

College Bowl Advances to Regionals

Jessica Luschen
Staff Writer

The RLC College Bowl team is well on their way towards another victory.

After winning the Championship two weeks ago, team members are now preparing for a victory at the Regional meet on March 1 at South Eastern University. The team will only have to beat two teams, Shawnee and South Eastern in order to advance to State, where they claimed 4th place last year.

According to Rebecca Biggs, College Bowl Coach, having a small team has not hurt them at all.

"This year, we only have 5 team members, which is one more than what we had last year," said Biggs. "We've upped our level a little bit with the help of our new team member, Josh Sims."

Biggs also stated that the team has a very big chance of winning the Regionals.

"We were a very good team last year." This year, we seem to be a little above," said Biggs. "I expect the team to perform at least as well as last year, if not even better."

The team itself consists of Stacy Dagg of Texico, Sarah Eubanks of Valier, Angie House of Mt. Vernon, Marshall Mullins of Benton, and Josh Sims of Benton.

According to 2 year team member Marshall Mullins, sophomore, the team has a good chance of going to State.

"I'm very pleased to see us come together." "We've won more and are a better team this year," said Mullins. "We knew we had a good chance at the Championship, we just had to be on top of the game."

Although the team had to beat four teams to win the Championship, they've lucked out going into the Regionals, since one of their big competitors, John A. Logan, did not participate this year.



College Bowl members celebrate their victory. Pictured L-R: Sarah Eubanks (Valier), Angie House (Mt. Vernon), Marshall Mullins (Benton), Josh Sims (Benton), and Stacy Dagg (Texico).

Disney World College Program offers presentation at SIU-C

Sarah Roberts
Student Editor

Representatives from Walt Disney World will be at the Southern Illinois University-Carbondale Student Center on Monday, March 6, at 5:30 p.m. to provide a presentation and set up interviews for their fall semester college program.

According to the Walt Disney World College Program web site, the program is a "unique educational, work, and interpersonal relationship program specially designed to increase practical knowledge of the entertainment and hospitality industry."

Students would be given the opportunity to live in Orlando, Fla. for the fall semester, receive paid employment, housing, and transportation to and from work.

The work of the "Cast Members", the title employees are given, is entry level and basic, but not limited to one area. Cast members may work in any of the

10 roles available. Cast members may work in attractions, where they operate the rides, give brief presentations on the exhibit guests may be looking at, etc., culinary, custodial, food/beverage, front desk of the resort, taking reservations for rooms, dinners, and helping guests out with any specific questions they may have, housekeeping, lifeguard, merchandise, tickets, and transportation, which may require Cast Members to provide tours and a special drivers license.

According to the WDW web site, "participants will be provided with a variety of development opportunities and personal enrichment experiences exploring business issues like leadership, people management, and managing diversity. Participants will be given the opportunity to attend Core Business Seminars, Independent Studies, and speaker's forums that evolve as rapidly as the growth of the Walt Disney World Resort."

"The quality of training, the expectations that are set and the entire attitude of the place (Walt Disney World) is hard to get around here," said Rex Duncan, Director of Co-op and Job Placement.

To be considered for the program, students must have completed at least one semester and be in good academic standing at a college or university, attend a Walt Disney World College Program presentation to learn about program opportunities and sign up for an interview, complete an employment application, interview with a Walt Disney World College Program Recruiter, and undergo a criminal background investigation.

RLC students, if selected, would receive four credits from the school. The absence of one semester would obviously push back their graduation date.

"The argument there is what you can learn," said Duncan, "in addition to the skills you acquire at school."

"This is just such a unique learning experience that it is worth missing a semester," Duncan said.

"This Disney opportunity is such a strong and powerful experience," said Duncan. "There is so much to be learned down there that it really benefits students who do it."

"The customer service skills that they develop, the enthusiasm and energy that comes from that place is so contagious," Duncan said.

Whether your major is acting or business, this is a great opportunity for students to develop their customer relation skills as well as their social interaction skills.

"Almost any major students intend on focusing on," said Duncan, "these skills will help them for the rest of their lives."

"Any field where you are working with kids or any field where you work with customer whether it be business, psychology, or education," Duncan said, "employers are really going to be interested in the talents you would

bring to their work-places."

After cast members have completed the program, they are granted intermittent temporary status. They are allowed to maintain employment with the company and are free to work whenever they want. For example, if a cast member finishes the program, goes home, and decides to take a vacation in July, they are allowed to come to work, show their badge and work for a week. So long as cast members do this once a year, they maintain their IT status.

"Students are more than just employees, going to work everyday," said Duncan, "rather they are part of this great big production. "It is one of those wonderful, life altering experiences."

If you have any further questions, feel free to contact Duncan in the South Oasis, room 108, via e-mail at duncan@rlc.cc.il.us or by phone at 437-5321 ext. 352.



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The RLC Times is a student produced publication for the benefit of the student body.

Participation in the publication of the RLC Times by anyone readily willing to accept the responsibility, is welcomed.

Advertising rates, as well as classified rates are available by contacting the editor Monday- Friday between the hours of 12:30p.m. and 3:00 p.m.. All ads, whether classified or non-classified, need to be submitted one week prior to publication and must be pre-paid.

Opinions expressed or implied are those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect those of the entire staff, student body, faculty, administration, or Board of Trustees.

The RLC Times welcomes comments by the students. All comments need to be addressed to the editor; typed and accompanied by the author's signature one week before publication. The editor reserves all rights to edit material that may be unsuitable for print.

SECURITY

Security would like to thank Mike Rowland, Franklin County States Attorney, for providing the RLC Security office with a 9 vol. set of Illinois Compiled Statutes.

They would also like to remind you that the Red Cross will be having a Blood Drive on the RLC campus March 28 & 29.

Be safe, remember to obey the speed limits, and be on the lookout for pedestrians.

NOTES

She's more than just a librarian



Circulation Specialist Kim Davis arranges some books in the LRC. (Photo by Dede Haselton)

Dede Haselton Student Writer

Have you ever seen someone whose smile seems to radiate from deep inside?

If you haven't yet met Kim Davis, at the Rend Lake Learning Resource Center, then you are in for a treat. Davis will make you feel so welcome that you will feel like you have known her from some other time.

Davis has been working at the library for almost 20 years now. Her official title is Circulation Specialist. She checks books in and out, as you would expect, but that's just the beginning of what she can do to help you. She will show you how to use the computers, get you started in the video viewing room, track down that book you're searching for or help you operate the various machines throughout the library.

"The most important aspect of my job," said Davis, "is to help the students find the information that they need." She has a special concern for the students who wander in, lost and confused.

"Sometimes people just need someone to point them in the right direction."

