**BREAKING NEWS**

**Neal jury fails to reach verdict**

**MISTRIAL:** Judge schedules new trial to begin Sept. 2

KEVIN WALSH, WILLIAM HATFIELD AND KENDRA HELMER  
DAILY EGYPTIAN REPORTERS

A mistrial was declared Thursday night in the Labron Neal double-murder trial when jurors could not reach a verdict after 25 hours of deliberations.

The jury had been deadlocked 11-1 since 11 p.m. Wednesday. After being sent home at 1 a.m. Thursday, jurors resumed deliberations at 9 a.m.

Jackson County Circuit Judge William Schwartz declared a mistrial at 10:25 p.m. Thursday after reading a note from the jury.

"All jurors have now given up all hopes for a unanimous verdict," the note stated.

"I thank you wholeheartedly for the effort you've given to this," Schwartz told the jurors before discharging them.

Schwartz set a new trial date for Sept. 2 and remanded Neal to the Jackson County Jail, where he has been held in lieu of $500,000 cash since November.

Neal appeared relieved when he talked and laughed with family members soon after Schwartz dismissed the gallery of spectators.

Neal, 18, of Carbondale, was charged with six counts of first-degree murder for shooting Luzetta Neal, right, addresses reporters after a mistrial was declared in the double-murder trial of her son, Labron Neal. Neal's father, Richard Neal, stands in the background.

### WARPSPEED

**STAR TREK CONVENTION BEGINS TODAY IN CAPE.**

WILLIAM HATFIELD  
DE PILETA EDITOR

Although James Vaughn will not be dressing the part, he and about 10 other members of the SIUC Strategic Games Society will be running a group speed on the Continuum V Star Trek and Babylon 5 conference to boldly offer more gaming than has ever been offered before.

"There is nothing wrong with dressing up because I do theatre a lot," Vaughn said. "But I'm not planning on doing it this time.

"None of the costumes are quite elaborate, and I don't have much energy or the effort to put them in.

Vaughn, a former SIUC student in philosophy, said that at conferences, the most common costumes are standard Starfleet uniforms followed by Klingon costumes.

"Generally the costumes range from a full costume to DARTH VADER to aborg," Vaughn said, "Anything you can find on Halloween, you can find at the conference.

"However, for 'Star Trek' and 'Bab 5' fans, the fun doesn't just stop at Saturday's costume ball.

The bi-annual three-day convention, which will begin today and go through Sunday in Cape Girardeau, Mo., will feature guest appearances by Andrew Robinson (Gank on 'Star Trek: Deep Space Nine') and Peter Jurask (Lozdo on 'Babylon 5').

The conference also will feature a charity auction of 'Star Trek' and 'Babylon 5' collectibles Saturday, autographed scripts and photos as well as a dealer's room consisting of science fiction collectibles, books, posters and t-shirts. Proceeds from the auction will benefit St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital.

Fred Jacobs, vice president of the SIUC Strategic Games Society, which has about 60 - 80 members, said 10 members of the group will offer and referee card games and role-playing games at all three days of the conference.

Some of the games offered will be Advanced Dungeons and Dragons, Shadowrun, Battletech and Magic: The Gathering.

Jacobs, a graduate student in chemistry, said he would be refereing a game called Star Fleet Battles.

"In essence you are controlling a ship," Jacobs said, "You are fighting a player while moving around a flat board surface trying to defeat the other ship.

Jacobs said he reason gaming is included in these conventions is that gaming and a love for "Star Trek" and "Bab 5" often go together.

"There is often an overlap amongst Sci Fi media and gaming," he said, "If you're involved in one, you're often involved in many.

Jacobs prefers "Babylon 5" over "Star Trek" because it has a continuous story line each episode.

"There is actual advancement of character, and it is written on many levels," he said. "They don't turn you on the head with obvious morals."

Jacobs said "Star Trek" generally enjoys greater popularity than "Bab 5." He said the majority of the more than 600 people expected to attend will be "Star Trek" fans.

