.

Instead of giving into the idea of saving someone and being a feminist for doing so, — which is the biggest lie of the entire series — spend that movie money at a women's shelter or help out at an abuse hotline. Do not let people think this is a culturally acceptable. As college students, the future is with us. Take a stand for good, healthy relationships and help those who are hurting in this very circumstance. If you find your very own Christian Grey, safehorizon.org is a great organization to turn to for help.

Amanda Turner can be reached at aturner@alestlelive.com.

Do you think the suggested increase to parking fines is unreasonable or is Parking Services in the right?

Answer our poll at www.alestlelive.com.



— Photo illustration by Caitlin Grove/Alestle
— Photo courtesy of Josh Funneman

CAITLIN GROVE
Alestle Lifestyles Editor

'I'M QUITE THE Student performer

Josh Funneman has been performing on the main stage in Dunham Hall Theater for a few years now, capturing the hearts of audiences with his comedic ways. Yet, if it had not been for his eighth-grade crush, this may have never occurred.

"I really got into theater stuff because my eighth-grade play — I had a huge crush on this girl, so I went and did it and I ended up getting the lead role," Funneman said.

However, for Funneman, a senior theater and dance major from Teutopolis, success did not come as smoothly as one would think.

"The audition [freshman year] went terrible — I had no idea what a monologue was," Funneman said. "[When] I came into this program, I thought I was talented — [but] I was a really bad actor. I came in the day of the audition, having memorized a monologue from

a crappy movie, and I just bombed it — my words just stopped coming out. I don't remember what shows were on that season, because I didn't get called back for any of them."

Theater and dance professor Chuck Harper said Funneman was enrolled in his beginners acting class his freshman year, and saw potential right away.

"My first impression of [Funneman] was he was a very raw talent," Harper said. "He was really funny — that was clear — but had some issues with focus and honing in on what he was doing. His energy was really scattered. Over the last four years, what we've been doing is keeping his sense of humor, — his weird, wacky sense of humor — but to really be able to direct it and use it to maximum effect."

Funneman said since he already signed up for the program, he might as well give it another try. This second chance came in the form of The Cougar Theater Company.

"That experience was awesome," Funneman said. "[Theater and Dance Properties Manager] Kate Slovinski was in charge of it at the time and she is a saint. She takes actors like me who had no idea what they were doing, and puts on a show. What's cool about it is

that back then, the company would perform at the Wildey Theatre and children would get out of school to come see us. Kids are the best audience — you learn to get out of your box, to actually do stuff. My next three or four shows were with [Slovinski] and CTC, and that ended up being my training ground."

Slovinski, who at the time was production manager of CTC, said shaping Funneman was mostly a refinement of technique and using his strong suits to compliment and strengthen his other, less-prominent qualities.

"His first role was as the Frog Prince in which he had only one line, which was 'croak,'" Slovinski said. "To begin with, Josh and all of his 6-foot lithe hopping was hilarious within itself. Then the subtext of how he said 'croak,' it's so hard to explain, but he stole the show. To hear somebody say 'croak' with such conviction — croak as in 'No,' croak as in 'What?' and croak as in 'Stop it,' all with just the word 'croak.' To see him not only

do that, but pretty much walk away with the show when he was onstage, was when I was like, 'This is it; this kid's got the stuff and he's better than I thought.'"

Slovinski said the next show her and Funneman collaborated on was a children's melodrama titled, "The Perfumed Badge" and during this process was the first time she saw the true potential of Funneman's comedic abilities.

"I remember the first moment it dawned on him he told a joke, but didn't physically tell the joke," Slovinski said. "I knew Josh was on his way to being as funny with what he said and how he said it, as he was with his movements. I remember that moment and thinking, 'Oh my gosh there's a comedian, I just saw it, it's going to start, and it will start here.' And that was huge for him and for me. I thought I knew how funny he was but we were just getting started."

Once Funneman had developed his skills, he decided it was time to try the theater department auditions once again. Funneman said the Theater and Dance Department was quite different from the theater he knew prior.

"It's insane [on the main stage]," Funneman said. "I came from my high school — our director was a guy who worked at Wal-mart and our stage was in the grade school gymnasium; they fold out uncomfortable chairs and moms are there to see you. But here, the community comes out to support us; it's insane."

Harper said the first time he saw Funneman's full potential was in the play "The 39 Steps."

"'39 Steps' was where he found the kind of role he can just nail — that really played into his comic skills," Harper said. "I didn't direct it, but I assumed he would be in it. He was still at that point [where he was] a little bit rocky in terms of his focus and his technique, so it was a really big step for him to get that big of role in one of the faculty shows on the big stage. Coming to see that show and seeing the work he did in it was the moment I was like, 'Okay, it's all coming together for him. He's starting to really put the pieces together.'"

After roles in various other plays during the next two years, it was finally Funneman's time to shine. This time, it came in the form of a play called, "Servant of Two Masters."

