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Daily Egyptian Staff

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Government and Napster - take a nap

Online music exchange plans to appeal the decision

Jason Cover
DAILY EGYPTIAN REPORTER

U.S. District Judge Marilyn Patel ordered a temporary injunction against Napster Inc. to take effect Saturday at 3 a.m. The judge's injunction keeps Napster from permitting its users to exchange music over the Internet.

Napster is an Internet business that allows people to copy music on the Web and the controversy centers around the fact that artists and music companies do not get paid for their work. Napster was sued on the basis of copyright infringement, but it claims all copying was done for personal use and it plans to appeal the decision. Patel disagreed, saying the copying in bulk, as many were doing, is not "transitory." 

Patel, director of Information Technology at SIUC, said climbing down. Napster will not change the fact that people want to exchange music on the Internet. He said in the near future there may be between six to eight other websites that will grow to take the place of Napster.

"Our fear is that if Napster is out of business there will be other types of businesses that will fill the gap," Bell said. If demand is not there, somebody will try to fill it. 

Metallica, and other bands like Dr. Dre, filed lawsuits complaining Napster was engaging in copyright infringement that was stealing away profits. Metallica recorded the names of 334,345 people who put their music on Napster's site in only one weekend.

The ongoing legal battle brought other plaintiffs against the Internet website. Among them are the Recording Industry Association of America, which represents major record labels like Warner, EMI, Sony, Universal and Zomba.

The exchanging of music by Napster and other competing companies produced a special problem at SIUC. Because SIUC is an Internet Service Provider, the number of people using Napster is high. But, the bandwidth at SIUC is not large enough to hold all the music files being transferred. Information Technology began "traffic shaping" by limiting the incoming and outgoing music files. Similar situations have occurred at other campuses. But, where other colleges and universities have seen a drop down, Napster is holding.

SIUC made the decision to wait and let the legal battle in court decide whether to deal with the suit. Bell said SIUC took this attitude because of the recently passed Amendment issues of music sharing. 

He said there is a fine line between private music and what Napster is doing, and it believes the controversy will not go away even if Napster does.

Coy Campbell, a graduate student in Rehabilitation Administration services from Chicago, said he believes the artists are right, but he thinks the music was being stolen, not shared.

"You can't take somebody else's music and use it and sell it," Campbell said. "The same standards should apply to the web, too."
Almost 20 years old, Merrill-Fink said. "The Liberal Arts Department has been remarkably generous, but times are tough and academic programs are at risk."

"Though summer theater is usually performed by professional chaplains, SIU students share in roles and help in the production," Shirley Clay Scott, dean of the College of Liberal Arts, called McLeod Summer Theater important for students and the community. "Students get a chance to do acting at a professional level, and music theater is one of the fastest growing majors in the country," Scott said. "It's a really good outreach for the community on several levels — for participation and enjoyment." The Theater Department is planning on spending the next two years grant-writing in an effort to secure a summer 2002 season, which comes as good news for the nearly 6,000 students who played a role in the 2000 season.

"Any help, not only financial, anyone is willing to offer is really important," Blackstone said. "Helping hands is what we're going to need."
A modern mode of dancing

Dance class focuses on a mix of ballet and theater

Rani Connolly
Daily Egyptian reporter

The poor attendance of Tuesday’s modern dance class in the Rec Center is not a direct result of the quality of the program. Really.

Instructor Barbara Nechich said she did not expect a big turnout during the summer season because of the time of year. Four people are signed up for the class, and ten of them attended Tuesday evening.

“We only offer one dance class in the summer because we know there won’t be enough people to fill it, or any others,” Nechich said.

Nechich teaches ballet classes along with modern dance classes during the spring and fall semesters at SIUC. The modern dance class could be more accurately referred to as a traditional modern dance class.

“I don’t pick the students,” Nechich said. “I pick a batch of all the people who want to be in the class. I just do what I think is best.”

There is one thing you can change about the class—the schedule. The new modern dance class was confab with a cheeky dancing class last semester. The Carbondale Park District offered a class called Modern Dance, which focused on cheerleading and pom pom routines.

“I had a few students come in last semester thinking they would learn routines here,” Nechich said.