Davis began working in the Learning Resource Center just after graduation from high school.

"When I first took the position here at Rend Lake College, I thought that maybe I would eventually get bored in the library," said Davis, "but I didn't realize how

interesting a library could be. There is always something going on in here."

With an ever-changing flow of students needing her help, innovations bringing new ways to do things, the wonderful student workers that assist her and the constant change, Davis hasn't had a chance to get bored. She enjoys the library so much that she is not worried about getting a better job.

In her opinion, "there could be no better job."

Davis is so upbeat, and has such a great outlook on life that there must be more to the librarian than her work. She lives in Christopher with her husband, Dan, and their 12 year-old son, Tyler. A hobby that she enjoys, is creating photo scrap books. But Davis is not a stay-at-home person. The Davis' own a cabin on Isaac Walton Lake, near Christopher, and spend time there as often as possible.

"One of our favorite things, is to get the four-wheeler out and go mudding," says Davis.

"We have a boat and enjoy fishing, and all kinds of outdoor activities."

Now we know at least part of the reason Kim Davis is always smiling. Stop by the Learning Resource Center sometime soon, and check out one of Rend Lake College's best resources. Introduce yourself to Kim, or just smile as you walk by. Either way, you are sure to receive one of her 'so nice to see you' smiles.

Students make plans for Spring Break

Ryan Dodson
Staff Writer

A time to slack off and do as you chose, one week away from the labor and stress of academics. Those who aren't involved in athletics or a part of the work force, this is a time of little responsibility. It is one of the most anticipated holidays for students, the illustrious Spring Break. As a fellow student, I went around campus inquiring about other students' plans for the break.

The question of the day was "what do plan on doing during Spring Break?"

"I will stay out really late and sleep half of the day," said Jason Dale, Mt. Vernon. "I plan to do as little as possible."

"I'm going to spend time with my boyfriend," said someone preferably known as Test.

"Go to as many parties as I can," said Jonathon Williams, McLeansboro. "As well as find some new, hot women to party with."

"Sleep in, make up on my love life, and study psychology," said Brittany Williams, Mt. Vernon.

"I plan to go back to the old country," said Tony Cusumano, Mt. Vernon.

"I am going to Pittsburg to check out Pitt University and Penn State to see about transferring there," said Tyler Gray, Mt. Vernon. "Hopefully, I can bowl on a collegiate team."

Spring break is March 13-17, so make your reservations, get your trunks and bikinis ready. Enjoy and be safe.

Students in need of a RLC student ID Card in order to receive discounts, etc. may have one made in the Aquatics Center. The cost is \$3.00

Students lose bottled sodas as a result of recycling hassles

Pat Hungate
Staff Writer

Rend Lake College Board of Trustees recently enacted that all softdrink products must be in aluminum cans.

"There will be no more Pepsi products in plastic bottles. The main reason for enacting the statute is money," said Bob Carlock, Dean of Finance and Administration.

"Rend Lake College has to meet targets for recycling each month." It has a lot to do with that aluminum is easier to recycle. I would love to have plastic bottles instead of cans," Carlock added.

The price per pound for plastic bottles is 2 cents. As for aluminum cans it is 50 cents per pound. This takes from the revenue for Rend Lake College, and it keeps RLC from meeting their monthly targets for recycling.

The RLC board has received complaints from RLC maintenance regarding plastic bottles, mainly because of the mess and the difficulty in preparing them to be recycled.

"It is a nuisance to pick the bottles out of the trash, unscrew the caps and pour the soda out," said Phyllis Rice administrative assistant to Randall Shively.

She also added that cans can be weighed and then thrown into a truck, unlike plastic bottles which have to be emptied and placed in a bail.

"The plastic bottles that are bailed never stay in and it is difficult to transport them to the recycling center," said Rice.

Some RLC students dislike the ban on the plastic bottles.

"It sucks! Maintenance is complaining about doing their job. I would rather have soda in a bottle than in a can because you get more

for your money," said freshman Tyler Gray of Mt. Vernon.

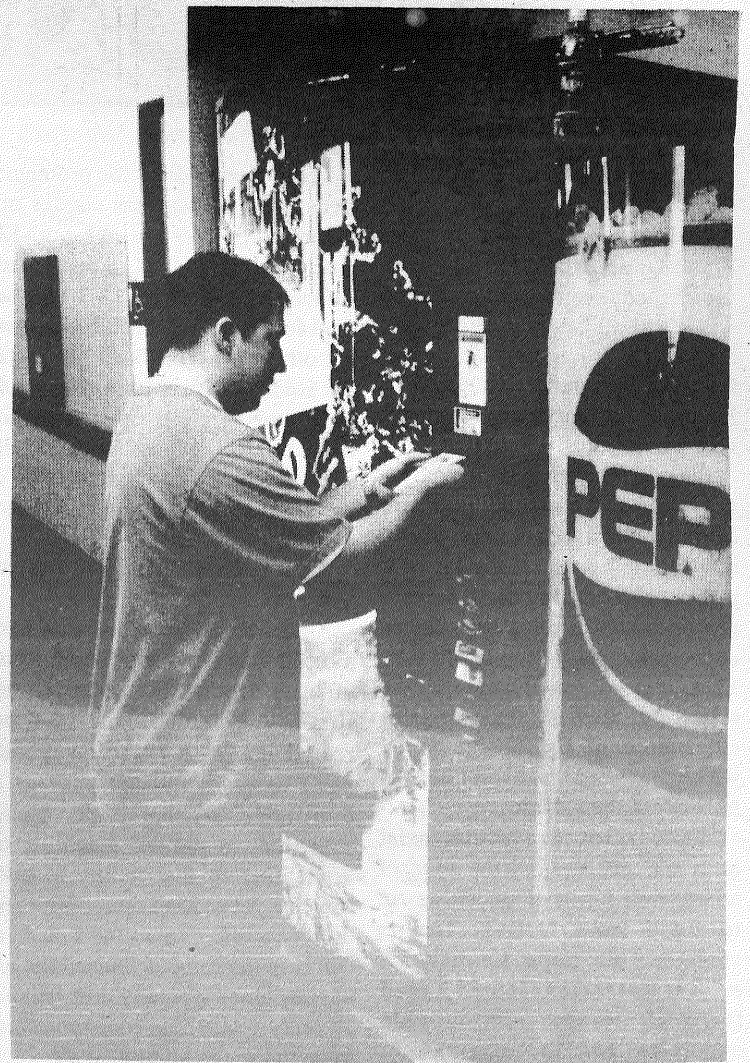
"I drink soda in class a lot. I always have a bottle so if it gets tipped over it won't spill, because I always keep the cap on it," said freshman Adam Stock of Benton.