"That was the best experience I've had, ever," Funneman said. "My favorite moment of ['Servant of Two



E ATTENTION WHORE'

er dazzles audiences with comedic ways

Masters'] was one time where the Theater 111 students are forced to come see the show by their professor. I saw one kid with his notebook, taking notes from the show. So I jumped offstage, took his notebook from him and I wrote, 'The actor portraying Truffaldino is both particularly talented and handsome.' And I tossed it back to him and said, 'Put that in your paper and you're bound to get an A.'

Harper said Funneman's role in "The 39 Steps" solidified his potential in the theater department and proved he could handle larger roles, such as Truffaldino.

"There are people who are good actors, but are they good enough to hold down a show, be the centerpiece of a show? He wasn't the centerpiece of that show, but the work he did in it was what told me he can be the guy — you can build a whole show around him, which is what 'Servant of Two Masters' was," Harper said.

Funneman has recently expanded his comedic horizons and taken to the stand-up world. He performs at Hey Guys Comedy Club in Fairview Heights most Wednesdays.

"Stand-up is awesome; you get to meet all kinds of people through it," Funneman said. "I got to perform with Dustin Diamond, Screech from Saved by the Bell, and Todd Bridges from Different Strokes — like, 'What you talkin' 'bout Willis' — I met Willis. I think [theater and stand-up] kind of inform each other. I look at stand-up as a play that I wrote. I know what hits and what doesn't. When you're actually writing about real things in your life, those tend to be the funnier things."

Slovinski said the two things one may see the moment that he or she meets Funneman is his enthusiasm and people-pleasing skills.

"If [Funneman] would have a spirit animal, it would be a golden lab. He's just so sweet and so inviting," Slovinski said. "What struck me was someone who was willing to pour it all into getting better at this craft and wanted so much to give. I thought, 'I have to work with this guy. I will find something just to have that kind of energy and enthusiasm; I think that's something we don't have enough of in this world.'"

Harper said he hopes Funneman will leave the university with a greater sense of confidence.

"He's funny, and I think he's always known he's funny and has enjoyed that, but I think maybe he knows now that he can be professionally funny," Harper said. "He cannot just make his friends laugh, but through his work here and the work he's started doing off campus

with stand-up, I think he knows that comedy is a potential career. I think when he got here he might have dreamed of it in a big, nebulous way, but I hope now he knows if that's what he really wants, he's got the tools."

Funneman said it means the world to him to have been part of this department.

"I don't care what kind of day you're having, if you go see a show like ['Servant of Two Masters'], you walk out of there a different person," Funneman said. "Being with these students and professors, everyone is so passionate and it's incredible."

“As powerful as the world can be in making us a little less warm, I just don't think the world can make Josh Funneman a little colder — it's just not in his nature.”

Kate Slovinski
Theater and Dance Properties Manager

Harper said Funneman is an interesting guy when he is not trying to be funny, something that happens to be his biggest challenge.

"What do you do when you can't be funny? How do you deal with a play or a scene where you can't use humor? For a lot of people, trying to be funny is very vulnerable," Harper said. "He's a stand-up [comedian], too, and that's the most terrifying thing in the world that I can think of; I can't imagine getting up in front of people and either you're funny or you suck. So, for some people, comedy is a very vulnerable thing; I think, for Josh, he's more vulnerable the opposite way."

Slovinski said the biggest legacy Funneman leaves in his wake is how he shows others to follow their dreams.

"Many believe that school is something you have to complete and then begin working toward [the dream]," Slovinski said. "[Funneman], from that really genuine place of wanting to share laughter and to be onstage, he began working immediately with stand-up and continuing with shows. I think that's the biggest lesson I can

say I've learned from [Funneman]. Josh Funneman should remind you, your dream begins today — and that's a great gift."

Harper said some of the moments he felt he really got to know Funneman were the times standing around talking before or after class.

"He's funny onstage, but he's really funny and insightful offstage in a humorous way, just when he's talking about life," Harper said. "I'm a fan of the man. I'm going to miss him; he's graduating and we are just getting to the point where he's doing great stuff — but that is the point where he should be leaving."

Funneman said he plans to stay in the St. Louis, Mo. area, audition around and perfect his stand-up performances.

"There is a girl who books comics and showed interest in working with me, so I'll see if we can do something with that," Funneman said. "Stand-up is something that I can pick when I'm performing. I'm still going to act as much as I can, but you have to audition and this and this. Stand-up, I can just go onstage and perform."

Slovinski said as the end of his senior year draws near, she cannot wait to see what is next for Funneman.

"It doesn't matter how great his career will become — he will never be the person that won't give an autograph, won't give a hug, won't go back to where his family is from," Slovinski said. "I don't see, as powerful as the world can be in making us a little less warm, I just don't think the world can make Josh Funneman a little colder — it's just not in his nature. He's the kind of person where when you hear his voice or see his name, you can't wait to see what's next. I'm just happy to know him."

Funneman said acting has given him something he can be proud of for years to come.