This is more about control, songs, balance, coordination, and stretching it in ballet and modern dance form. Each class is six weeks long, this semester’s class is every Tuesday for six hours.

“Dance really is a long-term thing; it is really hard to get anywhere in just a few weeks,” Nechich said, “You need extended time to learn advanced dance skills. If you are looking for some exercise and very to get started moving or just enjoy it, then this is it.”

Nechich had a few students last year who stayed for four sessions in a row. “I think they really accomplished something,” Nechich said. “Last year we had a group a whole who was more energetic by that time.”

What the class accomplishes each session varies on the mood of the class, sick, dancing gum and other products, and Nechich. When students sign up for more than one session, they are already familiarized and the class moves along quicker.

At the beginning of each six-week session, Nechich works on movements across the floor and different steps, and how to advance to teaching combinations of steps.

“The first day of the month, I focus on coordination, form, and Nechich said, “It’s all about figuring out exactly where your body is.”

By learning how to control your body and learning different positions and positions, this gain strength and stability.

Shera Kamas is a 15-year-old female from Carbondale.

“I was ready to take portraits of cows with names that I could hardly move,” Kumar said, “I missed my dentists appointment because of it.”

At a child, Nechich began dancing for one reason. “It was fun. As I advanced, she stayed with it for another reason.”

While dancing you are not focusing on how many reps you’re doing, you are thinking about other things,” Nechich said, “So it takes the tension out of the workout.”

Barbara Nechich, instructor of the Student Recreation Center Modern Dance class, demonstrates a modern dance technique as Khadjah Jemi, a graduate student in computer engineering from Morocco, watches during the Tuesday class at the Student Recreation Center. Nechich teaches a mix of ballet and modern dance during the six-week-long class.

Have a cow, man

To Carl Hileman, cows are more than just animals—they're the products we buy and use everyday

Andrew DeLauney
Student Affairs editor

Lying on his stomach in an open green pasture, Carl Hileman produced a completely new meaning to the way the world looks at cows.

Hileman, a 1996 alumnus of the departments of Cinema and Photography and Art and Design, creates art by picking a much higher level in his "About Cows" portfolio exhibit. Using infrared film, Hileman was able to give cows a familiar appearance showing the power of the bovines. The exhibit, which was at The Mitchell Museum at 457 E. Main St. in Murphysboro, is free. It opened Aug. 4 and will run through Sept. 26.

“The problem with beef is that it’s a very meat-heavy meal,” Hileman said. “It’s a very meat-heavy meal.”

Hileman said he went through an entire thought process before coming up with the idea of photographing cows.

“When I figured out what this cow thing was, it was great,” Hileman said, “It was like a vogue.”

Hileman began working on his cow collection in February, visiting local farms and meeting his new friends— the cows. Upon finding domesticated cows, Hileman began taking portraits of cows with names like Betsy and Jerry.

"I couldn't find cows that people mess with—I was the only one," Hileman said.

"That I could hardly move," Kumar said, "I missed my dentist appointment because of it." The child, Nechich began dancing for one reason. "It was fun. As I advanced, she stayed with it for another reason." While dancing you are not focusing on how many reps you’re doing, you are thinking about other things," Nechich said, "So it takes the tension out of the workout."
Great suspense is 'What Lies Beneath' supernatural thriller

Variety of SNL-alums can't save this year's 'American Pie'

Christian Male
Daily Egyptian reporter

At first, the advertising and media campaign of the film "Loser" had one to think that next installment of "American Pie" has arrived to America's theaters.

The film follows Paul (Jason Biggs). He is a young man having a small town with every nice people of same Midwestern roots for the truly picturesque of New York City.

Paul's family gets together to celebrate his departure for college and sentimentally plays out when Paul and his father work in the garage for the last time on miniature planes. Paul's father (Dan Aykroyd) helps set the tone of the film by offering Paul adverb: "The key to making friends is to listen to them."

While Elwood Blues may have been on a mission from God, the plot line of "Loser" seems to be on a mission from Kafka. It parallels the intent of the plot from "The Trial." This work from Franz Kafka. "What Lies Beneath" may not be Oscar-worthy material or very original, but it is definitely a departure for this year's "American Pie". This album would make the perfect soundtrack.