Vaughn, a "Babylon 5" fan, said the show's fandom continues to grow and that hopefully he will find some time to get the autograph of Jurask.

"Its more of a whole "Bab 5" thing," he said. "It's a refreshing change on science fiction, and it's more of a darker view than 'Star Trek.'"

Vaughn, who will be running a robot fighting card game called BattleTech, also will attend the问答equate hall on Saturday.

"Most of the time I'll be running games," Vaughn said. "But I hope to avoid the dance for some time to relax and let my hair down a little bit."

Vaughn said conventions typically draw people on a national level."
FRIDAY
Booby's Beggars: The Lodge (After hours)
Copper Dragons: Jungle Dogs
Hanger St. Club: About Us (Back)
McLeod Theater: The Man of LaVanchon (play)
Mejag, Carter and Connolly (live)
PK's: Steppin' Heavy Blue
SATURDAY
Booby's Beggars: Open mic night
Town Square: Pocket Honey (jazz)
SUNDAY
McLeod Theater: The Man of LaVanchon (play)
Pinch Penny: Heavy Blue (jazz)
MONDAY
C.I.S. Mac Laboratory Theater (Comedy, Kids)
A "Woman's Place" (play)
TUESDAY
C.I.S. Mac Laboratory Theater (Comedy, Kids)
"Reunion" (play)
Club Test: Croquet (alternative)
WEDNESDAY
Booby's Beggars: Open mic night
Town Square: Pocket Honey (jazz)
THURSDAY
Booby's Beggars: Mountain Suite
Penn's Hammocks: The Lodge (alternative)
TODAY
Monocycle Rider Cookies 6 to 9:30 p.m., 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.; July 27 and 28, SIUC Student Union Bar & Grill: Tiki Bar for details, 1-800-642-9387
Women's Rugby Team: Recruitment table, 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., July 25, Rec Center, Center Posh for details, 556-6617

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9th Annual National Homemade Bikini Contest to be held in SI Volley's
Imagine some of Southern Illinois most beautiful bodies wrapped in bikinis made of anything but cloth. Men and Women from around the area will compete in the 9th Annual National Homemade Bikini Contest each Saturday at SI Volley's in Carbondale.
This contest begins this Saturday July 26 and will run until the finals on Saturday August 16. $100 cash & prizes awarded each Saturday.
The local overall winner will be flown to Clearwater Beach, Florida to compete on Monday, September 1st at Stepanh's Lounge, Resort for $1,000.00 cash. Finalists from all over the United States, Canada, Australia and the West Indies are expected to compete in the national finals.
Past Homemade Bikini entries have included suits made of UPS shipping tape, jelly beans, birthday ribbons, plants, beer cans, bumper stickers, shaving cream and an assortment of fruits and vegetables. Judging will be based on creativity, originality, overall appearance and audience response.
For more information on this fun and existing event, contact CO-COO'S at (618) 532-3753 or 531-3725.
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Gathering collects following

FANTASY: Magic: The Gathering creates a world of wizards and card collectors.

JASON ADRIAN
DEPUTY EDITOR-WRITER

Flashy destiny plays, enchanted creatures, spells, and magical spells are common in Magic: The Gathering, a game that has gained popularity with players who enjoy the strategic aspects of the game. Magic: The Gathering is owned by Wizards of the Coast, a company that has been in operation for over 20 years. The game was created by Richard Garfield and first released in 1993.

The game has evolved over the years, with new sets and expansions being released regularly. Players can use the cards in their collections to create unique decks with different strategies and win against opponents. The game has a large and dedicated community of players who enjoy the competitive aspect of the game.

The game has also been adapted into various forms of media, including trading cards, board games, and novels. The success of Magic: The Gathering can be attributed to its unique blend of fantasy elements, strategic gameplay, and the ability for players to customize their decks and compete against others.

