



Students provide sweet sounds of Spring



Julie Wilkerson, Robert Johnson, Sara Holz, Tim Johnson, and Jennifer Herzing perform "The River" during the Spring Concert. (Photo by Doug Daniels)

Pat Hungate
Staff Writer

The Rend Lake College Community Chorus and Jazz Band recently performed their spring concert. They are both directed by Julie Wilkerson.

The chorus sang a variety of songs including *Alexander's Ragtime Band*, *Praise the Lord*, *Moon River*, with a beautiful solo by Michael Blakemore, and *Battle Hymn of the Republic*. The Rend Lake College Jazz Choir did their rendition of the Beach Boys' *Kokomo*.

There were also special performances by Tracey Webb, Robin George, and Danielle Knight, who sang *Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy*. Chad Jones, who is a senior at Mt Vernon Township High School, Tony Jenkins, and Aaron Woodrome, sang the sixties hit *Runaround Sue*.

They also had a little bluegrass,

with Jenifer Herzing, who plays a mean fiddle, the Brothers Johnson, Tim on guitar and Robert on the bass guitar, and music director Julie Wilkerson on guitar. They played a great arrangement of *Orange Blossom Special*, and Garth Brook's *The River*, with Sara Holz singing.

The RLC Jazz Band performed five songs: *At the Hop*, *Night Train*, *Malaguena*, *Basin Street Blues*, and *The Twist*.

"I thought we sounded really good," said drummer Jonathon Edwards. We practiced hard, and we put a lot of time into it."

Two awards were given out, one for Outstanding Performer, which was shared by Aaron Woodrome, and Tony Jenkins. The other was the Musicians Award which was given to Jenifer Herzing.

"I was very proud and pleased with the effort and the performance. I was also pleased with the turnout," said Director Julie Wilkerson

RLC Times wins ASPA Awards

RLC Times
Staff Report
INA, IL --

The American Scholastic Press Association (ASPA), with a membership of 2000 high school, community college and university publications has awarded the *RLC Times* a Third Place Award in national, juried competition for the paper's Spring 1999 editions, and a Second Place Award for the paper's Fall, 1999 editions. The achievement marks the ninth and tenth times the *RLC Times* has garnered national honors since 1986.

"Satisfied - That's the word I would use to describe how I feel," said Gina McCleren of Thompsonville, the Student Editor of the award winning paper and now a senior at SIU - Carbondale. "I'm nearly speechless," McCleren said, "since I'm usually the one asking the questions and doing the questions and doing the

interviewing. I'm glad I was a part of continuing the newspaper's tradition of excellence, and I want to add that the education I received in all my classes at RLC has prepared me well for SIU. Thank you, Rend Lake College."

"I am very proud of the staff and the newspaper," said current Student Editor Sarah Roberts, sophomore, Mount Vernon. "Although last year was my first on the staff, I know we all worked especially hard to produce a quality newspaper. The current staff is working just as hard to continue this paper's tradition of excellence."

"Working on the RLC paper was an excellent experience for me," Eric McClain, now training at the Illinois Police Academy in Champaign, and former associate editor said. "We had a great deal of freedom to explore, but, at the same time, we had a great deal of responsibility."

"My experiences with the newspaper have really helped me on

my career path," SIU - C Pre-med Senior Amanda Pillers said. "I know that might sound strange, but all my advisors and instructors have mentioned how pleased they are with the skills of editing and composing I learned while working on the paper."

That approach didn't escape the ASPA judges either. The award letter stated, in part, that the *RLC Times* was a newspaper that "showed a great deal of time, energy, and talent by editors, reporters, writers, photographers, layout designers, and advisor."

"This proves that students at Rend Lake College are competitive with students across the country," Mike Mullen, *Times* advisor said. "The staff of the paper is all volunteer, all of them hold down one or two other jobs, take a full load of classes, and yet they are able to produce a paper that has attained recognition on a national level. They deserve a great deal of credit."

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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.



Phi Theta Kappa Advisor Jeannie Mitchell, Treasurer Rockey Millenbine, Vice President Lynndi Tenneyson, Press Representative Rachel Gartner, Amanda Moore, Secretary Kristen Walker, and Fund Raising Coordinator Esterina Pericolosi. (Submitted Photo)

Phi Theta Kappa introduces new officers

Rachel L. Gartner
Staff Writer

Phi Theta Kappa is an established organization on Rend Lake College campus. Only a select few are chosen to be a part of this elite group. Those chosen are students at RLC that obtain a 3.25 grade point average throughout the semester. Phi Theta Kappa is the only organization at RLC that requires an invitation to join. This year, approximately 80 people were inducted into this prestigious honor society on Tuesday, April 25.

Phi Theta Kappa, advised by Jeannie Mitchell, a counselor here at RLC, spoke for a moment and then introduced the Honorary Inductee, Mary Roe, Dean of Student Services. Roe accepted the award graciously, and then spoke of the importance of continuing education and high

expectations.