The pop hooks taste great, but they're legal drinking age, penning their watered-down interpretations of their royalty checks on tattoos and haircuts or they may be, before they come of age, more strangely than they would think.
The Theater.

Appeal stacked. It became a sort of tradition, someone says, Wimbledon Awards ceremony. Article about a college student streaking. Article what Streaking Fad. And the for some, the pastime continues to have certain occasions and they would or should say, certain parts of it. When it appears to be making a comeback. But groups would have certain times and yet we’re not supposed to show it, in front of a jury during a dress rehearsal. Playwrights Workshop 2000 presents “To Handle the Serpent,” a play performed by SIUC’s Theater Department.

“The incident marked the high point — or low, if you prefer — of a practice that died with Hit Racing for the coveted title of Davidist Fab of the 1970s streaking,” wrote Frederic D. Schwartz in an April 1999 American Heritage magazine column.

Lack of boundaries and platform shoes — other dumb fads of the ‘70s — streaking made the headlines, too, and shows it, it’s funny — especially if it’s a real good birthday suit or a real bad one.

While Stevens says he has never seen a birthday suit and yet we’re not supposed to show it, or should say, certain parts of it. When someone says, “Alas, the trick with you and shows it, it’s funny — especially if it’s a real good birthday suit or a real bad one.”

The act of streaking was born on college campuses in the late sixties and seventies, according to Schwartz’s article “That Streaking Fad.” And the candles are still burning. For example, student at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor ran through “a group streaking” during the annual Naked Mile event. In an even more public arena, a woman streaked past tennis players and spectators at Wimbledon in 1996, a man pulled the same stunt this year.

“Frankly,” I think there’s nothing more than that attention seeking, just because seen from an attention seeking,” says David Holmes, a University of Kansas psychology professor specializing in abnormal behavior.

In addition, Holmes points out the streaking is different from exhibitionism, which is a psychological disorder involving exposure for sexual gratification. Stimuli, on the other hand, often seek the spotlight, five minutes of fame — or infamy.

And what better place to locate it than at a baseball game, where beer can also be influential in lowering a person’s inhibition?

Professor Barnett asks, “Where can you have 30,000 people look stylish and still get all that attention for a moment?”

**Workshop**

**CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3**

audiences’ heads because it will be used as the background music during the production. Barnett also found it was more interesting things about his family while doing research.

“I found out that my great-grandmother was a snake handler,” he said.

The third play in this year’s Playwrights Workshop series, “Lullaby,” deals with Gabriel Mater, who is a San Diego psychiatric ward because he suffers from hallucinations of a past Christmas Eve, where his 3-year-old son was finally cured of cancer. Now Gabriel is informed by his brother Michael that he too has cancer, but explains that it can be beaten.

“Lullaby,” which received an honorable mention in the 2000 Christian H. Moe Playwriting Competition, was nudged up to the fall calendar for the Summer State University Theater National Playwriting Competition, deals with not just cancer of the natural body but cancer of the soul.

The last production, “Fun with Living Corpses,” is a twisted version of Thornton Wilder’s “Our Town,” told from the point of view of the stage manager who has been dragged kicking and screaming into present-day America.

This one-act, free staged reading will continue issues of censorship, pharmacology, dependency, co-dependency and therapy.

Celeste Cooper, a junior from Paducah, will star in “To Handle the Serpent” as a lady in love with the preacher. She said she has enjoyed being part of such as event and can’t wait to start her role.

“I am proud to be part of this production, and the three hours a day of practices since June 20 that the actors and crew have put in have really paid off,” she said.

Cows

**CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3**

he was a little intimidated by the cows and their size. He told a story about lying on his stomach on a photography and turning his head to the left, only to find a 2,600-pound bull staring directly at him. What would he do if take Jerry’s picture?

Scott Kemmerer, a fellow photographer, went on a shoot with Hileman and was amazed. Though Hileman was bing more city to the cows when he shot the photos, using a wide-angle lens made the cows appear to be fur- ther away. It also enhanced the images of the landscape, Kemmerer said.

