

REND LAKE COLLEGE TIMES

April 1999

By the students, for the students.

FUN FEST IS A SUCCESS!

*Heather Cassidy
Staff Writer*

All the elements needed for a successful festival could be found spread about campus Wednesday at Rend Lake's annual Spring Fun Fest. Games, activities, free prizes and food combined with sunshine and warm temperatures provided students, faculty and staff with an afternoon of enjoyment.

Booths were plotted about the student scattered lawn behind the Aquatics Center, where most of the afternoon's action took place. Different student clubs and campus organizations donated their time to entertain others and give away prizes.

Students could stop by these booths and obtain anything from a free sample of candy to a gender specialized supplies kit. The Admissions Office passed out M&M's and guys/girls kits full of interesting stuff. They also handed out free raffle tickets for chances to win things such as free t-shirts and supplies from the bookstore.

Most of the partakers in the Spring Fun Fest were attracted to the free food being

distributed on the back porch of the Aquatics Center. Long lines of students, staff and faculty formed while waiting to receive their free hamburgers, chips and soda.

The Christian group on campus, also known as LIGHT, was selling raffle tickets for chances to win food and prizes. They were collecting the money to go toward the purchase of Christmas gifts for those less fortunate in the upcoming season.

Two large gift baskets were the centerpiece at the Practical Nurse Student Organization's stand. These spring and summer baskets contained the essentials for summer fun, such as water guns, frisbees, sun-visors and golf equipment. Raffle tickets were sold by threes for \$1. The "Touch of Spring-a Splash of Summer" fun baskets were valued at \$100.

Students competed in games such as horseshoes, washers and softball throws. Pick-up games of tossing the football around also took form.

Students could take their best shot at a

administration's face at the Phi Theta Kappa's pie throwing booth.

Fourteen teams battled it out on the sand volleyball courts. The Drama Dogs, led by Tracey Brouillette, and JTPA Team, led by Paula Myers, made it to the championship round. Team JTPA hung on for first place and were awarded Rend Lake College t-shirts.

Those who were athletically ambitious could also compete in basketball contests in the gym, swimming volleyball and water polo in the pool, and golf putting outside.

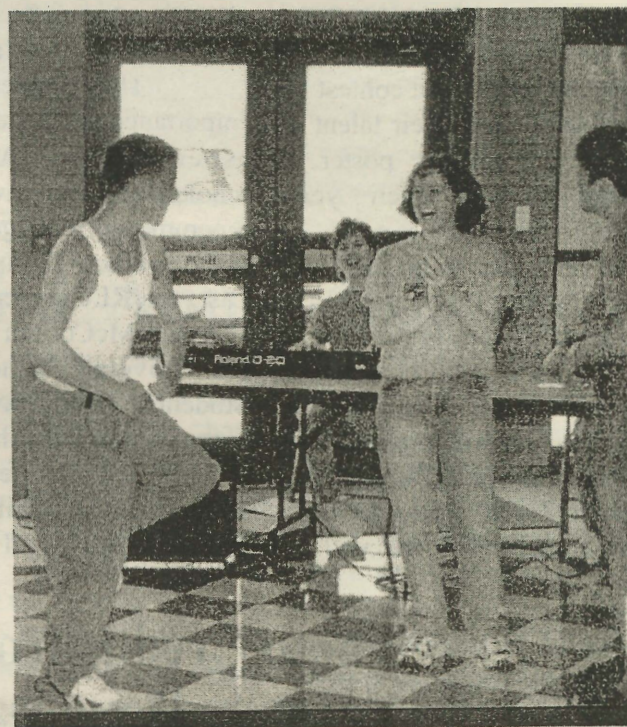
The Gaming Society offered competition requiring less energy through board games. Students could also participate in a game of giant twister and play nintendo, both of which were sponsored by the Student Senate.

Thanks to the planning and carrying out of all the different activities, the hard work of clubs and organizations, and the turnout of students, this year's Spring Fun Fest was a success. The next Fun Festival is planned for the fall semester.



Above: Salah Shakir takes a pie to the face at the Phi Theta Kappa pie throwing booth.

Below: Bill Garrettson, Jennifer Wilson, Kylie Watts, and Julie Wilkerson enjoy the festivities. Photos by Doug Daniels



Art Work of Students and Faculty Viewed at Exhibition

Jessica Luschen
staff writer

The Student and Faculty Art Exhibition opened with a reception and awards presentation on April 9.

The exhibition is held annually and a variety of art is displayed.