"I got through high school with bad grades and thought, 'This is something I'm good at,' even though I wasn't — but now I actually am," Funneman said. "I think it just comes naturally to me; I've been making people laugh my whole life. Any time you can get me in front of people to do my thing, I eat it up. Personally, I can't imagine doing anything else."

Caillin Grove can be reached at cgrove@alestlelive.com or 650-3530.



| Photos courtesy of Josh Funneman and Adam Mason/Alestle

Main villain 'Red Hood' does nothing but die in 'Gotham'

BEN LEVIN
Alestle Sports Editor

When I heard "Gotham" planned to incorporate "Red Hood," I braced myself for the worst. Even with the forewarning, I could not anticipate how terrible the concept was going to turn out. The show ended up abusing the character's name to gain viewers.

In the comics, the original Red Hood is the Joker, then Batman's former boy wonder Jason Todd claimed the title. The Red Hood is an anti-hero who — unlike his mentor — will use violence and torture to save Gotham from evil's clutches.

This rendition of the Red Hood gang is originally led by a cocky, young kid who treats stealing money from banks as a Robin Hood-esque feat — he is quickly killed, though. The second Red Hood — who killed Floyd — is a short, fat man who looks more like Danny DeVito's Penguin than a young, stealthy killer.

Although reluctant at first, the second Red Hood throws money to people in a bank he has just robbed because his fans — who are people in a bank whose money has just probably been stolen by the Red Hood — wanted him to give them some cash. Giving back does not seem like something a bank robber would do, but stealing from a bank is not what a hero would do, so essentially this character is just plain boring and a little dumb.

In fact, he is so unintelligent that he is shot by one of his partners, who takes the red hood to impress his girlfriend. This new Red Hood is a scared, stuttering dummy who believes the hood is lucky and believes it to be so magical that he and his two accomplices have a firefight with a lot of the Gotham City Police Department. The firefight comes to a close when a few fatal gunshots extinguish the third Red Hood.

While I feel "Gotham" does not have to be completely based off of the comics — although it could be watchable if it took advantage of successful story-writing — naming the episode "Red Hood" was undoubtedly supposed to get comic fans to watch the show. If the show wants to use names of famous characters to increase ratings, it should at least attempt to make its characters have some resemblance to the comic book characters.

A perfect example of "Gotham" taking liberties with characters is the Penguin, who had an intriguing episode where his former foe and new henchman Butch Gleason proved he was worthy of Penguin's trust and could be useful to the villain's bar.

Penguin's bar runs out of alcohol, which is unfortunate because the only booze supplier on his side of town is Salvatore Maroni, who is not Penguin's biggest fan. Crossing Maroni

could end in Penguin's death, but he decides to go for Maroni's booze because it is a necessity.

When Penguin and the boys show up to the alcohol warehouse, they are armed, but are quickly depressed when cops go to Maroni's men and tell them to leave, because apparently Penguin will cross an extremely powerful — or at least he is supposed to be — crime boss, but will not cross the police who likely work for Maroni or Carmine Falcone.

The cops are not actually cops, but men Butch hired to make stealing the precious liquid easier than a firefight. Penguin and Butch share a drink back at the bar to celebrate their victory.

Butch seemed loyal to Penguin, but in all likelihood will cross him once Fish Mooney returns to power in Gotham. His loyalty to Mooney seemed unscathed when we last saw the pair.

Speaking of Mooney, it was revealed that the boss of the prison she has been staying in is owned by Francis Dulmacher — the Dollmaker. Dollmaker has made a short-lived appearance already in "Gotham," and despite his simple capture by Jim Gordon, it is nice to see the show reusing a villain so fans' heads do not

explode with the amount of bad guys in the program.

Dollmaker is sort of a lower-to-middle tier villain so it makes sense "Gotham" would attempt to use this character more often, as he is someone the police could actually stop — unlike the Joker, who may have appeared this week or last week.

Mooney gets captured and is about to be thrown into a restraining jacket, but instead decides to dig her right eye out with a spoon. What this is supposed to prove, I do not know, but it sure seemed like a dumb thing to do. Perhaps, she believes the Dollmaker does not want an imperfect test subject, but maybe just scratching her face or giving herself a scar would have done this. I have not tried before, but ripping your eye out with a spoon is likely uncomfortable.

While Mooney will be wearing an eye patch — that could be neat actually — Selina Kyle might be dressing up more, as Barbara Kean gave her and Ivy Pepper free reign to raid her closet. There are a lot of things that are wrong with this, starting with the fact Kean only knows these two girls because they broke into her apartment when she was away. Along with that, she convinces Kyle that she can use

her looks to get what she wants, knowing full well that Kyle is a criminal. So now, the former girlfriend of a cop is helping a criminal.

I am secretly hoping that the show decides Gordon and Kean getting together to make Batgirl is a bad idea, not because I dislike Batgirl — she is really helpful to Batman and Gotham City — but because she might inherit Kean's stupidity, and will not be the same character she is in the comics.