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Napster, schmapster

Online Music Awards prove Internet is nothing to fear

AMANDA FABROZIO
U-WIRE

NEW YORK — Most musicians have recently come to realize something David Bowie has known for some time: The Internet can be a musician's most valuable asset. From selling MP3s and corgics—(Greg Kinnear) who is involved with the girl, Donna (Omoboma soma), who breaks into the loser, Paul, that is being with three jeryjy novemates. That's about the long and short

But this Alanis is

Wonders of the internet and its potential for growth. The Internet is an unparallded marketing tool for musicians, innovators to succeed with hands-on experience. . . ,: ~-

...for the project is to create a world class "living laboratory" for work and study," said Green Mountain College President Thomas L. Benson. The new 65-acre campus is scheduled to open in July 2001 and will house five residence halls, an administration and class· building, and performing arts center. The additional space will also allow the enrollment of 650 to increase by 200-300 students in the first five years, and eventual· ly 500 students, said Steven Deal, a spokesman for the college.

In addition to taking the cooperative classes at the ski resort, some of the students will likely end up working for Killington when the casino's owner "sherry side" the top graduates of the program, said Bernard Biesen, president of the Rase Family Corporation, which developed and owns the base.

Founded in 1834, Green Mountain College is an accredited college that incorporates an environmental focus into all aspects of the curriculum and campus life.

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"Loser" CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

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WHERE

DINNER

7 p.m. to 10 p.m.

313 to 18 years old. Cover: $5. Children 12 and under free.

There will be a free buffet from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. in the beer garden.

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Summer heat got ya down? Pick up a book

Casual reading to get you through August

**Provo, Utah** — As the days heat up, many people become lethargic to go outside. Some find this the perfect time to grab a good book, sprawled in front of the fan and read away the hot summer heat.

Although book sales tend to be lower in the summer, this is still a great time to read a book, said Janice Stevenson, book manager for Media Play in Orem. When looking for a good book, the national bestseller list is a good place to start, she said.

Looking for a good book from the New York Times Bestseller List is one way that some Provo residents seem to choose a book. Provo readers tend to follow the national reading trend, said Don Fouts, associate general book manager for the BYU Bookstore. One of the top-selling nonfiction books in the Provo area is "Body for Life" by Bill Phillips. This book outlines a 12-week plan to getting a healthier body.

The book is well sold all summer and sales have increased since two bygone titles went the "Body for Life" route, Stevenson said.

"We have noticed that the fad books, like "Fad Diets," by John McDougall, are slick and popular. This year the book, "Johnson's top-selling nonfiction book at Media Play and Barnes & Noble. This book is a collection of short pieces and an autobiography.

Other nonfiction bestsellers at Media Play, Barnes & Noble, and the BYU Bookstore include "Tuesdays with Morrie" by Mitch Albom, "November" by Dave Pinter and "My Grandfather's Blessing" by Rachel Remen. Because of the movie by the same name, "The Perfect Storm," by Sebastian Junger has also become one of the bestselling summer books, Stevenson said.

Books in the media include two books on Oprah Winfrey's book club list — "The Power of Your Subconscious Mind" by Dr. Albert Brown and "The Power of Your Brain" by Dr. David Elkins. "Oprah" has fans in Utah. Any book promoted on her show will sell well, said Cinda Furse, media relations for Borden Books, Music and Café in Provo.

Other books that have been in the media this summer are the Harry Potter books. All four of the books in the series are on the bestseller list for Barnes & Noble, Borders, Media Play and the BYU Bookstore.

"We keep selling out of all four of the books. They are just hot," Stevenson said.

"Elia Enchanted" by Craig Carson, Lebo and "Holes" by Louis Sachar are two books on Media Play's children's bestseller list, Stevenson said.

Making it big at adult fiction this summer are "The Barfniad" by John Grisham and "Hanibal" by Thomas Harris, Cote said.

Bestsellers for Provo also include a number of religious books.

"Standing for Something" by President Gordon B. Hinckley and "The Heart of Mormonism: Christ of Later-Day Saints" is a bestseller for Borders and the BYU Bookstore.

Religious series also tend to sell well, said Julian Jones, religious book buyer for the BYU Bookstore.

Some of these series include "The Work and the Glory" by Gerald Lund, "The Tennis Shoes Among the Neophytes" by Chris Heinfling and "Children of the Promise" by Dean Hughes.