The ceremony continued on with Mitchell introducing Judy Clark, wife of RLC Vocational Technology Dean Terry Clark, whom was presented with the Appreciation Award, an award given for outstanding service to the organization. An emotional Clark assumed position behind the podium and thanked the society for the award.

Jasolyn Smith, the current Vice President of Phi Theta Kappa, then introduced the keynote speaker, Ret. Admiral Archie Clemens. His motivational speech entitled, "Where Will You be in Five Years...?" left the audience with a sense of their achievements, and hoping for a successfully planned future.

Clemens retired to his seat, and Mitchell once again assumed her place behind the podium. She then introduced the new officers

Amanda Moore, Vice-President- Lynndi Tenneyson, Secretary- Kristen Walker, Treasurer- Rockey Millenbine, Fund Raising Coordinator- Esterina Pericolosi, and Press Representative- Rachel Gartner.

Other than the 80 inductees who were gathered for the ceremony, RLC was happy to have Kristen Clark, current President of Phi Theta Kappa, whom was named the Lincoln Student Laureate, join the crowd and spoke.

The ceremony concluded with the inductees lighting their candles and signing the Phi Theta Kappa book.

Thanks to the efforts of students here at RLC, this chapter of Phi Theta Kappa was recently given the Journey Award for attaining a 20 percent increase in membership from the previous year and will earn the award again this year.

College Bowl achieves Second Place honors in State Tournament

Ryan Dodson
Staff Writer

said Biggs, "I would have loved for our team to have finished first, but second isn't anything to be ashamed about."

"I was very pleased," said team captain Marshall Mullins. "When we went into the tournament, our main goal was to finish better than last year, which was fourth place. So our result made us very happy."

"We defeated all the teams except one," said Biggs. "We beat Waubonsee 105 - 70, Illinois Central 130-100, College of Lake County 115 - 30, and Kaskaskia 135 - 45."

The Warriors brigade of victories came to a halt when Joliet defeated the gutsy under-dogs 275 - 80.

"Joliet was truly an unbeatable team," said Biggs. "It was a little like trying to beat the Yankees in the World Series, they were sharp."

"We were doing some of our best work that day," said Mullins. "We were getting our kind of questions and the team really helped each other out. Joliet was just unreal and they deserved to win the tournament."

"Our team is strong in almost every subject, but up against Joliet, Math and Science," said Biggs. "It was virtually impossible to beat them to the buzzer on those type of questions. Overall, though, I think that we are strong in all subjects. By the end of the season RLC was

even answering sports questions."

"We're not very good at Sports questions," said Mullins. "We know general stuff like teams, but when it gets down to players, all our eyes just glaze over."

There are four team members graduating or transferring after this semester. Marshall Mullins, Josh Sims, Stacy Dagg, and Angie House are all leaving Rend Lake. John Hefner and Sarah Eubanks will be returning.

"For now, I am going to SIU - Edwardsville," said Mullins. "My major is undecided and so is my career. Hopefully I'll find one."

Next year should also be a productive year.

"Next year's squad will have a good chance of winning if Sarah and John fill them in on what to expect from the other teams in our region," said Biggs. "One of the advantages we had this year at state was that we had seen the competition last year, this time we knew what to expect."

"My favorite experiences were at the restaurants we would eat at after the tournaments," said Mullins. "We would laugh and have a really good time."

It's been a long and hard road to cross this season and the Warriors gave it their all. That in itself is something to be proud of.

The Rend Lake College Bowl season has ended. The Warriors achieved a second place finish in the State tournament. The Warriors led by Marshall Mullins defeated four of the five teams in the tournament.

Coach Rebecca Biggs was very pleased with the second place finish.

"I was very satisfied with our second place finish. Our team played exceptionally well against the best teams in the state, and for a small school from Southern Illinois, that's saying something,"

Oops! She's doing it again

Doug Daniels
Staff Writer

She recently completed a Spring tour of the U.S. She has sold over 12 million copies of her debut album *Baby One More Time...* and has a new album due out on May 16, not to mention a book she co-wrote with her mother to be released on May 9. And on July 16, 2000, at 7:30 p.m., Britney Spears will bring her 48-city summer tour to the Riverport Amphitheatre in St. Louis, MO.

I attended Spears' Spring tour, subtitled the Crazy Tour and sponsored by Got Milk?, when it made it's stop in Memphis, TN this past March at the Pyramid Arena.

Sweedish newcomer Bosson was the opening act, and performed a few songs from a forthcoming album receiving an impressive response from the crowd, considering the lack of exposure the artist has had.

Next up were Rich, Devon, and Brad, collectively known as the boy band LFO. The group performed many songs from their self-titled debut album, including the smash hit "Summer Girls."

A 15 minute intermission followed, as the crowd impatiently awaited Spears to take the stage.

The lights went out, and spotlights revealed "students" sitting in desks in a school-like situation. A voice, presumably that of the teacher, is then heard calling roll.

"Britney? Britney... Spears?" is the last thing heard before explosions and fireworks go off, as Britney appeared out of nowhere, with her famous midriff bare, to start the show with her hit "Crazy."