Ground Zero

CARBONDALE
Koko Taylor to play the Copper Dragon Brewery

Koko Taylor and her Blues Machine will play the Copper Dragon Brewery Co. on Oct. 30. Tickets go on sale Monday $8 in advance at $10 at the door.

Banging percussion and a steamy guitar attack are a must move to avoid being disappointed.

CARBONDALE
Graduate students deliver plays in Moe Laboratory

The Playwright's Workshop at the C.H. Moe Laboratory, located in the Communications Building, will continue during the next week featuring two plays directed and performed by SIUC graduate students. A Performance of "A Woman's Place," written by Amy Wells and directed by Brandon Burton Belzer, is scheduled for Monday, Oct. 30.

"Resurrection," written by Helen L. Price and directed by Catherin H. Gleeson, is slated for 8 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 29. Student casts are available at the door 1 1/2 hours before the performances.

CARBONDALE
Club Tranz band cancels

The Damnit Boys/Fiercey show at Club Tranz, 213 E. Main St., Saturday night has been cancelled.

Just to Mention

Attack of the old bands: Elektra Entertainment is set to release a four-CD box set of Judy Collins that will include several unreleased tracks. Organized, "Orange County Suite," is an unfinished film Morrison number that surviving original members Ray Manzarek, Robby Krieger and John Densmore are completing in the studio.

To further commemorate the 20th anniversary of Fleetwood Mac's "Rumours," look for this album this fall. Live LP, disc and video of shows this Union Station at the end of a tour.

Former Police drummer Stewart Copeland says he is trying to persuade former bandmates Sting and Andy Summers into re-forming the band.

In non-reunion news, Billy Joel says he may be through with his career as a pop star, but he is interested in classical compositions at the moment.

The artist formerly known as Prince will play at the Coliseum in Chicago this summer as part of his "Comeback Tour." The Prince and the Revolution band will perform at the I-94 Areo Theatre on Aug. 22.

Volleyball aficionados may want to journey up to St. Louis this weekend to see the Bud Light Pro Beach Volleyball Tournament at Forest Park. The matches begin at 5 p.m. Saturday and conclude Sunday at 7 p.m. The winning team will receive a $30,000 check.

Team Nike is in the tournament, Reese will sign copies of her book, "Big Girl in the Middle," at the Forest Park Library, 400 W. Foyth Blvd., at 5:30 p.m. on Friday.

TREK

continued from page 1

Vaughn said conventions typically draw people on a national level.

"I have seen people attending who were from Japan for large conventions, he said. "But for local conventions, the attitude seems to be that you can't even book them." The Tribune staff of the conference, the autograph signing usually draws the most people.

"Both guests (Jurassic and Robinson) will be speaking Saturday and Sunday, and each will be signing autographs both days," said. "But some people come for the gaming, and if they do that sometimes they hold up the whole weekend, and we don't see them."

McGaughey said the SIUC Strategic Games Society was chosen to referee the games because they have experience in running similar gaming conventions in March in Carbondale and have refereed games at the Mid-Continuum Convention in Mt. Vernon.

"The cost of attending the convention is $40 for the whole weekend, $30 for Saturday only and $25 for Sunday only. The convention will be held in the Holiday Inn Convention Center at Community College." McGaughey said the costs primarily go to paying the guests for attending. She said that unlike some conventions, the guests will not be charging for autographs.

"I attended a convention where someone told me that he saw William Shatner and paid some fairly large amount to get his autograph," she said. "I thought that was way too much because I thought he didn't give autographs."

Thome said he attends more than two conferences each month, and the fandom for both "Star Trek" and "Star Wars" has grown in recent years.

"It's usually really inconceivable wearing an elaborate Star Trek outfit while driving down the highway," he said.

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Moviegoers lose on 'Nothing to Lose'

JASON ADRIAN
DEPARTURE PRODUCTIONS

"One has no life. One has no job. Together they have nothing to lose." Or so the trailer said. Maybe that's true for the characters in the substandard comedy "Nothing to Lose." But the people who throw their money down to see this movie lose a little of their minds trying to find anything worthwhile about the film.

