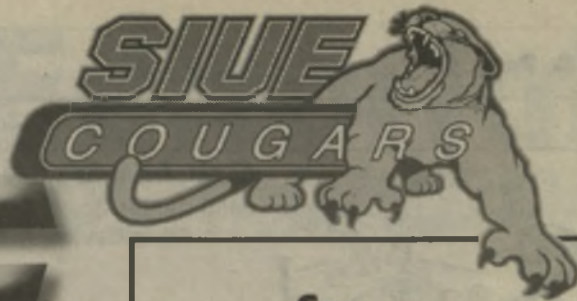


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ALTON ■ EAST ST. LOUIS ■ EDWARDSVILLE

◆ WEDNESDAY, JULY 9, 2003

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY EDWARDSVILLE

Vol. 55, No. 65 ◆

Drugs suspected in death

Friend tried to rouse Peter White in Cougar Village apartment

STELLA RAMSAROOP
NEWS EDITOR

According to his academic adviser, Peter Allen White was doing fine when she met with him to set up his fall schedule last week.

White, a sophomore majoring in political science at SIUE, was found dead in his Cougar Village apartment Thursday.

"We are all saddened to hear of Peter's passing," said Lynn Maurer, White's adviser and the newly appointed chair of the Political Science Department.

"Our deepest sympathies go out to his family, and I would like them to know how much we enjoyed having Peter as a

political science major."

Maurer also said, "(White) had a keen interest in discussing politics and government, and we enjoyed his participation in our classes. We will miss him."

Eugene McMurray, a guest at the apartment, tried to rouse White, who was lying on a couch. When he did not respond, McMurray called 911 at 12:19 p.m.

SIUE Police were the first on the scene. The Illinois State Crime Scene Unit was also called in to gather data.

White was pronounced dead at 1:04 p.m.

Police Capt. Gina Hays said preliminary investigation indicates the death may be drug related.

Madison County Coroner Stephen Nonn said the autopsy found no immediate cause of death. However, a toxicology report is due in two to three weeks.

A full coroner's report will be scheduled at a later time when all autopsy, toxicology and police reports are completed.

White, 22, was from the Belleville area where he graduated from Freeburg High School in 1999.

Hays said this is the first student death on campus in about five years. The last death was because of medical problems.

White's funeral service was Tuesday at Shiloh United Methodist Church. His mother Sherry Koehl of



Belleville News-Democrat
Peter White was found in his Cougar Village apartment by a guest.

Belleville and his father, Grady Allen White of Mascoutah, survive along with two sisters and a brother.

Memorials may be made to Gateway Foundation in Caseyville.

Campus police look for stolen lawn tractors

STEVE M. BRITT
NEWS REPORTER

Police were searching for the thieves who stole two lawn tractors valued at \$9,000.

A John Deere lawn tractor worth \$5,000 and a Scotts worth \$4,000, were last seen at noon Thursday in the soccer fields along Bluff Road. Chains used to secure the lawn equipment had been cut, police said.

Capt. Gina Hays of the SIUE Police Department indicated it took substantial organization to haul the two tractors away.

"These weren't those yard tractors; these were the big ones because they have to mow those massive fields," Hays said.

SIUE professor examines industrial rise and fall of East St. Louis in new book

JAMIE FORSYTHE
NEWS STRINGER

Political Science professor Andrew Theising will be signing his book, "Made in the USA: East St. Louis: The Rise and Fall of an Industrial Town," at 7 p.m. Wednesday at B. Dalton bookstore in St. Clair Square in Fairview Heights.

"The book is not a history," Theising said. "It's an explanation for what you see there today. It is important for us to understand problems over time if we ever intend to solve these problems."

image of the city.

"Everybody seems to be very excited," Theising said. "I am surprised at the number of people who trace their roots back to East St. Louis."

Lovejoy Library received a complimentary copy of the book. Theising is also donating his personal collection of 250 photos and illustrations used throughout the book to the library.

Theising started compiling research for his book 10 years ago as a graduate student at the University of Missouri.

His adviser's dissertation on East St. Louis was published in 1973. At the suggestion of his adviser, Theising decided to research East St. Louis using 1973 as a starting point.

"At first, I didn't want to do it, but I became quickly fascinated when I realized it was like peeling an onion," Theising said.



Courtesy Andrew Theising
On the east side of the Mississippi around 1900, a ferry boat unloads at what is today the site of the Casino Queen.

Theising added the problems in East St. Louis are the same problems that were there when the city first started.

"I kept finding out more and more about East St. Louis," Theising said. "I decided to go back to day one. East St. Louis is one of the most misunderstood cities in America, and attempts to explain it have never been successful."

