

Southern Illinois University Carbondale

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The Daily Egyptian, July 23, 1999

Daily Egyptian Staff

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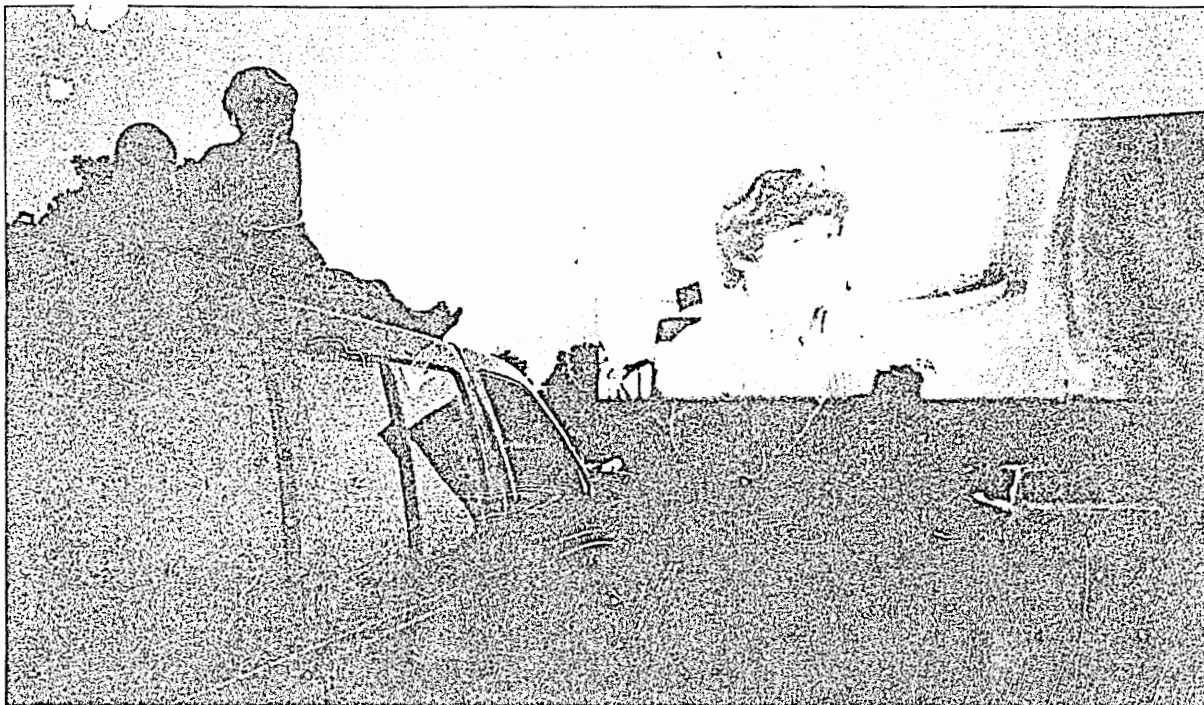
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**SANDRA MASON
DIRECTOR OF RECORDS MANAGEMENT
SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
MICROGRAPHICS DEPARTMENT
CARBONDALE, ILLINOIS**

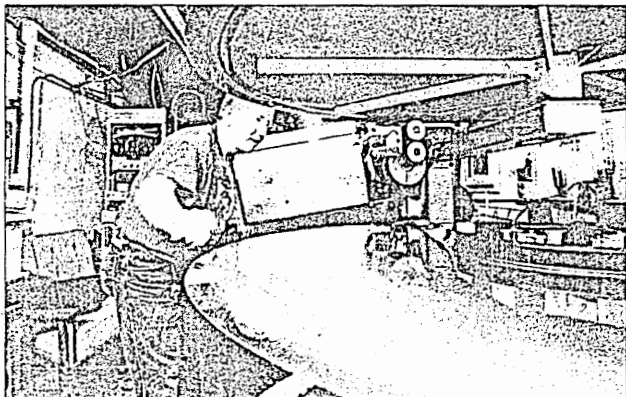
Local band to film video in Chicago tonight.

Students spend early Saturday morning buying and selling at Westown Plaza.

A look at casinos around the area.



Nine-year-old Heather Sperry of Texas and 10-year-old Mally McClendon of West Frankfort relax on McClendon's mother's mini-van during the showing of "The Spy Who Shagged Me" at the Egyptian Drive-In Theater in Energy Sunday.



To start the film projection, Egyptian Drive-In employee Don Falknor spins a giant platter the film reel rests on.

A night out at the giant SCREEN

The Egyptian Drive-In offers an outdoors venue for film lovers

STORY BY NATHANIEL PARK
PHOTOS BY DEVIN MILLER

TO GET TO ENERGY, TAKE ILLINOIS ROUTE 13 EAST TO ILLINOIS ROUTE 148. GO NORTH ON ROUTE 148, AND WATCH FOR THE DRIVE-IN ENTRANCE ON THE RIGHT.

Nestled in a wooded offshoot of Illinois Route 13 is an allusive hide away, a treasure of sorts, buried within the confines of Energy.

Stretching outward from the edge of this quaint, small town is the Egyptian Drive-In Theater which leads a wondering glance up toward the sky, stretching the imagination

nearly eight stories high.

With more than half a century of operation, the Egyptian Drive-In, 3100 Eden Park Drive, has set the standard for family entertainment while carving its niche in American history.

Dubbed the largest screen in the world, at 125 feet wide and more than eight stories tall, the Egyptian Drive-In Theater's screen stands as a monument to the creativity and ingenuity of the human spirit and a couple's dream.

SEE EGYPTIAN, PAGE 7

23 24 25 Weekender

Southern Illinois Forecaster

TODAY:
Partly cloudy
High: 97
Low: 71

Police Blotter

- A 21-year-old SIUC student told University police her \$90 textbook was stolen from a room in Rhen Hall around noon Wednesday. There are no suspects in this incident.
- Five teenage girls were detained on curfew charges around 1:14 a.m. Thursday when a girl driving a car in which they were riding was pulled over by University police at the intersection of Pleasant Hill and McLaferly roads. The driver, a 16-year-old girl, was issued a citation for driving on an invalid driver's license due to the curfew period, police said. The girls were later released to their parents. Police said the report will be forwarded to the state's attorney's office for possible curfew violations.
- Matthew L. Benson, 25, a homeless man in the Carbondale area, was arrested on three charges Wednesday after he allegedly stole a case of beer from a delivery truck parked outside the Warehouse Liquor, 829 E. Main St., around 10:10 p.m. The driver of the truck chased the suspect after he took the beer, police said, but the driver did not apprehend the man. He later gave police a description of the suspect. Benson was spotted by police carrying the beer, and when he spotted the officers, he dropped the beer and ran. Police found Benson hiding in a bathroom of a building in the 1100 block of East Walnut Street. He was subsequently charged with burglary, felony theft — due to a previous conviction — and resisting a peace officer. He was taken to Jackson County Jail.

Correction

• Thursday's article, "H.O.P.E. says SIUC is overwhelmed with ex-politicians" should have stated H.O.P.E. represents individuals from the SIUC campus, the Carbondale faith community, the business community and civic organizations. The EGYPTIAN regrets the error.

Calendar

Calendar items listed in two publications below the event. The items must include time, date, place, address and sponsor of the event as well as the name and phone of the person submitting the item. Items should be submitted to the calendar editor, Building Room 1145. All calendar items also appear on www.dailyegyptian.com. No calendar information will be taken over the phone.

TODAY

- "Meet Me in St. Louis" — A Heartwarming Musical, 8:00 p.m., children and students \$6, seniors \$10, adults \$12, McLeod Theater, Communications Bldg. Call the box office at 453-3001.

- Southern Illinois Urban Fishing Program is offering free fishing clinics, June 7 to July 30, two clinics each day—Mon. thru Fri., 9 to 11:30 a.m. and 1 to 3:30 p.m. All fishing rods, reels, bait and equipment provided. Clinics for kids, parents, seniors and other interested groups. For reservations and information call 618-453-6091.

- SIUC Museum presents "Ambassador's Choice," a selection of art and artifacts from the Museum's collection by members of the Museum's friends group, showing until July 24. Free admission

- SIUC Museum presents the metal work of Cappy Wolf and Richard Stone, showing until July 24. Free admission.

- SIUC Museum presents the MFA Summer Exhibits. The showing will include summer exhibits featured in various media by students graduating with a Master of Fine Arts

degree, showing until Aug. 7. Free admission.

UPCOMING

- "Meet Me in St. Louis" — A Heartwarming Musical, July 24, 8:00 p.m., July 25, 2:00 p.m., children and students \$6, seniors \$10, adults \$12, McLeod Theater, Communications Bldg. Call the box office at 453-3001.

- Library Affairs New Inlet On-line, July 26, 2 to 3 p.m., Morris Library 103D, 453-2818.