Nick Beams (Tim Robbins) is an advertising executive whose life unravels when he comes home early from work and finds his wife Ann (Kelly Preston) in bed with his loathsome boss (Michael McKean). Beams' seemingly perfect marriage is through, and he's on the verge of a nervous breakdown. It seems like things couldn't get any worse. That is, until T. Paul (Martin Lawrence), a jobless college graduate turned petty thief, tries to rob and carjack Beams when he drives into a ghetto.

"Boy, did you pick the wrong guy on the wrong day," musters Beams as he turns the tables on Paul, Macing and kidnapping him. For whatever reason, Beams decides to drive from California to Arizona. Unsurprisingly, he winds up in need of Paul's computer skills to successfully pull off the heist.

Though the legitimate laughs are few and far between, scene needs mentioning. Beams and Paul rob a convenience store run by a soft-spoken elderly man. The two furs find themselves chasing the site and more predictable robbers. For a couple of minutes, as the old man is yelling, you'll actually think you're watching a good comedy. Robbins is one of the most versatile American actors, and why he chose to do this film is beyond me. Lawrence is funnier than he was in any of his previous films, but that's not saying much. Director Steve Oedeker ("Ace Ventura II: When Nature Calls") tries to instill some serious racial issues that would be right in on a more serious movie, but "Nothing to Lose" is too much of a farce to seriously address such things.

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Movie on its peak? Tough call

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CD Capsules

Beatnuts

STONE CRAZY

Relativity/Violator — 1997

After a 2 1/2 year hiatus, the Beatnuts have re-emerged on the hip-hop scene to offer their latest creation, "Stone Crazy." The Beatnuts (Dula and Psycho Les minus Fashion aka Al Tas) are long-time contributors to the hip-hop culture. Best known for their polished production skills, the Beatnuts will not disappoint their devoted fans with this release.

"Talkin' About Cash" is a creative collaboration with fellow "amigos" Hostile and Poet. An organ sample dances chaotically over the staccato drums as the Beatnuts and their friends exchange thoughts on getting paid. "Give Me This Ave" was the familiar hook of Patrice Rushen's "Forget Me Not" to express their feelings about so-called gold diggers.

Other notable tracks are "Here's A Drink," "Stone Crazy" and "Surpa Supreem." The Beatnuts are not your average former-california rappers, they are ex-evangelists. Even though their lyrics are filled with money, sex and violence, the Beatnuts stay true to their lives and their fans. The only reason, lyrics like "Baby if you give me the ass, you might wind get stuck in some cash" won't win them any awards. The rap/rock hybrid they created is as refreshing as it is unique.

On their previous releases, the Beatnuts managed to shock off sometimes, which yielded some moderate tracks. On "Stone Crazy," they confidently show their growth on production songs by song. There are no tracks on this album that lack clever-conscious rhymes.

The Beatnuts might have concocted their best album yet.

—Chris Myers

Craig Mack

OPERATION: GET DOWN

Street Life — 1997

After Craig Mack's first attempt to "Funk Da World" in 1994, he vacillated and left his fans wondering if he simply was a one-hit wonder when he hit No. 1 with "Brand New Flame In Your Ear.

Now the Mack is back with his new album, "Operation: Get Down." Where once an artist reaps after appearing in action for such a lengthy time, some typical questions arise — Does he still have what it takes to regain his fans' respect? Where has he been? And what took so long to do another album?

There are a few reasons Mack was gone so long. He changed record labels from Bad Boy to Straight Life and hooked up with Eric B. as a new executive producer. This album shows he went through the changes without altering his genuine hip-hop sound.

You might want to skip over some of "Get Down." 15 tracks, but the work as a whole is still quite solid. The album opens with "Can You Still Love Me?" featuring smooth lyrics like "Now the type of things like diamond rings/teeth coasts, can and bazzall come from notes that come out my throat."

Another song that has a nice sound to it is "Rap Hangover," which samples Donna Summer's "Love to Love You."