His book, as well as the public television documentary about it, debuted June 8 at the Missouri History Museum in Forest Park. The Missouri

Historical Society sponsored the event.

The KETC Channel 9 documentary is an hour-long study of East St. Louis. It first aired June 25. Theising will donate a copy of the documentary to Lovejoy Library.

"The documentary goes beyond my research and looks at the personal experiences of people from East St. Louis, particularly white flight," Theising said. "I only looked at problems that were specific to East St. Louis."

Theising said the book and

the documentary are completely independent entities.

College of Arts and Sciences Associate Dean Wendy Shaw and Director of the Institute for Urban Research Debra Moore appeared on the documentary with Theising.

"I have never been involved in writing a book or consulting a documentary, but I think the response is outstanding," Theising said.

The next phase of Theising's research is examining the institutions of East St. Louis since 1970.

"East St. Louis is one of the most misunderstood cities in America, and attempts to explain it have never been successful."

~Andrew Theising

Theising also said the topic of East St. Louis is interesting to people since everyone has an

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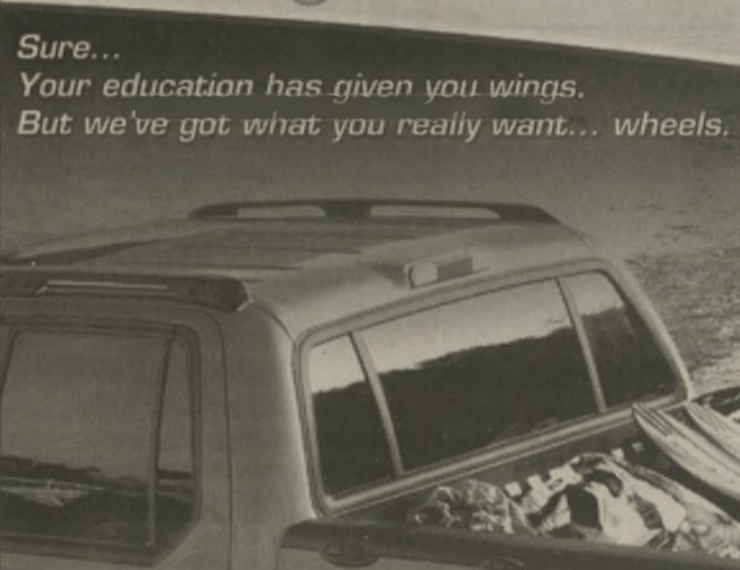
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Math and statistics professor will be honored at memorial

ALESTLE STAFF REPORT

Alexander Pal, emeritus professor of mathematics and statistics, died June 16, 2003, at Barnes Hospital in St. Louis. He was 79.

Pal started working at SIUE in 1970 as an associate professor in the Science and Technology Division. He retired in 1997 as a faculty member in the

Mathematics and Statistics Department.

"(Pal) was quite demanding of the students," said Krzysztof Jarosz, chair of the Mathematics and Statistics Department. "But he was willing to spend time with them talking about applications."

There will be a memorial service at 1 p.m. Thursday, July 17, at the SIUE Religious Center.



SIUE News Services
Alexander Pal



SIUE News Services
Lynn Kluth

Speech and dance instructor gave less-advanced students a chance

ALESTLE STAFF REPORT

Emeritus professor of theater and dance, Lynn Kluth, died June 25, 2003, in Issaquah, Wash., at age 77.

Kluth came to the SIUE campus in 1965 as the director of the Speech and Theater Department.

He retired in 1995 as the

chair of the Theater and Dance Department.

While at SIUE, Kluth directed many shows.

"He tended to give less-advanced students chances with leading parts," Theater and Dance chair Otis Swezey said. "It helped to give the students some experience."

Campus Scanner

Amnesty International: Everyone is invited to the Amnesty International meeting from 5 to 7 p.m. Tuesday at Sacred Grounds, 233 N. Main St., in Edwardsville.

Baptist Student Ministries Fellowship and Prayer Cookout: The free event is open to all students and is set for 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday. Call 656-4100 for the location.

Golf Tournament: The Third Annual Arms of Love Pregnancy Resource Center Golf Tournament is at 8 a.m. Saturday, July 19, at Rolling Hills Golf Course, 5801 Pierce Lane, in Godfrey. Entry fee for a four-person team is \$300; individual entry fees are \$75. The price includes green fees, cart, food and drinks, skin games, snacks and a gift bag. For more information, call Angela

Valdes at 466-1690 or e-mail aolprc@mtsinet.com.

Meditation Group: A Buddhist meditation and study group meets from 7 to 8 p.m. Thursday in the Religious Center.