- Women's Services presents Project Mask; if you are a survivor of sexual assault or abuse, child sexual abuse, domestic violence or marital rape, Women's Services encourages you to participate in a series of mask-making workshops. Each afternoon is limited to six participants and pre-registration is required, every Tues., 1 to 3:30 p.m., Woody Hall, Room A-3C2. Call Women's Services at 453-3655.

- Library Affairs Digital Imaging for the Web, July 27, 2 to 3 p.m., Morris Library Rm. 19, 453-2818.

- Library Affairs ProQuest Direct, July 28, 9 to 10 a.m.,

Morris Library 103D, 453-2818.

- Library Affairs JavaScript, July 28, 2 to 3:30 p.m., Morris Library 103D, 453-2818.

- SIU Sailing Club meeting, every Wed., 8 p.m. Student Center Illinois Room. Contact Shelley 529-0993.

- Library Affairs Introduction to Constructing Web Pages (HTML), July 29, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., Morris Library 103D, 453-2818.

- University Museum presents "Music in the Garden" featuring Earth Sisters, folk music, July 29, noon to 1 p.m., University Museum Sculpture Garden, North End of Foner Hall. In case of rain, this event will be held inside the University Museum. Free admission. Contact Lori 453-5388.

- Library Affairs Introduction to the WWW using Netscape, July 29, 1 to 2 p.m., Morris Library 103D, 453-2818.

- SIUC and IDOT will be offering free motorcycle rider courses, August 6, 6 to 9:30 p.m., August 7 to 8, 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., August 9, 10, 11, 12, 13 and 16, 5:30 to 9:30 p.m., www.siu.edu/~cycle/ or 1-800-642-9589.

Almanac

THIS WEEK IN 1968:

- Movies playing in Carbondale were "The Sweet Ride," "Day of the Evil Gun," "Track of Thunder," "Baited Beneath the Earth," "The St. Valentine's Day Massacre," "The Deadly Bees," "The Devil's Brigade" and "Rosemary's Baby."
- A self-described spokesman for an organization he called "Cuban Power" said the anti-Castro group was responsible for recent scattered bombings in various U.S. cities. "Very soon, with days or hours, we will be heard from again," the man, Arturo Rodriguez Vives, said in an interview. Since April 22, there had been 11 bombing incidents in the New York metropolitan area. The targets had been eight foreign tourist or diplomatic offices of countries which trade with Cuba, two taverns frequented by Cubans and a poetist bookstore.



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Drive It Home...



CAROL MCDANIEL/Daily Egyptian

Ryan Brunko, senior in glass and metals from Nashua, N.H., sits behind his work at the Farmers Market. The Farmers Market celebrated its 24th anniversary July 17 with its annual customer appreciation day.

Peddling produce at the Plaza

Many SIUC students find Saturday morning enjoyable at Farmer's Market

STORY BY SARA BEAN

SITTING BEHIND A RAINBOW OF HAND-BLOWN GLASS SPREAD ACROSS A NAVAJO BLANKET, SIUC STUDENT RYAN BRUNKO IS ONE OF MANY PEOPLE WHO SIT PEDDLING WEEKLY WARES AT THE FARMER'S MARKET.

Brunko, a senior in glass and metals from Nashua, N.H., said although this is the first summer he has attended the Farmer's Market, he is attempting to become a regular vendor for future shows.

Brunko said he enjoys coming to the Farmer's Market and often ends up trading with other people at the market.

"The Farmer's Market has always been excellent," Brunko said. "There is a great group of craftsmen here."

A mixture of locals, SIUC students and faculty attend the market every week. The Farmer's Market celebrated its 24th anniversary July 17 with an annual customer appreciation day. Live music was provided for the crowd of people who gathered on the Westown Plaza parking lot Saturday morning.

Brunko has been doing glasswork about four

years, and the Farmer's Market offers him the opportunity to sell some of his work.

"I started getting into this my sophomore year, about three or four years ago," Brunko said. "I will be one of the first four students to get a glass degree [from SIUC]."

Brunko is not the only SIUC student to have a booth at the market. Susannah Lancaster and Debra Lucas' first-time experience with the market includes the selling of handmade books at the blacktop marketplace. Both women are members of a group of students who attend and sell arrangements at the market.

Lancaster, a post-graduate student in photography from Evanston, and Lucas, a senior in photography from Highland Park, said the books on sale were made in a summer class titled "Publication and Presentation."

Lucas said personal time and care were invested into the making of each book, all are handmade and some of the papers are hand crafted as well.

Though some SIUC students peddle their products at the market, much of the Farmer's Market is made up of just that — farmers.

Roger Plapp, a Carbondale resident, has attended the Farmer's Market more than 20 years. He said the location of the Farmer's Market has moved several times before settling in its current location, at the Westown Plaza

The Farmer's Market begins at 8 a.m. every Saturday at the Westown Plaza parking lot.

He said his love for the business and drive has compelled him to continually follow its move.

Plapp comes to the market every week before 8 a.m. when it begins, to set up his booth of flowers and vegetables. Though not a full-time farmer, Plapp said the Farmer's Market is "a full-time summer job." Among the produce Plapp sells are Vidalia onions, which Plapp said he is particularly fond of.

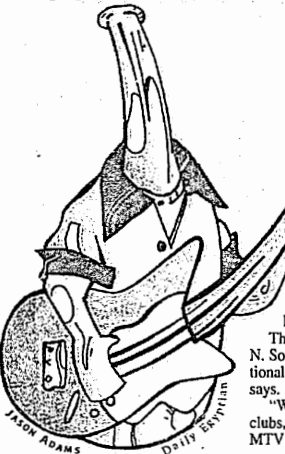
"They say you can't grow Vidalia onions in Southern Illinois," Plapp said, gesturing to the crate full of the aforementioned vegetable. Plapp said some of his customers seek out his onions weekly, because of the quality.

Overall, Plapp said the Farmer's Market is a great asset to the community and is a highlight of his week.

"This is a wonderful market for the community," Plapp said. "It is excellent for the farmers to sell their produce. It is a great community event where the locals can mix with the students."

"It's the main event in Carbondale on a Saturday morning."

Local band to shoot promotional video



STORY BY SARA BEAN

THE BOTTLETONES — THAT NEO-PSY-CHOBILLY QUINTET HAILING FROM ACROSS THE GREAT STATE OF ILLINOIS — ARE SHOOTING A VIDEO TO HELP PROMOTE FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE BAND.

Formed in Carbondale in 1993, the Bottletones blend a smattering of '30s and '40s swing, '50s rockabilly and '60s hot rod and surf music.

The video, to be shot tonight at Schuba's, 3159 N. Southport in Chicago, is primarily for promotional use, the band's drummer Speed Bottletone says.

"We are going to send it off to agents or even clubs," Speed said. "It's not going to make it to MTV or anything."

Band members have not decided what songs are going to be included on the video as of yet, though the songs will presumably come from the band's new release "The Sheriff of Bottletone County."

"Sheriff," released earlier this year through Hepcat, is 14 all-new tracks of the Bottletones self-described "bor-tone-fueled rock-n-roll."

Thunk Bot!-tone, bassist for the band, said he believes everything for the shoot will just work out.

"I was just told to show up and play pretty."

In addition to the new CD and the video, the Bottletones are keeping busy with a tour booked for the month of September. The band will kick off the tour in Carbondale on Sept. 11, followed by several dates across Texas. Plans for additional tours span the East Coast, the Midwest and the Southeast.

"We are not really sure [which songs] yet," Speed said. "We are going to be shooting a lot of video that night."

"Once we go in and edit we are going to see what looks best."

Where it's at

Reggae to land at Hangar 9

A variety of instrumentals and vocals crossing root reggae and dance hall will be available to all as Nonstop Reggae pulls out its blended culture of sound at 10 p.m. Saturday at the Hangar 9, 511 S. Illinois Ave.

The St. Louis-based band meshes a seven-piece group, featuring Prodigal Son from Jamaica, Nado Doa and Man Called Keith. The band prides itself on the mixture of Reggae, Dub, Lover's Rock and pop crossover Reggae combined in every show.

For more information, call 549-1233.

Opera comes to Quigley

Pursuing a master's in clarinet performance at SIU, Sean Osborn will enhance the audience's listening pleasure during a recital of New American Music at 5 p.m. Wednesday in Quigley Hall.

Metropolitan Opera clarinetist, Osborn will include compositions he and mentor Eric Mandat have composed for the recital. Accompanying Osborn on stage is SIUC alumna Anika Hutton on piano and Michael Norsworthy, a senior in clarinet performance, on clarinet.

Other pieces presented during the show will include "Lecture Recital" from 1975, "Sonata for Eb Clarinet and Piano," "Summer Solstice Concerto for Clarinet and String Orchestra" and "Preludes, Book I for Solo Bb Clarinet." Admission to the performance is free.

Beer garden full of flavor

For a bundle of ska-core music with a taste of fast horns and rock 'n' roll, the 'Boro City Rollers overtake the new stage of Sidetracks, 101 W. College St., at 10 p.m. Saturday.