The rest of the show followed suit, featuring numerous impressive dance numbers, five costume changes, and plenty of pyrotechnics to dazzle the crowd. Spears' amazing vocals filled the arena, drowned out at times only by the thousands of screaming fans.

Hovering above the crowd on a "magic carpet," Spears sang "Don't Let Me Be the Last to Know," a song off of her soon to be released sophomore album entitled *Oops! I Did it Again*, and then descended back down to the stage to sing the title track, which can currently be heard on radio stations and seen on MTV with regularity (it is quickly climbing the Billboard charts, and is currently #1 on MTV's Total Request Live).

One young gentleman in particular went home happy, as Britney sang

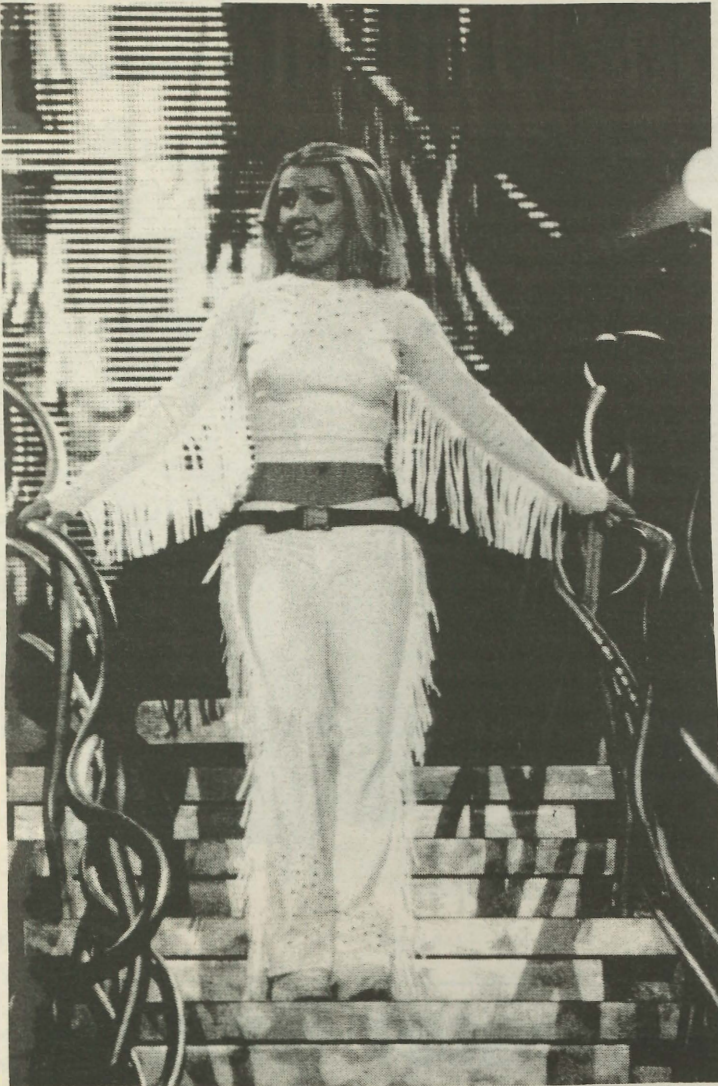
"From the Bottom of My Broken Heart" to him on stage, in front of the crowd of thousands. Spears' dancers pulled four male members out of the audience up on stage, and the crowd then voted on who the lucky guy would be.

All of Spears' hit songs from her first album were included in the show, as nine numbers in all ("Sometimes," "Born to Make You Happy," among others) combined for a show that lasted approximately one hour, closing with the chart-topper "Baby One More Time..."

The summer tour, tentatively named the "Oops! I Did it Again Tour," promises to be an even bigger show, as more songs from Spears' new album will be included, along with all of her previous hits.

The groups A*Teens, Innosense, and BBMak will share opening act duties on the tour. Exact dates for each group are unknown and the opening act will vary depending on the date of the individual show.

For more information on the upcoming tour stop in St. Louis, or to purchase your tickets (prices range from \$25.00-\$40.00), to the July 16th event, call (314)-241-1888 or visit www.ticketmaster.com.



Britney Spears performs her hit song "Crazy" at the Pyramid arena in Memphis, TN.
(Photo by Doug Daniels)

Korn rocks Keil Center

Jessica Luschen
Staff Writer

On Tuesday April 18, the St. Louis Keil Center was the place to be.

As the Keil filled itself with smoke and a few hundred fans, Staind and Korn revealed themselves in the *Sick and Twisted Tour*.

Staind kicked off the show with a bang, singing their album debut "Dysfunction." Lead singer Aaron Lewis came down to the floor and tried to get the crowd excited, knowing Korn was the main attraction.

Lewis ended the show with loud vocals, preparing the audience for Korn's screaming riffs and Jonathan Davis's crazy attitude.

A thirty minute intermission proceeded, showing a handful of violent cartoons, including the well known *Spike and Mike* and *South Park*.