The future Dark Knight, young Bruce Wayne, and his butler Alfred Pennyworth take in a homeless friend's of Alfred's named Reggie who used to serve with him in the S.A.S. Reggie turns out to be working for the board of Wayne Enterprises, who wants Bruce killed. For those of you who do not quite understand this — including the writers of "Gotham" — everybody knows Bruce is Batman. He cannot die as a child. The show can stop pretending he is ever in danger based solely around this principle.

"Gotham" airs at 7 p.m. every Monday night on FOX.

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Photo via IMDb

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ARLO GUTHRIE
Alice's Restaurant: 50th Anniversary Tour

Saturday, March 7, 7:30 p.m.
Meridian Ballroom, Morris University Center

Sponsored by Scott Credit Union

Arlo Guthrie was born with a guitar in one hand and a harmonica in the other. He is the eldest son of Woody Guthrie, America's most beloved singer/writer/philosopher, and Marjorie Mazia Guthrie, a professional dancer with the Martha Graham Company. An icon of the "Folk Boom" era, his career exploded in 1967 with the release of "Alice's Restaurant." Since then, he's brought his brand of musical storytelling to stages around the world. This season, we welcome Guthrie back to SIUE, where he appeared four times at the Mississippi River Festival and once with Arts & Issues in 2008. In 2015, Arlo embarks on his 50th Anniversary Tour celebrating "Alice's Restaurant."

Tickets can be purchased at the Morris University Center Information Desk or artsandissues.com

50 free tickets for SIUE students courtesy of Student Affairs

SPORTS

Questions or comments regarding this section? Contact the Sports Editor at 650-3524 or sports@alestlelive.com

Thursday, February 26, 2015

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Standings



*Standings and Results as of 12 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 25

Women's Basketball

	OVERALL	OVC
UT Martin	18-9	14-0
SIUE	16-11	11-3
Tenn. State	13-12	10-4
Belmont	12-15	9-5
Jax. State	17-9	8-6
Morehead St.	11-15	7-6
E. Illinois	10-17	7-7
Austin Peay	9-19	6-9
E. Kentucky	9-14	4-9
SE Missouri	10-17	3-11
Murray State	8-20	3-12
Tenn. Tech	5-22	2-12

Results from Feb. 12

Tenn. State 66, Tenn. Tech 57

SIUE 78, Austin Peay 69

Austin Peay 83, E. Illinois 72

Results from Feb. 14

SE Missouri 88, Murray State 66

UT Martin 91, Austin Peay 63

Belmont 57, Morehead St. 56

Jax. State 67, Tenn. Tech 58

Tenn. State 86, E. Kentucky 74

Results from Feb. 21

E. Kentucky 70, Morehead St. 64

E. Illinois 49, SE Missouri 48

Tenn. State 74, Jax. State 66

Murray State 72, Austin Peay 67

UT Martin 79, SIUE 72

Belmont 64, Tenn. Tech 62

Results from Feb. 23

Jax. State 69, E. Kentucky 65

Morehead St. 90, Tenn. Tech 82

Schedule for Feb. 28

Tenn. State at Belmont

E. Illinois at SIUE

Men's Basketball

	OVERALL	OVC
EAST		
Belmont	18-10	10-5
E. Kentucky	16-10	8-5
Morehead St.	12-16	7-6
Jax. State	12-16	5-9
Tenn. Tech	12-16	4-10
Tenn. State	5-23	2-11
WEST		
Murray State	24-4	14-0
UT Martin	17-10	9-5
E. Illinois	16-12	9-6
SIUE	12-14	8-7
SE Missouri	12-16	6-9
Austin Peay	7-20	2-11

Results from Feb. 14

UT Martin 67, Austin Peay 61

Belmont 58, Morehead St. 57

Murray State 94, SE Missouri 92

SIUE 80, E. Illinois 63

Jax. State 82, Tenn. Tech 68

E. Kentucky 69, Tenn. State 41

Results from Feb. 19

Belmont 66, E. Kentucky 61

SIUE 75, SE Missouri 72

UT Martin 75, E. Illinois 73

Results from Feb. 21

Murray State 89, Austin Peay 54

Jax. State 55, Tenn. State 50

SIUE 76, UT Martin 68

Belmont 88, Tenn. Tech 82

Schedule for Feb. 26

Jax. State at E. Kentucky

UT Martin at Tenn. State

SIUE at Austin Peay

E. Illinois at Murray State

Tenn. Tech Morehead State

Results from Feb. 12

Jax. State at Morehead State

Tenn. State at Belmont

Austin Peay at SE Missouri

Tenn. Tech at E. Kentucky



Senior guard Kris Davis stares down his University of Tennessee at Martin defender on Saturday, Feb. 21. Davis and his four senior teammates were honored before the game for their service with the team. Davis gave the Cougar fans a proper send-off, dropping 19 points in his final game at the Vadalabene Center.

Photo by Nicola Lynn Batista/Alestle

Men's basketball wins final home game 76-68

BEN LEVIN
Alestle Sports Editor

Honoring its five seniors on Saturday, Feb. 21, the men's basketball team went above the .500 mark in the Ohio Valley Conference, defeating the University of Tennessee at Martin 76-68, in the Cougars' last home game.