The local favorites brought life to the new stage at its opening and continue to please the crowds. There is a cover charge for the show. For more information, call 457-5950.

Beat the heat

For the younger generation of Southern Illinois, the Carbondale Police and Fire departments will provide an opportunity for the tots to cool down and frolic in the streets.

"Chill Out in the Park," encourages children between the ages of 4 to 13 to play in a blast of water from the fire department's fire hoses from 1 to 1:45 p.m. this afternoon in Atucks Park. Admission is free.

A Coffee House breakdown

Blending humor and music gives local bluesgrass band Loese Gravel the ability to entertain while relaxing in the aroma of Melangé, 607 S. Illinois Ave., from 8 to 10:30 p.m. tonight.

The six woman-and-one-man band play an array of covers and blend a touch of original and abstract lyrics to its set.

Admission is free. For more information, call 457-6847.

Power Park comes to Carbondale

The Carbondale Convention and Tourism Bureau introduces its first car and motorcycle show, Power Park '99, today and Saturday.

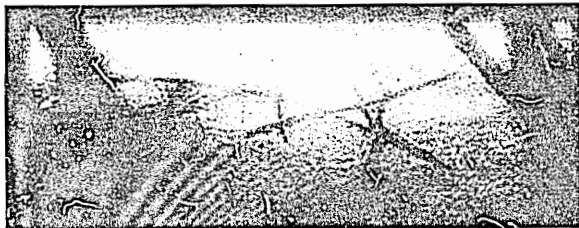
Power Park has sponsored a car show in conjunction with the Street Machine Nationals in Du Quoin before, but this year the show will feature motorcycles as well.

A bicycle stunt by "Super Heroes" will begin at 4 p.m. today, followed by a performance by Big Larry and the Down Home Blues band at 8:30 p.m.

Registration for Saturday's events starts at 11 a.m. Saturday and is limited to the first 100 cars in each class. The events start at noon and awards will be presented at 9:45 p.m.

For more information, call 529-4451.

'Blair Witch' haunts, defines new noir



Film's makers romp through chilling fields

MICHAEL O'SULLIVAN
THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON — Three-quarters of the way through the tape of an interview with filmmakers Daniel Myrick and Eduardo Sanchez, the sound inexplicably goes dead. The audio simply fades out and then, five minutes later, just as suddenly fades back in.

It would be unjournalistic to ascribe this technological glitch to supernatural phenomena (the batteries were fresh and the machine was otherwise functioning properly). Still, one might be forgiven for thinking such irrational thoughts when the topic of conversation is the spooky new horror film "The Blair Witch Project."

Myrick and Sanchez's commercial writing, directing and editing debut — passed off as the true story of the 1994 disappearance of three Montgomery (Md.) College film students while documenting a local legend of witchcraft in the woods of suburban Maryland — first worked its disturbing magic on audiences at this year's Sundance Film Festival.

Within 24 hours after the first of four sold-out screenings, the film was picked up for distribution by Artisan Entertainment for a sum reported to be in the low seven figures.

Not a bad return for film that, Sanchez jokes, "cost about as much as a new Ford Taurus with all the options."

Part of the reason for the buzz is the film's unsettlingly realistic style. Alternating between grainy black-and-white film stock and color video footage (all shot by shaky, hand-held cameras and much of it in the middle of the night), "Witch" presents itself as the painstaking reconstruction of a school project left unfinished by a trio of naive kids (Heather Donahue, Michael Williams and Joshua Leonard). One day, we are told, they vanished without a trace and are presumed dead.

When an eight-minute trailer for the film was shown in 1997 on "Split Screen," indie guru John Pierson's Independent Film Channel program, some viewers, completely taken in by the trailer's elaborate verisimilitude, grew irate when subsequent rumors circulated on the Internet that there was more behind the making of "Witch" than Myrick and Sanchez were letting on.

"The discussion turned from a discussion of the merits of the film

JOSH SANSERI
COPY CHIEF

In perhaps the scariest movie to hit the silver screen since "The Exorcist," "The Blair Witch Project" is a simple, yet innovative effort to bring goose bumps to the skin of moviegoers.

Unlike "The Exorcist," "Friday the 13th," "Scream" or any other horror movie created in the past three decades, the terrifying element in "The Blair Witch Project" was virtually unknown. The "monster" never shows its face, leaving work for your imagination.

"The Blair Witch Project" is a movie about three film students who embark on a mission in the woods near Burkittsville, Md., to create a documentary about the legend of the infamous Blair Witch.

They pack up their 16mm camera, a hi8 video camera, a DAT recorder and enough food and supplies to last them through the weekend.

They planned on returning with film footage about the legend, but never expected to experience to become part of the legend first-hand.

The film is made to look like the group actually was terrorized by something in the forest. Supposedly, a year after the three disappeared from the forest without a trace, their film footage was discovered, and that footage is what the film is comprised of.

From the beginning of the movie, you know the three aren't going to return home with their documentary in hand, but that doesn't ruin the ending. What keeps your eyes glued to the screen and your ass on the edge of your seat is the desire to learn what happened to the trio over their fate-doomed weekend.

Because it is the group's actual footage you are watching, you unconsciously believe that you will know the truth as to what happened to the group by the end of the movie, when in fact, you are left with more questions than answers.

The film isn't a traditional horror flick.

There is a lack of blood and gore, serial killers springing from dark corners, and mindless half-naked bimboes scampering through the forest to escape slaughter.

What it does have is originality. The home video style of the movie makes it more realistic and believable.

From the beginning, you are forced to identify with the students and eventually sympathize with them.

The most powerful aspect of the movie is the ability to believe the actors are really in fear of the unknown terrorist.

When they are venturing through the forest in the middle of the night, you can't help but attempt to peer through the darkness with the actors knowing full-well there is no way of knowing what is out there.

The film has mild waves of scary scenes but doesn't truly send chills down your spine until an hour after the final scene goes dark.

The final image of the movie sticks in your mind somewhat like the footage of JFK being assassinated in Dallas. The thirst to know what happened to the three is never fully quenched and leaves your imagination to ponder their fate.

"Blair Witch Project"

8 stars out of 10

Producers, Writers Daniel Myrick
..... Eduardo Sanchez
Actors Heather Donahue
..... Joshua Leonard
..... Michael Williams

Compact Disc Capsules

ALICE IN CHAINS

Woman in the Box

For those die-hard Alice In Chains fans who cannot wait for the Alice In Chains boxed set "Music Bank," set for release this fall, here is a morsel of classic Alice In Chains to tide you over.

"Nothing Safe" features "the best of the box" for your pure listening enjoyment, including two newly recorded tracks from the band. The boxed set will feature more than 40 songs on three CDs, with several B-Sides, demos and never-before-hard live recordings. "Nothing Safe" is the appetizer for the main course coming this fall with the release of "Music Bank."

Frontman Layne Staley returned from his self-imposed exile to regroup with the other members of Alice In Chains to record the two new tracks featured on the CD. The session that broke the band's three-year studio hiatus produced the heavy-hitting tracks of "Get Born Again" and "We Die Young."

The real gem on this CD is the live recording of "Rooster," which, until now, was unreleased in the North America. The BBC recording of "Rooster" reminds you why Alice In Chains truly rocks out. The vocal duo of Staley and guitarist and fellow songwriter Jerry Cantrell are hauntingly memorable. The eerie, melodic harmonies of Alice In Chains are legendary, and the tracks on this release remind you why.

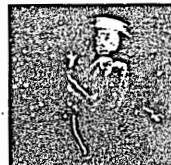
Bassist Mike Inez's guitar riffs are stellar, and drummer Sean Kinney's beats also compliment the band's sound.

The CD also features such Alice In Chains staples as "Man In the Box," "Angry Chair" and "Would?" from the 1992 release "Dirt."

The great mixture of re-released classics and previously unreleased tracks makes "Nothing Safe" a jewel in any definitive Alice In Chains collection.

★★★

—Sara Bean



CHEVELLE

Point I

If you're missing a daily dose of grunge since the death of Nirvana and slow decline of Helmet, the Chicago-based trio of Chevelle may fill that prescription. It's like a stale pack of cigarettes: the first drag after days away from the habit still tastes good.

The three brothers have created a much-needed stir into the notorious grump guitar and chunky riffs of tooling metal. The lyrics on the disc hint at the band's Christian faith, but are hidden deep behind the ruffling sounds of amps, strings and beating clutches of the drums.

Don't hold your breath for a break-through band though. The recording production on the band's new release "Point I" on Squint

Entertainment is lacking in several areas. The sounds are smooth, but vocals are drowned out. Introductions to the tracks are just too long, and the recording mix of instrumentals is way, way off. Much more would be anticipated from recording artist Steve Albini, whose work history includes Bush, PJ Harvey and Nirvana.