Seminars: The Small Business Development Center will conduct a seminar on "Running Effective Meetings" Wednesday. The seminar is from 8:30 a.m. until noon at 200 University Park Drive in University Research and Technology Park. Price for the session is \$99, which includes a continental breakfast. For more information, call 650-2669.

Blood Drives: The American Red Cross is holding a blood drive from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday at the Bank of Edwardsville, 330 W. Vandalia, in Edwardsville. Donors must be

at least 16 years old, weigh 110 pounds or more, have not donated blood within 56 days, not be taking blood thinners or antibiotics and not have had a tattoo within the last year.

Tobacco Counseling: The American Lung Association of Illinois is providing the Illinois Tobacco Quitline. The toll-free line is staffed by registered nurses, respiratory therapists and addiction counselors. Counseling is free to all residents of Illinois. Those interested should call (866) QUIT-YES. Hot-line hours are from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Alcoholics Anonymous: The Gut Level Group meets at 7 p.m. Saturdays in the Religious Center. This is an open meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous and Al-Anon.

Police Incidents

Traffic

6-20-03 Police issued a citation to Tanyika R. Moore for operation of an uninsured motor vehicle on South University Drive.

Police issued a citation to Kevin M. Coppinger for having an expired registration sticker on University Drive.

6-22-03 Police issued a citation to Melissa D. Thomas for speeding on Bluff Road.

6-23-03 Police issued a citation to Duane L. Phillips for failing to wear a seat belt on University Drive.

Police issued a citation to Jon R. Pike for failing to stop at a stop sign on Circle Drive.

Police issued a citation to Nathaniel S. Farber for operating an uninsured motor vehicle on North University Drive.

6-25-03 Police issued a citation to Adrienne E. Potter for speeding on Stadium Drive.

6-26-03 Police issued a citation to Arthur D. Grimes for not having a rear registration light.

6-30-03 Police issued a citation to Bryant C. Daniels for operating an uninsured motor vehicle on Cougar Lake Drive.

7-1-03 Police issued a citation to Hanifch Khodaparasty for failing to wear a seat belt on Bluff Road.

7-6-03 Police issued a citation to Steven A. Huff for failing to stop at a stop sign on North University Drive.

7-7-03 Police issued a citation to Nathaniel S. Farber for operating an uninsured motor vehicle and speeding in Cougar Village Parking Lot 5A.

Opinions & Editorial viewpoints & commentary

◆ WEDNESDAY, JULY 9, 2003

AleStle

PAGE 3 ◆

From the Editor *Driving drunk could be deadly for you, others*



People celebrate long-awaited holiday weekends in their own way every year.

During the Fourth of July weekend, I went out of town with my family and did some swimming, four-wheeling, horseback riding and just plain old relaxing.

Along with all of that, of course, some alcohol was involved for a few members of the family.

For many people, alcohol consumption is a large part of holiday weekends and, for some, a part of every weekend.

I am not a drinker, (OK maybe two or three times a year), but for some, drinking may be a weekly or even daily event.

Thousands of people die each year from alcohol-related accidents, but according to the Madison County Sheriff's Department, the Fourth of July holiday was a quiet one this year, with only one alcohol-related accident and two arrests for driving under the influence.

Illinois State Police also said this holiday weekend had fewer fatal accidents than last year when 14 people lost their lives.

Although Independence Day was a quiet weekend, the Illinois

State Police said there were 26 lives lost in 20 fatal crashes during the 2003 Memorial Day weekend.

This number was an increase from 22 fatalities in 19 crashes during the 2002 holiday weekend.

Police also issued 10,524 citations during the four-day Memorial weekend, with speeding being the No. 1 violation.

Aside from the holiday weekends, many people are irresponsible on a daily basis when it comes to drinking and driving.

The point I want to make here is that this problem of driving under the influence is all too common in our area, as well as all over the United States. This

is a reminder to be responsible.

I'm sure some of you reading this did drink and drive during the weekend, and if you made it home safely, consider yourself fortunate, but don't press your luck.

Keep in mind there are families and friends on the same road as you, who also want to make it home safely and in one piece.

Before the next time you decide to drink and drive, remind yourself of the guilt you would have to live with if someone's life ended because of a needless mistake you made by drinking and driving.

Nicole R. Gaudreault
Editor in Chief

Get the facts about drinking and driving



- ★ 250,000 people have died in alcohol-related accidents in the past 10 years.
- ★ 500 people are killed each week in alcohol-related accidents while 71 people are killed every day in alcohol-related accidents.
- ★ One American life is lost every 20 minutes in alcohol-related auto crashes.
- ★ It is estimated that one out of every two Americans will be involved in an alcohol-related accident in his or her lifetime.
- ★ Alcohol-related crashes are the leading cause of death for young Americans between the ages of 16 and 24 years old.