"If maintenance doesn't like unscrewing the caps and pouring the soda out, I bet they wouldn't like cleaning it up from the carpet," added Stock.

Whitey Lynch of Lynch Snacks and Vending, Incorporated, co-owns the snack and soda machines at Rend Lake College.

"We will honor the board's decision on the ban. We do make more money off of the bottles than the cans but we have to live up to the contract," Lynch said.

Lynch Snacks and Vending Inc. will lose revenue from the ban of the bottled sodas.



Matt Millikin, Pinckneyville, feeds a dollar bill to one of the soda machines in the North Oasis. (Photo by Doug Daniels)

WANTED

An illustration that depicts pleasant emotions. Must reprint to an 8.5"x5.5" for the cover of a poetry book produced by a RLC student. Students and faculty welcome to try. Contact S.E. Schwartz@RLC "Stars" or schwartzs@rlc.cc.il.us

Americorps is taking applications

Sarah Roberts
Student Editor

Co-op and Job Placement is actively recruiting students for Americorps next fall.

According to Rex Duncan, Director of Cooperative Education and Job Placement, there are 10 openings. Students will be required to provide literacy and basic skills and tutoring for K-2 kids in the Mt. Vernon area.

"Students will work 900 hours total. That equals out to about 23-25 hours a week," Duncan said.

Students do receive a paycheck for their hard work. But that is not all. Workers also receive a education award trust fund upon completion of the program.

"Employees are given a living allowance of \$4,761.00," said Duncan, "which is paid out like a salary."

"Once they have successfully completed the program," Duncan continued, "the federal government will create for them a \$2,363.00 education award trust fund."

Employees of Americorps have seven years to use the money granted to them by the government to pay off the costs of continued education, whether it be at Rend

Lake College or at a 4-year university.

Americorps is open to all students who wish to apply. Applicants must be 17 years old, have a high school diploma or GED, and pass a mandatory criminal background check.

Whether you are an education or an accounting major, Americorps is a great way to gain experience in working with people and solving problems.

"Schools are really going to be interested in the talents you would be taking to their schools," said Duncan, "as well as employers to their work-places."

"Four year colleges and universities are more and more showing a real interest in demonstrating community service," Duncan continued. "They want to see that the students they are getting are thinking beyond their own professional careers and they are seeing their communities in a bigger picture and how they can help."

"Employers for the same reason," Duncan said, "like to hire students and graduates who have demonstrated community service involvement."

"This will be a little bit of a new

direction that we'll be going in with," said Duncan. "But I think it is one that college students should feel they can really make a difference in a child's life."

Studies have shown that if children can leave third grade reading at their grade level, then their chances of success in school and professional careers sky rocket.

Anyone interested in this program should feel free to contact Rex Duncan in the South Oasis, Room 108, via e-mail at duncan@rlc.cc.il.us or by telephone, 437-5321 ext. 352 for an application or any further questions regarding Americorps.

"So much good can be done with this program," said Duncan, "so we are really looking for people who can make a commitment to it and stick with it for a year or two."

"If you want to stand out, if you want people to see you for being one who follows the path less traveled, this is the kind of stuff you want to do," said Duncan, "and the people who follow that path are the one's who really stand out."

"Not everyone follows these paths, but the rewards are significant," Duncan said, "when you get to the end of them, both academically and professionally."

NOTICE OF ELECTION IS HEREBY GIVEN FOR REND LAKE COLLEGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES STUDENT BOARD MEMBER

A petition, the statement of candidacy, the statement of economic interests, and the qualifications and rules can be obtained from the Student Services Office in the Administration Building from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The first day for petitions is Wednesday, February 16, 2000. The last day to file is Friday, February 25, 2000. The last day for withdrawal of a candidate will be Wednesday, March 1, 2000, at 4:30 p.m. Ballots will be ready for inspection at noon on Friday, March 3, 2000.

The election will be Tuesday, March 7, and Wednesday, March 8, 2000, in the South Oasis from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and in the Administration Building from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Absentee voting will take place in the Student Services Office on Monday, March 6, 2000, from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Date: 2/8/2000

Randall Crocker, Secretary
Board of Trustees, Rend Lake College
District No. 521

TUTORING

Tutoring is available campus-wide, to all students. Students can receive tutoring in any subject either through group tutoring, peer tutoring, or individual tutoring. Students may contact Julie Mumbower, room 122, North Oasis or by calling 437-5321 ext. 343, or Jeff Sulcer, room 123, North Oasis or by calling 437-5321 ext. 357.

Students interested in becoming a tutor are welcome to contact Julie at the above mentioned locations.

OPINIONS / EDITORIALS

Every day, students are faced with the dilemma, what to do with their time between classes?

There is the North Oasis and South Oasis, where refreshments, tables and chairs can be found. There's the library, where books, magazines, computers and other forms of informative material can be found, not to mention some very comfy couches.

But other than that, there really is not much for a student to do in between his or her classes. Sure, reading a book or surfing the internet isn't bad, but doing it every day at the exact same time for an entire semester? It gets old fast. That's why we would like to see the school put in some other forms of entertainment for the students, which they could take advantage of in-between their classes.

While many arguments exist both for and against the idea of adding new forms of entertainment to Rend Lake College for its students, we hope to make it evident that there is indeed a need for such things, and provide examples for the campus to

consider.

Let us first address the problem: Let's say a student has classes on Monday from 8-9 a.m., 11 a.m.-12 p.m. and from 1-2 p.m. The student's break from 12-1 can be used for his or her lunch break, yet the other two hour break presents the student with a long period of time with limited options as to what to do. Many students on campus face the situation on a daily basis, and find themselves bored more often than not.

What can the school do to solve this problem?

A possible addition that we'd like to see made is perhaps some form of a game room. For instance, one side of the South Oasis could be remodeled (as it has been in the past) to accommodate perhaps a pool table, a couple video game machines, a pinball machine, or something of that nature to give students yet another option between their classes. This could also in fact help the campus financially, as the machines typically cost around 50 cents to play, and could generate some money in no time at all.

Most of us were not here, but once upon a time, RLC had an area equipped with a pool table and a lounge area in the upstairs of the Student Center, where counseling is now located. With the recent renovations and additions made to the administration building and the movement of the Counseling Department to these new areas, the school will find itself a large area with nothing to fill it. That seems to be the ideal place for a student lounge area. One it has ample space if you remove the partition walls. It is also right next to the cafeteria so students can run down and grab something to eat. Sounds ideal.

What are the negative consequences of bringing in such a room?

The obvious arguments against these proposals are the cost, and also the issue of class attendance. First off, the cost of putting in a group of video games, pinball machines, etc. is thousands of dollars. Then there is the argument that students will be more apt to skip classes if other forms of

entertainment are put in.