Recorded in just 17 days with the mastered additions of Hank Williams at MasterMix, the debut album is a definite attempt at hard-rolling rock. An injection of whammy bars and stellar drumming make plugging into the band's title track, point #1 (song 2), well worth an effort. The grilling guitar sounds mesh in a solid beat with the 22-year-old vocal talents of middle brother Pete.

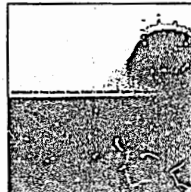
For taking a stab at the heavier side of rock, the band does give off an aroma of "Teen Spirit" and renames the standard for skateboarding punk.

All props aside, the band's most humid musical adventure is hidden behind Track 7. An interesting attempt to include a "ballad" of sorts, dos (Track 7) is a prosaic attempt at best, the vocals are a shallow effort at singing talent and the dreaded tune lasts nearly 6 1/2 minutes long.

Chevelle has momentary auspicious stops including point #1, mia, and peer. The oriented rock plays are easily most impressive through the instrumental bites intertwined between guitar and bass. The band's first jump-kick at an album was well endowed, but practice makes perfect, so we'll just give these Chicagoans some time for more preparation.

★★★

—Kelly E. Hertlein



WANTED

film reviewer

For fall semester, 1999.

Paid by weekly column. Popcorn and Junior Mints not included.

Interested applicants should apply to the EGYPTIAN by August 18. Candidates may send inquiries to: Editor@siu.edu

FINDING THE HOT SPOTS FOR CYBER CHATTER

THE INTERNET CONNECTION: No matter what you fancy, the internet has a variety of different chat rooms for you to choose from.

STORY BY SARA BEAN

THEY DON'T CALL IT THE WORLD WIDE WEB FOR NOTHING. THANKS TO A WONDERFUL THING CALLED A CHAT ROOM, YOU CAN TALK TO PEOPLE AROUND THE WORLD ABOUT SIMILAR INTERESTS, HOBBIES AND EXPERIENCES.

Because of the growing popularity of chat rooms, there are a variety of sites specializing in chat room communities. Most of these sites are free, though a few charge for membership. Almost all the sites have rules about chatting. It is important to read these rules, or you could be kicked out of the rooms by the room

monitors. The room monitors are a big brother like group of people that monitor the chat and make sure it abides by the rules.

The most common rules prohibit threats, solicitation of cybersex, profanity and repeated unnecessary posts (flooding). Most sites also frown upon flaming, or personal disparagement of other chatters.

Break the rules enough and not only will you be kicked out of the rooms, but you could be banned from the site.

Chatweb
www.chatweb.net

This is an excellent general chat site, with a variety of rooms to visit. There are four main areas of chat rooms at this site. There are the general chat rooms which offer chat opportunities for visitors of any age. Chatweb also offers room based on age and topics. Age rooms range from 12 to 50+. Topics cover everything

from automobiles and movies to gay and lesbian chat and gardening.

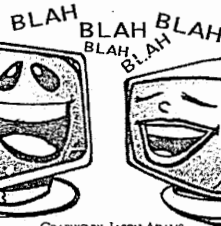
There is an adult chat area on this site, but you must be 18 years of age to enter.

Also, coming soon on Chatweb is a chat by geographical area feature.

Chatropolis
www.chatropolis.com
Chatropolis is the must-see site for the serious chatter. This site offers one of the largest, most active chat sites on the Internet. Chatropolis hosts over 150 rooms ranging from general topics and adult topics.

However, unlike many sites, Chatropolis is not free. You can register for a free 14-day trial to all chat rooms and space to create your own personal chat room.

The Chat House



GRAPHIC BY JASON ADAMS

www.thechatthouse.com

This site is 100 percent free. No strings attached. No registration. No membership. It is not the largest site, but it is very navigable and extremely user friendly.

There are six communities in the Chat House: college, teen, adult, kids, singles and entertainment. Each community contains several rooms you can visit. Unlike many chat sites, this requires no registration or password. You just log-in and chat. It's that easy.

SEE CHAT, PAGE 6

Questioning the multipurpose eyesores

Dear Gus,

What are the two tall concrete structures between Lindegren Hall and Life Science II? I've heard they are supports for a campus monorail system that never came to be. I've also heard another set of these imposing structures exist elsewhere on campus. Help me, Gus?

Grab your chalk to announce a party! Wandering around campus is a much-needed duty in the wide world of exploration, and during these excursions I can say the answer to this unique and off-the-wall question can be summed up in one word — bogus.

Brad Dillard of the Physical Plant explains the odd structures are nothing more than an attempt by the University to cover a potential

eye-sore.

Dillard said the structures actually are air

intakes for the heating and cooling system in Life Science II that otherwise would be set in the concrete walk-way outside the building.

The University saw a potential problem with the build-up of debris from excessive student traffic and found the solution to the outdoor viewing problem by elevating the grates to the top of the concrete structures.

These ventilation sculptures are exclusive only to the sidewalk between Lindegren Hall and Life Science

II. No monorail construction has ever been discussed as an alternative use for the structures, a

false and fictitious rumor spread to heighten the imagination of many who don't want to walk.

But, the site has hosted many taped-up announcements for Carbondale's weekend fare, as well as crowds of :kateboarders using the monuments' curved designs as a practice ramp.

The structures' incarnation has nothing to do with monorails and are more for function than art, but give the University credit for fixing a problem and creating, if nothing else, an interesting conversation piece.

Pluck Gus
Gus Bode's column appears every Friday. He welcomes you to pick his brain with your mind-boggling questions.

editor@siu.edu



EGYPTIAN

continued from page 1

Driving slowly atop the gravel gateway into the theater, Bob Emery emerges to collect a fee of \$4 per adult. As his hand extends, he welcomes you to the theater and smiles with an honest face.

"I'm retired, so this gives me something to do," he says.

Alene Smith, owner and operator of the Egyptian Drive-In first fell in love with the large screen format when visiting her daughter in California. Looking for an alternative venue out her entire family could enjoy, the Smiths took their first drive-in movie. The experience left a lasting impression on Smith that would inspire her to bring this big-screen jewel to Southern Illinois.

"We thought this was pretty good family entertainment," she said.

The first in a succession of drive-in theaters opened on June 6, 1933, under the advisement of Richard M. Hollingshead, whose primary goal was creating a sanctuary for heartfelt fun. Smith drew her encouragement and vision from Hollingshead, whose invention would lead to an American icon.

In the early 1930s, looking to break away from his father's auto parts company and create

his place in history, Hollingshead took a lesson from current pop culture and realized America's passion for film.

Hollingshead realized that while the film industry was becoming an American staple, it was still not a family event. Children went to matinees during the day, while adults dressed up and went to the movies during the evening. Hollingshead set out to create an environment more suited for the average American, a place where mom and dad didn't have to dress up, parking was never a problem, and the kids are always welcome.

The first open-air movie house was named aptly enough "Drive-In Theater." Some 60 years later, Hollingshead's vision and spirit is carried on by Smith and her enthusiasm in her business — the Egyptian Drive-In.

"The outdoor atmosphere, outdoor fun, and being in the comfort of your own car is what keeps people coming," Smith said.

Smith has always strived to maintain a comfortable atmosphere in her drive-in. It's not uncommon to see the bulk of the Egyptian's

audience in lawn chairs and on blankets away from their automobiles.

"Most of them sit outside their cars," Smith said. "One fella, I looked over one night and saw him with a davenport and two end tables."

Although the drive-in was born in the United States, it captivates people from places around the world. In its 51 years of providing Southern Illinois with big-screen amusement, the Egyptian Drive-In has seen travelers from all parts of the globe.

"This is one of the big tourist attractions for Southern Illinois," Smith said. "We've had people from Australia, France, Germany and all over the U.S."

As if the strong dose of nostalgia isn't enough to entice throngs of visitors, Smith has created unique promotions and giveaways to keep the drive-in experience

fresh over the past half century.

"We've always been big on giveaways," Smith said. "We've given away TV's and we gave away a 1956 Cadillac in '56."

Smith also used other inventive measures to keep the drive-in encounter interesting. Many

This weekend the Egyptian Drive-In will feature "Wild, Wild West" and "Austin Powers: The Spy Who Shagged Me." Tickets are \$4 per person. To get to Energy, take Illinois Route 13 east to Illinois Route 148. Go north on Route 148, and watch for the drive-in entrance on the right.

DUQUOIN
Racing Into History
Return of the 50 MILLER

July 24th & 25th
DuQuoin, Illinois

AMA Grand National Dirt Track Series
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Friday & Saturday nights.

Gates open at 9:00 a.m. each day — RACING STARTS at 1:00 p.m.

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• 50 MILLER
• With NASCAR style pit stop!
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Special Feature: DELUXURY concert from Campello's Harley-Davidson, Marion IL, Saturday night.

