

# the Alestle

ALTON - EAST SAINT LOUIS - EDWARDSVILLE

Wednesday, June 13, 2012

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# BOT conflicts hinder progress

## Some board members can't agree on role they play in SIU system

**ROBYN KIRSCH**  
*Alestle Opinion Editor*

Despite recent disputes and underlying tension between members and administration, the SIU board of trustees is attempting to move forward in the best interest of the university and its students, faculty and staff.

During the May board of trustees meeting, a dialogue was opened to the possibility of bringing in the Association of Governing Boards to aid in the board's overall progression of governance. The board members and SIU President Glenn Poshard have varying views concerning who originally came up with the idea to seek assistance from the AGB.

Former Board Chairman Roger Herrin contends he was the first to recommend the AGB over a year ago, whereas Poshard claims in a May report from The Southern that he suggested it last year.

"I suggested we bring in the AGB for a workshop last year," Poshard said in the report. "[Herrin] agreed that we could explore that. What they quoted us was a half-day workshop for \$5,000."

Herrin said he has paperwork showing his communications with this firm about a year ago including the firm's informational literature and personal letters. The AGB offered to supply information about the role between the trustees, the president and the chancellors.

"It was just briefly mentioned at the last board meeting, and I related to the rest of the members that I had encouraged an outside firm, such as [the AGB] come in...about a year ago actually," Herrin said. "So, I'm not sure why several of the members were not willing

to even entertain that idea back a year ago, and now all of a sudden they brought it up again. Now what they intend to do with that, I have absolutely no idea."

Herrin said he had high hopes for the board of trustees to benefit from the services of the AGB.

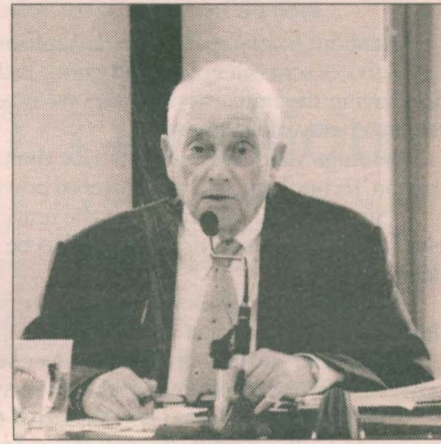
"A year ago I was elected chairman of the board...it became pretty apparent, immediately thereafter, that I was getting no support from the Metro East members or from the administration," Herrin said. "So, I was trying to find some middle ground where we could all work together for the best interest of the university. That was my intention [for suggesting the AGB]."

According to current board of trustees Chairman John Simmons, of East Alton, he proposed the AGB's assistance during the May meeting.

"We can't seem to agree, which is ironic because that's why I wanted the AGB to maybe come, but we can't even agree on whether we can agree or not. I mean we all agree we disagree," Simmons said. "So, I'm kind of refusing to spend university money on a program that we're not going to have full support and participation of."

Simmons said whose idea it was to hire the AGB is of little importance, especially if the members cannot unanimously vote to use university funds or find a private benefactor to fund the AGB's services and workshop opportunities.

"Then it was brought to my attention that Roger Herrin brought it up, which I said, 'Well that's fine. I don't really care.' Another board member said, 'So, you obviously sup-



Clockwise from top left: Marquita Wiley, John Simmons, Roger Herrin and Ed Hightower are a few of the board of trustees members involved in a recent dispute. | Alestle File Photos

port it then, right Roger?" and he said, 'I'll have to think about it.'" Simmons said. "So, I guess he's still thinking about it. I don't know."

The board utilizing the AGB services is currently off the table for discussion due to

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# Cuban art adds to campus culture

**ROBYN KIRSCH**  
*Alestle Opinion Editor*

When most think of Cuba, the first things to come to mind are Fidel Castro, cigars and Caribbean culture, but probably not the prolific artwork of the late Emilio Sanchez.

Through the facilitation of University Museum Director Eric Barnett, SIUE has secured the largest collection of Cuban artwork by the Cuban-American artist. The donation from the Emilio Sanchez Foundation totals \$469,000 in value with 490 pieces.

"Sanchez set up this foundation to last 10 years to promote his work, and at the end of 10 years either sell or give away anything he had left in his estate, so they were reaching the end of that 10-year period," Barnett said. "During the course of that time, they had done a lot to publicize him, and there had been a lot of exhibitions, especially up and down the East Coast. They had done their work, as far as getting him recognized, and now it came time to disburse the estate."

On behalf of the university, Barnett belongs to several organizations, including the Association of Academic Museums and Galleries. As part of his



Sanchez worked with many different media throughout his life as an artist including colored pencil, oil paint, acrylic and watercolor, lithography and more.

| Photo by Kalin Haydon/Alestle

responsibilities as museum director, Barnett became aware of the Emilio Sanchez Foundation's disbursement of Sanchez's work last September through an AAMG

announcement that was made available to academic museums and galleries.

From September to December 2011, Barnett was corresponding with Ann Koll, the foundation's executive director and curator, to secure the donation to SIUE.

"SIUE contacted us at the very end [of our disbursement time frame], when we were on a deadline basis. Therefore, I requested that the donation happen as quickly as possible," Koll said. "SIUE responded in kind to that, and they worked as quickly as they could and it worked very nicely."

Koll, who has worked for the foundation for 12 years, said donations to the total 72 institutions have taken from as little as a week, for smaller print donations, to a year and a half, for larger donations. The donation to SIUE took a few months, and it received the shipment of artwork in the first few weeks of January.

"We had approximately 7,000 works to begin with when the foundation started, when the artist died [in 1999], granted these were a lot of multiples of prints and study sketches as

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**May 30, 2012: Announcement:**

Due to catastrophic hardware failure in the University's primary computing facility, Information Technology Services must immediately switch all services to backup power. This will require all servers be shut down before being switched to backup power. **This process will begin immediately and means that access to email, Banner, Blackboard, and all other University-hosted systems will be shut down until later this evening, May 30, 2012 or early tomorrow, May 31, 2012. You may also experience intermittent campus network issues during this time.**

If you have any questions, please contact the ITS Help Desk at 618-650-5500.

## ITS 'catastrophic' hardware failure results in few losses

### ALESTLE STAFF REPORT

At about 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Information Technology Services sent out emails and phone calls to campus offices saying the university's servers were being shut down due to a hardware failure.

Jennifer Vandever, associate vice chancellor for Information Technology, said the universal power supply failed.

"Six of the 12 capacitors [of the universal power supply] failed at the same time and had to be replaced," Vandever said.

According to Vandever, nothing in particular caused the failure and it was just an unfortunate incident.

Vandever said the universal power supply keeps the power steady for all of the university's servers.