Let's first consider this.... a student has a two hour break in the afternoon, before a class at 3 p.m. Do you think that student will want to stick around all afternoon like that every day for an entire semester if there's nothing for he or she to do in between these two hours? Probably not. So in all reality, the attendance question is a two way street. In my opinion, if a student is going to skip a class, then that student is going to skip a class. It doesn't matter if there's something to do or not, they will still in all likelihood not show up to class on that given day and time.

When the two sides of the argument are compared in this manner, it becomes obvious that the school has more to gain than it does to lose from adding new forms of entertainment. The students and the faculty would appreciate the added items and the negative effects would be quite limited, if there are any at all.

What does administration say about it?

Dean of Finance and

Administration, Bob Carlock, agrees that there is a need for something to entertain students during their breaks. The idea was even discussed with the Student Senate last year. The problem at the time was a lack of space. According to Carlock, however, the recent renovation of the Administration Building has left some room open.

Among ideas being considered are a miniature golf course behind the Aquatics Center and a game room. Not only would this facility be available to students, it would be open to rent for parties, thus bringing in revenue for the school.

"We believe this campus should be set up like a small civilization," said Carlock. "We hope to have something in place by next fall."

So let your voice be heard, let administration know how you feel and that this campus should give back to it's students and give them something to do.

Opinions in the previous article are those of the RLC Times editors and do not necessarily reflect those of the entire staff, advisors, or other faculty at RLC.

The "Millionaire" Madness: When is it going to end?

Clinton Jones
News Editor

In a time of "Shock Broadcasting" it seems that each major broadcasting network keeps trying to best the competition. The latest incarnation of these battles has been the "Who wants to be a Millionaire?" shows. These include "Greed", "21", and of course "Who wants to be a Millionaire?" Of the mentioned shows, it seems that ABC's "Who Wants to be a Millionaire?" has been the winner thus far.

However when it comes to racy programming Fox seems to bend the rules and come out on top. If you want to see "The Worlds Deadliest Shoot-outs" turn to Fox. If "Banned: TV's Sexiest Commercials" is your thing, Fox has it.

Now it seems that ABC may be making a run to de-throne Fox as the current "Shock TV" king.

"Who wants to marry a Millionaire" aired last week and brought in huge ratings for ABC. The premise of this show was to bring together a group of women, have a pageant, narrow the contestants down and then have an unknown multi-millionaire come

onto the show and choose the woman to be his wife.

I will admit that I decided not to give ABC an extra viewer that night, but I have followed the aftermath of it.

I want to know something, am I the only one who thinks this show sounded crazy? Let's break this down. When you think about it, the real premise of this show is to have one woman marry a man she has never before met, and only because he is a multi-millionaire.

To me, this show is a slap in the face to men, women, and needless to say, marriage.

First of all, let us look at how this Millionaire choose his to-be wife.

Granted, he did take a survey before the show on what his preferable wife would be, but the moment he stepped on stage and began contemplating who he would choose, his choice was more than likely based on the answers to a few questions he asked them and of course the woman's looks. That is not much to go on when making such a decision.

From the woman's side of this, it doesn't get much better. She must make it through qualifications, a

pageant, and then hope that the man chooses her. Here is where her dilemma comes about. She can either accept the man's proposition or decline. If she accepts, she will be looked upon by many as if she is marrying him solely for his money (which in fact the truth). If she declines, then she may be accused of deciding solely on looks and not giving the relationship a chance. Either way she will get negative reactions by people. I imagine that would be a difficult situation to be put into.

This, of course, has not even mentioned the aspect of marriage being thought of as a "sacred pact." When I think of marriage, I think of two people who have spent more than 10 minutes together, who have shared experiences together, and love each other deeply deciding to pledge their love and devotion to each other. However, I guess we are in a day when that ancient ritual has been belittled so much that it now it makes for good game shows and ratings. This to me is sad. There are some weird shows out there in this world, but no other show has struck me as so degrading to a ceremony that has been performed throughout time between

couples who love each other deeply as "Who wants to Marry a Millionaire." I pray that this type of show never makes its way to television again. Sure, it may have been fun and exciting, but think of the message we are sending to countless numbers of people. "Sure it is okay to marry for money and not for love, go ahead!" All I can really do is shake my head in disbelief.

As a side note, in the last couple of days it has come to be known that the newly wed couple are not at all happy with each other. The accusations of past abuse of girlfriends has arisen along with the possibility that the "Multi-Millionaire" is not a Millionaire after all. However the "lucky" bride and groom are being compensated nicely for this, with paid interviews and more than likely a book deal or two.

ABC representatives have stated that future "Who wants to Marry..." shows are not likely to hit television any time soon. This comes as a surprise! Oh wait, this is "Shock TV" we are talking about, so no it doesn't.

Let There Be Light!

Sarah Roberts
Student Editor

Darkness surrounds you as you step from the warmth and safety of your classroom. The cold wind stings your face as you walk towards your car. A noise from behind startles you. You begin walking faster. A noise again. This time you turn around. You see nothing. But then again how could you? Is someone following you, or is it just the wind?

I have never taken an evening class on campus, so the problem has escaped my attention for nearly two years now. Where are the lights?

My attention is drawn to the short jaunt from the North Oasis and the Academic Building. I was forced to completely rely upon the dim yellow flicker of a light from atop the door of the Academic Building to find my way between the trees and up the stairs.

I am unfamiliar with other areas of campus, but by glancing around I could see few signs of light anywhere. Why is it, that a school which prides itself on it's beauty and atmosphere and spends lots of

continued on page 5



"Once Upon a Mattress": Two Opinions

Rachel Gartner
Staff Writer
Clinton Jones
News Editor

Rend Lake College's latest theatrical production was "Once Upon a Mattress," a musical comedy held on Thursday, February 17 through Sunday, February 20. Clinton Jones and myself attended this musical on Saturday night's showing, expecting a slow moving parody of "The Princess and the Pea." Instead, I was unexpectedly entertained and enjoyed the musical in its entirety.

At first I was appalled by the orchestra. I could not get past the fact that even I, a completely tone deaf audience member, could tell that the horn section was obviously out of tune. Clinton thought that at times the orchestra was beginning to shape up, only to find it thrown back into disarray by a stray note. But eventually I got accustomed to the sound and was able to concentrate directly on the performance itself.

The only other glaring problem was yet more problems with the microphone used by Darren Hutson who played the Jester. The microphone kept cutting in and out. To avoid such a distraction in the future, we recommend turning off

un-cooperative microphone and letting the performers rely on using their natural vocal power to deliver their lines if possible.