Master of Ceremonies: Dave Despain

SPECIAL ACTIVITIES: Skydivers • Trike Bike Demonstrations • Charity Benefit Ride • Bike show from A.B.A.T.E. of IL

AMA Illinois TMDA Illinois

Tonight is: **SIDETRACKS**
Customer Appreciation Night

BOTTLES & RAILS
\$1.25

SATURDAY: Boro City Rollers

F.A.C. 1/2 PRICE APPETIZERS 4-7PM

SIDETRACKS/MIDWEST INTERNET COLE SCRAMBLE AUG. 5TH (DETAILS AT BAR)

SUMMER EVENTS CALENDAR

JULY 23 friday

- The Jokers to play from 9:30 p.m. to 1:30 a.m. at PK's. No cover.
- "Meet Me in St. Louis" at 8 p.m. in McLeod Theater. Call the McLeod box office at 453-3001 for ticket information.
- Open mic night at 10 p.m. in Longbranch Coffee House. Free admission.
- Southern Illinois Fair and Expo, Mount Vernon. Motorcycle/Motorcross races, demolition derby, Rollin' J Rodco and bull riding, IFA tractor pull, family day and carnival. At the fairgrounds on Wells Bypass just off Exit 95. For further information, call 618-242-0870.
- "Tootsie" at 7:30 p.m. in the Orpheum Theater, Beale Street, Memphis. Show starts Tickets are \$6 for adults and \$5 for senior citizens 55 and over and children 12 and under.
- "Chill Out in the Park," from 1 to 1:45 p.m. in Attucks Park. Free admission. Children between the ages of 4 to 13 can cool off in a blast of water from the Carbondale Police and Fire departments' fire hoses.
- Show 'n' Shine car show. Town Square Pavilion, Carbondale.
- Loose Gravel to play from 8 to 10:30 p.m. at Melange. No cover.

JULY 24 saturday

- The Jokers to play from 9:30 p.m. to 1:30 a.m. at PK's. No cover.
- "Meet Me in St. Louis" at 8 p.m. in McLeod Theater. Call the McLeod box office at 453-3001 for ticket information.
- Bero City Rollers to play at 10 p.m. at Sidetracks. Cover charge.
- NonStop Reggae to play at 10 p.m. at the Hangar 9. Cover charge is \$3.
- Southern Illinois Fair and Expo, Mount Vernon. Motorcycle/Motorcross races, demolition derby, Rollin' J Rodco and bull riding, IFA tractor pull, family day and carnival. At the fairgrounds on Wells Bypass just off Exit 95. For further information, call 618-242-0870.

- Show 'n' Shine car show. Town Square Pavilion, Carbondale.
- Tom Petty & The Heartbreakers with special guest Lucinda Williams at 8 p.m. in the Riverport Amphitheater, St. Louis. Reserved seats are \$45 and lawn seats \$25. Tickets available through Ticketmaster.
- Motown Funk Revue DJ Show beginning at 10 p.m. at Tres Hombrs. No cover.

JULY 25 sunday

- "Meet Me in St. Louis" at McLeod Theater. Show begins at 2 p.m. Call the McLeod box office at 453-3001 for ticket information.
- Chicago and the Doobie Brothers at Riverport Amphitheater, St. Louis. Reserved seats are \$37.75 to \$22.75 and lawn seats are \$15.25. Tickets are available through Ticketmaster.
- Kings X at the House of Blues, Chicago. For more

JULY 27 tuesday

- "Yick, Yuck, Yicks" is from 1 to 1:45 p.m. at Turley Park. Free admission. Children from 5 to 10 can experiment and partake in events parents typically banish.
- SIUC Museum presents the Fibers Invitational at the north end, Foner Hall until Aug. 7. Fibers '99 is an invitational exhibition organized by the Fibers Department in the School of Art and Design. This exhibition will be an eclectic mix of artwork from fiber artists of all ages. Free admission.

- SIUC Museum presents the metal works of Andrew MacDonald until Aug. 7. Free admission.
- SIUC Museum presents the fibers work of Joanna Johnson until Aug. 7. Admission is free.

JULY 28 wednesday

- Brown Bag Series — Big Larry and the Down Home Blues Band (blues) at noon in the Town Square Pavilion, Carbondale. No cover.

JULY 29 thursday

- Sunset Concert — Eddie Mac (alternative rock) at 7 p.m. on Shryock Steps. No cover.
- Poor King to play from 9:30 p.m. to 1:30 a.m. at PK's. No cover.
- Earth Sisters (folk) to play from noon to 1 p.m. in the SIUC Museum Sculpture Garden. Free admission.

JULY 30 friday

- Slappin' Henry Blue to play from 9:30 p.m. to 1:30 a.m. at PK's. No cover.
- "Chill Out in the Park," from 1 to 1:45 p.m. in the LIFE Community Center. Free admission. Children between the ages of 4 to 13 can cool off in a blast of water from the Carbondale Police and Fire Department's fire hoses.

- Playwright's Workshop — "The Ladies From Fall River: A Speculation" in the Christian H. Moe Laboratory Theater, SIUC.

- Movies on Main featuring "It Happened One Night." Show begins at 7:30 p.m. in the Town Square Pavilion, Carbondale. No cover.

- Zacc Harris (acoustic) to play at 9 p.m. in Longbranch Coffee House. Free admission.

- Williepalooza featuring Sawyer Brown with special guests Billy Ray Cyrus and Lee Roy Parnell at Riverport Amphitheater, St. Louis. Reserved seats are \$25 to \$12.50 and lawn seats are \$12.50. Tickets available through

JULY 31 saturday

- Summer Sunset Series of Rend Lake — The Sitza Family (bluegrass/gospel). Concert located at Rend Lake Visitors Center, east end of the main dam. No cover.

- Slappin' Henry Blue to play from 9:30 p.m. to 1:30 a.m. at PK's. No cover.

- Motown Funk Revue DJ show beginning at 10 p.m. at Tres Hombrs. No cover.

- Nine-Day Trail Ride (through August 8). Two miles south of One Horse Gap Lake. Live entertainment, food, tack shops, horse shows sponsored by the Associated Saddle Clubs of Southern Illinois. Admission is \$3 per day; camping rates are available.

- Goo Goo Dolls with Sugar Ray and Fastball at Riverport Amphitheater, St. Louis. Reserved seats are \$27.50 to \$23.50 and lawn seats are \$17.50. Tickets available through Ticketmaster.

- Cher with special guests Cyndi Lauper and Wild Orchid at 8 p.m. in the Kiel Center, St. Louis. Reserved seats are \$75.25 to \$25.25. Tickets are available through DialFix (800) 771-3666. Show starts at 8 p.m.

- Nine-Day Trail Ride (through August 8). Two miles south of One Horse Gap Lake. Live entertainment, food, tack shops, horse shows sponsored by the Associated Saddle Clubs of Southern Illinois. Admission is \$3 per day; camping rates are available.

Horoscopes

Aries (March 21-April 19). You'll be luckier after the sun goes into Leo Friday. Plan an adventure for this weekend. Heed advice from an analytical person Monday. Tuesday and Wednesday could be hectic. You'll be wise to follow a routine. Thursday, something at home needs attention. Travel Friday and Saturday looks excellent. You might also discover a way to get a raise in pay then. Why not become one of the rich and famous?

Taurus (April 20-May 20). The sun is going from Cancer into Leo Friday. You've been learning; soon you'll put new skills to use. Monday, the moon is in Libra, and you may be busy with paperwork. Tuesday, the moon's in Scorpio, where it stays through most of Wednesday. You'll have good ideas then, even better if you're working with a partner. Thursday and Friday, the moon's in Sagittarius, and you should focus on financial matters. Looks good for buying and selling Saturday, and Sunday is good for travel and romance.

Gemini (May 21-June 21). Focus on finances the first part of this week so you can travel this weekend. You're good with words. Monday, so put a proposal down in writing. Tuesday and Wednesday, watch what you're saying, especially in a work setting. Thursday and Friday, relax with a friendly competition. Buy something nice for your home Sunday, with the help of another person.

Cancer (June 22-July 22). Finish fixing up your place Monday. The moon in Scorpio Tuesday and Wednesday makes those good days for romantic decisions. From Thursday through Saturday, the moon will be in Sagittarius, bringing in more work. People will be in a generous mood, so more money could come then, too. Sunday, the moon in Capricorn is directly across from your sun sign in Cancer. Confer with your mate or partner then.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22). There may be a test on Monday. Show what you've learned. Tuesday and Wednesday, expect trouble from an authority figure. Don't back down, and you may get a convert to your side. Thursday's good for you, with the moon in Sagittarius. By Friday, the sun will be in your sign, giving you the advantage. Saturday looks good for travel and just about anything else you can think of. Sunday, the moon goes into Capricorn, so that's your best day to do chores and plan for next week.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Schedule meetings and group activities for the first part of the week. It'll be more difficult to get everybody together from Friday on. Monday, you'll want to spend more than you should. Tuesday and Wednesday are good days to learn. Your intuition should be excellent then, too. Thursday and Friday, there may be a disruption at home. If you have kids; beware. Friday, the sun goes into Leo, and for the next several weeks, you'll

finish old business. Saturday's good for a party at your house. Sunday's the best for private time with your special person.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Monday, follow the leader without arguing. Tuesday and Wednesday, make decisions you've been putting off. Thursday and Friday, give up an old bad habit. Saturday, get together with your neighbors for a fabulous time. Sunday, you'll be in the mood for household projects, and they'll be easy and fun.

Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Finish up paperwork on Monday. Tuesday and Wednesday, you can direct other people and have them fall into line. Do that to accomplish your goals. From Thursday through Saturday, don't say anything that you don't want spread all over town. Sunday, practice or study something with an older person, probably a woman. You'll learn some really interesting things.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Monday, you want to spend quite a bit of money on a good cause. Figure out how much you can afford before you write the check. Tuesday and Wednesday, someone's pressing you to make a decision. Thursday, you're still going to feel a little hampered, but by Friday, you should be able to see clearly. If by Saturday you still feel like you're on the right path, go ahead and

make the choice then. Sunday will be good for practical things, like balancing the checkbook.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Monday, a partnership will be important because you've got some tough competition. Tuesday and Wednesday, a group effort's going on. Your leadership qualities will come in handy. Thursday through Saturday, be careful about what you say. Sunday's your best day this week for romance, so schedule something fun for then.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Monday, somebody's trying to tell you what to do. Find an ally to help you argue your point. Someone in authority is really cracking the whip Tuesday and Wednesday. If you can remember that your lesson right now involves serving others, you'll do brilliantly. Relax again on Thursday through Saturday. Those are going to be pretty good party days for you. On Sunday, take care of household chores.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20). You may be under stress on Monday, as a loved one, perhaps a child, asks for something you can't really afford. Try and get the best price. Tuesday and Wednesday, your intuition is excellent. Follow a hunch. Toe the line from Thursday through Saturday and do what an older person asks. Sunday will be great for gathering with family and friends.

CHAT

continued from page 5

Webtalker

www.webtalker.com

This is one of the top chat sites on the web

and has received many good reviews. Webtalker offers a variety of chat rooms on such up-to-date topics as the X-Files, South Park, The Simpsons and Howard Stern. There are also a wide variety of personal chat rooms that you can browse through. In order to chat on this site, you must register your name and

information. Then Webtalker will e-mail a password back to you and you are ready to chat.

The Ultimate Chatlist

www.chatlist.com

Through this site originated as a categorized list of chat room links, the Ultimate Chatlist is hands-down the best chatroom search engine

on the web. No matter what your interests be, you can find a related chat room from this site. Chatlist is continually updating its database, so you can stay on top of what is new.

You can also search for the latest chat room acronyms and those annoying little computer faces, emoticons, on this site.

Cooling woes turn Mae Smith into cinder-block blast furnace

STORY BY ANNA BETH TRAYNOR

Sweating in a hot, sultry residence hall room around 11 p.m. last night, residents of Mae Smith Tower complained about the lack of air conditioning throughout the building during the past two weeks.

"We spend \$400 a month to live here, which is more than enough to live with air-conditioning," Sara Freeman, a freshman in secondary social studies education from Danville, complained. "Freshmen have no choice to live in the conditions."

Freeman and other residents have suffered trying to study, only to feel sleepy and crabby.

Many complaints were made by residents over the past few weeks.

In fact, many residents, such as Freeman, feel they have been given the "run around" via "excuses."

One architecture student has had problems drawing on the thin, fragile and expensive paper used for school assignments because the paper does not hold up well in heat and humidity, whether it comes from the air or a human hand. "It's pretty bad, it's taken two weeks," Freeman said.

"Can they provide us with fans?" another resident asked.

Some students went to Wal-Mart and other discount stores to purchase fans and stock up on water to try and beat the heat.

Glenn Stine, deputy housing director for facilities, said the problem started July 14 and 15 when a leak occurred in one of the 600-ton chillers for East Campus.

Chillers are units that make chilled water, which is pumped throughout the buildings by way of coils, Stine explained, where the cool water absorbs heat and must be eliminated.

The chiller, a \$2 million project, will not be replaced until the summer 2001.

The cooling tower will lower the temperature to the wet bulb, Stine said.

A wet bulb temperature is determined by taking a thermometer and putting a wet wick on it, swinging the whole thing around by a rope, explained Stine. The higher the reading on the bulb, the hotter it is temperature wise.

When wet bulb exceeds what it was designed for, it stops working. Unfortunately, the wet bulb is



CARIN MCDANIEL/Daily Egyptian

SWELTERING: Jonathon Skipper, a sophomore in music business from Chicago, keeps a fan nearby to try to beat the heat in Mae Smith Tower Thursday afternoon.

high due to the temperatures and extreme humidity, Stine said.

He also said the chiller was shut down and repaired Friday, but more problems occurred Sunday.

By Monday the air was back on, Stine said, but the air in the towers is not operating to the satisfaction of maintenance personnel or residents in Mae Smith.

"The higher you go, the warmer it is," said Stine.

Students are advised to keep the room windows closed because opening them would only allow more hot air and humidity to flow in and increase the problem.

Ed Jones, director of housing, said the refrigeration mechanic should make adjustments so there is an appreciable difference in temperature before it today.

So far, a drop of two degrees has been made in Mae Smith within a relatively short period of time,

Jones said.

Meanwhile, this much continuous heat strains the system, Jones said. He said he hopes problems with the air will be corrected by fall.

Mae Smith employees have a strong sense of urgency to make students comfortable because the heat affects everyone in the building, Jones said. He said staff should be using appropriate customer service training to do what they can to make conditions livable.

To correct the problem, refrigerator mechanics have been working on the problem.

"We have had people working on the system around the clock. The system is old," Jones said. "We are trying to replace it as soon as possible."

Jones would like students to understand the University is concerned about student problems, especially the air problem.

"We have been very concerned about this," he said. "At this point and time, we have made the appropriate adjustments to keep them done."

Transformer culprit for campus cooling failures

TEMPID: Thursday system failure leaves 11 buildings sans cooling.

STORY BY EDITORS RHONDA SCIARRA & DAVE FERRARA

The halls of buildings that lost air conditioning across the west side of campus resembled ghost towns Thursday as the extreme heat and humidity made its way indoors.

According to Scott Pike, superintendent of Building Maintenance, a transformer failed around 11:30 p.m. Wednesday, causing the loss of air conditioning in 11 buildings. At about 3:15 p.m. Thursday, the air conditioning was working again. But officials said the air would not begin cooling until at least late Thursday.

Buildings affected included the Communications Building, Lawson Hall, Life Science II, Rhen Hall, Lesar Law Building, Aligedd Hall, Shryock Auditorium, Lindgren Hall, the Allyn Building, the Agriculture Building and the B and C wings of Fanner Hall.

"There's a lot of work to be done," Pike said. "We are down to a back-up transformer now. If we lose that one we don't have an alternative."

Around 2:30 p.m. Thursday, those

still braving the heat around campus, felt a rumble in the walls of the affected buildings.

"We were able to restore power to the (back-up) transformer," Pike said. He added that it will be a while before the buildings will return to cooler conditions.

"We will just have to stay with it until this gets back to normal," he said.

Harry Wirth, director of the Physical Plant, said the problem originated with a chiller in the Communications Building.

"We have a transformer that provides electricity to the chiller that malfunctioned," Wirth said. "We are trying to reroute the electricity so we can get the chiller working."

Pike said the cost of a new transformer would range between \$40 thousand and \$50 thousand in addition to the cost of labor.

"We have had people working on it ever since it failed through the breaks and lunch hours," Pike said.

"We have never lost that one before. This takes care of the chiller that affects most of the buildings."

Brad Dillard, assistant director of the Physical Plant, said they were alerted to the problem by alarm indications from a computer system and have been working "fast and furious" to remedy the problem. He added that the use of a back-up transformer

is questionable.

"The back-up transformer has never been used. We're just fortunate we had some semblance of a back-up," Dillard said. "It could last for another 30 years, or it could fail as soon as we put power to it," he said.

Dillard said that after discussions with interim Chancellor John Jackson, the decision to cancel classes was left to the discretion of each college dean.

Michael Masoner, associate professor in accounting, said he could feel the effects of the heat early in the afternoon in Rhen Hall.

"My office is now so hot, I was just about to leave," Masoner said at 2 p.m. Thursday.

He said although he taught a class in Rhen that was not cancelled, he taught it in a computer lab where additional air conditioners were functioning.

"They were a wise investment, and certainly they had an added benefit in this situation," he said. "I would not want to have taught a class in any other room downstairs."

Dillard said complications occurring as a result of the heat include the possible cancellation of the performance of "Meet Me in St. Louis" and the removal of live animals from Life Science II to an air-conditioned environment.

"Next to the humans and the play potentially being canceled, that is probably our next obstacle," Dillard said.