What impressed me the most with "Get Down" was its beats or lyrical style, but his positivity. On songs like "Do you see" and "Drugs, Guns and Thugs," Mack attempts to uplift the lives of the real lives of people who are exposed to negativity.

There aren't many rap artists who attempt this. We need to support the ones who do.

—Michael B. Many

Powernut 5000

MEGAFUNK FU RADIO

Dreamworks — 1997

Powernut 5000 call their music action rock. What it actually sounds like is mid-tempo funk mixed with Rob Zombie alternat- ing between spoken vocals and his best 24K De La Rocha imitation. This description in itself might send a few people off to the record store, but if you’re like me, you probably quit reading after a sentence or two.

Powernut 5000 exemplify what the music world does not need right now — another group of mostly white cliches (this particular bunch hailing from Boston) who wake up one day and decide that funk was cool. It’s over-adorned to point that the Mountain Dew attitude overshadow any substance that might be buried underneath all of the pasting.

This is the problem of a lot of today's funk (and rap) releases. The artists pay more attention to their imagery than their sound. FM stations, the interchangeable god of funk, worked image a long time, but it was original and genuine. And it always complemented the music.

Powernut 5000 claims their music is "hard to classify but track like "24K De La Rocha" are straight up funk/soul. The bass line of that track is kind of catchy, but the guitar work is limited to loud, easy-to-play chord changes. All of this has been done before and done better. Sounds like 24K De La Rocha songs like Powernut 5000 are proof of how hard A&R reps are still trying to milk the funk genre. It’s at least as bad as the scramble for "grunge" earlier this decade. If you just can’t get enough of attitude-heavy funk, buy this, but don’t expect the hand to put out more than one or two more albums.

—Alan Schaff

Sara McLachlan

SURFACING

Nettwerk — 1997

I have long thought "Purple Rain" was the best album to listen to while in the intimate net of love. It still is, but Sarah McLachlan gives the artist formerly known as Prince a run for his money with her new album "Surfacing."

The Canadian singer/songwriter’s sixth album defines adult contemporary. All 10 songs are slow, infectious ballads that focus on mature relationships and offer stories of passion between lovers past and present. Her songs about life relationships are dark and a show that really hasn’t been seen in her before. "I have the sense to recognize that I don’t know how to let you go," she sings on "Do What You Have To Do.

Her familiar soft/hard/soft rogue gospel and complement her subtle playing throughout the album. And songs like "I Love You" and "Adia," her voice evokes memories of Carole King’s monster LP "Tapestry." What makes this two-disc album’s similar stance to the singers’ abilities to ask where the relationships are going (McLachlan’s "Sweet Surrender" and King’s "Will You Still Love Me Tomorrow?").

The best cut on the LP: "Winnia," finds her currently captivating what exactly is in store for her and her listeners in the afterlife ("Who will be burned in heaven/Like we do down here")."'

The folk rock she displays on the first single "Building A Mystery" is elegant in its CHEERLESSIMPLICITY. The only thing listeners may be left wanting is an upbeat song or a super-popular number like her 1994 hit " Possession." But within these tracks, a song like that just wouldn’t fit.

So pour the wine, dim the lights, grab your significant other and listen to "Surfacing" for all the affection and fondness it can stir up.

—Jason Adrian
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College Horoscope

It'll take a while to get things on track Monday, as the Sun moves away from your signs. Once the dust settles, however, you'll be able to climb mountains and riding bikes. Enjoy.

Abby (March 21-April 19), Gather in the money Monday, and keep an eye out for opportunities. You'll be able to move forward with caution.

Nick (February 19-March 20), Set your course for the first week thing Monday morning. Be careful with your money Tuesday. You'll need to take a break Wednesday. Your drive is stronger Thursday. Be patient Friday. A change of heart Saturday.

Samantha (January 21-February 18), You'll have to work through Wednesday. Your energy is low Thursday. You'll be able to move forward Friday. Be patient Saturday.

