




Today  High: 64 Low: 46 Precip: 20%	Friday  High: 60 Low: 47 Precip: 50%	Saturday  High: 62 Low: 45 Precip: 20%
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IN BRIEF

Library samples instant messenger inquiry service

Through June 10, Knight Library is testing Ask Us, an instant message service that will allow students, faculty and staff to get real-time answers to library-related questions from their residence hall, home or office computers.

"It's a new service for us, but

many academic and public libraries across the country already have services like this," Barbara Jenkins, Knight Library's head of reference and research services, said. She described the service as an effort to increase students' efficiency and productivity.

"We just want to make it easier for people to check in with the library ... with any questions from A to Z," Jenkins said.

Ask Us, which requires the Internet Explorer Web browser, is available from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, and can be accessed by clicking the question mark icon in the upper-right corner of any library Web site. Jenkins said the service's hours may extend if the service continues past the pilot phase.

— Eva Sylwester



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Films: Festival features 'Leila,' 'Osama' and 'Door to the Sky'

Continued from page 1

makes judgments.

"In Islam ... your status doesn't depend on your background," she said, "but depends on how strong you cling to the faith."

Not everyone in the MSA agreed when a discussion arose about showing the controversial film "Osama." The film is about a mother and her 12-year-old daughter living in Afghanistan during the Taliban regime. The story follows the girl as she fights for the survival for both her mother and herself by disguising herself as a boy so that she can work, according to the film's Web site.

Toran said that she hasn't seen the film yet, fearing it will be too much to bear.

"I've had many opportunities to see this film, but I haven't because it's too painful," she said.

Some members of the MSA expressed discomfort with showing the

film because it portrays Islam in such a negative light, Toran said.

"The MSA is trying to be sincere," she said. "We just hope that the campus society can meet us halfway."

Toran hopes the event will shed more light on the often misunderstood part of Islam.

"I think it's so easy to find the black and white of everything," she said. "You have to work to understand things deeper."

The film festival opens today with the showing of "Leila" from Iran. "Osama" will be shown on Thursday, May 5. Thursday, May 12, "Door to the Sky" from Morocco will be shown. All movies will begin at 6 p.m. in the International Resource Center. May 18 there will be an informal panel discussion with local Muslim women, also at 6 p.m. All events are free and open to the public.

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