Michael Cioni, a junior in radio and television from Elmhurst, arrived to work for the WSIU television station at 8 a.m. in the Communications Building and was not discouraged.

"TV has to be on no matter what the temperature is," he said.

He said it would be hard to make up the work he missed from Thursday's classes because classes in the shortened summer semester are crucial.

"In summer school, it's different having to miss class because the class represents a couple of days in the regular school year," Cioni said. "You really fall behind, and your teachers have to decide if they will drop anything or postpone things."

Cioni said he will have work to catch up in one of his editing classes.

"It's a four-week class," he said. "To miss a day is like missing a whole week off of school."

Dillard said that despite the failure of the air conditioning system, the Physical Plant has not received many complaints from people around campus.

"People are going home," he said. "They usually don't complain when they get to go home."

Heat cancels sold-out performance last evening

STORY BY MANAGING EDITOR DEVIN MILLER

Thursday's sold-out performance of "Meet Me In St. Louis" was canceled after a transformer for the Communications Building's cooling system failed, leaving McLeod

Theater hot and inhospitable for patrons.

Theater Department Chairwoman Sarah Blackstone made the decision to close the theater for one night after spending the morning making phone calls inquiring about the status of the cooling system and receiving

word the system wouldn't be fixed until the afternoon.

The decision to cancel the show was not an easy one for Blackstone.

"It's a little difficult on this show because it is selling so well," Blackstone said. "My main concern is the health and safety with our per-

formers and audience."

Ticket holders for Thursday's performance will have the option of receiving a refund or attending another scheduled performance.

"Meet Me In St. Louis" will resume Friday evening at 8 p.m. in McLeod Theater.

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The Wood (R)
4:15 6:45 9:10 Sat/Sun Mat. 1:45
Varsity • 457-6100
Drop Dead Gorgeous (PG-13)
4:30 7:00 9:20 Sat/Sun Mat. 2:00
Lake Placid (R)
5:00 7:15 9:30 Sat/Sun Mat. 2:45
Eyes Wide Shut (R)
3:00 6:30 10:00
University 8
457-6787
"MATTIENS DAILY"
American Pie (R) DIGITAL
2:15 4:40 7:15 9:40
Tarzan (G) DIGITAL
2:30 4:50 7:10 9:15
Muppets in Space (G)
1:45 4:20 7:00
Wild Wild West (PG-13)
1:30 4:30 7:20 9:20
Arlington Road (R)
1:20 4:10 6:50 9:30
Austin Powers 2 (PG-13)
2:45 5:10 7:30 9:45
STAR WARS (PG) DIGITAL
1:00 4:00 7:00 10:00
The Haunting (PG-13)
1:40 4:15 6:45 9:20 DIGITAL
South Park (R)
9:15
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Summer blockbuster fizzles into a bomb

REVIEW BY
NATHANIEL PARK

Paving the way for underdeveloped and unbelievable scripts everywhere, "Arlington Road" is home to one of the summer's worst movies.

Had writer Ehren Kruger brought back the idea of an enormous asteroid hurtling toward Earth with Bruce Willis as the planet's only hope, the unrealistic plot wouldn't be so insulting to the intelligence of the audience.

Kruger provides a good premise for a practical action/thriller movie, but fails to deliver an ending worth believing. Marred by a series of impossible coincidences, "Arlington Road" plot spins dangerously out of control.

The film opens with Michael Faraday (Jeff Bridges) stumbling upon a bloody neighbor boy who is staggering down Arlington Road after a near-fatal fireworks explosion. The injured boy just happens to be the son of Oliver and Cheryl Lang (Tim Robbins and Joan Cusack), right-wing extremist bombers who, by coincidence, are Faraday's neighbors.

I suppose this is feasible, but what are the odds of Faraday being a history professor at George Washington University, also happening to teach a terrorism class in the

name of his dead wife, an FBI agent killed by an apparent extremist group.

OK, it's all still possible and at this point the plot still seemed semi-realistic to me too. It's not until Faraday begins to unravel the double life of his seemingly normal neighbors that the story begins to get a bit ridiculous.

After being told the assumptions of his neighbors are unfounded by everyone from new girlfriend Brandy Lang (Mason Gamble) to his late wife's former employer, the FBI, Faraday hedges no warning and predictably pushes the issue until he is discovered by Oliver Lang.

Ripped from headlines surrounding the Oklahoma City bombings, the Langs proceed to frame Faraday for their latest project, the bombing of yet another federal building.

On the outside chance your heart is set on seeing this film, I won't describe the absolutely miserable ending. A series of script rewrites might have fleshed out the plot, leaving less to coincidence, and making the ending much more believable, or at the least easier to swallow.

Despite the reckless plot, credit should be given to director Mark Pellington for his blurred-focus camera shots and the sweeping angle changes. Pellington's style produces

tension and creates a disorienting feel to the film. Slow motion and tight close-ups create a sense of panic for Faraday while he desperately tries to find the terrorists' bomb.

The slick look to the film is its most redeeming quality of the project, a characteristic that translates well for over-hyped movie trailers, but falls flat without a solid plot to pull the audience through the visual trip.

While Bridges' performance seems heartfelt, his adversary, Robbins, is just not a believable character as an evil person. I never get the psycho vibe that accompanies the personality of a real terrorist.

Combined with a poor script, the unbelievable villain bogs down an already problematic story. With the barrage of summer movies invading local theaters on a weekly basis, your money is better spent avoiding the dead-end ending on "Arlington Road."

3 stars out of 10
"Arlington Road"

Director.....Mark Pellington
Writer.....Ehren Kruger
Michael Faraday.....Jeff Bridges
Oliver Lang.....Tim Robbins
Cheryl Lang.....Joan Cusack

ACROSS

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- 52 Beer barrels
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- 56 School gup
- 57 Not-jurp's cat

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WITCH

continued from page 4

to a moral issue," Myrick says. "Was it a hoax? Are we fooling people? It kind of marginalized what we're trying to do."

In October of 1994, three student filmmakers disappeared in the woods near Burkittsville, Maryland while shooting a documentary.

A year later their footage was found.

With these stark on-screen titles, "The Blair Witch Project" begins. No credits, no cast list, no Directed by.

So what are Myrick and Sanchez, friends and collaborators since film school at Central Florida University in the early '90s, doing over coffee and Coca-Cola at the Jefferson Hotel? Well, letting the cat out of the

bag, for one thing.

"The line we're kind of walking is: How much do we tell people about how we did the film?" says Sanchez, a tall, dark and laid-back 30-year-old who grew up in Montgomery County, Md. "Because how we did the film is kind of interesting. But does knowing it ruin the effect of the film? I don't know."

His partner, a 35-year-old from Sarasota, Fla., is less equivocal. "If I had to say, 'I want this person to see the film one way,' I would want them to get the full frontal assault of 'Blair Witch,'" says Myrick, who is shorter, fair-haired and more intense than his collaborator, "and only then let them read the credits at the end and let them off the hook."

He continues, "But the only way we could legitimately do that is to lie to everybody and say, 'It's all real,

and we're not prepared to do that because of the backlash."

(Note to purists: Stop reading here because Myrick and Sanchez are about to give away trade secrets.)

According to the filmmakers, the trick of scaring the bejesus out of you in "Witch" is not done with the film equivalent of smoke and mirrors, as in most special-effect pictures, but by good old-fashioned campfire storytelling and bogymen. Except in this case, the campfire crew (represented by Donahue, Williams and Leonard) was equipped with a Hi-8 camcorder, a film camera and a digital audio tape machine, and the bogymen (Myrick and Sanchez) were armed with camouflage gear, two-way radios and global positioning system (GPS) handsets.

"In the contracts the actors signed, we told them we were going

to scare them," explains Myrick. "We told them, 'Don't sign this if you have any heart problems, because we're going to subject you to psychological techniques that are used in a lot of military scenarios you know, immersive scenarios.' It was a survival school approach."

After a few days of filmmaking boot camp, where the cast was given rudimentary instruction on the equipment, the directors sent Donahue, Williams and Leonard on a six-day camping trip into Maryland's Seneca Creek State Park. Guiding them to predetermined checkpoints by means of GPS and written instructions left with the cast's daily deliveries of fresh batteries, tape and film, Myrick and Sanchez regularly ambushed the talent with nocturnal disturbances, strange rock piles constructed in the middle of the night and talismanic

stickmen hanging from trees.

From more than 20 hours of improvised dialogue (most of which, says Myrick, "is boring as hell"), the story was condensed and shaped into a taut tale of personal disintegration and the paranormal, based on Myrick and Sanchez's meticulously pre-plotted outline.

Even though their actors were deliberately being frightened and were often cold, hungry, wet and irritable, Sanchez believes the cast did not have it as bad as the filmmakers. "They probably slept more than we did," he laughs. "For us it was just constantly charging batteries and stuff and trying to stay one step ahead of them."