**New York** — The Tragically Hip hold the dubious distinction of being the most successful "alternative" band in Canada. "Alternative," of course, is a relative term. In the context of a musical landscape that includes Bryan Adams and Celine Dion, even Alanis Morissette seems cutting-edge. The band's white-collar rock sound, complete with replete 4/4 rhythms and the occasionally blurry tiff, is pleasant and inoffensive, if a bit repetitious. They steadily accumulated a loyal following of hometown folk who followed them, and Canadian alt-rockers Our Lady Peace, too, are starting to make waves.

Risqué; By their 1998 album entitled Phantom Planet, they arc surprisingly daring defensively why they haven't done as much, most late-afternoon dark, with arpeggios guitar and lyrics about the music was as memorable, though, the real problem is that they don't have the latter boosted by its appearance in the Alfred Hitchcock film "R.I.P.M. Up. If you haven't heard either song, you can easily imagine them riding in the back of a tour minivan, big eyes, flannel shirts, and plugging away or dying. The title singles "Daysleeper" or "Lotus" aren't remotely trendy. It's become the aging, white, Canadian Hootie and the Blowfish.

The Hip's irresponsible earnestness, their relentless refusal to participate in anything remotely chic or cool, is indeed, hard to resist. It's become the aging, white, Canadian Hootie and the Blowfish. Knowing them, they'll keep writing defensive why they haven't done as much.

Even the band would admit that they don't. The Tragically Hip are surprisingly frank, both poetic and funny without being overly glib, and most importantly, always sincere to the accompanying music.

In lines like "In corners of spheres of block space," frighteningly, hourly we cross some nowadays MTV-driven scene. The Tragically Hip-they arc surprisingly the latter.

"I saw your compass on a sea of airtight sights, the honesty shines while, I can't..."
FEMALE NON SMOKING professional student or couple looking for 1-3 BDRM. Well kept, 3100 W Main, One bedroom, rent $507/mo. Call 687-3598.

MATURE/RESPONSIBLE ROOMMATE needed prior to fall 1991. Looking for a quiet apartment, clean, 457-4444.

LARGE 2 BDRM on West Side, 1100 West 5th, Clean, quiet, w/d, available Sept 1st, $350/mo, no pets. Call 549-7581.

CARBONDALE, 1 BLOCK from co., 1 bdrm, fum, a/c, 1 car garage, yard, 529-4195.

2 BDRM-suite, nr SIU, air, pets ok, yard, large, quiet, 318 Birchline Dr, 609 W College, 985-1574.

STUDIO APT, 1 bdrm, fum, a/c, very quiet, located in private setting, large spacious room, great location, 457-3209.

2 BDRM on West Side, 1100 West 5th, Clean, quiet, w/d, available Sept 1st, $350/mo, no pets. Call 549-7581.

PRIVATE COUNTRY SETTINGS, 3 bdrm, 2 baths, nr SIU, air, no pets, well kept, 187470-7880.

BROOKSIDE, 1 BDRM, 3101 Old 51, 2 & 3 bdrm, fum, a/c, nr SIU, nr campus, 2 bdrm mobile homes, $280-, 549-7495.

FIELDSTONE, 1 BDRM, 3101 Old 51, 2 & 3 bdrm, fum, a/c, nr SIU, nr campus, 2 bdrm mobile homes, $280-, 549-7495.

MUST SEE TO BELIEVE! 2 bdrm trailer at 3101 Old 51, 2 bdrm mobile homes, $280-, 549-7495.

Vivian, 3101 Old 51, 2 & 3 bdrm, fum, a/c, nr SIU, nr campus, 2 bdrm mobile homes, $280-, 549-7495.

RIVERBEND, 1 BDRM, 3101 Old 51, 2 & 3 bdrm, fum, a/c, nr SIU, nr campus, 2 bdrm mobile homes, $280-, 549-7495.

SMOKE FREE, 1, 2 & 3 bdrm, SIU, nr campus, 2 bdrm mobile homes, $280-, 549-7495.