"Artwork is saved over the year, with students permission, for the show," said Sarah Capps, art instructor, "The art is not only from RLC students, but also the faculty."

Last year, there were 375 entries in the show. This year, an outstanding 403 pieces were chosen.

"This is the biggest and best show yet," said Capps, "I've received many great comments."

A professor from University judges the pieces, and gives a variety of awards.

April Spotanski, a RLC student, received the Elks Lodge Scholarship, which is

given to one outstanding art student each year. Six high school seniors (three from Mt. Vernon and three from Benton) also received scholarships for RLC in the fall.

"In February, high school art students are asked to submit a portfolio of six or seven pieces," said Capps, "Theresa and I look them over, and choose six for the scholarship."

RLC has a lot of talent, and the exhibition lets the faculty, students, and community have an inside look on the art program.

"The exhibition lets the administration know how we are doing and how we rate," said Capps, "We have a lot of talent."

A jazz band entertained in the theater for the evening.

"I've been playing in the exhibition for at least ten years," said Bob Pina, "I've always enjoyed it."

Pina, who has played in other small bands through the years, has always enjoyed looking at the artwork, and is currently enrolled in one of Capps's art classes.

Jim Simmons, who received the Claxton Art Award in the exhibition, is in his second semester at RLC.

"I believe this system made returning students like me feel welcome and complete," said Simmons, "It has also helped me to be accepted by other students."

Janet Galli, who received first place for her painting: Burning Bush, also feels honored to even be in the show.

"I was very honored to even be in the show," said Galli, RLC art student, "I was astounded to win a blue ribbon."

The art will be displayed through May 17 in the library, art room, theater gallery, and theater.

America Reads Needs Tutors

*Will work with K-4 students in Benton and Mt. Vernon or with Adult Literacy Programs

*Applicants must be eligible for the Federal Work Study program

*15 hours per week at minimum wage

*Applications are being accepted for fall 1999

*See Rex Duncan in the South Oasis or at ext. 352 for applications

REND LAKE COLLEGE

presents

SPRING CONCERT '99

featuring

THE RLC COMMUNITY

CHORUS

and special guests

THURSDAY, MAY 6TH

7:30 P.M.

RLC THEATER

ADMISSION IS FREE !

SECURITY NOTES

Clinton Jones
Staff Writer

Jerry Bate and the rest of the security force would like to thank everyone for a relatively safe spring semester. Jerry would like to congratulate all graduates and wish them luck in their futures.

Now down to business. There are still some tickets that have not yet been paid. The tickets need to be paid before the end of this semester. If you are not sure if you have outstanding tickets contact the security office.

The problem of speeding has decreased this month. The number of tickets written this

month has been minimal.

Now for everyone's favorite section of the Security Notes, the trash factor. I can't seem to drill this into some people's heads, trash goes into the trash cans. As Jerry put it, "Trash has been a problem always, it's getting better, but there are always some slobbs out there." Jerry warns that littering tickets are coming if the problem persists.

As this semester is winding down construction will continue and everything will go as normal. Have a safe and fun summer. Just remember, the man is always watching.

Art Scholarship Offered at Herrin Festa Italiana

Clinton Jones
Staff Writer

On May 27-31, 1999 the Herrin Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring The Sixth Annual HerrinFesta Italiana. During those day of celebration an Arts and Crafts Exhibition will be held. Every year the Chamber of Commerce holds a contest for artists to show their talent by designing an art poster to commemorate each years celebration.

This year is no different. Artists are encouraged to create posters to be used as the official 2000 HerrinFesta Italiana poster. The winner of the contest will receive \$100 cash. If the poster is picked as the "Official" poster of 2000, an additional \$150 will be

awarded to the artist. Perhaps more important than the cash money would be the recognition of seeing ones design used in promotional materials, t-shirts, and other items that will not only be distributed locally but also across Italy.

This contest is of importance to student artists especially. A \$750 scholarship will be awarded to a community college student in the Southern Illinois region. Last year, RLC student Brenda Webster McCollum recieved the coveted scholarship. Students must have work accepted into the exhibit to be eligible for the scholarship which is made possible by the HerrinFesta Italiana

Foundation and Barnes & Noble Bookstore. The winning artist will be required to hand over all rights of the image to the HerrinFesta Italiana Committee.

Poster entries will be accepted on May 8th, from 10:00am to Noon at the Marlow-Murray Gallery, located at 101 South Park Avenue, Herrin.

To enter the contest artists will be required to submit a \$20 non-refundable fee. For this entry fee the artist can submit up to three works. Additional pieces can be submitted for addition fees.