"What happened then is we decided to switch to the generator, so that's why we took the servers down," Vandever said.

With the servers down, access to email, Banner/CougarNet, Blackboard and all other university-

hosted systems was interrupted.

"We took everything down and everything was offline at 8 p.m. on [May] 30th," Vandever said. "Everything was restored by 4 a.m. on the 31st."

According to Vandever, there is a secondary data center on campus to back up all of the university data.

"We controlled how the servers were taken offline," Vandever said. "We really didn't lose anything except for [the online student and faculty] directory."

Vandever said she hopes the directory will be restored within by Wednesday.

Vandever said a failure like this has never happened before, but ITS was not unprepared for the situation.

"We have disaster recovery plans and business continuity plans that we follow," Vandever said.

In the future, Vandever said ITS is looking at getting a secondary universal power supply.

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## Dental school advances education with simulation lab

DAVID PRUITT  
Alestle Reporter

The SIU School of Dental Medicine is preparing to use new construction and technological advancements in order to give the dental students the tools they need to succeed.

Starting this fall, the school is preparing to break ground on a new simulation lab. The project is part of Gov. Pat Quinn's Illinois Jobs Now plan of 2009. The state has released the funds and the dental school is set to move forward with the project.

Bruce Rotter, interim dean of the School of Dental Medicine, said he is excited about starting the project and the benefits it will offer students.

"As we endeavor to offer our students the best possible preparatory experience before they begin treating patients on a regular basis, the new simulation lab will more realistically simulate the actual clinical environment," Rotter said. "The new simulation lab will unquestionably enhance the outstanding dental education that we provide for our students."

The lab will provide students a chance to work with simulated patients, a flat-panel monitor at each workstation to receive information from the instructor and simulated patient records.

While the state is funding the construction of the new facility, Rotter said he is optimistic that private support will help equip the new workstations. According to Director of Development Steven Schaus, the school has already raised \$330,000 toward that goal.

In addition to this project, the SIU board of trustees recently approved the development of plans to renovate the school's research laboratories.

"The renovation will allow us to repurpose some existing labs to accommodate the specific research interests of our faculty," Rotter said. "It also will create shared lab space and shared equipment for improving stewardship of the existing space."

The new labs could give the school a broader scope and flexibility with its research.

"Because faculty mentoring of student research is a

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well," Koll said. "We have been able to place approximately 4,000 of them in the 72 institutions listed on our website. The remaining 3,000 have either been sold or are in the sale domain currently. We accomplished our mission to disburse all the work, and we closed our last physical location in March and continue to function as a virtual foundation."

According to Koll, the virtual foundation acts as an entity to provide educational information and support to universities and art-affiliated organizations or galleries. The foundation's database provides the universities and organizations with extensive resources concerning Sanchez's history and works.

Koll recommends individuals explore the Archives of American Art in Washington, D.C. Koll said there are currently three Sanchez exhibitions at the Bronx Museum, Museo de Arte de Ponce in Puerto Rico and the University of Virginia. She recently gave a lecture at the University of Virginia in honor of the opening of the exhibit.

"We continue to assist this kind of effort, and the universities are responding to preserving and promoting [Sanchez's] legacy," Koll said.

The donated work is a compilation of hundreds of pieces created with a wide range of media. Barnett said Sanchez explored several themes for years at a time. Among the themes were New York City sunsets, fruit and vegetable still lifes, architectural depictions and abstracts.

"He would do dozens of drawings of one sort of fruit, so I tried to get two or three so we could have a [broad] representation, both in terms of subject matter, media and time," Barnett said. "Now some of the things he's most known for are small Caribbean houses, very bright colored houses, and we [acquired] some of those too."

Prior to this extensive donation, in 1971 SIUE procured a color lithograph Sanchez had done of a Caribbean house in 1970.

"Stylistically, he was very conservative, but very dynamic in his color usage," Barnett said. "I think his work will have great staying power. I think his work is important because he explored the vibrant colors that we associate with the Caribbean, but he also found

those colors in urban and rural America."

English graduate students Noelle Norris, of Wood River, and Carrie Smith, of Houston, are working on cataloging Sanchez's work. Norris has worked at the University Museum for four years, and Smith has worked there for three years. It takes approximately an hour per piece to catalog and photograph, leaving an estimated 490 hours total for the Sanchez collection.

"It's a very unique collection," Norris said. "He is one of the very few artists who worked in every medium, which is cool to see. We have a lot of paintings in oil, acrylic and watercolor, colored pencil drawings, lithographs, so he was just a very diverse artist."

Koll said accessing an artist's work in a few sentences without sounding simplistic is a difficult task, one that does not begin to do it justice.

"[Sanchez] was a dedicated, prolific artist with a very independent voice that really speaks about American modernism, but with a particular Caribbean expression or light," Koll said.

Barnett feels this collection could act as a stepping-stone to putting our own traveling exhibitions together in the Caribbean.

"This may be a way of getting our foot in the door to put together travelling exhibitions that will go to museums down in the Caribbean, and then, of course, in return we might be able to get exhibitions from their museums coming up here. We could set up a sort of exchange program that way."

Aldemaro Romero, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, began the work of creating a link to Cuba through the Cuban Caribbean Center at SIUE shortly after becoming dean due to the collective desire among faculty to work with Cuba on the level of academic advancement. Romero diligently continues his work to solidify a working relationship between Cuban academic professionals and the SIUE community for future programs and study abroad opportunities.

"I think [the donation] comes at a very good time. We had a delegation who came to visit from the University of Havana [two weeks ago]. They visited the University Museum and saw the paintings, and one of the things we are working on for next summer is providing a summer course for SIUE students to take in Cuba," Romero said. "We are working with the Museum of Fine Arts in Havana to do some projects to

bring [more] Cuban art to SIUE. We are very excited about all of the possibilities."

The tense relationship with the Cuban government has made possibilities such as these nearly impossible until recently, with the Obama Administration alleviating some of the restrictions for travel and communications between countries. Romero is planning on traveling to Cuba, along with new Chancellor Julie Furst-Bowe, in September 2012 to sign the documents allowing for the Cuban-SIUE liaison to be official. Mass communications professor Cory Byers will be accompanying Romero and Furst-Bowe to Cuba for a documentary film.

Romero is the first of faculty and staff at SIUE to have several of Sanchez's pieces displayed in his office.

"He rarely painted any people; his spaces are empty of people. He liked to use yellow a lot, and he went through a number of phases, but he never followed the tendencies of the moment," Romero said. "So, he was an original person, and in that regard he may have suffered a lack of popularity of his time because he didn't follow the crowds in order to serve his own things. He was fortunate enough to have come from a wealthy family, so he didn't have to do this for a living, he painted because he wanted to."