Korn finally appeared and immediately proved they were the crowd pleaser. Lead singer Jonathan Davis broke out his famous bagpipes, and gave the crowd a taste of his excellent talent.

Davis challenged Lewis to a play-off to prove who could make the famous Keil Center shake the hardest. Although Staind was a close second, Korn proved their hard core riffs could not be beat.

As the show came to an end, the crowd awaited the finale, as Korn quickly changed their backdrop. Their last song was of course their show stopping "Got the Life".

After talking with the crew from 105.7 The Point, they agreed that the Sick and Twisted Tour was one of the best concerts St. Louis would see this year. They also mentioned that it was a little surprising that Korn actually showed, since they disappointed their fans last year, cancelling their opening performance at Ozzfest '99.

Spring Semester Comes to an End

Now that the end of the Spring Semester has come to a close, the Rend Lake College Times Staff would like to say a few words to the students of Rend Lake College.

Congratulations to those of you who are graduating and moving on to pursue other opportunities. For those of you who will continue their studies here in the Fall Semester, we will see you then.

Also the RLC Staff would like to say goodbye to a few of our dedicated staff. Doug Daniels, Pat Hungate, and Sarah Roberts will be among the graduates this Spring and they will be dearly missed.

For those of you who have aspirations of writing for an award winning newspaper, your chance has arrived. Sign up now and this Fall you too can be apart of the RLC Times.

See you in the Fall!

Carlock talks about his job as Dean of Finance

Dede Haselton
Student Writer

Bob Carlock is the Dean of Finance for Rend Lake College. Recently, he explained what his job entails, and told us about some of the plans for RLC.

"I'm in charge of the finances at the college," Carlock said. "What that means is that I have to make sure that the college at least breaks even every year, so we can stay in halfway decent financial shape."

Carlock explained the sources of income on which RLC depends.

"There are two kinds of funds that come down to colleges. Unrestricted funds are those that we can use as we wish," said Carlock. Most of that money is generated from tuition and fees; credit hour grants; equalization grants from Illinois; and the tax levy, where if you own a house, you get taxed for Rend Lake College."

"Unrestricted funds are primarily used to run the school," said Carlock. "They pay salaries, utility bills, and normal operating expenses."

Carlock went on to explain about restricted funds.

"I know the faculty and staff wonder, how can you spend a million and a half dollars building and tell us you don't have a lot of money for a raise next year. But there is a reason for it," said Carlock. "Restricted funds come in from the State of Illinois. For example, we put this new road out here because we had a dangerous situation, with this underpass through the academic building. We had cars hitting it. School busses hit it. The last one that hit it, we thought that we might even have some students injured," said Carlock.

"So, we get into the political games. We knew some people up there (in the government offices), and we said, 'We have dangerous situation here.' So they gave us \$400,000 to put in that road," said Carlock. "It didn't come out of our operating budget; it was strictly restricted money and that's the only way we could spend it."

According to Carlock, many people feel that it was irresponsible to build a \$2.7 million Aquatic Center.

"The Aquatic Center was pretty close to the same thing. The State of Illinois had some money set aside for community-type projects, so we put together a plan to build an aquatic center, not only for this college, but for the community," said Carlock.

"We were given \$2.4 million to build it. Our foundation went out and got pledges from individuals

made up the other \$300,000, so we have no operating funds in that," said Carlock. "It's all (from) restricted money and outside sources."

"The Day Care Center is another one that was built by the foundation through restricted funds," said Carlock. "It did not cost the college a cent to build the Day Care Center."

Carlock is from Hillsboro, Ill., a little town about 100 miles north. He attended Eastern Illinois University, in Charleston, Ill., where he got his masters' degree in business administration. After college, he started working for a company in Chicago, but returned to Hillsboro to help his father with his wholesale food business. He ran the business for about 10 years.

"I taught for three years at Tarkio College in northwest Missouri, before I got here," said Carlock. "Then I taught for seven years, part time, at McKendree College in Lebanon, Ill."