- ★ For all Americans between 5 and 35 years of age, motor vehicle accidents are the No. 1 cause of death. More than 50% of these accidents are caused by alcohol-impaired drivers.
- ★ More than 50% of all fatal highway crashes involving two or more cars are alcohol-related.
- ★ More than 65% of all fatal single car crashes are alcohol-related.
- ★ 80% of all fatal alcohol-related auto crashes are between 8 p.m. and 8 am.
- ★ 36% of all adult pedestrian accidents involve an intoxicated pedestrian.
- ★ Every year, 708,000 people are injured in alcohol-related crashes; 74,000 of those people suffer serious injuries.
- ★ About 2,000 people are hurt each day in alcohol-related accidents.
- ★ Two million alcohol-impaired driving collisions occur each year.

From statistics compiled by the U. S. Dept. of Transportation and the N. H. Department of Safety.

Quote of the Day

"I was taught very early that I would have to depend entirely upon myself; that my future lay in my own hands."

~Darius Ogden Mills

Weekly Poll Question

How often do you drive under the influence of alcohol?

- Never
- A few times a year
- Two or three times a month
- Way too often

Vote online at www.thealestle.com.

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

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

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

The name AleStle is an acronym derived from the names of the three campus locations of SIUE: Alton, East St. Louis and Edwardsville.

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Have a comment?
Let us know!

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The AleStle
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Lifestyles

PEOPLE, ENTERTAINMENT & THE ARTS

Cell phone junkie?

What do you think about people who use their cell phones in public places such as theaters, restaurants, shopping stores or schools?



"I think that you shouldn't use them in places of business. It upsets people in line and slows down the line."

~Ashley Jenkins
Freshman

"In movie theaters, ever body should be required to turn them off. I think at school it's all right. As long as it's not excessive, that doesn't bother me."

~Melody Fichera
Junior

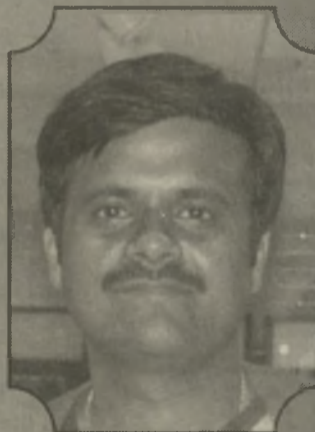


"There is a time and place to use your cell phone. In the movie theater is just wrong."

~Kate Williams
Freshman

"I do approve of people using them in grocery stores but not movie theaters and classes because I use mine in Wal-Mart."

~Pavan Goteti
Graduate student



"I think it depends on where you are at. Fast food places are OK, but sit-down family restaurants, I don't think would be appropriate."

~Jennifer Haynes
Senior

- You are out at a fancy restaurant with your significant other and are expecting a call from your best friend about a party that night. Do you ...
 - Put your cell phone on the table and turn up ringing volume to make sure you don't miss the call.
 - Put your phone on vibrate, so you still know when your friend calls.
 - Cell phone? I have an answering machine at home.
- Your dog needs to take a walk. You ...
 - Bring your cell phone and auto-answer ear piece.
 - Don't worry about taking your cell phone. You'll only be gone ten minutes.
 - A cell phone is too much to carry.
- You are looking for a new cell phone. These feature are the most important ...
 - Picture taking, web capabilities and voice activated dialing.
 - Vibrate and text messaging.
 - What are cell phone features?
- You are renewing your cell phone plan. Which one do you buy?
 - The largest package possible. No matter how much it costs.
 - A regional plan with a moderate amount of minutes. You keep track of your time and will not go over.
 - Do I need minutes to use my cell phone?

Mostly A's-Cell phone junkie
Mostly B's-Cell phone saavy

Mostly C's-Not connected

From the Lifestyles Editor

Just a little etiquette

Cell phones have revolutionized the way we work and play; meanwhile, they have turned the etiquette world upside down.

Everyone seems to have a cell phone, from the stockbroker to the 15-year-old in the mall.

Theaters and hospitals have posted signs restricting cell phone use as they have become so commonplace.

Now, don't take this article as a slam against cell phones. They are great for safety and peace of mind.

The problem is the nuisance they cause when people use them without regard to those around them or their surroundings.

While you may enjoy hearing Beethoven's Fifth Symphony ringing exuberantly from your phone, the people sitting next to you in a restaurant, theater, class or anywhere else in a confined area probably do not.

Please be considerate and put your phone on vibrate. If you do need to answer it, wait until you have left the room.

My next plea is to remember if you wouldn't talk about it in public, don't talk about it on your cell phone.

During a recent trip to a frozen custard stand, I was sitting under the shade of an oversize umbrella, enjoying my ice cream.