Senior guards Kris Davis, Maurice Wiltz, Michael Messer, forwards Rozell Nunn, Keaton Jackson and Team Manager Jeren McGhee were all rewarded for their hard work before the game.

In an interview on siuecougars.com, Head Coach Lennox Forrester said the victory in the players' final home game of their career was the way everyone should leave the Cougar fans.

"[It was] a great, great night for those five seniors," Forrester said. "This is the way they wanted to go out with a victory at home. I think, at home, we were [11-3], and that's something to be said. They were the foundation to where for teams coming in; it's not going to be easy to win here."

All five seniors started the game, with Wiltz taking the place of junior guard Donivine Stewart in the starting line-up. Forrester said he plans on always starting seniors in their last home game, as a way to display his gratitude toward them.

"I don't care if it's a walk-on or not, I try to [start the seniors on senior night]," Forrester said. "As a senior, you always want to

start your last game at home, whether you play a lot of minutes afterwards or not. To me, it's wanting to give them something that says, 'Hey, you start on senior night.' That's something we've always done."

Davis, who led seniors with 19 points on a 6-for-9 shooting night, said he hopes to be remembered for helping the program progress in the

the fourth overall leading scorer in the school's history. When you're doing something like that, it means you're scoring some buckets. For him to step up, that just shows some senior leadership."

While Davis' last home game was one to remember, freshman guard C.J. Carr showed the SIUE faithful that there is a bright future for the

is the fact that it has to start on the defensive end. He can score, but for him, it seems like he always wants to start on the offensive end first."

Carr's 21 points are a collegiate career-high for the Rock Island native. Forrester said it does not take much to get Carr scoring.

"Anything gets him going," Forrester said. "He could miss the first one. He's going to get going. He can go pretty fast as far as shooting the basketball and scoring for us."

The Cougars now have one game remaining, a visit to Clarksville, Tenn. to play Austin Peay State University at 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 26. SIUE, who is 1-11 away from the Vadalabene Center, will be attempting to take down the league-worst APSU to improve its position in the OVC Tournament.

Davis said the team needs to play like it has at home, and the Cougars can bring home a victory.

"[We have] got to keep the same confidence, the same intensity," Davis said. "I don't know why it switches up for us when we go on the road, but we'll figure it out. We just have to stick together as a team, play with confidence and play like we play at home and we'll be fine."

The OVC Tournament starts on Wednesday, March 4, in Nashville, Tenn., at the Municipal Auditorium. Times have yet to be announced.

"Seniors, we talk about leaving a legacy here, building the program up and taking steps forward."

Kris Davis

SIUE Men's Basketball senior guard

Division I era.

"Seniors, we talk about leaving a legacy here, building the program up and taking steps forward," Davis said. "For us to go out with a win like that against a team like UT Martin, it means a lot to us and to our fans."

Davis, one of the top scorers in SIUE history, has been the team's leader in points this season, averaging 14.5 points per game. Forrester said the game against UT Martin was something he has come to expect from Davis.

"It's one of those things where [Davis] has made those big baskets and tough shots," Forrester said. "Right now, he's

program, dropping 21 points in his 24 minutes on the court. Shooting 8-for-14, Carr hit three 3-point shots and went 2-for-2 at the line.

Carr credited his colleagues for his impressive night on the floor.

"It's all a confidence factor," Carr said. "I credit my guys for passing me the ball, and I had the easy job just knocking down shots."

Forrester said his young guard is always ready to step up to score at any point in the game.

"I thought [Carr] was awesome tonight," Forrester said. "He's very capable, but the thing that I talked to him about

Ben Levin can be reached at blevin@alestlelive.com or 650-3524.

Season-title hopes fly away in Cougars' loss to Skyhawks

BEN LEVIN
Alestle Sports Editor

Playing conference leader the University of Tennessee at Martin for the second time this season, the women's basketball team could not grab a win at home, losing to the Skyhawks 79-72.

The game started slow for the Cougars, who ended the first half down 13 points, only scoring 29 in the half. In an interview on siuecougars.com, Head Coach Paula Buscher said the time before the first television time-out was critical in SIUE's

downfall.

"I thought really you have to give UT Martin a lot of credit," Buscher said. "They came out very aggressive in the first four minutes. I thought we were passive in the first four minutes. We were turning the ball over. We were forcing the issue on things. We didn't control the tempo at all, and I thought that was the difference in the game that we got such a bad start."

The Cougars' struggles on offense led to easy points for UT Martin. Buscher said the pressure the opposition put on SIUE was not handled well by the players.

"We had 12 turnovers at half and I

believe they had 15 points off of turnovers," Buscher said. "We need to defend better. I thought we lost our focus a little bit defensively, but I think the more important thing was for us [is], we've got to have some more composure against the press. It wasn't a lot of times their actual trapping press, but when we crossed over half court, we just needed to control things and take our time and run our offense, and I thought we would've been OK."

Buscher gave the Skyhawks credit for throwing the Cougars off their game, saying UT Martin's pace was something SIUE could not handle.