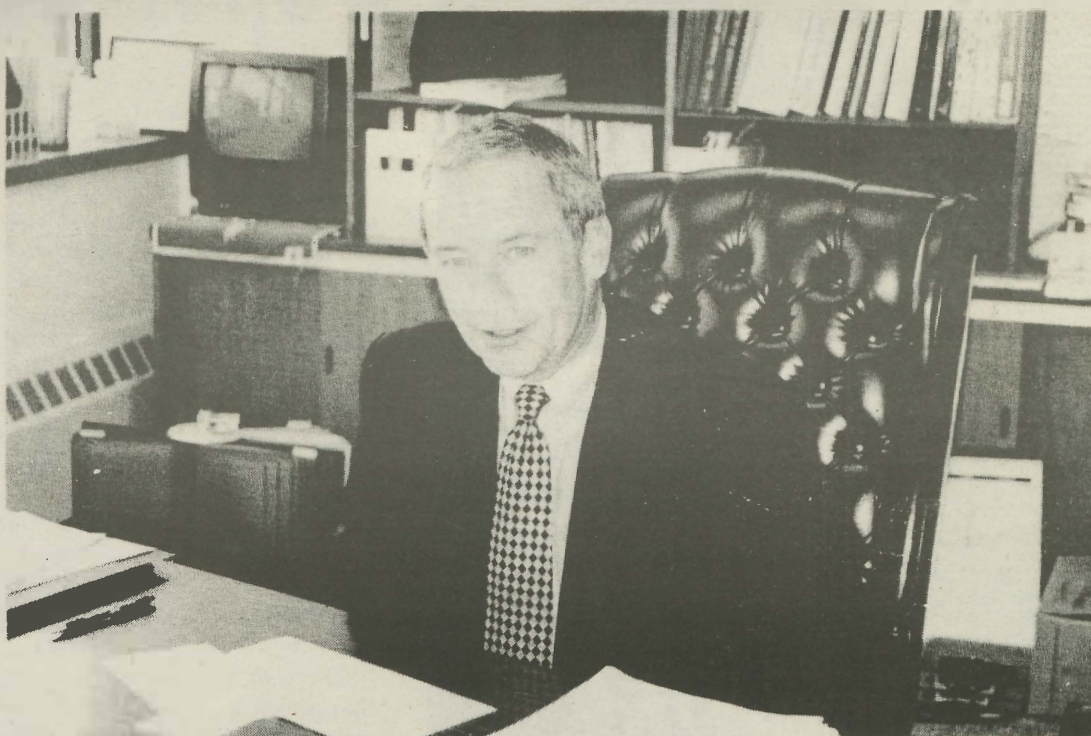
Carlock has been at Rend Lake College for 15 years. He has been the Dean of Finance for about 10 years. He says that his first year as Dean was rough, but once he got familiar with how things were done, he really began to enjoy the position. He says he'll probably be here for another seven or eight years.

When asked what kind of growth he would like to see at Rend Lake College, Carlock said, "over the next few years, I think I'd like to see a multi-purpose building, that would be used for community activities, athletics, perhaps add some vocational programs," said Carlock. "Also, so we can have a place for dealer shows, boat shows, and whatever."

"Something we definitely have in the plans is a new art studio," said Carlock. "I think you'll see us constantly adding to the computer area, and you'll see us branching out more into the towns in our district. We're getting ready to build a new building in Pinckneyville."

"We are even considering building a miniature golf course on campus," said Carlock. "Many people would like to have a full-size golf course, but there is just not enough room for that, so it would have to be a miniature golf course."

"The thing we have to do is, we have to make sure that this school provides viable educational opportunities for students," said Carlock. "I realize that money isn't the whole force that drives education, but you're hard pressed to run a college well if the college is not in good financial shape."



Bob Carlock at work as Dean of Finance and Administration. (Photo by Dede Haselton)

Spring Semester Exam Schedule

Normal Class Time	Exam Date	Exam Time
Mon/Wed/Fri 8-9 am	Monday, May 8	8 am-10 am
Mon/Wed/Fri 9-10 am	Monday, May 8	10 am-Noon
Mon/Wed/Fri Noon-1 pm	Monday, May 8	1 pm-3 pm
Mon/Wed/Fri 3 pm-4pm	Monday, May 8	3 pm-5 pm
Tues/Thurs 8-9:30 am	Tuesday, May 9	8 am-10 am
Tues/Thurs 9:30-11 am	Tuesday, May 9	10 am-Noon
Tues/Thurs 2-3:30 pm	Tuesday, May 9	1 pm-3 pm
Mon/Wed/Fri 10-11 am	Wed, May 10	8 am-10 pm
Mon/Wed/Fri 11- Noon	Wed, May 10	10 am-Noon
Mon/Wed/Fri 1 pm-2 pm	Wed, May 10	1 pm-3 pm
Mon/Wed/Fri 2 pm-3pm	Wed, May 10	3 pm-5 pm
Tues/Thurs 11am-12:30pm	Thurs, May 11	8 am-10 am
Tues/Thurs 12:30-2 pm	Thurs, May 11	10 am-Noon
Tues/Thurs 3:30 pm-5 pm	Thurs, May 11	1 pm-3 pm

Evening Classes

- Monday Evening- Monday, May 8
- Tuesday Evening- Tuesday, May 9
- Wednesday Evening- Wednesday, May 10
- Thursday Evening- Thursday, May 11
- Saturday Classes- Saturday, May 6



The famous "General Lee" in the Tech. Building during a recent auto show. (Photo by Doug Daniels)

Spring buyback will be May 8 thru May 12 from 9 am-4 pm. May 19 is the last day Spring rental textbooks will be accepted. After May 19, the rental textbooks not returned will be billed to the student's account.

Summer textbooks will be available May 30.

Fall textbooks will be available August 14.

AmeriCorps in Southern Illinois
HELP WANTED

Part-Time Tutors

AmeriCorps in Southern Illinois provides tutoring and mentoring services, both in the classroom and at school-sponsored extra-curricular activities, to teacher-referred youth, grades 5-8. Positions pending grant funding.