The immediacy and honesty of their reactions were exactly what Myrick and Sanchez were looking for.



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The Road to Riches



By Jason Adams /Daily Egyptian

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Player's Island
Take 13 to Marion to I-57 to I-24 south. Take I-45 into Metropolis. Watch for Player's Island signs.

Casino Queen
Take 51 north to I-64. Take I-64 west into east St. Louis. Watch for Casino Queen signs.

Legislation allows boats to remain dockside

STORY BY RHONDA SCIARRA

LEGISLATION ALLOWING RIVERBOAT CASINOS TO OPERATE WHILE REMAINING DOCKSIDE, SIGNED INTO LAW A MONTH AGO BY GOV. GEORGE RYAN, IS AIMED AT INCREASING GAMING BUSINESS ALONG ILLINOIS WATERWAYS.

Senate Bill 1017 modifies current gaming laws to allow riverboats to conduct dockside gaming. The law also repeals the prohibition against riverboat gambling in Cook County. Although dockside gaming is now allowed in Illinois, there is no legislation permitting gaming devices on land.

Ryan said the changes to the gaming laws of Illinois were crucial in making Illinois riverboats a competitive force against boats in other states.

"I believe the provisions of this legislation will provide substantial economic benefits to the Quad Cities, Metro East and other areas of our state by allowing Illinois riverboats to compete with boats in neighboring states," he said.

Danielle Oser, spokesperson for the Casino Queen in East St. Louis, said the Queen supported dockside gaming because of the advantages it gives to its customers. The Casino Queen is located in the Metro East area and currently competes with six casinos in the St. Louis area. "We were definitely in favor of it," Oser said. "It gives

us a better opportunity to serve our patrons."

Deonna Belt, media coordinator for Illinois Player's Island Casino in Metropolis, said the transition to dockside gaming allows customers to have the freedom to enjoy the boat at their own pace.

"I believe, personally, that it would be more convenient for our customers because we have people who travel from Tennessee and all over who had to worry about making the cruises," she said.

"If they missed the cruise it was then a two-hour wait, and some people didn't have that option. Now they can come on and go off the boat at any time."

Prior to the legislation, riverboats were required by the U.S. Coast Guard to staff each ship with deckhands. With dockside gaming, fewer attendants will be needed to maintain the ships' exteriors.

"All of our employees will be given other options to take other positions," Oser said.

Belt said the transition from operating on a cruise schedule to remaining docked has been simple.

"Before we went dockside, things had to be cleared internally," she said. "The only change that we had really made is that we have moved our turnstiles and have built a permanent boat ramp."

Belt said since the passing of the law, people have speculated how business on riverboats in Illinois has been affected.

"There has been discussion about how remaining dockside has affected business, although no official numbers have been concluded," she said.

CASINOS

continued from page 12

"There is a lot of paperwork involved," she said. "We were fingerprinted, I had to take a drug test before I could start working and we all have to answer several questions."

Pleasant surroundings enable Belt to enjoy her position as the media consultant for Players Island.

"We are the nicest, but of course I'm partial," she said. "When I walk around I know everyone here; if I don't know their names I know their faces."

Admission to the casino is free. The casino is open from 9 a.m. to

3 a.m. on Sunday through Thursday and from 9 a.m. to 5 a.m. Friday and Saturday. For reservations call 1-800-935-1111.

Casino Queen, East St. Louis.

Several flags attached to light posts, colorfully decorated with cash-colored arrows and golden coins, welcome patrons to the Casino Queen—a bright contrast to the boarded-up houses and depressed conditions that dominate East St. Louis.

The Casino Queen, which opened

June 23, 1993, is a four-story replica of a 19th century side-wheel boat and is the largest cruising vessel on inland waterways. It offers 28,000-square feet of Slot and Video Poker Machines as well as live gaming tables. Gaming tables include blackjack, craps, Caribbean stud poker and roulette wheels.

"Casino Queen is one of the leading casinos in the Midwest," Oser said, "from live entertainment nearly every night of the week to outstanding gaming opportunities."

The Casino Queen holds the record for the highest attendance of any Illinois Casino and has had 16.5 million visitors since its opening.

"We have six casinos in the region, and we continue to lead the market," Oser said. "The boat offers one of the best views of the St. Louis skyline."

A sports bar and grill, courtyard buffet and gift shop are located in the casino's guest pavilion.

In addition to gaming, the Queen offers a variety of live entertainment, including an observation deck party with the band Dr. Zhivegas from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. Wednesday.

The boat is open daily but closes from 7:30 to 9:30 a.m. each day, due to the Illinois 24-hour gaming law. Admission to the Casino Queen is \$2. For reservations call 1-800-777-0777.

President Casino on the Admiral, St. Louis, Mo.

With a plaque on her wall reading "Goddess of Gaming," Dawn Justice, assistant general manager of the

President Casino on the Admiral, takes her job to heart. She said a trip on board the President is convenient after a night at a ball game or on Laclede's Landing.

"Our whole goal is when people visit St. Louis, they consider us a part of the whole entertainment package St. Louis has to offer," she said. "We are not family entertainment and we don't want to be—we are advocates of responsible gaming."

The Admiral on the St. Louis Riverfront was used for weddings and big bands 60 years ago. Now it houses the President Casino and five decks of gaming options.

The atrium casino features more than 1,000 slot machines, and blackjack, craps, roulette and poker tables spread across 70,000-square feet.

Because the President is located in Missouri, the floating casino is required to cruise. But because of the boat's history and age, it operates utilizing "simulated cruising." The boat restricts patrons to boarding the casino during the first 45 minutes of every even hour. Simulated sessions begin at every odd hour and continue for one full hour.

The barge connecting to the casino houses a theater, providing live entertainment options such as various comedians and music venues throughout the year. The boat also features a dinner buffet, a food court, bar and gift shop.

Due to Missouri gaming regulations, in each two-hour cruise session a maximum of \$500 is allowed to be spent. Admission to the President is \$2. For reservations call 1-800-77ADMIRAL.

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MINGSU YU/Daily Egyptian

Riverboat casinos provide alternative nightlife

STORY BY EDITORS
RHONDA SCIARRA
& KELLY HERTLEIN

A COCKTAIL WAITRESS OUTFITTED IN SILVER-GLITTERED SPANDEX SHORTS AND TANK TOPS THE FLOOR OF THE PRESIDENT CASINO AS DICE ROLL, SLOTS DING AND MILLIONS OF DOLLARS ARE AT STAKE IN THE ATMOSPHERE AROUND HER.

Secluded in a quiet, private room in front of television monitors, SIUC alumnus Aaron Smith sits back and observes the fast-paced excitement of riverboat gambling.

"On the floor on any Friday night there are people laughing, drinking, winning money, losing money — it is like a party," Smith said. "Everyone is having fun. It's a real upbeat atmosphere, and that is how it should be."

Smith began working as a surveillance operator on the President Casino in St. Louis after graduating with a degree in radio and television in May of 1996.

A night of riverboat gambling exists hours away in all directions from Carbondale, providing a high-intensity alternative to local night life.

"The slots are always dinging and the noise is incredible," said Danielle Oser, spokesperson for the Casino Queen in East St. Louis. "It's loud, it's exciting — you want to win."

Players Island Casino, Metropolis.

Making a jaunt to the home of Superman brings the vision of all-brick sidewalks, black-iron street lights and a fuchsia glow leading the wandering eye to an oasis on the Ohio River.

Having opened in 1993, the Players Island Casino in Metropolis offers four gaming floors. With the capacity to accommodate nearly 1,700 passengers, Players Island entertains its guests with 53 table games, including blackjack, roulette, Caribbean stud poker, craps, mini-baccarat, slots and video poker machines.

An Island Facility welcomes customers to the boat and includes a 300-seat buffet, bar, gift shop and boarding area. A fine-dining Island Terrace Restaurant can accommodate 140 people.

Entertainment acts visiting the casino have included the Little River Band, Tanya Tucker, George Jones and Wayne Newton. Tonight R.E.O. Speedwagon will perform at 7:30 p.m.

Players Island employs more than 800 individuals. Working on a casino mandates a lot of time and effort. Deonna Belt, a spokesperson for Players Island Casino, said those who wish to be employed by a casino operation should be prepared to obtain an Illinois Gaming Board License.

INSIDE

Governor signs bill allowing boats to remain dockside.

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SEE CASINOS, PAGE 11

(Above) Overlooking the main gaming hall of the President Casino on The Admiral, which rests on the Mississippi River in St. Louis, patrons take their chances on live gaming tables. The President is one of many casino boats located within hours of Carbondale.

(Upper right) A pit boss offers guidance to a blackjack dealer during gaming hours Friday afternoon. The President Casino on The Admiral offers slots and table gaming.

The Casino Queen, located in East St. Louis, is home to 28,000 square feet of casino gaming space, a gift shop, sports bar and grill and many live entertainment options.

MINGSU YU/Daily Egyptian