"[UT Martin's pressure] speeds the game up, and it gets the game going fast," Buscher said. "You're taking quick shots, and they like to play like that. That kind of plays right into their hands."

The second half was more successful for the home team, outscoring its opposition 43-37. Redshirt junior guard Shronda Butts, who was held to zero points in the first-half, scored a team-high 16 points in the second half, going 4-12, with a 6-for-8 performance from the free-throw line. Senior guard Tierny Austin, who scored 14 points, dropped 11 in the second half and secured five rebounds.

Buscher said Austin and her teammates were a different team in the second half, and that led to the team's success.

"I thought we took better care of the ball in the second half," Buscher said. "We ran some things. I thought we executed on some screens, and then I thought we kept up with some big defensive plays. [Austin] came up with a few great steals. She was diving into the stands, and again, I really thought our defense got going a little bit. Then we'd go down, maybe take a quick shot, and they'd get right back in it, and there goes that lead again."

With a tough first half, the Cougars

could have been blown out, but Buscher said the players' ability to keep going impressed her.

"I liked that we continued to fight, and I liked that we continued to play hard," Buscher said. "That's why I love this team, and we'll bounce back from this, and we'll be better from it, but those first four minutes I was really disappointed. I've got to do a better job of getting them ready to start."

Buscher said the team worked hard to make a comeback, but SIUE's lack of control made the difference at the end of the game.

"I love this group," Buscher said. "This is a great group of student athletes that really do bust it, and they play extremely hard for each other. We didn't control the tempo of the game tonight. I've got to help us do a better job with that. I think the outcome hopefully would've been better had we controlled the tempo a little bit better."

SIUE has two home game remaining to prove they are worthy of a top seed in the Ohio Valley Conference Tournament. Buscher said she believes the team will come back strong after the loss.

"We've stuck by a philosophy all year long of we've got 24 hours on this one, and then we need to move on to the next," Buscher said. "I believe that's why we've been successful this season. They've really kept their focus. It's always what do we have next?"

Notes

The Cougars played at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 25, against Southeast Missouri State University. Due to time constraints, we were unable to run that story. The team's final regular season game of the year is at 2 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 28, at the Vadalabene Center.

Ben Levin can be reached at blevin@alestlelive.com or 650-3524.



Freshman guard Donshe Beck covers her mouth after a foul is given in a game against the University of Tennessee at Martin. | Photo by Nicola Lynn Batista/Alestle



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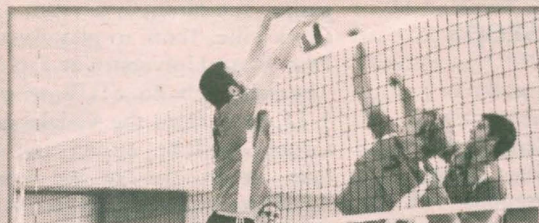
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Baseball team bashed by Golden Eagles, start 0-6

CAITLIN GROVE
Alestle Lifestyles Editor

Despite bringing out the rally caps in each game's ninth inning, the baseball team ultimately fell short in all three of its games this past weekend against Oral Roberts University, leaving its record 0-6.

On Friday, Feb. 20, the Cougars dropped game one, 6-2. Senior pitcher Ryan Daniels received the loss, pitching 4 2/3 innings and allowing three runs on five hits — increasing his earned run average to 5.87 and record to 0-1.

On offense, the team collected 11 hits — one more than its opponent. However, the Cougars' downfall came in the form of nine stranded base runners.

Head Coach Tony Stoecklin said the team did not have its best outing in game one against Oral Roberts University.

"I think we could have played better," Stoecklin said. "I think [Daniels] showed improvement on the mound compared to his first start, but I think overall, we could have played better as a team. We didn't quit — we kept fighting, but it was hard to overcome some of the mistakes we made earlier in the game."

The team attempted a late comeback in Friday's second game, scoring seven runs in the last two innings, before falling short 12-7. Guinn went 1-for-3, grabbing two RBIs off a double in the top of the eighth. Junior infielder Jacob Stewart also doubled in the top of the eighth, later scoring on a wild pitch. Senior first baseman Alec Saikal and junior infielder

Collin Book each singled to left field, earning an RBI a piece.

Junior pitcher Jarrett Bednar went 2 1/3 innings, giving up seven earned runs on nine hits, lifting his ERA to 9.45 and record to 0-2.

Stoecklin said a deficit at the beginning of the game hurt the team's ability to win.

“I think us starting off slowly like we have has kind of opened everybody's eyes that it's not going to be easy.

Tony Stoecklin
SIUE Baseball Head Coach

"We got down early and once you get down early like that, it's hard to overcome. We were down nine, 10 runs and it's hard to overcome that kind of deficit," Stoecklin said. "[Bednar] didn't have as good of command as what he had had the first game. A lot of his fastballs were up — that's why they had a high hit total against him. It was just a mechanical flaw he is working on, and he'll be better this week."