According to Romero, other plans in the works for SIUE include the publication of a special interdisciplinary arts and sciences journal titled Polymath and a book on Cuba-U.S. relations in the near future.

In spring 2013, Cuban music group La Familia Valera Miranda will come to SIUE for a joint performance of the cantata "Carmina Burana" with SIUE faculty and students as a part of April 2013's Arts and Issues program lineup.

"Despite all the difficulties and obstacles imposed by politics, we are trying to develop as much of cultural and communicative exchanges between Cuba and us," Romero said.

Romero and Barnett plan to have Sanchez's work be the first exhibition in the expansion of the Art and Design Building upon completion of the construction in 2013.

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vital part of our program, the renovation will directly impact student scholarship," Rotter said. "The renovation will also directly impact faculty recruitment efforts in a positive fashion."

The plans include the renovation of 16 research laboratories, and the school is hiring a consultant to research and plan the project. Once cost is determined, the board of directors must approve any further action. The funds will come from university operating funds, equipment use fees and donations.

The new technologies that will be utilized are digital radiography and Chairside Economical Restoration of Esthetic Ceramics (CEREC).

According to Schaus, digital radiography will benefit patients and eliminate the need for paperwork. It will also keep the dental school abreast with technological advances that are currently used in the dental profession.

"We can perform the radiology here and send the X-ray over to the patient area and look at it with the patient," Schaus said. "The exciting thing is, the clinic will be all paperless. All the patients' records can be pulled

from a secure server."

The CEREC technology has been around for a couple of years, however, a gift from Sirona Dental Systems made it possible to dedicate a special course to the instruction of the system.

CEREC allows students to restore damaged teeth without the need for laboratory fabrication. The process uses an imaging device that sends a picture to a milling unit that reforms the missing tooth structure. The student can then cement the ceramic replacement in the patient's mouth.

Dentistry professor Christa Hopp said she likes the advantages the CEREC technology brings to the school.

"Instruction on the CEREC units has been part of my course in operative dentistry for the past couple of years," Hopp said. "The gift of the new CEREC units made it possible to enhance that piece of the curriculum for our year-two students. Additionally, the units made it possible to offer a select group of year-four students more comprehensive instruction on the techniques and much more hands-on access."

Sirona Dental Systems offered the dental school the opportunity to participate in the CEREC Gifting Pro-

gram. The gift included five CEREC acquisition units and five compact milling units at an estimated cost of \$200,000.

First-year dental student Craigory Raino, of Alton, said she is excited for the new changes at the dental school but chose to come to the SIU School of Dental Medicine based on its reputation.

"The reputation the faculty has and the other students that I have spoken to, that's what brought me here," said. "They have great board scores. I like that they involve you in community outreach and patient contact right from the start. In the second semester, we were out at middle schools working with little kids."

The school's main clinic in Alton handles a majority of the students' clinical work, including diagnosis, treatment planning, oral surgery and restorative and implant dentistry. However, the students are given the opportunity to rotate to the East St. Louis clinic to care for disadvantaged patients, particularly children.

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their inability to make a decision to vote on it or not, Simmon's said.

**Background on previous contention**

The board of trustees consists of nine members, of which all except two are appointed by Gov. Pat Quinn. The two who are not appointed are students elected by their peers to serve on the board as student trustees: one from the Carbondale campus and one from the Edwardsville campus. Once members have been appointed, it falls to those members to elect officers to positions on the board.

According to Simmons, Herrin was not on the board before being appointed by the governor during fiscal year 2011.

"[Herrin] was picked by the governor to serve on the board. Then, [before] the first meeting, several members of the board received calls on persuasion from the governor to make Roger Herrin chairman," Simmons said. "I was one of those that said, 'I don't want a guy that's never been on the board before to lead us.'"

"[During the March 2011 election] the slate of candidates was closed...and they [had] a vote of acclamation, which basically means since Ed was nominated and doesn't want to serve and nominated Roger," Simmons said. "There was no other candidate, so Roger had it basically by default."

Simmons said Herrin served from March 2011 to March 2012 as chairman.

"I personally only received a call from the office of state Sen. Bill Haine, who said he received a call from the governor's office...and he just told them that he was not going to put any pressure on me; but he wanted me to know that they had called, and I said, 'Thanks for letting me know,'" Simmons said.

Haine was unavailable for comment due to travel.

Board member Mark Hinrichs said anything the board could do to unite and become more functional, so as to better serve its intended role of governance and policy would be positive. Simmons is continuing to look into alternatives, such as the AGB and others of the like, to bring unity to the board, Hinrichs said.

"I was certainly one of the board members, that I am aware of, that received a call from a representative of the governor's office back in March, at which time that call was placed to me to lobby for my consideration of voting for the re-election of the current chairman at the time, Roger Herrin," Hinrichs said.

Simmons said during the

March 2012 election of officers he nominated senior trustee Ed Hightower who was appointed to the board in 2001, and has been acting vice chairman of the board for many years and still is currently.

Marquita Wiley board of trustee member since 2005 and current secretary said she received a phone call from Herrin asking her if she would support him in re-electing him as chairman. She conveyed clearly to him during the conversation that she would not be supporting him in the upcoming election because she felt personally things had not gone the way she had expected them to during the first several months of his tenure as chairman.

"Following that, I received a call from a member of the governor's office asking the same question, and essentially the way it occurred was that he asked if I would support him, and I said no, that I would probably not support him. I think he was counting votes," Wiley said. "He said, 'We do this in the governor's office; we try to see the way things are going, and if you don't show up we would have the votes we needed.' He was implying to me that not showing up was a tactical, reasonable thing for me to do."

"I said, 'No. When I joined the board, when I was appointed, my intent was that I would be involved and attend every meeting and vote with my conscience, with what I feel was right for anything that came before the board. Not showing up would be like putting my head in the sand, why would I do that, and I would definitely be at the meeting.'"

The governor was unavailable for comment, however, the governor's secretary, Brooke Anderson gave the following official statement.

"The governor appointed Dr. Herrin to the board, but only the board can elect a chairman. Our administration speaks with board members all the time, including those at SIU, we view that as being very important to be in touch with the policies that govern the students of Illinois, and also to ensure accountability from our university boards," Anderson said. "We provide the governor's perspective on a host of issues because the governor certainly has an interest in a productive, accountable board. We definitely reach out, we stay connected to board members and we make the governor's perspectives known... To suggest anything other than that conversation, it is inaccurate. We have a stake and an interest in our universities and we communicate with the board members...but those

are everyday conversations."

It was Hightower's understanding that when the governor appointed Herrin, Don Lowery and Donna Litton Manering, the governor wanted Herrin to be the chairman of the board. Due to Hightower's other responsibilities as superintendent and other involvements, he was unable to dedicate the necessary time needed to fulfill all of the duties of the chairmanship.