Sitting at the next table was a woman speaking not only to the person on the other end of the call, but also to everyone within earshot.

To add to her cell phone faux pas,

she was conversing about intimate family matters.

This type of ill regard makes people feel uncomfortable, and you never know who is listening.

Foul language should not need to be mentioned in polite circles, but it needs to be mentioned when discussing cell phone use.

We can hear you.

So, my last plea comes from the part of me that works in a pharmacy, but it applies anywhere you shop.

Of my complaints about customers, those using a cell phone while checking out or picking up a prescription tops my list.

There are questions that need to be answered when picking up a prescription to ensure you are receiving the right medication. This requires your full attention. Put down the cell phone.

And, when checking out, pay attention to what is being rung up and where your merchandise is placed. It is very easy for things to fall or roll into the items of the person behind you.

When you and the next person are on the phone, no one notices until it is too late, and then it is the cashier who gets yelled at while the customer has her phone call on hold.

For all the cell phone users who can't live without their phones, remembering these few tips will make those around you thankful.

Callie Stilwell
Lifestyles Editor

'Fiddler' plays Dunham Hall

BYRON HOTSON
LIFESTYLES STRINGER

Weddings and tradition, a usual summer theme, is also the theme of the upcoming Summer Showbiz production of "Fiddler on the Roof."

"Summer shows are fun for two reasons," director Peter Cocuzza said. They're fun to perform, and audiences like them, he said.

Cocuzza said they're more commercial and tend to be more mainstream than shows during the school year.

"We've never done this musical. I don't think it's even been done in this area," Cocuzza said. "When we announced we'd be doing 'Fiddler' last year, around that time, the Muni decided to do it too. That was kind of funny."

"Fiddler on the Roof" is the story of a small Jewish town in the midst of change.

Tevye is in search of suitable husbands for his three eldest daughters and is caught between tradition and accepting his daughters' searches for love.

"It's a story about a family, a people, a town that has to deal with the changes in their lives," Cocuzza explained.

"I like the theme of tradition, and hopefully that will leak out to the audience," John Strzelec, who

plays Tevye, said.

"We're just so busy nowadays as a society," Strzelec said. "The play's about a time when we had time."

"Fiddler on the Roof" features notable musical numbers, from the solo "If I Were A Rich Man" to the solemn "Sabbath Prayer" to the prologue "Tradition."

Cocuzza said the music itself is readily recognizable.

"It has great music," Cocuzza said. "It's one of those musicals where people leave the theater remembering the music."

The musical will last about two hours and 40 minutes; however, Cocuzza recognizes this fact.

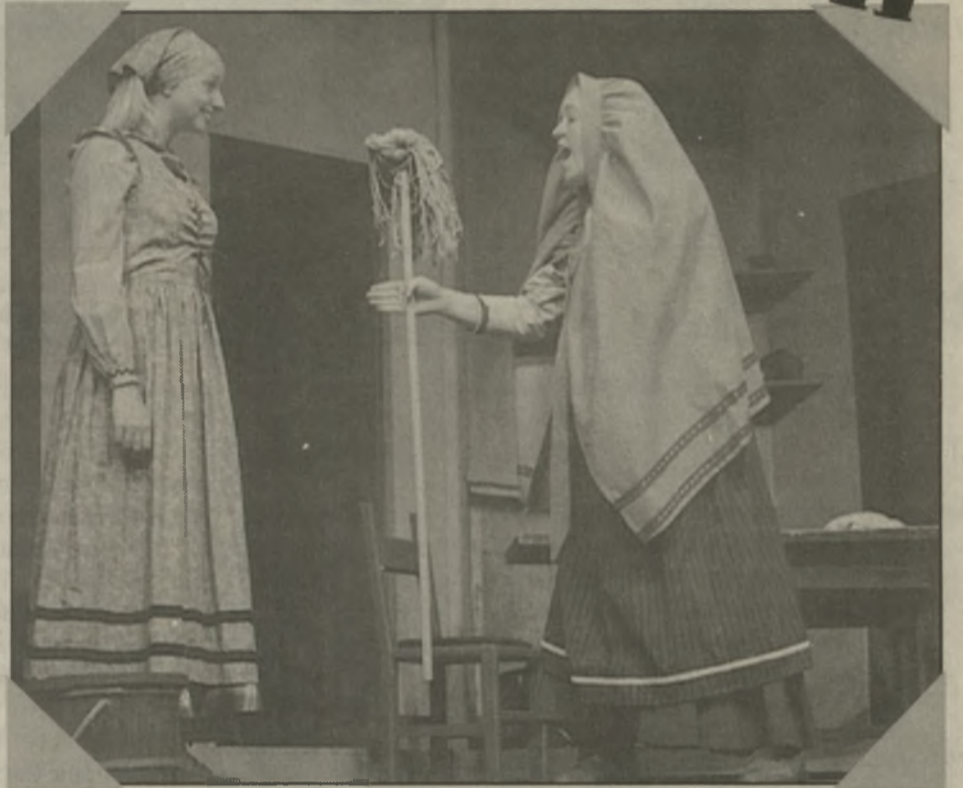
"I'm trying not to show the passage of time. To get people to go 'Whew! That was two and a half hours already?'"