Alex (March 21-April 19),集 your energy Monday, and keep an eye out for opportunities. You'll be able to climb mountains and riding bikes. Enjoy.

College Horoscope

Circle 25, 1997

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Tupac Shakur went down in a hail of bullets and left in Las Vegas, a victim of the Violence to prevalent in his rap songs. To many, the day he was killed was a waste and to others it seemed almost inevitable. But who was Shakur? Was he the angry young thug he appeared to be, or perhaps a guy making a quick buck for the record industry?

For those interested in answers to such questions, there’s “Thug: Immortal,” a direct-to-video documentary available now on video stores by Unseen Entertainment Group. “Immortal” attempts to paint an authentic picture of Shakur as a rapper, actor, poet and street gangster, a man who led a fun-filled, action-filled life, but who spent too much time on mean streets.

“Immortal” is directed by George A. Hawkins, a filmmaker who provides authenticity to a material arts movies, but who’s dead Shakur the day before he was shot (and survived) in Manhattan.

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A jubilant crowd of Neal’s family and friends huddled around Neal’s about, to law enforcement officials on Route 51. when the jury announced they had reached a verdict.

Christenson said during a press conference after the trial, “It appears that Thompson didn’t have an overwhelming case.”

Christenson said the case appears to have been decided along racial lines because the African-American juror was the lone holdout. “I mean, Thompson had a few white people and friends huddled around Neal’s attorney, Paul Christenson, outside of his Murphysboro office. Schwartz, read two notes from the jury, the first of which stated, “We the jury have reached an impasse.” The second note further stated that “jury deliberations will continue and remind the juror that the verdict must be unanimous.”

“Do not surrender your honest convictions,” Schwartz said. “You are judges of the facts.”

At 6:25 p.m., court reconvened with a noticeable police presence of law enforcement officials in the courtroom.

Schwartz read two notes from the jurors, the first of which stated, “We the jury have reached an impasse of 11-1 since last night.” The second note further stated that “four feelings had developed in the deliberations and that all cooperation was gone.”

Saturday is feeling some serious discomfort in there,” Christenson said.

The second note stated that “jury deliberations will not move further,” because the holdout juror is “more interested in the attention he is receiving from being a holdout juror than in cooperating.”

The holdout juror is being kept in a hotel and is said to be in a mental hospital.

“Too many people can’t get along racial delimitations and that ‘all cooperation was gone.’

“A juror was found dead in the morning when I feed them, they have a faster growth rate, the water is almost white.”

The fish also take pellets well, which makes them good fish to raise for a prepared diet. The fish have spent both spring and summer eating the prepared diet and are almost market size.

The final stage is to see how well the fish do on the market.

Jay Rudicille, a graduate student in aquaculture from Richmond, Va., said there is good market potential for the fish.

“Some people don’t like to fish but like to consume it,” Rudicille said. “I think if people are provided with a good product, they will keep buying it.”

The final product of a hybrid has tastes as good as any striped bass. The opportunity to sample most of the products is one reason, Myers said he loves his work.

One of the fringe benefits of the job comes when you’re checking a fish for diseases,” Myers said. “The filet is still good, and it is yours.”

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Hybrid Vigor

The hybrid vigor comes from the genetics of crossing white bass and striped bass,” Myers said. “The hybrids are increased in dominance.

They are a faster growth rate, are more resistant to disease and are easier to feed.”

“They are aggressive feeders. In the morning when I feed them, the water is almost white.”

The fish also take pellets well, which makes them good fish to raise for a prepared diet. The fish have spent both spring and summer eating the prepared diet and are almost market size.

The final stage is to see how well the fish do on the market.

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CAUTION:

FISH CROSSING

SIUC’s COOPERATIVE FISHERIES RESEARCH LABORATORIES RAISING HYBRID STRIPED BASS TO PRODUCE AN IDEAL FOOD FISH.