When the lights dimmed and the actors appeared on stage, I was automatically drawn into the scene by the amazing set and costumes. The makeup of certain characters was outstanding. The Wizard, played by Keith Pearson, was decked head to toe in flowing robes, outrageous hair, and lavish makeup. These things help set the path for a wonderfully entertaining show.

The first person the audience was introduced to was the Minstrel, played by Matthew Lappin of Sesser. This character was a key to the program. Lappin did a remarkable job of tying the play together as well as displaying a wonderful musical talent. We were then, thanks to Lappin, introduced to the rest of the supporting cast. The curtains opened and displayed a lavish cast with the correct continuity which enhanced the mood and setting of the show.

The first few scenes set the stage for the conflict, the dire need for Prince Dauntless to wed. The plot thickens as we are introduced to Lady Larkin, played by Lisa Dover, a freshman native of Woodlawn. Larkin was subsequently

impregnated out of wedlock by our very own Zachary James Mayhew a sophomore from DeBois, playing the part of Sir Harry. Although one duet in particular, sung by Dover and Mayhew, sounded like a Las Vegas show tune, their overall performance is to be applauded.

Dustin Cammack portrayed King Sextimus, a mute and repressed king. Dustin truly shines when he is called upon to use his knack for physical comedy.

Dauntless, performed by Chris Lowery of McLeansboro, was a seemingly unlucky person with a horribly repressing and picky mother. His portrayal of a weakling was quite convincing.

Dauntless's last hope in marriage is Princess Winnifred, played by Robin George, a sophomore from Mt. Vernon. This outgoing princess had a set of vocals that, as acted out on stage, nearly knocked the audience out of their chairs. In spite of her deliberate off key moments, her numbers in the musical were not only essential to the plot but also kept the humor of the play intact.

After seven weeks of long practices, the RLC Theater Department delivered on their promise of a fun, comical, and overall entertaining tale of love, laughs, and most of all, sleep.

sufficient in the evenings on this campus."

But have no fear. According to Carlock, they are currently working on a plan that will drastically improve the lighting on campus.

"Our goal is to make this place look like daytime during the evening," said Carlock.

Students can expect to have better lighting by fall 2000. There are currently people, hired by the school, walking around campus at night and pointing out areas that need improvement. The project is expected to cost \$265,000, which the school will tax for.

According to Carlock, this project should have happened last

year, but due to the prioritizing system this school works under, it was put off in order to purchase generators. These generators serve the purpose of keeping electricity flowing through campus during the summer semesters, when the power throughout campus tends to be shut down or limited.

As far as security is concerned, after a few calls, I discovered that RLC Security will escort you to your car after class or from your offices, which I found to be a slight relief.

It seems there may be a light at the end of the tunnel. But for now, stay safe when walking to your classes and cars.

Can an attendance policy be fair?

Rachel Gartner
Staff Writer

Each teacher at Rend Lake College has a different attendance policy which is defined in every individual syllabus. I have found that most teachers allow three absences before lowering the students' grade a complete letter. Some instructors also have a tardy policy in which three tardies equal an absence. These policies were mentioned on Tuesday, February 22, 2000 by Mark Kern, Rend Lake College's President, at a Faculty in-service. Now, as it is known campus wide, this policy is neither liked by students nor obeyed, but is widely respected. Certainly, that might sound like a complete contradiction. We students must respect these attendance policies and accept the consequences of our actions.

Another view on this might be the fact that the students pay for the schooling, so why should they have to attend a class if they do not want to? On this, I must take the side of the state: nearly 80% of RLC students get financial aid and I must admit that most of the taxpayers would require students at RLC to attend class.

Therefore, there is reason for the state to require that students attend their scheduled classes. There is absolutely no way to argue this fact. In many aspects, I do agree with the ideas of the state and those of Kern. This leads me into the realm of determining when to draw the line on the attendance policy: I do not agree in the way that the policy is being enforced and the morals that are being promoted.

Just recently, I was on my way to school, exiting Interstate 57 on the Sesser ramp, when I came across several men in need. A trailer that contained what appeared to be their horse had broken a latch and the horse was attempting to escape. So, like

any good Samaritan would do, I pulled to the side and offered the men my phone. The men graciously thanked me, and used my phone to place a call to a friend for help. Feeling quite happy with the good deed that I had done, I continued on to my school.

Granted, I did arrive several minutes late for class, but I felt as though my tardiness was justified. So politely I apologized for my tardiness and took my seat. After class I promptly explained the situation to my teacher and asked that it not be "on the record." I was given "the look" that we all have become familiar with and suddenly there was an understanding between the both of us. There was no way that I was getting out of this tardy, despite my rational reasoning.

Questioning what grade I was in, I slowly made my way out of the classroom. But I was not only questioning the high-schoolish quality of the punishment, I was also questioning the morality of the faculty member. Was it so important to enforce the rule of attendance that we should punish students for random acts of kindness? Maybe this is a question that everyone should be asking themselves... Is it more important to live by the strict rules than to take time out to help others?

In no way is this article meant to degrade the teacher that I happened to have the encounter with. The absolute sincerity of this article binds me to state that I hold this particular teacher in high regard. Instead, I am only questioning the attendance policy and to what lengths the faculty should enforce it.

Express your thoughts, opinions, and feelings on any issue facing the college or the world by writing a letter to the editor.

All letters should be sent to the RLC Times office located in the North Oasis 154, or sent via e-mail to rlctimes@rlc.cc.il.us titled *letters to the editor*.

A name, phone number and hometown must accompany your letter or it will not be published.

All letters are subject to editing by the editors and all letters represent the views of the author.

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money on renovations, additions and landscaping, has such poor lighting?

How does this affect the safety of students and faculty who have evening classes, or even those who find themselves here late at night working on a paper or research?

The business office denied me quick access to a copy of the budget for this semester, thus making my analysis of how much is spent for lighting and evening security, particularly in the evening, more than slightly complicated.

"I am in agreement," said Bob Carlock, Dean of Finance and Administration, "our lighting is not

MARCH 2000

March 3: Midterm: Deadline for Graduation Application

March 4: RLC Baseball vs. Danville Area College at RLC

March 5-7: 11th Annual Gulf Coast Invitational (Men's Golf): RLC Baseball vs. Three Rivers at RLC

March 7,8: Election of Student Trustee

March 9,10: McDonald's Lady Tiger Invitational (Women's Golf)

March 13-17: Spring Break

March 18: RLC Baseball vs. Lincoln Trail at RLC

March 22: Regestration for Summer/Fall 2000 Courses for President's List, Athletes, and Student Workers

March 23: RLC Baseball vs. Belleville Area at RLC

March 24: RLC Softball vs. Parkland College at RLC

March 25: RLC Baseball vs Belleville Area at RLC

March 27: SEMO Recruiter in RLC Student Center 10-1: Students Register for Summer/Fall 2000

March 28: RLC Softball vs. John A. Logan College at RLC

March 30: RLC vs. Wabash Valley College at RLC: Southern Jr./Sr. Golf Tournament (Men's Golf): RLC Baseball vs. Southeastern Illinois at RLC

Applications for SIERA Scholarship are available

The Southern Illinois Employee Relations Association announced the opening of competition for the SIERA Scholarship for the 2000-2001 academic year. The \$500 scholarship is used annually to assist one student with the costs involved while pursuing higher education.