"Fiddler on the Roof" will be performed at 7:30 p.m. Thursday through Saturday and July 17 to 19 and at 2 p.m. Sunday and July 20 in Dunham Hall.

Tickets are \$10 for students, faculty, staff and seniors and \$12 for the public. Tickets are available at the Box Office in Dunham Hall.

To order tickets or for more information, call the Box Office at 650-2774.

Free parking is available in Lot E behind Dunham Hall.



Brian Baca/Alestle

Tevye, above, sings a solo in "Fiddler on the Roof." Tevye's three eldest daughters, Tzeitel, Hodel and Chava, right top and bottom, sing "Matchmaker," about what features they want the town matchmaker to find in their future husbands. Golde, right middle, talks to the town matchmaker.

'Fiddler's' tradition continues in dance

BYRON HOTSON
LIFESTYLES STRINGER

A classic musical couldn't be without memorable dances.

There are many dance numbers to go along with the music in "Fiddler on the Roof." However, one dance in particular may stand out from the rest.

The Bottle Dance, performed during the wedding scene in "Fiddler on the Roof," is

a traditional Jewish dance.

"It is performed at Jewish weddings, mostly for the entertainment of the groom," choreographer Janet Strzelec said.

While attempting to balance wine bottles on their heads, five men slowly change their body positions and shift their weight.

Each night, the dance is different, with bottles falling off within the first seconds or

everyone balancing their bottles until the end of the song.

"It's almost like a contest between young to middle-age men," actor Pete Stump said. "It's a balancing act."

"All the concentration and balance is so hard to do along with the acting. I'm not really a dancer by trade, but I had a fun time learning the dances," actor Joe Garner said.

"There really is no trick to

balancing the bottle," actor Phil Leveling said. "You just have to keep your head way still and concentrate on not tipping over the bottle."

Though it sounds simple, the dance did require a lot of practice.

"We spent several weeks getting our posture correct," Stump said. "You have to move your body without moving your head."

"There's no Velcro on the hats or bottles; it's just balance," Stump added. "They're real bottles weighted down with water."

Strzelec said she also had challenges of her own.

"The hardest part was making the dance fit with the music," Strzelec said.

Whether you come to enjoy the singing, acting, dancing or music, the Bottle Dance will stand out.

When I first signed with the Yankees, the regulars wouldn't talk to you until you were with the team for three or four years. Nowadays, the rookies get \$100,000 to sign and they don't talk to the regulars.

~Lefty Gomez

Volleyball camps for boys and girls in grades four and up will be at SIUE next week.

The camps are \$70 per child. For more information, contact Todd Gober at 650-5923.

Baseball

Softball

Tennis

Track

Golf Basketball

Soccer

Wrestling

Volleyball

Wrestling coach has seen a lot, looks to future

AJIT OZA
SPORTS REPORTER

There have been a lot of changes since the time head wrestling coach Booker Benford first came to the campus of SIUE in the mid-1980s.

"Everything from the obvious administrative changes to National Collegiate Athletic Association regulations have changed a lot," Benford said. "But the single most thing that changed since I started would have to be the enrollment here."

When Benford began his wrestling career here in 1983, the enrollment was 10,957, and in 2002, the enrollment increased to 12,708.

The landscape of the sport has also seen some dramatic changes.

"Statewide, the number of college wrestling teams has diminished," Benford said. "Wrestling went from having about 79 to 80 teams in Division II to about 30 to 40 of those teams being cut."

Changing times have also seen differences in attendance at wrestling meets.

"When I was a student here,

I would say we usually had about 200 to 300 people at a dual meet. And, if we hosted a big-name team like the University of Iowa, we would get some more people," Benford said. "But nowadays, students have a lot more options on what they can do with their free time."

Benford, however, is in an exclusive class. He is the only NCAA II head wrestling coach in the state.

"(Being the only Division II coach) does not seem that bad because I don't look at teams being Division I or Division II," Benford said. "Because, when I wrestled, we were a Division II team, but we wrestled a lot of Division I teams and beat them. All I cared about then was if the team was tough or not."

One aspect Booker said that has stayed the same throughout the years is the diversity in wrestling.