RESPONSIBILITIES

- 900 hours of service per year or approximately 23-25 hours/week during school year and 80 hours/year of training. Hours generally favorable to part-time and/or minimal full-time students. Preference given to education majors with 2.5 GPA or better on a 4.0 scale.

QUALIFICATIONS

- Requirements: age 17 or older with high school diploma or GED (by July 30); able to successfully complete criminal background check; willing to commit blocks of time that parallel grade school hours; must enjoy working with youth. Preferred: College or college-bound students.

SALARY

- Living Allowance, \$4,761; Educational Award, \$2,362.

START/END DATES

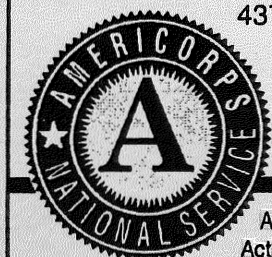
- Aug. 1, 2000-June 30, 2001.

TO APPLY

- Submit cover letter, AmeriCorps in Southern Illinois application (available from contact person below), transcripts and résumé by 4 pm Friday, May 26, to:

Michelle Garrett
Rend Lake College
468 N Ken Gray Pkwy
Ina, IL 62846

437-5321



Affirmative Action Equal Opportunity Project

Dean of Instruction Dr. Homer Cissell speaks out

Dede Haselton
Student Writer

Dean of Instruction, Dr. Homer Cissell, has been busy with more than his normal responsibilities. He has been working on learning names and becoming acclimated to this new environment. Cissell has been at Rend Lake College for only four months. Although he is new to RLC, he is not new to the area.

"I'd been away from my home for many years," Cissell said. "This was an opportunity for me to get back to Southern Illinois and do the things that I enjoy most which is helping young people prepare for their future."

"The overall responsibility of a college dean is to insure that the academic integrity of the institution is maintained, and that we are providing to our students the highest quality of learning experience that we can provide on limited resources," said Cissell.

The dean acts as a liaison between the faculty, and the administration and board of trustees," said Cissell. "He keeps the lines of communication open to ensure that everyone feels free to make recommendations," said Cissell. "He also tries to provide the resources necessary for them to meet their goals. To clarify this, he gave the following example.

"If a department chair indicated that there was a need for another faculty person, I have to communicate with the department and other members of the faculty to substantiate the need for an additional faculty person. I then take that recommendation to the President with their justification and any additional justification

that I may develop," said Cissell. "Then, if there is a general agreement that a person is needed, we take it to the board and make a recommendation to the board of trustees," said Cissell. "Only after they agree, are we allowed to go out and hire a person. The board is the supreme authority for all operations of any public educational facility."

Cissell was born and raised in Karnak, Illinois, which is in the southernmost part of the state. Graduating in 1965, he did not have the option of going to community college.

"I went away to the University at SIU," said Cissell. There he met and married his wife, but unsure that college was really what he needed, he decided to enlist in the military, and get that out of the way. Then he could get on with a career.

When he returned from Vietnam in 1969, he was stationed in Monterey, California, and decided to attend Monterey Peninsula College. This first experience with a community college, he believes, helped to get him back on track.

"Although I'd never shown any great interest in science, the courses that I took just gravitated to that," said Cissell. "Upon returning to Illinois, I went back to SIU and completed my bachelors' degree there, in Biological Sciences."

Cissell continued his studies at SIU, getting his master's degree and Ph.D. At the time he was working on his degrees, he did not actually know what he wanted to do when he finished college. He said that he never thought he would feel

comfortable teaching, and assumed he would go into research.

"I love the world of test tubes and answering questions that I don't have the answers to," said Cissell.

When Cissell left school, he began teaching at Shawnee Community College, in Ullin, Ill., where he taught Biology and Chemistry for three years. After leaving there, he taught at Southeastern Illinois College in Harrisburg, Ill.

In 1980, he went to a small, private two-year liberal arts institution in the middle of Central Illinois, called Lincoln College. He was hired as a director, and within three years, he became a dean.

Cissell stayed at Lincoln College until 1990, and went back to Shawnee College for four years, then back to Lincoln College again.

In 1999, Cissell finally got an opportunity to return home to Southern Illinois when he was hired by Rend Lake College.

Cissell said that he will work to make Rend Lake College better than it already is. One of his goals is to see every student become computer literate.

"Just to sit back and play Delta Force or some of the other mind altering games that are on computers, does not demonstrate computer competence," said Cissell. "I've always felt that a computer is a tool, and the more you understand the proper use of a tool, the more efficient worker you are."

"I would also like to see me community involvement with the institution," said Cissell,

explaining that he would like to somehow get everyone in the district involved in school functions, whether they are students or not.

Cissell also feels it is important to do more at college than sit in a classroom and learn.

"Twenty years from now, you're not going to remember what happened in these classrooms. You're going to remember what happened out there on the quad," said Cissell.