On Saturday, the Cougars were defeated by Oral Roberts University with a score of 13-3. Senior outfielder Nick Lombardo went 2-for-4, with an RBI on a line out to right field in the top of the second. Freshman infielder Mario Tursi earned an RBI on a double down

the line in the second. Sophomore outfielder Austin Verschoore reached on an error by the shortstop, scoring senior infielder Chase Green in the top of the eighth.

Sophomore pitcher Mike Miller lasted a mere two 1/3 innings, giving up two earned runs on three hits and two walks, leaving him a record of 0-2 and a 4.76 ERA.

Stoecklin said Miller deserved a better fate than he ended up with.

"I thought he pitched better than what his box score indicated — we didn't play defense behind him and that didn't help," Stoecklin said. "Overall we had 10 hits, but we didn't score many runs. With 10 hits you probably should have more than three runs. The key to offense is not just hits, but timely hits — you get those hits when men are in scoring position and we didn't do that very well in the last game of that series."

Stoecklin said the main thing the team is going to work on this week is the basic fundamentals.

"Pitchers are going to work on their

delivery all week, work on their command and spotting their pitches," Stoecklin said. "[With] the hitters, we've spent a lot of time working on situational hitting and two-strike hitting. It's been difficult because we haven't been able to actually get outside this week. It's hard to get better playing baseball when you're indoors in a small facility, but we're making due. We're also focused on our defense — we're taking a lot of ground balls."

Stoecklin said despite the losses, the team plans to take this as a learning experience.

"I think we're in a better place," Stoecklin said. "I think us starting off slowly like we have has kind of opened everybody's eyes that it's not going to be easy. We're a better team than what our record indicates, but we also have played tough competition — [The University of Oklahoma], [The University of Notre Dame] and [Oral Roberts University] are all traditionally good programs. The key now is how do we deal with being 0-6, and are we capable of putting it behind us and moving forward. We're looking forward to this weekend — going out and finding a way to get a couple of Ws."

The Cougars' next scheduled game against Saint Louis University on Wednesday, Feb. 25, was canceled due to inclement weather. The team will play next at 1 p.m. Friday, Feb. 27, at University of Arkansas at Little Rock.

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'Wrassling' Review: Triple H versus Sting is the perfect ending to the greatest era of wrestling

BEN LEVIN
Alestle Sports Editor

In the late 1990s, the world of professional wrestling was at its highest point with two companies, the World Wrestling Federation and World Championship Wrestling, battling each week to be crowned the king of the ring.

Much has changed since this golden era of wrestling. WWE became the World Wrestling Entertainment, Inc., or WWE, due to legal disputes; WCW no longer exists and the hardcore, gore-filled, occasionally scandalous style of professional wrestling is long gone with a new product that is more directed at young children.

During the past year, WWE — which takes every chance it gets to remind WCW of its failure — has been working its way toward a match-up that fans of the Attitude Era and the New World Order could enjoy together and finally end the discussion of which company had the best leader.

In the late 90s, the current chief operating officer for the WWE, Triple H, was part of the baddest group in the company, D-Generation X. DX was full of anti-heroes who wreaked havoc for all wrestlers and even WWE CEO Vince McMahon.

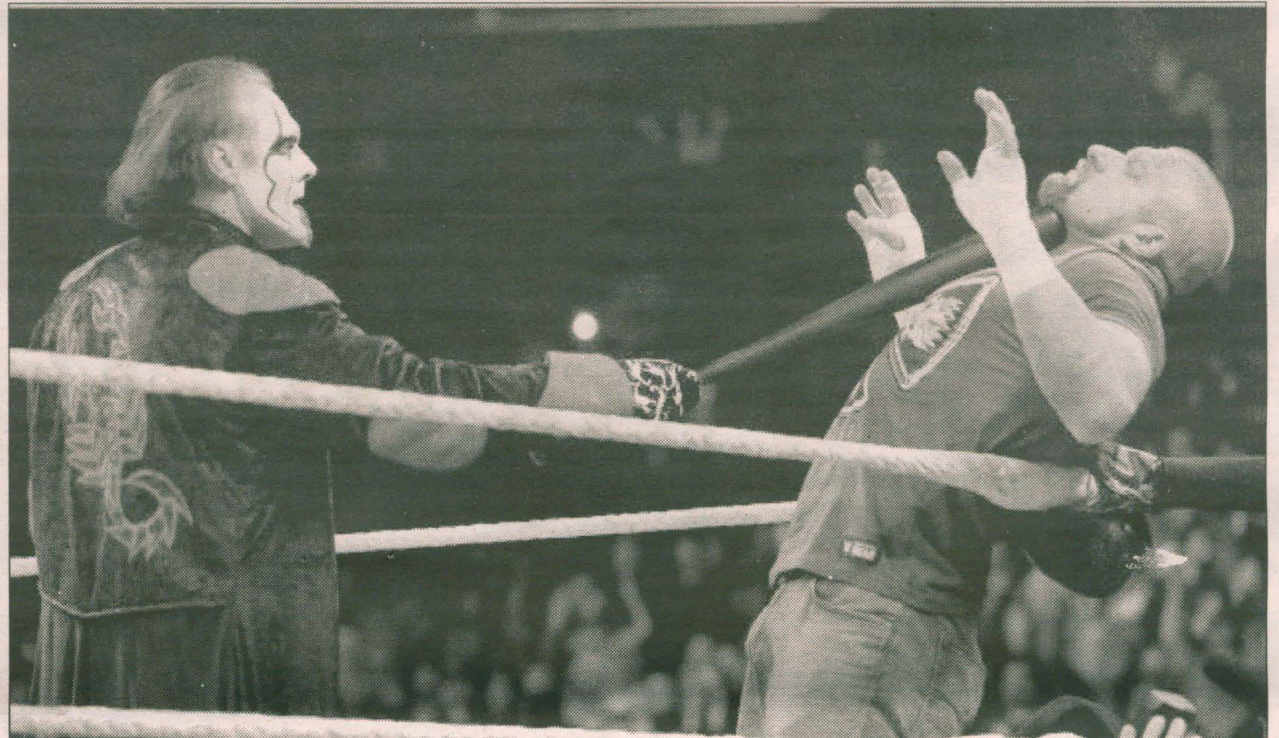
Sting, the man at the head of the WCW locker room, fought the NWO, defending the underutilized wrestlers in the company who were not part of WCW's last hope. Sting, part of WCW's first Monday Nitro, stayed with the company until it closed and participated in the final WCW show, ending in the same match as the first Monday Nitro — against wrestling legend Ric Flair.