SIERA is an organization comprised of human resource and personnel professionals who seek to provide common professional development opportunities and enhance human resource practices throughout the area. It is an affiliate of the Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM).

The SIERA Scholarship is available to area college students who demonstrate academic achievement, professional commitment and financial need. The following eligibility criteria apply:

1) An applicant must be enrolled currently as a full-time freshman or sophomore at Rend Lake College, Kaskaskia College, Frontier College or John A. Logan College, with the intent to attend full-time as a sophomore or junior at a four-

year institution.

2) An applicant must be a declared business major pursuing either an Associate in Science Degree or an Associate in Applied Science Degree in Accounting, Computer Science, Finance, Human Resource Management, Management, Marketing, Office Systems Technology or a related field.

3) An applicant must have a minimum grade-point average 3.0 on a 4.0 scale which must be maintained through the sophomore year.

In order to apply, students must submit a letter of application, 1-2 page essay describing "My Career Choice," a letter of recommendation from a college instructor, academic advisor or dean and an official college transcript. The deadline for receipt of these materials is Friday, May 6, at 4 p.m. Finalists will be interviewed by the SIERA Scholarship Selection Committee.

Application materials and questions should be directed to Rex Duncan at 437-5321, ext. 352, or by e-mail, duncan@rlc.cc.il.us.

Renovations to Administration Building near completion



The boarded up windows of the Administration building will soon be gone as workers continue the renovation process. (Photo by Doug Daniels)

Nearly one-fourth of the move into the remodeling-in-progress Administration Building is complete, or nearing completion.

At the back of the new addition are President Mark Kern and Assistant to the President Cindy Minor; Deans Homer Cissell, Terry Clark, Salah Shakir and Mary Roe, and RLC Foundation Director Pat Mitchell, as well as Administrative Assistants Becky Williamson, Connie Sample, Hollie Taylor, Trinda Heitmeyer and Shari Carpenter.

Enlarged restroom facilities are

also functional along the back row.

In the east third of the remainder of the intake facility - which will almost double in size when completed - Dean Bob Carlock and the Business Office are dividing space with the Admissions and Records Staff and all of the records associated with both areas.

Contractors are busy renovating that part of the building next, with just a thin wall of sheet rock separating the functional from the nonfunctional.

In a few months, when finished, the two aforementioned departments

will move in, with the Counseling Center, Financial Aid, STARS and "Future Focus" occupying the final renovation around August, according to most estimates.

Two offices you won't find in the old or the new complex...Joan Long and her Work Keys operation are now in the Technology Building; the Marketing and Public Information Office has relocated to the east end of the Student Center Balcony.

courtesy of RLC F.Y.I

ATTENTION DRAMA LOVERS

Coming to Rend Lake College
The National Shakespeare Company
Presents "Romeo and Juliet"

FREE TO RLC STUDENTS

A one day event. March 22nd, 2000

Show starts at 12:00pm.

Length Approx. 2 hours.

VERY LIMITED SEATING IS
AVAILABLE

Come see a truly classic tale of love,
develop before your eyes at the RLC
Theater.

"The National Shakespeare Company is America's oldest professional touring company. Since 1963, it has brought classical theatre and arts education to communities across the United States. National tours of Shakespeare's play travel 35,000 miles to reach thousands of people annually, while NSC's educational program - Shakespeare to the Quick - brings arts education to secondary schools in the greater New York area. Through its artistic and educational programming, NSC brings the joy of live classical theatre to adults and youth nationwide."

Chili Peppers coming to SIU-C

Carbondale, IL- Get your tickets now for one of the hottest tours on the road today. The Red Hot Chili Peppers will appear at the SIU Arena in Carbondale, Illinois on Monday, March 27, at 7 pm. This concert will feature the Foo Fighters as the special guest.

The Red Hot Chili Peppers, are currently touring for their recent release of "Californification." This CD contains many smash hits

The special guest for the Chili Peppers is the Foo Fighters. They have made a strong impact on the music industry with their new CD, "There is Nothing Left to Lose." Recent chart toppers from the Foo including "Around the World," "Scar Tissue," and "Otherside." In addition, they just received the award for "Favorite Alternative Music Artist," at the 27th Annual Music Awards.

Fighters include, "Learn to Fly," "Monkey Wrench," and "My Hero."

Tickets are on sale now!! Get yours today! SIU Arena parking is always FREE! Tickets are available online through www.ticketmaster.com. Tickets are also available at the SIU Arena, all in and out of town ticket outlets, Famous Barr and Schnucks in Cape Girardeau, or you may charge by phone at 618.453.5341.

LADY WARRIORS

Softball team begins spring season

Ryan Dodson
Staff Writer

The Lady Warriors prepare for another season in the sun as Coach Dave Ellingsworth enters his seventh season as head coach. Their focus and determination, on a difficult conference schedule, show that The Lady Warriors are more than just pretty faces. With the fall season under the team's belt, their chemistry has evolved with one another and they expect to better last season's record of 24-12. Many good things are predicted from this squad and have been compared to the Lady Warrior team ranked ninth nationally in 1996.

Kendra Kosko, a freshman starting pitcher, should play a big role this season with her different offspeed, breaking combinations.

"We have a really strong team this year, and our goal is to win Regionals and make it to Nationals," said, Kendra Kosko, Herrin, IL.

Traci Helmer, a freshman shortstop, has the same goals along with "wanting to tally a .350 batting average."

Both players agreed that sophomores Leah Norman and Adriane Kingree

were among a few of the teams' morale leaders, always staying in control and keeping the team together.

The Lady Warriors had a scrimmage scheduled for February 23, 2000 against Shawnee, but at the last moment was cancelled.

"Physically we may not have been ready, but mentally we were ready to play," Coach Ellingsworth said.

Should we expect any stand out players?

"It's really hard for me as a coach to pick a stand out player," said, Coach Ellingsworth. "Everybody stands out in their own way. I can't really say this kid or that kid will be the one to get it done for us."

With the upcoming season ahead the Lady Warriors are focused and ready to make an attempt at achieving their goal of nationals once again. Ellingsworth has much confidence in this seasons' squad.