"Those are the things that you remember from the college experience. We need to, as much as possible, fill up that other part. We need to supplement the development of a well-rounded individual."

Cissell spoke proudly of his three children. Tim is a marine diesel mechanic supervisor in Metropolis, Ill. His middle son, Matthew, works at Washington University, St. Louis, in the Human Genome Sequencing Lab. His youngest son, Clint, is in Evanston, Ill. and works as a hotel-restaurant manager for Holiday Inn.

Cissell is very happy in his position at Rend Lake College. He hopes the time will soon come when students and faculty alike feel comfortable coming to him. He would like everyone to know that they are welcome to come to his office at any time, to discuss school related items, or just to stop by and chat.

To the students he says, "Everybody at this school is interested in your success. Not just your teachers, not just your mom and dad, everybody here, and we're all going to do what we can for you to be successful."

Hungate bids

RLC adieu

Pat Hungate
Staff Writer

My days and nights at Rend Lake College are coming to an end. I lower my head and cry, and wish it wasn't so.

No I am not crying, actually it is more of a laugh. I have enjoyed this school, I have made friends, and friends have made me. Years from now when I look back on this school, I will be thinking of the good times that I had, but I will never cry about leaving.

When I first came to RLC, I had the impression that it was like high school with ashtrays. But that was so far from the truth. I figured out the first day that no one makes you come to class. If they would have told me I had to attend, I don't think I would have missed so much of algebra class.

I have enjoyed everyone of my teachers at this school. There hasn't been one teacher that I didn't like. They were all good people and I enjoyed all of their classes. But one stands out in my mind the most as being the most influential.

That is Mike "I make a difference" Mullen, and he has made a difference in my life. Mike is to me what mayo is to tuna, what a brick is to a brick wall. He has had so much patience with me, and he taught me so much.

From the first time I met him, I had respect for him, though I don't think I have ever showed it. Hopefully he knows that the respect is there. I walked in his classroom for the first time, and saw this man with a two-day old milk mustache, clothed in Eddie Bauer and Brut. Right away I knew I was going to like this guy.

As it turned out, he was the one

Adviser's Note: I do not now, nor have I ever, worn "Brut."

-MPM

man responsible for me changing my major. He made me think in class, which as strange as it seems, I didn't do much of that real thinking before.

I got to know him, and found that we had a great love for playing the guitar, and we both had good taste in music.

I can't thank Mike enough for what he has done for me. He has given me a hard time 75% of the time, but the other 25% has been a great learning experience, I shall never forget.

I will also miss the RLC Times staff. They have been very enjoyable to work with and they have made the school newspaper a great paper.

I am now trying to decide where I want to attend school. This has been the hardest decision I have ever tried to make. It is more difficult than I have ever imagined, but I think I will make the right decision, or at least I hope I make the right decision.

My life as an adult is in the early stages. I still have a lot to learn, although I figured being a Boy Scout for three months taught me everything I needed to know, I was wrong. I am starting to learn that you can hardly trust anybody you run into.

This is it for me at this school. I want to thank everyone for putting up with my mouth, and my actions. I especially want to thank my mom and dad, for all that they have given me. And to Dawn, who has been with me through this whole experience. It has been a long road thus far, and I haven't even reached the first gas station. So farewell Rend Lake College, I have enjoyed the experience.

Internet Classes: Are they worth the hassle?

Sarah Roberts
Student Editor

It is the wave of the future, a trend that we will be seeing in schools in the near future. The internet is becoming a way of life, a source of socialization and research and college courses.

Universities are beginning to offer internet courses as opposed to the traditional lecture courses. Students log on and do their homework from the convenience of their own home. Rend Lake College has even started making steps towards internet courses.

This semester, I was enrolled in two courses, American Government and Latin American History, where the internet was a significant part of the course. In this class, we were given a log on and password to access the RLC Web page and enter Web Course in a Box, a program which enables teachers to create a class web site on the internet for student access and use through the school's homepage. This course required that we participate in class related forums and have discussions on the subjects presented in class. We were responsible for taking our quizzes on the internet, given time limits and limited tries on the questions.

This was a great way to conduct a class. The quizzes on the internet gave students the opportunity to take their quizzes at their own pace, as their schedule permitted. This was a great advantage for those students, including myself, who

struggle with jobs and other activities on top of their school work load. As opposed to coming to class unprepared for a quiz and failing because they were working the night before and had little time to prepare for the quiz, they are able to log on to the net and take their quiz, when they are at their best, in a comfortable atmosphere.

The forums on the net were also beneficial. They provided opportunities for students to voice their opinions on subjects ranging from gun control to who was the best and worst president. The forums also aided in the understanding of certain subjects in class through forums on that particular subject, where the teacher makes herself available for questions.

So why aren't all classes offered on the internet? Sounds like a good idea, right? Well think about this for a moment. How many times have you gone into the library to check your email or look up information for a class and found the server to be down or unable to connect?

This has happened to everyone at one point or another. Frustrating isn't it? What happens if all classes are put onto the internet and the server is down for a few days? Will the student fail?