"When Gov. Quinn wanted Herrin to be the chair, certainly there were some concerns that he had not been on the trustee board; he didn't know some of the issues we were working through at the time," Hightower said. "[But] we would honor the governor's request, and certainly the request was made through President Poshard. So, Herrin became the chairman. [More recently] there were many difficulties with Mr. Herrin interfering with the day-to-day [operations], and now on the administration on...the SIU Carbondale campus nor the SIU[E] campus to do their job."

According to Hightower, board trustees are policy makers and are not hired to run the day-to-day operations; therefore, it is the board's responsibility to hire competent administrators, give them support and resources to do their job, which they are held accountable for getting them done.

"There were so many interferences that the board had become dysfunctional, and we just felt as a board that we needed to make a change in leadership," Hightower said. "After one year we decided that we needed to have a new chair, again I was busy and did not want to be the chair at this time."

At the March 22, 2012 board meeting, Wiley nominated Simmons to be the new chairman, which board member Hinrichs seconded. Herrin was nominated by Lowery, which board member Manering seconded.

According to a March 27 news report by WPSD Local 6, out of Paducah, Ky., Herrin, who was still chairman at the time, was voted out. There has been speculation regarding the reason for why Herrin was not re-elected chairman.

"It is obvious that they had conspired to elect John Simmons ahead of time. They had conspired to elect him chairman, and they had gotten together and knew what they were going to do; a couple of trustees even admitted to this. Now, think about it there is no other way he would have had his list of committee appointments if he was elected on the spot," Herrin said. "The president helped orchestrate this...and to orchestrate the election of chairman, and these other people,

and they are going to be his boss. He's supposed to keep arm's length away from the board."

In a close election, Simmons was elected chairman of the board with four votes while Herrin received two votes. According to the board of trustees minutes for the Mar. 22, 2012 meeting, Simmons voted in favor of himself and Herrin abstained from voting. Despite this, there was still one vote more in favor of Simmons deeming him the new chairman elect.

"The bottom line was there was more than numerous occasions where we tried to work with Herrin to get him to work within the framework of board policy, and not go in and direct administrators to do different things without getting approval from the whole board," Hightower said. "So, all this nonsense about discussions and all of that, it's not true; there were no secret meetings."

Poshard was unavailable to comment on the news reports and allegations made in March, but did provide an official statement.

"The board of trustees, under the present leadership of Chairman John Simmons, continues to affect the business of SIU in a manner that is consistent with the governance and policy making authority of the board," Poshard said. "The administration is working hand-in-hand with the chairman and other members of the board to keep our system financially sound with quality programs for our students."

According to Simmons, a culmination of finger-pointing continued.

"I think there were allegations that this was all Glenn Poshard-orchestrated coup, [but] at the end of the day, somebody just needs to move the university forward," Simmons said. "That's what I think I'm doing."

At the close of Herrin's time as chairman there were reports from WPSD on March 27 and The Southern Illinoisian on March 29 concerning dissidence brewing between SIU President Glenn Poshard and board members such as Herrin regarding selection committees for administrative positions.

"They've tried to change search procedures so people with political connections can get qualified for certain jobs," Poshard said, referring to Herrin and other board members in the WPSD news report.

Herrin offered a rebuttal to the aforementioned statement made by Poshard in March.

"The first part of it, absolutely I think we ought to expand the search process, and the second part, I repeat, that's just plain false," Herrin said. "It's just plain bullshit, and

he knows it. He is only trying to deflect the truth of what's going on at that university."

Elaborating on why he feels the search procedures should be changed, Herrin gave an example.

"The search committee [for the new chancellor] did not include a member of the board of trustees or Dr. Vandegrift or independent-minded people," Herrin said. "I personally believe that we should broaden the search committees so that we could get a more equitable and diverse group of people on the selection committee to select whether it be a chancellor, vice chancellor or a basketball coach or whatever it ought to be."

Among the board members questioning Poshard's leadership, Herrin alleges Poshard's motives in past years regarding his handling of the university's operations are not up to par.

"Glenn Poshard has a different view about how the university ought to operate than I do. He believes that he and the administration should be the sole decision makers of the university, [whereas] I believe that authority rests in the board of trustees," Herrin said. "Everybody in Southern Illinois is tired of the other way of that type of dictatorial control, and nobody has ever stood up to Glenn Poshard before. So, when I didn't cave into his way of doing business, he has made a personal attack upon me, but I do not intend to change my sense of values. I will not change my sense of values, and I believe in the long run that right will prevail."

Simmons and Hightower feel differently than Herrin in terms of the board's responsibilities.

"We aren't supposed to be on the day-to-day [operations]; we are supposed to set policies and procedures," Simmons said. "If someone has a problem with their kid getting in or so-and-so wants a job, you know what, don't call me about it. There's procedures for applying for a job or applying for a contract...That is the kind of ridiculous stuff we need to avoid."

According to Simmons, keeping out of business and decision-making that is the responsibility of the president, chancellor or department personnel is crucial to maintaining boundaries for the board.

After contacting the Illinois Attorney General's office, it is unclear of whether or not a violation of the Open Meetings Act has occurred, in terms of the alleged lobbying on the part of the governor's office to varying board of trustees members.

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# Lifestyles

Questions or comments regarding this section? Contact Lifestyles Editor Ashley Seering at 650-3531 or aseering@alestlelive.com.

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www.alestlelive.com

Wednesday, June 13, 2012



The Luis Tentindo Puppet Theatre performed 'Would You Still Be You?' during Xfest 3.0 on June 9. According to fox2now.com, Tentindo, who was born in Italy, now lives in New York City. His performances combine the art of puppetry, movement and multimedia. The show premiered in the Dunham Hall Theater at 7:30 p.m. | Photo courtesy of Chuck Harper

## Putting the 'mental' in experimental Xfest 3.0 returns with excitement, eccentricities

**DAVID PRUITT**  
*Alestle Reporter*

SIUE's Department of Theater and Dance showed off its third summer dose of experimental theater last week. Appropriately titled Xfest 3.0, the four-day festival of experimental performances offered theatergoers a different twist on the ordinary theater experience.

The festival started in 2010 as the brainchild of Peter Cocuzza, Theater and Dance Department chair. Theater professor Chuck Harper teamed up with Cocuzza to bring a different kind of theatre to the Midwest.

"These are things that audiences in our area don't normally get to see. Most people don't get to go to New York every year and watch some Broadway show. That's why we have the Fox Theatre and the Peabody Opera House," Cocuzza said. "It's the same thing for us. Most people don't get to see this style of theater performed somewhere, so we're bringing the mountain to Muhammad."