Look for the Lady Warriors to bring intensely heated competitions to the diamond this season. They are strong willed, determined to win, and not to be taken lightly.

The standing roster is subject to change:

1 Meredith Ramsey 1B/OF
West Frankfort, IL
3 Leah Norman 2B/SS

West Frankfort, IL
5 Nicole Welker P/OF
Mascoutah, IL
6 Amy Gulley OF
Sesser, IL
7 Adriane Kingree OF
Elsinore, MO (East Carter)
8 Heather Adams OF
Mt. Vernon, IL
9 Chastity Adams P
Ullin, IL (Century)
#10 Candice Hutcheson 3B/OF
Albion, IL (Edwards Co.)
#11 Traci Helmer SS
DuQuoin, IL
#13 Francisca Webb C/3B
Mt. Vernon, IL
#15 Cortnie Berry 2B/3B
Coulterville, IL
#20 Kim Bradley OF
Paducah, KY (Reidland)
#21 Kelly Johnston 1B/OF
Mt. Vernon, IL
#22 Crystal Wiggins INF/OF
Paducah, KY (Tilghman)
#23 Alicia Loucks C/3B
Herrin, IL
#25 Kendra Kosco P
Herrin, IL
#30 Rebecca Adams OF
Mt. Vernon, IL
#33 Andrea Smith P
Okawville, IL
co-written by Tyler Gray, Student Writer

Golf team prepares for another successful season

Zack Mayhew
Student Writer

As the frost begins to melt and a new millennium dawns, clearly it is a season for change. This is a typical thought of many people when it comes to spring and a new century. Change, however, is not part of the plan for the Rend Lake Men's Golf Team.

The men's golf team has enjoyed the most success throughout the years of any Rend Lake sports team. The Warriors in khakis and collars have dominated the Illinois region of the NJCAA for the past six years. Six consecutive Regional titles and subsequent National Championship appearances have resulted in several top five finishes in the coveted event. However, the ultimate prize of a National Championship remains as the only honor to elude the Warrior golfers.

The fall season was a continuance of form for the golf team. The season was nothing short of mastery, with the team winning all but two of the tournaments in which they were entered. A hallmark of this year's golf team is the depth of playing ability that is seen in its players. For the first time in the program's history, Rend Lake Warrior Golfers took both first and second place honors at the Illinois Central College Tournament, one of the several

tournaments throughout the fall in which two teams comprised of five players each were fielded by Rend Lake. This momentum hopefully will carry the team into the spring season where they will face stiffer competition from southern schools.

The make up of the team consists of four sophomores and five freshman. Danny Johnson, Brian Kolmer, Jeremy Reidelberger and Zachery Mayhew make up the sophomore portion of the team. The freshman members of the team include Eric Brennan, Denis Crain, Jason Drew, Andy Teslow and Chad Stout.

The 1999 fall semester saw the dawning of the Women's golf team as a new addition to the athletic landscape of Rend Lake College. The lady golfer's maiden season was a success with the women also bringing home a regional victory. With the initial success of the women's program, one can only hope that they follow in continuing the tradition of excellence that has been established by the men's program.

The men began their season February 27 in Panama City, FL, at the Hubert Green Collegiate Invitational. The Warriors will be in action again March 5-7 in Galveston, TX at the 11th Annual Gulf Coast Invitational.

The women begin on March 9 at the McDonald's Lady Tiger Invitational in Jackson, MS.

Continued from Page 8

scored to give the Lady Warriors a 20 point lead and command of the game with 13:00 left. Rend Lake held Shawnee scoreless for over six minutes and looked prepared to embarrass the Saints for the remaining minutes of the contest.

With 3:50 left in the game, #32 Sophia Ruffin (Fr., Chicago Heights) dribbled through opponents and made a sweet, no look pass, and Rend Lake scored. It was typical of the way the entire game went. Rend Lake making the extra pass to score and Shawnee watching helplessly.

As time ran down, Shawnee settled for hoping on three point bombs but none would connect. Rend Lake went on to beat Shawnee for the second straight time this season by an embarrassing amount of points and in the same fashion making Shawnee look pathetic.

Ruffin led all scorers with 18 points, Baird had 16, and Phillips and Smith chipped in 12 points each. The Lady Warriors will have completed their final game of the season, Thursday, Feb. 24 at Danville, IL.

RLC Tennis Coach receives USTA Collegiate Community Service Award

Diana Winson
Sports Editor

Benton Evening News

For the second consecutive year, Diane Metzger, Benton, has earned the USTA Collegiate Community Service Award.

Metzger, who teaches math at Rend Lake College and coaches the Lady Warriors Tennis Team, was informed earlier this month that she had won the honor.

Although she was unable to attend this year's award ceremony, she said she was thrilled to be chosen again.

"It's quite an honor to win a national award," Metzger said. "I'm excited."

The award came just one month after Metzger had earned the Chicago Title Insurance Award -

presented annually to the top 35-and-over female tennis player by the Southern Illinois Tennis Association - for the fifth year in a row.

Metzger has won that trophy seven of the 10 times it has been presented.

Metzger is very active in running local USTA programs, including USA Tennis 1-2-3 for both juniors and adults, USA School Tennis and USA Team Tennis.

She is president of the Franklin County Tennis Club, which offers free tennis lessons for beginners and conducts three tournaments every summer, two of them sanctioned by the United States Tennis Association.

For the past two years, Metzger has been the coordinator of USA Team Tennis. In 1999, the

program saw a 13-percent increase in participation by junior players throughout Southern Illinois.

The annual Collegiate Community Service Awards are presented to members of the college coaching community for jobs performed above and beyond the call of normal coaching duties. Their contributions in the local community as well as involvement with the USTA are key criteria for the award.

This is the fourth year that the awards were presented.

Metzger attended last year's ceremony at the Saddlebrook Resort in Tampa, Fla., where she was presented with a commemorative plaque and a watch. She also had the chance to meet one other favorite professional tennis player, Chris Evert.

In attendance at this year's event was RLC's men's tennis coach Kevin Hamilton.

"Kevin got to see Jennifer Capriati and Martina Hingis practicing," Metzger said, noting that several tennis pros, as well as movie star Arnold Schwarzenegger, have homes near Saddlebrook.

The USTA-Midwest Section, based in Indianapolis, boasts 60,000 individual members and nearly 1,000 member organizations. It is the second-largest section of the USTA, the national governing body for tennis in the United States.

The USTA-Midwest Section is composed of 14 districts in five states: Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, and Wisconsin, as well as several counties in Kentucky and West Virginia.