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REALTORS of SOUTHERN ILLINOIS, 1 BDRM, 3101 Old 51, 2 & 3 bdrm, fum, a/c, nr SIU, nr campus, 2 bdrm mobile homes, $280-, 549-7495.

SMOKE FREE, 1, 2 & 3 bdrm, SIU, nr campus, 2 bdrm mobile homes, $280-, 549-7495.
When it comes to classroom presentations, let me just say, why do some people make a 20-minute presentation and live in seven minutes and not a minute more? This column is directed at that one student in every class whom everyone enjoys, and there are many such scholastic pervertos.

The rest of the class sits through the ordeal because it's taking a 15 minutes longer than they care to hear. Yes, your presentation is important. Yes, you are presenting some convincing evidence, and yes, you have a good topic and the literature review is titled "Phenomenology of Hyperactive, A Sociological Perspective.

You'll love it. So keep talking up there at the head of the room, because yes, you really do look good.

(Turns) Between sunken eyelids and the blurry vision of students fighting back tears of boredom, the class recognizes when you are finally finished. You throw a black velvet cape over your shoulders like Dracula and most exclusive information in the field, and everyone says, "Thank you!"

Yes, the applause you will. We don't come because you don't have time to talk. You have to grab your notes until blood rushes to your face, clasp your hands behind your back, and speak from your heart. You are the one that no one else can do. You have to do it.

Those students who manage to stay awake, perhaps even stem meditation. OK, I should think that they did not present. Forget that since you presented for 45 minutes straight, now everyone else feels obligated to follow suit.

The applause you wait for doesn't come. But the applause you wait for doesn't come. But the applause you wait for doesn't come. But the applause you wait for doesn't come. But the applause you wait for doesn't come. But the applause you wait for doesn't come. But the applause you wait for doesn't come. But the applause you wait for doesn't come. But the applause you wait for doesn't come. But the applause you wait for doesn't come. But the applause you wait for doesn't come.

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The Cache River is home to the state champion Bald Cypress tree. The base measures 34 feet in diameter and is the largest in Illinois. The tree is over 1500 years-old and has an observation deck overlooking it from the bank.

**Canoe**

*Continued from page 1*

"Most people are just blown away by this," he said. Visitors to the Canoe can bring their own canoes to paddle the moving in solitude and enjoy the ring cabs, bird squawks and leaf of tapping water.

"It's a place where you want a loss physi­
tical tour of the wetland - it's like
trying to paddle through green ocean­
ous," Ryan said. "It's like their motorboats as long as the
trees are 10 times the length of their
each canoer and you can follow
marked and cleared paths
through the swamp and the canoe
bugholes to Eagle Pond and the state champion Bald Cypress tree.

"It's kind of neat to see something
that's 1500 years old and not
think that's got some sort of con­
sciousness," Ryan said. "If you sit
under it, you just get this feeling for
it.

The giant cypress is 34 feet
around, with a trunk as broad as
a room in a house in a day, diameter, and
the dense


*The River is home to the state champi­
on Bald Cypress tree. The base measures 34 feet in diameter and is the largest in Illinois. The tree is over 1500 years-old and has an observation deck overlooking it from the bank.**

**New book reveals Cybill Shepherd's sexual escapades**

**Douglas Perry**

**Chicago Reader / Tribune**

There's a scene in "The Last
Picture Show," Cybill Shepherd's 1971 western, where the young Cy­
bell, buttoning and straightening her clothes, storms out
of a crowded room in a rage, disguised
with her boyfriend for not being able
to perform on command.

Little did moviegoers know then
how true that moment was for the
young actress. As Shepherd now 51,
relates - essentially - in her autobi­
ography, "Cyllb Diaries" (out from HarperCollins), she has always
been a girl who wants what she wants when she wants it. And usually what she has.

"Although the strictures of Southern womanhood were boxed to a first edge in my family and I fol­
lowed some of them flawlessly, I never observed the sexual code," wrote the former Miss Teenage Memphis:
Shall not be yielded.

Shepherd was written with the help of author Anne Lea Bal, has
more sexual adventures than "Plath House Letters." It seems like
every few pages, Shepherd is shaking
off her virgins like a wet dog and
falling into bed (or onto a chair or the
floor) with celebrities ranging from Don Johnson to the man who
drove her to Hollywood, "Last
Picture Show" director Peter Bogdanovich.