Cocuzza and Harper research hundreds of acts before they settle on the festival's performers each year. They are locked in a continual battle to balance overall artistic value and the experimental qualities of shows.

"This gives us more control over the quality of what

“Most people don't get to see this style of theater performed somewhere, so we're bringing the mountain to Muhammad...”

**Peter COCUZZA**  
*Theater and Dance Department Chair*

we bring in here. We wouldn't want all of our performers to be in the same genre," Cocuzza said. "We look at trying to make the selection of who we bring in here are varied for those people who are interested in experimental

theater.”

The genres for this year's festival included a multimedia opera, puppets and masked mimes. After the performances, the studios were turned into an open forum between the actors and audience where they could freely exchange artistic ideas.

Junior theater major Wes Robinson, of Decatur, said the festival was important for the students' perceptions of the theater world and what opportunities exist.

"I think it is really important. It is not the type of theater we're usually exposed to. I think it is fantastic in that sense," Robinson said. "It helps us see the opportunities out there. You know, there is a lot more out there than just going to do classical stage acting."

This realization of the theater world is one of the goals that Cocuzza was hoping to accomplish with Xfest. Cocuzza said he wishes to show where the employment opportunities exist in performance art and what is out there for theater majors.

# History, hysterics and homecoming

## Squonk Opera brings Edwardsville to life on stage



Squonk Opera took the Dunham Hall stage Wednesday in front of a packed house. The performance, 'Edwardsville: The Opera,' featured previously recorded interviews with community members as well as a generous mix of dance, song and music.

| Photo courtesy of Chuck Harper

**ASHLEY SEERING**  
Alestle Lifestyles Editor

As part of Xfest 3.0, Edwardsville citizens opened their homes, minds and thoughts to the performers of Squonk Opera, an experimental theater group from Pittsburgh.

The show, titled "Edwardsville: The Opera," was part of Squonk Opera's Hometown Series, which featured six years of touring in 23 different states.

At the Q-and-A session after the show, the performers explained that they spend about a week at each location, conducting interviews and finding out facts about the town that translates well into performance.

The show itself was an eclectic combination of video, music and dance, each reflecting an aspect of life in Edwardsville.

Interviews with students, staff members and other members of the community were projected on screens on the stage and served as narration in the performance.

I enjoyed this aspect of the performance greatly. I liked the rawness that came with the off-the-cuff answers in many of the interviews, and it added a change in pace visually

from the typical onstage, live performances.

Dressed in blue tracksuits, the members of Squonk played instruments, sang and added an additional dose of comedy to the already fun and lighthearted story.

The packed house seemed to love every minute of the engaging performance. I believe mediums like Squonk Opera truly are the "next big thing" in modern storytelling. In a world where attention spans are shorter than ever, this great display of mixed media is just what America needs to learn to truly appreciate where they live.

It was also interesting to learn various facts about the town. As a fairly new resident of Edwardsville, I have yet to fully experience the culture, and the performance made me want to explore the town and find out more about the history. Anything that inspires me to want to learn more is successful in my book.

For more information on Squonk Opera, visit [www.squonk-opera.org](http://www.squonk-opera.org).

Ashley Seering can be reached [aseering@alestlelive.com](mailto:aseering@alestlelive.com) or 650-3531. Follow Ashley @AshleySeering.

### XFEST | from pg. 4

The actors feel it is just as important for them as it is for the students. Casey Smith, a member of Circle X Theatre Co. from Los Angeles, performed his one-man show, "Violators Will Be Violated," for the first time to a college audience and was excited about getting to work with the students.

"We did a workshop with some of the students, and they seem to really dig the form," Smith said. "By nature, I really like to push. I don't necessarily do it on purpose but I don't suppress it. The ideal is not to offend people — if I do, I feel bad. The idea is I want them to feel something. If you're watching a performance that doesn't move you in some way, then why do it?"

Actors Kate Bradwood and Andrew Phoenix, of Portland, Ore., are part of the Wonderheads theatre ensemble and felt the experimental theater experience is important for young actors.

"I think it's nice for the students to experience different types of theater, to know what is going on out in the professional world, which is not always in a regular school year's catalog," Phoenix said. "It's not always a classical play, a musical or whatever their lineup is. It's a chance for seeing the type of show that may not be on the main stage of a college campus, but that type of theater is all over the world."

The festival is starting to gain momentum in the professional theater world. Cocuzza and Harper said they are starting to receive performance requests from theater companies as far away as Poland and Brazil.

"We are still a little fish in a big pond," Cocuzza said. "But what is happening, I can go to my colleagues at conferences now, mention XFest, and they will have heard of it."

The XFest creators continue to strive for quality shows for the audience and provide a unique experience for the SIUE theater students to learn and grow as actors.

"Where our tentacles are really reaching out is in the artist community. Every year we've had performers from New York or either Chicago or Los Angeles, and in the national artist community we are starting to become a known entity," Harper said. "Last year, we premiered a one-man show called 'Crow.' It was the first fully mounted production and it opened in Chicago last week. So, little by little the festival itself is becoming known in the artist community."



The Wonderhead, from Portland, Ore., describe themselves as real-life Pixar. The group performed 'Grim & Fischer: A Deathly Comedy in Full Face Mask,' as a part of Xfest 3.0 on June 8. | Photo courtesy of Sean Dennie

David Pruitt can be reached [dpruitt@alestlelive.com](mailto:dpruitt@alestlelive.com) or 650-3531. Follow David @DavidPruitt4.

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# Opinion

Questions or comments regarding this section?  
Contact Opinion Editor Robyn Kirsch at  
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6 // The Alestles

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Wednesday, June 13, 2012

## the Alestle

Alton - East St. Louis - Edwardsville

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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.

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For more information, call 618-650-3528.