For more information contact Joyce Fisher at 618-988-1839 or e-mail at 4jfish@midwest.net

Photo Credits from last issue go to Doug Daniels

Editorial Column: Thoughts on Kosovo

Clinton Jones

Staff Writer

On the other side of the world, a battle rages on. A battle involving our military, Americans.

On March 24th 1999, NATO launched a massive air campaign in the Kosovo region. This came after many peacekeeping talks that unfortunately ended in failure. The air campaign's targets; the Yugoslavian army, police, and supply chain. The intention; persuade Yugoslavia's President Slobodan Milosevic to end his "ethnic cleansing" campaign against the ethnic Albanians.

Now heading into the fourth week of bombing, what have we accomplished so far? We have dropped tons of bombs and missiles, destroying military targets as well as some civilian compounds and factories. We have lost a 45 million dollar Stealth Fighter, and three of our servicemen are now locked away in hidden prisons after being captured during a border patrol a few weeks ago. Most of the population of Kosovo have fled to neighboring countries, but many now cannot escape the terror. Serbian forces have sealed Kosovo, not allowing any refugees to leave.

There are also reports of Serbian troops taking Albanian women and raping and then killing them. Serbian forces are destroying documents of refugees virtually erasing their identities. This type of "Terror Campaign" has not been seen in this magnitude in the West since World War Two.

Something in the back of my mind keeps popping up. What made the United States Government care about this little place called Kosovo all of a sudden? This conflict between the Serbians and Albanians has been going on for close to 800 years. Why is the U.S. now so interested? It may be because we are the supreme super power in the world, we are the "Big Brother," it is our duty to help. That could be the case. But, then again, it could be that we have something to gain. We would have a foothold in an unstable region of Europe if our troops were to occupy Kosovo. There some good things that could come out of us being "peacekeepers" in Kosovo but think about some of the bad things that may come from this.

Look at Russia. Russia and Yugoslavia are allies. Russia has time and again stated that they will not stand for this action against Yugoslavia. They have even gone as far to say that a "World War" may result from this conflict. Now people, that is a very scary thought. Think about this. Boris Yeltsin, the president of Russia, is Democratic in politics and poor in health. The closest political party to power is the Communist party. If Yeltsin was to resign, die, or lose the next election, a Communist candidate would likely become the President of Russia. Combine that with the tensions in the Kosovo region and some scary thoughts can come to mind. If Yeltsin can send a few warships and harsh

words our way during this conflict, then imagine what a Communist leader might do. Thankfully that is all that Yeltsin has done so far. He states that Russia will not help Yugoslavia militarily. He also states that NATO must not escalate the conflict by sending in ground troops. If that were to happen, the Yugoslavians may find support from Russia.

President Clinton is strongly opposed to the use of ground troops he says. I am afraid however, that this may soon change. One day soon we may see President Clinton on the T.V. telling us that the only way to stop the Serbians is by using ground troops. I can see it now, here comes the draft.

Right now many people are probably saying just bomb them into submission. Sorry to tell you, but bombing alone never wins wars. Bombing may disrupt, damage, and demoralize the fighting ability of the Serbian army, but it will take foot soldiers to finish the job.

This is where I ask, "Are we prepared for this?" Our military is short on funding, supplies, and troops. Many people are saying that they do not want to see another "Vietnam." Are we ready to send our young men and women over there to fight and possibly die? The role of the U.S. military is to defend the U.S. from enemies foreign and domestic. If they are sent to Kosovo, what will they be defending the U.S. from?

What repercussions would come from this? Relations

with Russia and China will surely be hurt. Also, if the campaign is successful, then U.S. troops will be stationed in Kosovo for many years acting as peacekeepers. Many other fallouts would surely produce.

Now if you have read this far I must applaud you. You have shown interest in this event. During the second week of Operation Allied Force, I polled 23 RLC students on their thoughts and knowledge on the conflict. The results shocked me. As a college student I thought it was our duty to learn and think about the world in which we live. I guess that is not on the agenda of some students here. Out of 23 students, 12 students polled showed no knowledge of the ongoing events. Two students plainly stated that they didn't care at all about the conflict. Nine students showed signs that they were informed or that they had concerns about it. Among those students who had strong feelings about the conflict was Chip McCleary who said, "If this were simply a civil war as it has been simplified by some people, then we would have no business there. But given the fact that World War One began in this area, the fact that Serbia has a history of attempting to completely kill off other ethnic groups through executions, torture, and forced takeovers of territories, we have a duty as the world's only true superpower to attempt to stop the spread of violence in an area historically prone to violence." Another student,

Alinda Schaber voiced an opinion that many people believe. "It seems like we are the only ones actually putting ourselves on the line for their people."