But even though she prefers to love her man, Shepherd wholeheartedly admits that the var­
ious unions, couple by couple, was
more easily misadventured than self-empowered. She is just as well
down her sweaty exploits seem to have
trammeled little true passion in her -
even her description of a threesome she had with two men is strangely
described.

Indeed, Shepherd's only moment
of surprise in the bedroom comes when a rare fee to materialize, such as
when she was dating with Elvis
Presley shortly after he rocketed to
stardom. (The nice young Cybill was
shocked to discover the director
of Huge Videoconet dragolions
steamed over the swamp's surface
like animated raindrops.

Cybill's boat throbbed past downy
feathers positioned on the water's
surface and alongside Zee-like fallen
trees with steady luck.

While the Cache is mostly drivi­
ning today, Ryan said, conservation
has come its price. More visitors to
the river can mean more var­
dals.

"One guy carved his initials in the
state champion cypress," he said
with a frown. "Conservation is a
trade-off. This isn't my own private
dock pond anymore, but I'll still
be here when I'm gone and that's
the key: it'll be here for generations to
come.

Back at Ryan's elevated baha­
cabin on the shore of the Cache,
he rocked back in his chair and
sipped beer.

"The best part about living here is
this flood season," he said, offering
a barbecued biscuit to the local
Racquet liaison, "Water laps right
under my deck and it's just great
to know no one can call you or get to
you."
Darby Ryan, a director of the Citizens’ Committee to save the Cache environmental group, maneuvers his boat through the Cache River wetlands Wednesday.

A float through Wonderland

Canoe the Cache River wetlands and peek at Southern Illinois’ own Everglades

STORY—BY KELLY DAVENPORT
PHOTOS—BY JESS DRURY

Monet would love the serene, green world of the Cache River wetlands.

Here, Mother Nature molds tree roots into sculptures and paints with emerald green duckweed; the Cache is a living impressionistic painting.

"This is what I love about this place — can you hear that?" whispered Darby Ryan, a beard-ed amateur naturalist and friend of the Cache.

"Nothing," he said, smiling around the stub of a mangled light. "How often do you get away from the sound of human habitation?"

It’s easy to share Ryan’s love of the surreal, intoxicatingly peaceful Cache. Especially, if you’re perched in a sliver of a ship on a Wednesday afternoon, watching great blue herons as soaring as pterodactyls squawk and skim their wing tips over water still and placid like a perfect ice pond.

The Cache River wetlands are Southern Illinois’ own Everglades, biologists say, but just 20 years ago, the river was a graveyard of dead fish and scorched tree stumps — sucked bone dry from human activity.

"People used to ride their three-wheelers back here," said Ryan, a self-professed “swamp rat,” pointing to Eagle Pond, an ark of deeper water on the Lower Cache and home to an 800-year-old cypress tree and numerous heron rookeries.

Ryan, a 1972 SIUC graduate, lived for years with the river in his backyard, but he never knew the innerworkings of the swamp until the 1980s.

That’s when he joined the Citizens’ Committee to Save the Cache, an environmental group that teamed with state and private officials to restore the watery glory to this wetland, which is one of the 10 most unique in the world. Now Ryan is one of nine directors of the citizens’ committee.

Today canoe paddlers, fishermen, duck hunters and nature lovers flock to the Cache. In the fall, geese and Bald Eagles can be spotted, rare Latin American songbirds migrate here in summer and waterfowl visit in winter.

River otters, muskrats and giant beavers prowl the shores and shallows, too. Beneath the reeds, tannin-stained tea of the river, shoals of crappie, bass, gar and carp are also making a comeback.

"If you’re from northern Illinois and all you’ve ever seen is a cornfield, then you may as well be on the moon, as far as the uniqueness of the swamp," Ryan said.

He push-poled his little skiff like a Venetian gondolier around protruding cypress roots called knees, as the swamp’s duckweed flapped and twisted past the bow.

Ryan’s boat moves through thick duckweed into an area of the Cache lined with cypress trees. Many sections of the river are covered in brush and difficult to traverse.

Area Canoe Directions and Rental Information


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