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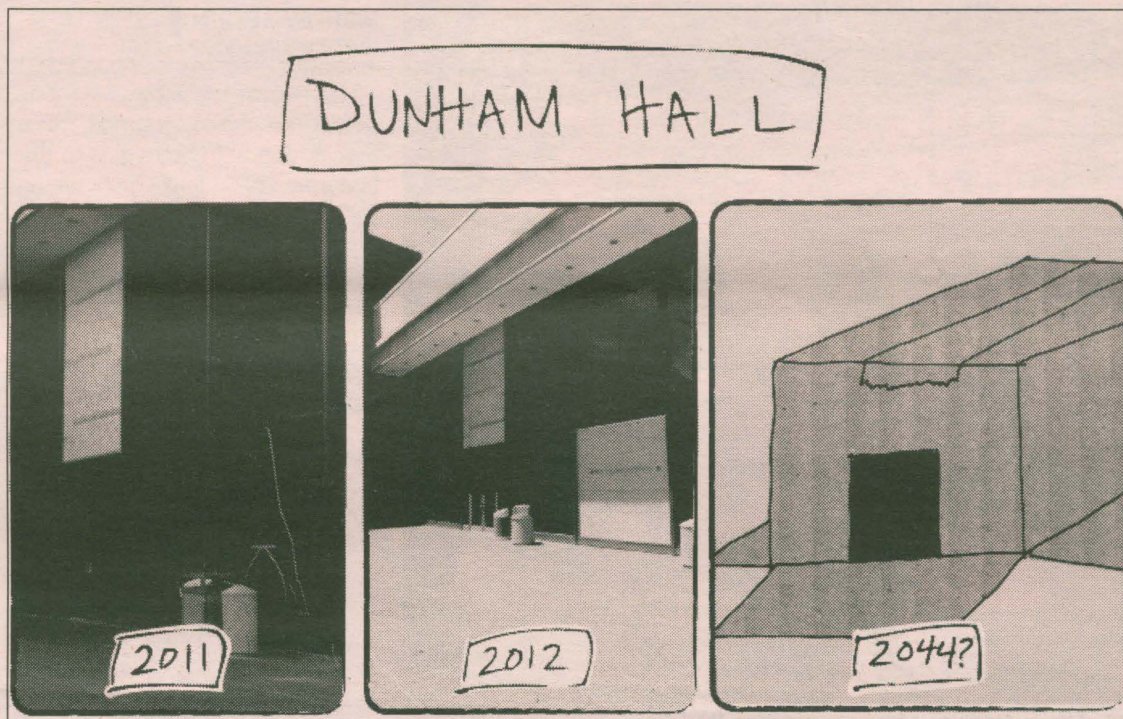


Illustration by Michelle Beard/Alestle

## Staff Editorial: Dunham Hall dulls campus image

Dunham Hall looks terrible. The building seems like it's on the way to being condemned because of those two boarded up windows.

According to an Alestle article from February 2011, former Assistant Vice Chancellor of Administration Rich Walker said the Dunham Hall windows were installed 50 years ago. Former Director of Facilities Management Bob Washburn estimated the replacement windows would be completed during summer 2012.

The school, however, has not yet begun to install new windows, and that's a shame. Dunham has become an eyesore that will only deter prospective students.

Any student who has taken classes on campus in the past year knows just how much construction is going on — the new science building, the art and design expansion and renovation, the Builders of the University Plaza and the Engineering Building is going to be expanded soon. These projects will help attract students to the university and, while that is important, Dunham Hall shouldn't be ignored.

With all of the money being spent on these other projects, surely the school could part with a little more to fix these windows in a more timely fashion.

That's not to say it would be cheap. We don't know how much it would cost to replace these two very large windows. We do know money for the windows in Dunham Hall comes from the capital renewal funding, according to Walker. We do think that whatever the cost is, it's worth it.

Not every prospective student is going to enter the science, art or

engineering programs. Some students are going to want to study theater and dance, music or mass communications, all of which are in Dunham Hall. These students and their parents may be impressed with the professors in Dunham, but they will have that image in their head of the building with the boarded up windows when they are trying to decide between SIUE and another school.

At the very least, something needs to be done to the plywood covers on these two windows if they're here to stay for a while. Maybe they could be painted black so they aren't as noticeable.

Another option would be to go in the other direction and make them more eye-catching. Perhaps the art department could have students paint on the plywood in order to make them look like less of an eyesore and more of an interesting part of the building.

Even prospective students who aren't interested in any of the programs housed in Dunham Hall will still have a negative opinion about the building. It just looks bad. The windows stand out in an otherwise attractive quad. This is harmful to the university's reputation, especially now during Springboard. Many prospective students and their parents have already taken tours through the campus this summer.

Every one of those tours ends up in the Stratton Quadrangle, which should be a selling point. Instead, it's more of a point of embarrassment right now.

The Alestle can be reached at [TheAlestle@alestlelive.com](mailto:TheAlestle@alestlelive.com) or 650-3524. Follow @TheAlestle.

## Do you think the university has waited too long to fix Dunham's windows?

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## Speak Out

What do you think about the boarded up windows on Dunham Hall?

"I think it is kind of a shame that they're planning on building and spending money on the gym, but they aren't spending money on fixing the windows.

Jennifer McNease

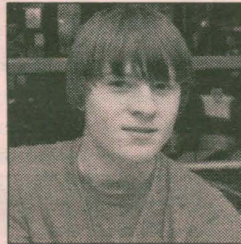
Senior mass communications major



"I think that they should fix it as soon as possible because this is a nice campus. It is mostly a nature walk. You don't see that in a lot of campuses. They should keep it that way.

Timothy Depp

Incoming freshman



"It's a shame that it's unattractive because, working in this building, we want very much for the campus community to feel welcome. And to me, a broken window or something that is boarded up says stay away. And that's the opposite of what the message of theater is and what goes on in the communications building.