I had truly hoped that more students would have shown more interest in the on-going events. I suppose that many students will continue about their happy lives until something happens that gets their attention. I wonder what that would take, a terrorist attack on U.S. soil, or maybe a declaration of war? I don't know. I hope it doesn't come to any of that but I am afraid that some people will remain ignorant of the battle that is taking place this instant.

Considering that NATO is not willing to do what is necessary to resolve this conflict, namely send in ground troops, the question of whether we are fighting for a win or a draw keeps popping up in my head. NATO has stated that they wish for no casualties on either side. I'm sorry, but that seems far fetched. How can a military action take place without casualties? I say we either commit the forces that are truly needed to finish Milosevic's reign of terror, or arm the KLA (Kosovo Liberation Army) and then pull out and let them fight it out themselves. It is their fight not ours. Believe me, I would much rather see Slobodan Milosevic fall than have NATO pull out. But, if the leaders of NATO are not prepared to do what it takes, I say get out.

Psi Beta Donates \$360 to Prevent Child Abuse-Illinois

Paula Clouse
Staff Writer

In observance of Prevent Child Abuse Awareness month, Psi Beta, Rend Lake College's Psychology Club, along with Faculty Advisor Carolyn Stewart, unanimously agreed to empty their fund-raising coffers to make a final donation of \$360 to Prevent Child Abuse-Illinois.

Board President, Judge James Wexsten, accepted the check from Psi Beta president Paula Clouse last week in a photo shoot with the Mt. Vernon Register News and Morning Sentinel.

The executive director of Prevent Child Abuse-Illinois, said in a recent letter to Clouse: "Let me assure you that your contribution is being put to good use. Child abuse

is one of the most devastating social issues in our time with over 1,000,000 children abused each year and over 2,000 deaths. In Illinois, thanks to the efforts of many, we have seen some reductions in the past few years. But still, 125,000 children were reported abused last year. This is tragic."

Prevent Child Abuse-Illinois is making a difference

with public awareness campaigns on reporting abuse, shaken baby syndrome, "back" to sleep, and others. Their work with Child Death Review Teams, and promotion of the Healthy Families America home visiting program in Illinois have also made life safer for many children in Illinois.

After years of faithful service to the students and

club, Stewart has recently stepped out of the advisor position due to health and family concerns. The club is currently in need of an advisor.

Psi Beta would like to challenge and encourage other clubs on campus to consider making Prevent Child Abuse-Illinois an annual fund-raising event.

Intramural Sports Need

More Attention

Jessica Luschen

staff writer

Intramural sports at RLC are not drawing enough attention.

The intramural basketball teams have been formed and the games are now underway.

"There are between eighty and ninety kids signed up," said Cindy Corn, intramural coach, "We have nine teams; the most we've ever had."

The basketball teams are composed of males only. Females are welcome, but there is just not enough interest.

The nine teams include: Dreamin' of Jamie, Perry County Pimps, Fox Fab Five, Bumpus Hounds, Ghetto Fabulous, No Limit, Lib 'n' Friends, Forerunners, and Dogs 'n' Heat.

The teams get to choose their team name and captain.

"This year, we are playing a round robin," said Corn, "Each team will play eight games."

Scores are kept, and two tournaments are played.

"There will be a League Champion and a Tournament Champion," said Corn, "Plus, they will win things, such as T-shirts."

Corn urges more students to become involved in the intramural program.

"Students need to become more involved with RLC," said Corn, "They'll have a better overall impression...and a better outlook."

Other activities are played throughout the year, including:

Ping-Pong tournaments, three on three basketball, flag football, slam dunk contests, and sand volleyball.

RLC Foundation Offers Credit Card to Students and Staff

Heather Cassidy

Staff Writer

The Rend Lake College Foundation, in conjunction with South Pointe Bank, is offering students, faculty, staff and all area residents the opportunity to support the college in such a way that requires no special effort or time. In fact, the opportunity is equally advantageous to the individual while they contribute money to the college.

This "win-win" opportunity lies within the recently introduced Rend Lake College Foundation Affinity Card. Through ownership of the card, anyone can contribute to the benefit of present and future students of the college.

The credit card, which is affiliated with Master Card and South Pointe Banks in Marion, Benton, and Mt. Vernon, is acceptable almost anywhere. The card can be used at over eight million retail locations and 300,000 financial institutions worldwide.