"The sport of wrestling here has always had really good, diverse teams," Benford said. "Wrestling is a sport that can transcend through all of the racial stuff."

Booker said in wrestling, people have to count on their teammates, no matter what their

color, to get the win. Teammates develop a bond because they go through a lot of the same situations, from cutting weight to eating the same foods.

"You have that camaraderie, and it just builds a bond when we go on trips," Benford said. "That's why I still talk to many of my teammates, because of that bond that we have."

During his career as a wrestler for the Cougars, Benford set an SIUE record for most career victories with a tally of 161-34-1. Benford was also a four-time All-American, winning the Division II national title in 1984 and 1985.

After wrestling for the Cougars, Benford went to Belleville Area Community College to be an assistant coach. After three seasons there, Benford returned to SIUE as an assistant to then-head wrestling coach Larry Kristoff.

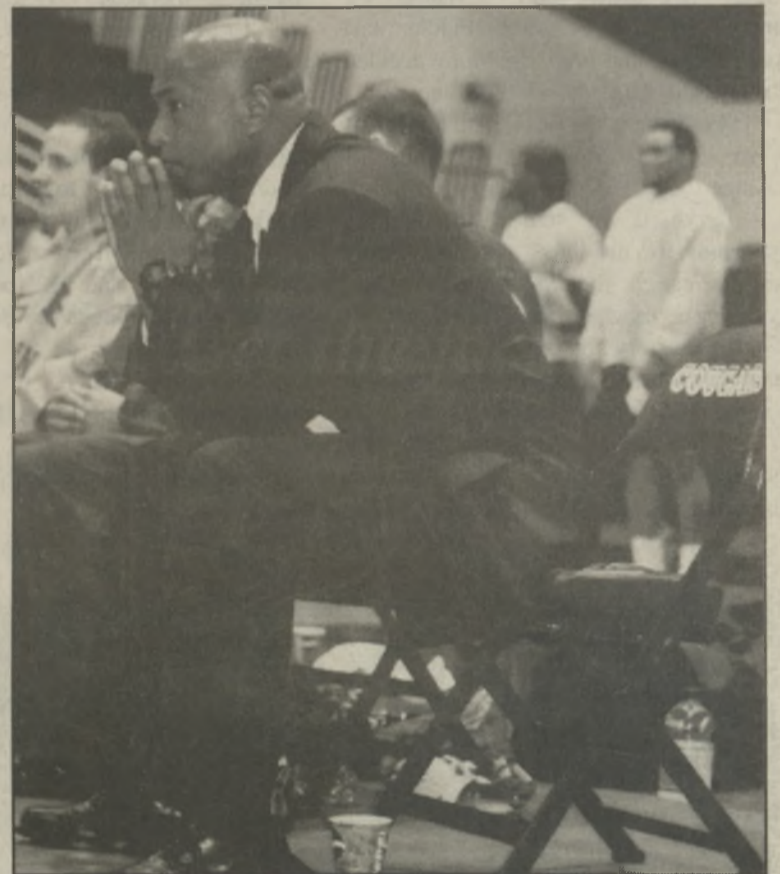
"Coach Kristoff kind of mentored me throughout my time as an assistant," Benford said. "He was a really big help to me."

Benford said the future for the Cougar wrestling program looks good, even after almost being discontinued.

"I am really happy that the

administration and the committee that was formed to help save the program and myself were able to get together and do what we could to save the program," Benford said. "Now it is up to me

and the team to show the administration, one, thanks for keeping us, and we have to show them this is what can happen when you keep wrestling around."



AUBREY WILLIAMS/ALESTLE

Wrestling Coach Booker Benford looks on as his players compete last season while the program's future was still up in the air.

Success of wrestling camp brings in 100 plus youth, proceeds will aid in teams funding for future seasons

Cougar wrestlers teach tricks of the trade to area youth

RYAN HESSION
SPORTS STRINGER

The SIUE wrestling program is passing on a little bit of knowledge to the next generation of wrestlers through a camp for youngsters.

The camp will provide technique sessions to show the campers proper weightlifting techniques, small workouts and live wrestling practices and further inform them of dieting techniques.

SIUE head wrestling coach Booker Benford said the camp works out well for the kids to learn and have a lot of fun.

The camp has been successful for the past two years

and has attracted more than 100 participants, raising more than \$5,000 toward the wrestling team.

Benford says he hopes to keep that success going.

"We ended up boosting our attendance to over a hundred the last two years," Benford said.

"It's a lot better situation, and with our situation now, we need all the money we can get."

Benford added it is a better situation for SIUE because it helps out the team and young area athletes.

"This year we got a different strategy," Benford said. "We got more coaches involved in helping out as far as showing technique, and that works out a lot better."