TRANS AHN
DE STATE EDITOR

The results of a nine-year-old aquaculture study at SIUC may soon be found on a fish lover’s platter.

This summer marks the final stage of a project SIUC has been researching to find what types of hybrid striped bass perform the best in a fish farm situation.

The fish are being raised at the Touch Of Nature Aquaculture Facility. The goal is to hybridize hybrid bass in an endeavor to find the best fish for commercial selling.

The project was financed through a grant provided by the North Central Regional Aquaculture Center.

Christopher Kohler, a professor of zoology and the associate director of the Cooperative Fisheries Research Laboratory at SIUC, said the hybrids will be ready for market by October.

Researchers will supply Mid-Continental Fisheries, located in Johnston City, who will market the fish locally.

The results of a nine-year-old aquaculture study at SIUC may soon be found on a fish lover’s platter.

The hybrid striped bass have faster growing rates and can be harvested sooner than pure while bass or pure striped bass.

One of the project researchers, Joe Myers, a second-year graduate student in zoology from New Galilee, Pa., feeds hybrid striped bass food pellets at the fishery.

COMING ACCOUNT

Joe Myers, a graduate student in zoology from New Galilee, Pa., feeds hybrid striped bass food pellets at the fishery.

The one constant in the experiment is the male striped bass, which comes from Arkansas.

The variable in the project, which is the element being tested, is the white bass, which comes from three parts of the country — Arkansas, South Dakota, and Lake Erie. Each group is called a strain.

"We want to see whether or not one strain of fish produces a better hybrid," Kohler said. "We have 15 ponds, five ponds per strain.

The white bass was chosen as the variable because the fish is natural to the area.

Kohler said the geographical regions were chosen for specific reasons.

"We wanted to cover the broad spectrum of where the fish are found naturally," Kohler said. "South Dakota is as far west as white bass are found, and Lake Erie is as East as the bass are found naturally. They have been introduced beyond those borders, but that is as far as they are found naturally.

The process begins when the fish are spawned in a laboratory. The young fish are called fry and are released in ponds during the spring.

About 200,000 fry per acre of pond are released in the first phase of raising hybrid striped bass.

After a month, the fish are bigger and are ready for a prepared diet, and the density of the ponds has to change. Entering into phase two, the density becomes about 3,000-5,000 fish per acre of pond.

Phase two lasts until the water gets too cold.

The hybrid striped bass perform the best in a fish farm because they use more oxygen as a result.

"We wanted to see whether or not one strain of fish produces a better hybrid," Kohler said. "We have 15 ponds, five ponds per strain.

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Phase two lasts until the water gets too cold.

But in April, the fish are ready for the growing season and more feeding. That is the beginning of phase three and continues until November, when the fish are ready to be harvested.

"During phase three, the fish are restocked at about 3,000-5,000 fish per acre. By the end of phase three, the fish should be market size.

The project is nearing the end of the third phase. But there is a danger especially in the summer of the fish using too much oxygen. The fish tend to expend more energy during the hot, summer weather and use more oxygen as a result.

"The oxygen levels in the ponds should be above 3 parts per million parts of water.

The ponds the researchers are using are about one-tenth to one-fourth of one acre. One way to prevent oxygen depletion is keep the density of the fish down to about 3,000 pounds of fish per acre.

"If emergency aeration is available, you can go beyond 3,000 pounds," Kohler said. "We could have pushed harder, but we didn’t want to because we wanted to be on the safe side.

Researchers have a large paddle attached to a tractor that can provide emergency aeration. The researchers check the oxygen levels every morning.

The hybrids, though, perform well despite the dangers. That is why some fish farmers are interested in raising them.

The hybrid striped bass also have faster growing rates and can be harvested sooner than pure white bass or pure striped bass.

One of the project researchers, Joe Myers, a second-year graduate student in zoology from New Galilee, Pa., said that phenomenon is known as the hybrid vigor.

TASTY:
The hybrid striped bass will be put on the market next fall. The bass are a cross between white bass and striped bass.