The RLCF Affinity Card is as efficient as other major cards and has other advantages, such as special introductory rates and no annual fees. The list of advantages also include that you will be dealing with your hometown community bank. The "People you know-People you trust" will be answering your questions and working to solve your problems.

Executive Director of the Foundation, and owner of a card, Pat Mitchell, believes that this is a great way to give back to students in clubs, support, and provide advertisement for the college. For student holders, it is a great way to build credit history.

Anyone can apply for the RLCF Affinity Card. After the application is approved and a credit line is established according to income and records, new card holders will receive a competitive introductory rate of 8.5% for the first six months. If you already possess a credit card, your current balance can be transferred over. The annual percentage rate for purchases is 12.75%, with the variable rate index and spread at prime plus 5%, reviewed monthly. The card also features a grace period of 25 days, meaning there will be no charges for balances paid within that time period. There is no annual membership fee.

The Foundation is hoping that area residents will notice the beneficial factors of possessing a card. Every time the card is used, the not-for-profit support organization will receive 3% of the interchange rate of purchase for the life of that card. This takes place even when an individual pays off his or her card before the grace period, without having to pay any interest. The Foundation will

also receive \$3 for every card for the first 250 purchases. All of the money generated through the RLCF Affinity Card program will be contributed to campus projects, buildings, clubs and programs in need of financial assistance. With this income, the Foundation also plans to create two to three scholarships a year. New possibilities are created for financial assistance every time a new card is issued to students, alumni, faculty, staff, parents, relatives and friends.

It is common to find other colleges participating in programs such as this to raise money also. Southern Illinois University-Carbondale creates a six figure income annually to put toward scholarships, programs and student organizations.

Those who are interested in the card are encouraged to see club members of student organizations. The club on campus with the most people signed up for a card will receive \$500 cash to put toward their organization. Clubs on campus promoting the RLCF Affinity Card include the Travel Club, Intramurals, P.E.C.E., Phi Theta Kappa, LPN, and ADN.

Dorothy Fiera, Textbook Rental Coordinator, is also helping Mitchell promote the sale of the RLCF Affinity Card to students, staff and alumni as a part of intern program through SIUC.

College Bowl Places Fourth at State

Clinton Jones

Staff Writer

On April 16, 1999 the RLC College Bowl Team competed at the State tournament sponsored by the ICCTA/ICCSAA College Bowl organization.

Marshall Mullins (Freshman, Benton) Stacy Dagg (Freshman, Texaco), Angie House (Freshman, Mt. Vernon), and Denny Leathers (Sophomore, Mt. Vernon) make up the RLC College Bowl Team. Rebecca Biggs is the coach along with Mike Mullen acting as assistant coach.

In order for the team to have made it to the State Tournament, the RLC team beat John A. Logan, Southeastern, and Shawnee Community Colleges in regional play. RLC prevailed, winning a seat at the State Tournament.

At the State Tournament RLC faced much stiffer competition. Illinois Central College, Joliet Junior College, McHenry County College, Waubensee Community

College, and Kaskaskia College were the competitors. RLC fought well, scoring at least 100 points a game. The RLC team won 4th place out of the six. Rebecca Biggs said, "RLC should be very proud of this current team. Now we know what the current competition is like, we're ready to go back to state next year and take home the 1st place trophy."

The final standing looked like this: In 1st place stood Joliet followed by Waubensee, Illinois Central College, RLC, Kaskaskia, and finally McHenry. Only five points separated RLC and Illinois Central.

Besides the team awards, individual awards were given to outstanding players in the form of "All-Star" awards. RLC's own Marshall Mullins took second place with almost 800 points. First place was taken by a Joliet player who raked in 1400 points. All in all, it was a very good year for the RLC College Bowl Team. Next year may even be better.

Grant Funded Program Provides Opportunity for Education Majors

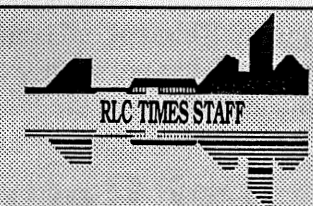
Gina McClerren
Student Editor

Attention Education Majors! The Co-op and Job Placement department is seeking education majors to participate in a grant funded program.

The students participating in this program will work 15 - 20 hours a week in local

elementary schools for \$6 an hour. They will receive co-op credit for participating in the program.

There will be many openings for the Fall 1999 semester. Those interested should see Rex Duncan in the South Oasis and bring a current resume before May 13.



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