All of the work for the camp is done by volunteers, and all of the proceeds go to the wrestling team.

SIUE wrestlers here for the summer will help volunteer. Benford said those wrestlers look forward to the camp and teaching the campers.

"I expect the kids to have fun for four days," Benford said. "The kids will get a good workout sight and it is a good way to let off steam."

Benford continued in saying that wrestling is a lot more one-on-one combat than other sports where you can really get a lot of aggression out mentally.

"Any time you can get them in an environment to get that kind of aggression out, wrestling is one of the better ones you get to do it," Benford said.

The camp will be Monday through Thursday, July 28 through the 31 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The camp is open to boys and girls from ages 7-8 through seniors in high school.

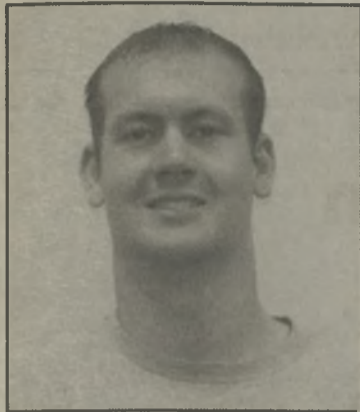


RYAN HESSION/ALESTLE

Youth attending the SIUE Volleyball camp practice setting and spiking. The setting portion of the camp was Monday through Thursday. The defensive portion of the camp will be Friday.

From the Sports Editor

Men's b-ball could give chase in the GLVC if players stay healthy and out of trouble



TRAVIS L. ROSS
SPORTS EDITOR

For three years now, I've witnessed the annual, and all-too-quick, collapse of the SIUE men's basketball team. But, this season could bring about a changing of the guard for Cougar basketball, compliments of head coach Marty Simmons.

In the 2000-2001 season, the Cougars looked solid with 6-foot-9 forward and center Mustafa Cetin, 6-foot-10 center Jon Wolfe and guards Tim Rose, Jewel Gibbs and Wes Pickering to open the season.

It didn't take long before that came crashing down. Cetin averaged 8.2 points per game until an unfortunate incident where he was suspended after being accused of punching a hole in the wall of a Cougar Village apartment.

Gibbs and Rose were also

dealt suspensions. Gibbs, who averaged 4.4 points in six games for the Cougars, was suspended for going out the night before a game and drinking while Rose, who averaged 13.3 points through 11 games, was suspended for not following the proper procedures in reporting an illness.

Wolfe saw limited action in four games due to knee problems that eventually ended his career at SIUE. Pickering posted 9.7 points per game through six games before suffering a season-ending knee injury.

In short, the team that started with 12 players rapidly dwindled down to seven, and the team finished with a record of 7-19 overall.

In the 2001-2002 season, it wasn't a matter of players so much as it was production as SIUE once again wrapped the season up with a record of 7-19.

The 2001-2002 Cougars lost by an average of 13 points per game to Great Lakes Valley Conference opponents and were out rebounded 988 to 867 against all opponents.

Simmons' first season at the helm of the team in the 2002-2003 season looked good until 6-foot-8 center Brent Mueller went down with a season-ending injury. Kennedy King Junior College transfer Corey Bradford was also sidelined two games

into the season with a season-ending injury.

Former guard Rob Baumgardner was putting up 9.1 points per game and had 16 steals when he hung up his sneakers midway through last season for personal reasons.

Former guard Ben Garwitz broke his leg with a few weeks left in the season.

This season, however, it looks as if Marty Simmons has reeled in insurance in case anything does happen to key players.

And, while he was at it, he also shored up past problems of height and experience.

SIUE picked up University of Evansville 6-foot-11 transfer Dan Lytle, who posted eight points per game in 28 games e last season. Lytle will have one year of eligibility. Simmons also inked University of Nebraska 6-foot-11 transfer Dan Heimos, who will have two years of eligibility.

I know I may be jumping the gun, but tell me this composition of guys doesn't have the potential to pose big problems for opponents.

With Lytle and Heimos, 6-foot-10 freshman Doug Taylor, who earned All-Southern Illinois honors last season, recovered big man Mueller, senior sharpshooter Ron Jones, and throw in last year's freshman Justin Ward and

junior Cougar veteran Tim Bauersachs and tell me that this lineup shouldn't, at the bare minimum, be well above the .500 mark at the seasons end.

If the Cougars were to

eclipse the .500 mark, it would be the first time since the 1997-1998 season when SIUE was 18-9. Since that season, the Cougars have failed at reaching the 10-win plateau.



SIUE PHOTO SERVICE
Cougar head coach Marty Simmons yells out instructions to his players earlier this season. Simmons marched the Cougars to a 9-18 record despite the loss of guard Rob Baumgardner and center Brent Mueller.

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