When WWE bought out its competition and contracts of some WCW wrestlers, Sting's name never made it on the roster. He decided instead to take his talents to Total Nonstop Action. During the past year, though, the dream match of Sting at WrestleMania became more realistic, and after a few months of buildup, the former face of Ted Turner's company will be going up against the man who helped end his tenure in WCW.

The match seems a decade too late, but without question, allowing Sting to finally have his WrestleMania moment is the best thing that has happened to WWE in years, even better than Daniel Bryan's amazing championship run last year.

While both Triple H and Sting have aged, neither has lost it in the ring. At last year's WrestleMania; The Game — who has somehow beefed up since the 90s — put together a great match with Bryan. Sting has been working on his craft in TNA and while he has lost a step, his ability to use psychology in his matches is still one of the best in professional wrestling.

That's really what this historic match-up comes down to for the fans — psychology. As the years have passed, Triple H has cut his lengthy locks and traded in trucks for a suit and tie and has become the sort of establishment character he used to hate. On the other hand, Sting has kept his face painted and his voice silent, quietly fighting



Two of the greatest wrestlers of all time, Sting and Triple H will go head-to-head at this year's WrestleMania, in a match that marks Sting's first match in World Wrestling Entertainment. | Photo via WWE.com

for what is right in the world.

The original idea for Sting's final match was reportedly supposed to be against The Undertaker at WrestleMania, but that was thrown out the window when it was questionable if Undertaker would ever wrestle again. On first thought, that seemed like it would be fantastic, but Triple H against Sting just makes more sense.

As last year's WrestleMania proved, Undertaker's match against "The Beast" Brock Lesnar was really only memorable because it has The Deadman's first loss at WrestleMania and since Lesnar almost ended Undertaker's career because Lesnar is just not good at not hurting people.

Along with that, both Sting and The Undertaker are very similar characters at this point. Both have a mystical vibe about them, rarely talk and are going to be cheered for in all of their matches because they have gained the audience's trust after decades of great wrestling.

Pitting The Undertaker against Sting would not only confuse fans, but would not make for the great match that Sting deserves to go out on. The guy has survived the test of time and worked his rear off in some less-than-great situations — go watch some of TNA and you will see what I mean. His status as "The Icon" has only grown as father time caught up to him.

This highlight match at WrestleMania should be an incredible compilation of two historic careers full of ups

and downs, but who wins this battle of wrestling gods seems sadly predictable.

Listening to wrestlers who fought for WWE during the Attitude Era, most still have some less-than-appreciative feelings about WCW trying to take Vince McMahon out of the business — especially old timers like Michael Hayes, who accused WCW of trying to take food off his table.

With this in mind, and the fact that the WWE Network has programs documenting WWE's success, it would seem McMahon is going to officially hammer home the point that his company won by having his son-in-law defeat the face of his rival's company.

Is it right for WWE to do this? Probably not, considering Sting was only doing what his boss was telling him to, but that has not stopped McMahon and his company in the past. McMahon has proved time and time again that you do not cross the boss, or there will be repercussions — cue CM Punk saga.

Allowing Triple H to win solely on this principle is stupid, petty and seems right up WWE's alley. "The Game" has already told the WWE Universe the sad sob story of how WCW tried to take his job, and how Sting stands for everything wrong during that time. Instead of embracing the return of Sting, the company has attempted to bury his legacy to toot its own horn.

Ben Levin can be reached at blevin@alestlelive.com or 650-3524.

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