Kate Sloviniski

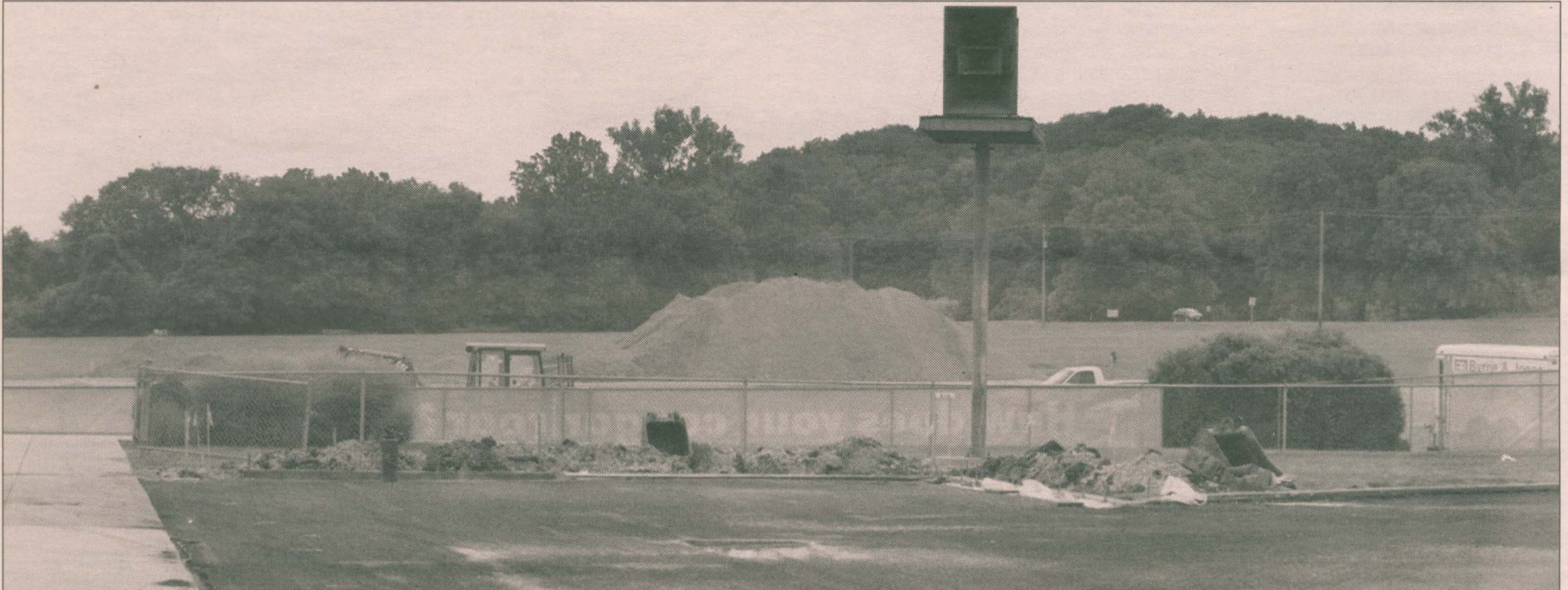
Staff-Assistant Theater



"I'm surprised that it's not fixed by now. They have been broken for a while. They just put boards up like six months ago, I think.

Michael Krueger  
Senior music major





The track that runs around the soccer field at Korte Stadium is being resurfaced for the first time since 1994. Junior sprinter and hurdler William Lindsey thinks the new track will have multiple benefits: 'I think we should run faster because the old track was hard, so our spikes couldn't really get into it. The softer surface will mean less pressure on our legs, so we should have fewer shin splints.' | Photo by Kalin Haydon/Alestle

## New track surface at Korte Stadium runs \$1.1+ million

**ROGER STARKEY**  
Alestle Reporter

The track at Korte Stadium is getting a long overdue makeover.

The track, installed in 1994, is being resurfaced this summer. According to Kandice Erwin, assistant athletic director for internal operations, most tracks last around 10 years. Erwin said the 18-year-old surface had a number of holes and areas where water pooled and it became a safety issue.

The \$1,145,400 project, scheduled to be completed in August, is slightly behind schedule because the curing of the track is taking longer than anticipated by the

contractor.

However, Erwin said accommodations will be made to ensure there is no disruption to the first event scheduled for the stadium, which will be an exhibition soccer match in mid-August.

Track and field Head Coach Kareem Jackson said the new surface will be most helpful with the athletes' injury rate.

"With the new track, we can reduce some of the injuries we've had over the last couple of seasons from training on such a hard surface," Jackson said.

According to Erwin, the new surface will be thicker than some

options that were considered, so it is not the fastest surface available, but it is more beneficial to the athletes who will train on it.

"We consider the safety of our athletes to be our top priority," Erwin said.

Junior sprinter and hurdler William Lindsey expects the new track to be both faster and safer than its predecessor.

"I think we should run faster because the old track was hard, so our spikes couldn't really get into it," Lindsey said. "The softer surface will mean less pressure on our legs, so we should have fewer shin splints."

The upgraded facilities will also

allow Korte Stadium to host major national events again. The 1994 USA Track and Field Olympic Festival was held at the stadium and the 2013 USA Track and Field Youth National Championships will be held here next year.

"If we can host some great events, like we did in the past, it will help the university and the cities of Edwardsville and Glen Carbon," Jackson said.

Jackson and Erwin both believe the upgraded facilities will assist with recruiting new athletes. According to Jackson, the new track will be one of the best in the country.

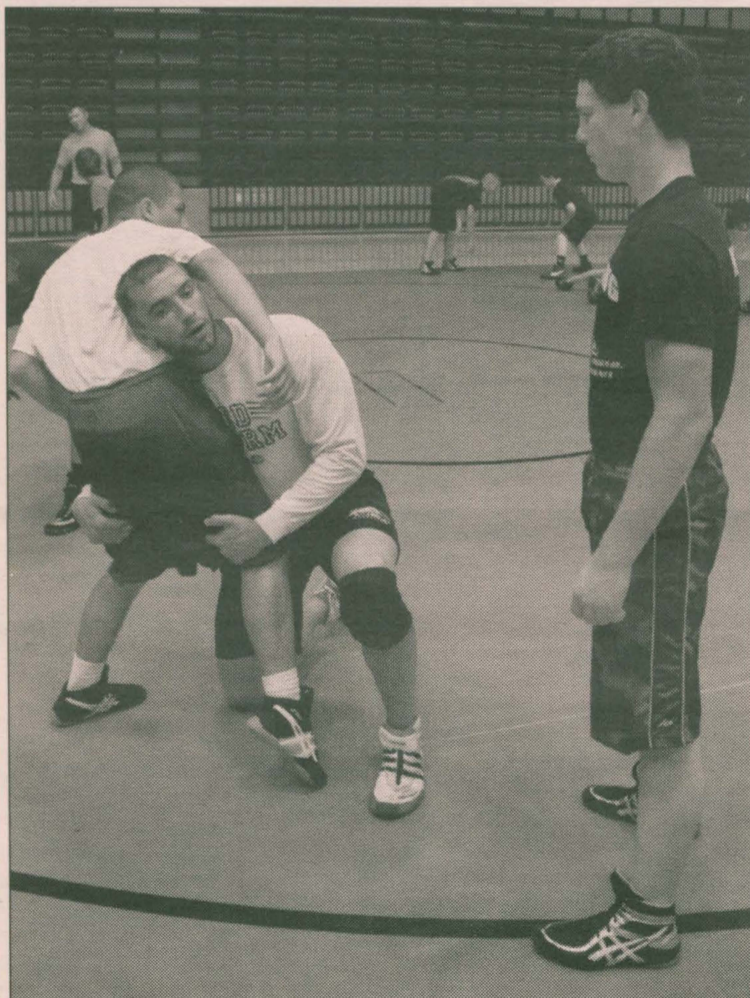
"It would be naive to believe

that we haven't lost recruits in the past couple of years because of the facilities," Jackson said.

Lindsey hopes the new outdoor track will give momentum to getting an indoor track. The track and field teams currently have no indoor facilities for the indoor track season.

In addition to the new track surface, improvements will be made to the drainage system, and the jump pits will be moved behind the venue, where the current throw areas are located.

Roger Starkey can be reached at rstarkey@alestlelive.com or 650-3524. Follow Roger @roger\_j\_starkey.