WARRIOR SPORTS

Warriors Win Last Game Against SCC

Jim Peters
Staff Writer

After a season filled with chaos, heartbreak, and drama the men's basketball squad is finally playing some ball. After beating Lincoln Trail over the weekend, the team won their second straight game Tuesday night in convincing fashion against Shawnee Community College by a final score of 101 - 87.

"It was a great way to close out the regular season," explained head coach Tim Wills.

The win helps build momentum and confidence for Rend Lake's young team in the upcoming regional tournament which began on Tuesday, March 1.

The Warriors started the game by spotting their opponents six points on two three pointers. At 17:20 in the first half Rend Lake's #24 Jeremi Taylor (Fr., Evansville, In.) began Rend Lake's scoring with what can only be described as "circus shots" among packs of Shawnee defenders. Taylor scored Rend Lake's first eight points.

With the score tied at eight, Rend Lake substituted in it's "2nd squad" of players and gave Shawnee a healthy dose of team basketball and great defense. When the new unit was done, Rend Lake possessed a 25 - 12 lead. The rest of the first half was fastpaced and very entertaining for all Rend Lake fans. Rend Lake led by 23 points at the half and looked nothing like an 8 - 20 team.

Even with a 20 point lead at the half, Wills admitted he was not comfortable.

"It's difficult to play with the same intensity when you're up by 20... and we knew they (Shawnee) would make a few runs at us in the second half," said Wills.

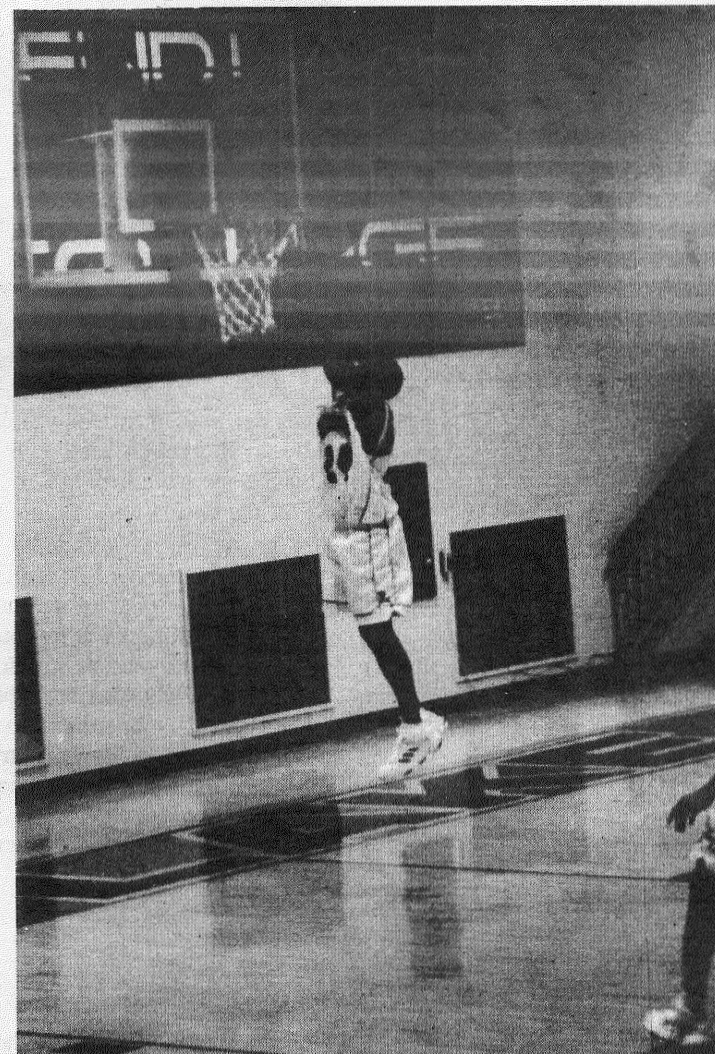
This was not the first time that the warriors held a commanding lead at intermission. They led by double digits at home on homecoming night only to end up on the losing end to Belleville Area College after a long drawn out 35 minute homecoming procession. Surely, lightning wouldn't strike Rend Lake twice.

Just as Wills predicted, the Shawnee Saints made a strong effort to get back into the game and

when Saints guard Cedric Lowery hit a 10 foot jump shot with 8:20 left, the lead had dwindled to 8 points.

The Saints got too hyped, too soon, about too little. Rend Lake was playing great ball and would not fold so easy. The closest Shawnee could get would be 6 points as the Warriors slammed the door on the second half comeback attempt. Key to the win, was the offensive rebounding of #33 Scott Gamber (Fr., Mt. Vernon) and #42 Keith Taylor (Fr., Sesser). Gamber and Taylor got nasty on the glass in a crucial stretch in the second half.

With under 2:00 to play, Rend Lake led by only 6 points and Shawnee had the ball and could have cut the lead to only 4. Rend Lake's #5 DeMarcus Bateman (Fr., Hopkinsville, KY) saved the game for the warriors as he stole a pass and drove the length of the court and connected on a layup and was fouled. Bateman hit the freethrow and Rend Lake never looked back. Rend Lake's #21 Antonio Willet (Fr., Evansville, In.) led all scorers with 22 points.



Jeremi Taylor, Evansville, IN, lays in two points for the Warriors. (Photo by Doug Daniels)



Warriors' Coach Tim Wills rallies the troops during a timeout. (Photo by Doug Daniels)

Women Defeat Shawnee Saints

Jim Peters
Staff Writer

The old adage, "the best team usually wins," rang true on Tuesday night as the Lady Warriors demolished the Shawnee Saints by a final score of 77 - 59 in the Lady Warriors final, regular season home game. The win pushed the teams record to 19 - 9 and helped position them in the upcoming regional tournament.

The game was a long one for visiting Shawnee. The Saints never led the contest and never found themselves within striking distance in what was to be a long second half.

With 5:20 left in the first half, the Shawnee Saints went on a 10 - 0 run to cut Rend Lake's lead to 35 - 37. This would be as close as Shawnee would get, however, as #12 Dana Baird (Fr., Altamont IL.) and the rest of the Lady

Warriors would have none of it.

Baird went on a run of her own. Breaking open on picks, and making room for fade-away shots on her own, Baird made the Saints defense look terrible as she sank four straight open shots to give her team a 47 - 35 lead at half-time.

"She seems to have at least one of those runs every game," said head coach Ronnie Ressel (5th season).

The second half wouldn't get much better for the visiting Saints as Rend Lake used a combination of different defenses to rattle Shawnee and force countless turnovers.

Rend Lake wasted no time getting busy in the second half. Baird, #22 Hillary Phillips (Fr., McLeansboro), and #34 Crystal Wiggins (Fr., Paducah, KY) all

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