Senior SIUE wrestler Chase Grafton helps to teach two campers on Sunday. Head Coach David Ray said the camp helps not only the campers but also the wrestlers who help out: '...Our returning wrestlers refresh themselves on the basics...' | Photo by Rebecka Blake/Alestle.

## Camp assists prospective wrestlers

**GABRIEL SIMPSON**  
Alestle Reporter

The SIUE wrestling team invited young aspiring wrestlers to learn what it takes to compete at the collegiate level during the team's summer Combination Camp.

This is the third consecutive year the Cougars have held the camp, which takes place in the Vadalabene Center and is geared toward children and youths ages 9-18.

During the camp, wrestlers will be taught all areas of wrestling, from hand positioning to stance, and will also work on nutrition and strength training. At the end of each day, the wrestlers test out their new skills in live matches. Each wrestler will get three live, one-minute matches with other campers.

According to wrestling Head Coach David Ray, the purpose of the camp is to show both young and experienced wrestlers the fundamentals of the sport.

"We really reach down deep to the beginning wrestlers and to the experienced ones and work on the basics," Ray said. "You cannot drill the basics enough. Sometimes, even if you have been wrestling for 10 years, you can forget little things."

Both current and former SIUE wrestlers as well as the coaching staff are helping Ray run the camp. Ray believes the camp helps more than just young wrestlers.

"Our current wrestlers get to come back, show and teach technique to the kids and get on the mat for a while," Ray said. "It helps the coaching staff and our returning wrestlers refresh themselves on the basics they might have forgot."

One of the wrestlers helping out with the camp is recent graduate Derrick Pousson, who has attended the camp for the last two years. Pousson said he came back because he wanted to help the people who helped him.

"It is really fun to be around the kids and be able to give back to them and show them things that they can use in the future," Pousson said. "It is important for them to see new wrestlers and learn new things that they have never seen before. I just want to give back to the wrestling community."

The camp attracted wrestlers from all over the Midwest to come and learn from the SIUE wrestling team. Cameron Montgomery, a senior at University Heights Academy in Hopkinsville, Ky., came to see how he fared at the next level.

"I wanted to get some college experience and brush up on some of the technique while I was here," Montgomery said. "We have learned a lot of positioning, and that is very valuable in wrestling."

Also coming in from another state was Nate Larson, 9, of Falcon Ridge Middle School in Apple Valley, Minn. Nate is attending because his coach recommended the camp to him.

"He invited a lot of the kids from my wrestling to team to come here and get some time on the mat," Nate said. "It is a very fun camp. I like it a lot. It is a very good camp. I would definitely come back."

Ray said the camp also helps the team keep their eyes on potential recruits.

"I have a couple kids in high school here that we are interested in recruiting," Ray said. "They came here and you can watch them and see how they compete, and you meet all NCAA regulations because they came here. You get the bird's eye view of the person's work ethic and are able to see if they can be a college wrestler. You can't beat that."

Gabriel Simpson can be reached at gsimpson@alestlelive.com or 650-3524. Follow Gabriel @GSimp86.

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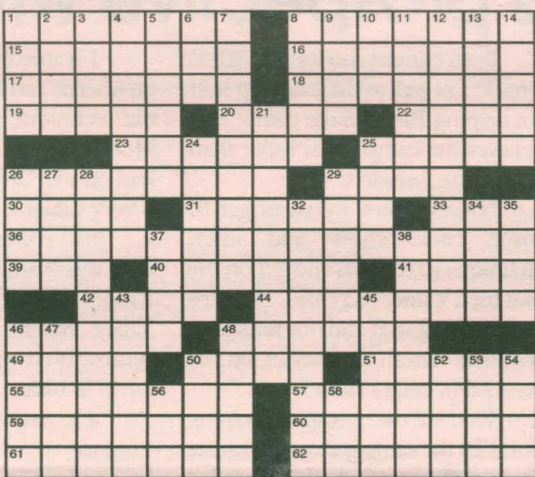
### Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Lewis

**ACROSS**

- 1 Exchanged
- 8 Hiking hazard
- 15 Caesar salad basic
- 16 "Grease" in the '90s, say
- 17 Small cinema, nowadays
- 18 Tree-lined walkway
- 19 Adams with a Hasselblad
- 20 Mrs. Fields brand
- 22 Game to pursue
- 23 Places to see buckjumpers
- 25 Brewers, e.g., briefly
- 26 Geometer moth caterpillar
- 29 Final crossing?
- 30 Three-division sports gp.
- 31 Family reunion attendees
- 33 Builder of Pioneer 10 and 11 spacecraft
- 36 Is having unending bad luck
- 39 Royal son of comics
- 40 Surgical tool
- 41 Certain Caltech grad: Abbr.
- 42 Little TV redhead
- 44 Balanced
- 46 Gals
- 48 Set
- 49 Graceless sorts
- 50 Possibility that's not an option
- 51 Bar basic
- 55 Examined the look-and-feel of
- 57 Toscanini was its music director in the 1920s
- 59 Waiting, to some
- 60 Inward journey?
- 61 Dosage specification
- 62 Pair of fins

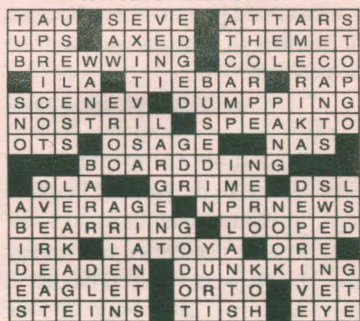
- DOWN**
- 1 Eur. title
  - 2 No longer mint



By Tom Hellman

- 3 "The Anti-Death League" author
- 4 Party topper
- 5 Where one might have a sinking feeling
- 6 Storm hdg.
- 7 Skill
- 8 Dull shades
- 9 Depend
- 10 Biological duct travelers
- 11 Spotted in a troubling way
- 12 Take too far
- 13 Recording device applied to applause
- 14 Castigates
- 21 Tell the truth, finally
- 24 Give away
- 25 Federal org. with a "Safety Recommendations" Web page
- 26 Old empire builder
- 27 At 6,684 ft., Mt. Mitchell is its highest point
- 28 Feature of Tchaikovsky's "1812 Overture"

**Last Week's Puzzle Solved**



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- 29 Taken to a table
- 32 Volt maker
- 34 Prego rival
- 35 Sitcom call letters
- 37 TV's Nick Stokes and Sara Sidle, briefly
- 38 Stages as it happened
- 43 Pre-euro currency
- 45 Author DeMille
- 46 Word game
- 47 John Carradine's role in "The Ten Commandments"
- 48 Colony's concern
- 50 "A Doll's House" wife
- 52 Irving title writer
- 53 Film director
- 54 Mesmerized
- 56 Fizzler
- 58 \_\_\_ limit

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