This was a problem our classes ran into this semester. Countless times, I tried to log onto the site to take my quiz or add a comment to one of the forums. The server's

disablement left many people searching for a way to complete their assignments. Numerous times, I had required forums completed after the due date because I could not log onto the site because it was down or not connecting.

I am not saying that the idea of conducting courses on the internet is a bad idea. I find it to be a great idea, but how can the schools assure it's students the ability to access the site in order to complete the class in a timely and successful manner?

Because the internet's dependability is so questionable, can a student be fairly graded on their performance in a class where the internet is half of the course? I don't believe so. It is not fair to say this student fails because her test was not completed on time because of an internet error. Basing a student's grade on their participation on forums is questionable if when she tried to post a message the computer froze or refused to post the message.

If the school wants to offer courses on the net, that is great. If they want to have classes using Web Course in a Box, more power to them. But before they jeopardize a student's performance in class and ultimately their grade point average, why not find a way to fix the complications involving the servers, the connections and the computers?

Four Times Staff Members graduate from RLC

The 1999 - 2000 school year is quickly concluding. Many students will graduate, many will transfer to other institutions, and many will return for the 2000- 2001 campaign.

Being a journalist is a five day per week job, sometimes six days. Although the position is rewarded with one credit hour, there is a lot more time involved than one hour a week. Many of the staff members juggle one and two jobs, a full load of classes, on top of working on the newspaper.

The RLC Times staff has worked extremely hard, bringing the students and faculty the latest news on campus. There are nine students behind the publication you know as the Rend Lake College Times.

Four of the nine students will be graduating and prepare for life after Rend Lake. Those students are

Sarah Roberts, Doug Daniels, Pat Hungate, and Jim Peters.

In losing these four we lose our student editor, photographer, and two staff writers. Those are just titles, these four offer a lot more than just a title. This has been proven issue after issue.

Sarah Roberts, the Student Editor has been our leader for this past year. Sarah has dedicated many hours to the publication of the newspaper, edited every story that has been published, and made sure the paper was printed and on campus in a timely manner.

Doug Daniels, was the staff photographer for the past year. If anything news worthy was taking place on campus, Doug had to be there. Doug also was a big part of putting the issues together and wrote articles every month.

Pat Hungate, was one of our staff

campus.

Jim Peters was another one of our staff writers this year. Jim was our sports writer and was obliged to attend nearly every sporting event at Rend Lake. Jim worked with us in his own spare time and didn't receive any college credit for working with us.

Returning to the staff next fall will be News Editor Clinton Jones, Layout Editor Jessica Luschen, Staff Writer Rachel Gartner, Student Writer Tyler Gray, and new Student Editor Ryan Dodson

This group has showed much promise and has worked well together. Look forward to next year's issues to be better than ever. writers this past year. On top of writing articles and keeping the newsroom full of humor, Pat was a big part of the newspaper production and distribution on

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.

Cathy Cross pays Honduras a visit

Pat Hungate
Staff Writer

Cathy Cross is more than an administrative assistant for the Liberal Arts Department, she is a missionary. She recently went on a mission trip to Honduras, with her church, First General Baptist, in McLeansboro.

Cross and 22 others aging from eighth grade to the mid 60's, including her daughter and husband took food to the General Baptist Association's orphanage, and to fix a roof on a duplex at the orphanage. They took \$700 of cereal and other foods to feed the poor children at the public schools. The orphanage has 11 kids, a family of five, and two families of three. The General Baptist Association hopes to have 100 kids. They plan to build a

school. Their purpose with the orphanage is not to adopt the kids but to make them good Hondurans, through Christ and education, so in the future they will make Honduras a better place.

"It was a humbling experience. The people I saw didn't seem unhappy because they were poor, since that is the way they have been their whole lives," said Cross.

The flight to Honduras was only four and a half hours. Cross and the others, stayed at the mission, which is located outside of San Pedro Sula. It is the fastest growing city in Honduras. They cooked their own food, and had to drink bottled water. They stayed one week, Monday through Sunday. trip, but I was glad to get back," said Cross.

"I think if the opportunity came

up again, I and all the others would go back. We enjoyed helping the people out, and we had a great time," said Cross.

"It was kind of like a church camp," Cross said. "We had a place to stay with a kitchen and other appliances."

Cross also enjoyed the tropical weather.

"The temperature down there was nice. It got in the mid 70's at night, and in the 90's and 100's in the day time, and it was very humid. I really enjoyed the whole trip, but I was glad to get back," said Cross.

"I think if the opportunity came up again, I and all the others would go back. We enjoyed helping the people out, and we had a great time," said Cross.

Fun in the sun at RLC Spring Fun Fest

Jessica Luschen
Staff Writer

Once again the Spring Funfest was a success. On April 26, RLC students, faculty, and staff were excused from classes to enjoy entertainment, refreshments, and games on campus from 12 - 4 PM.

Many activities were present, including volleyball, golf putting, free horseback rides, sumo wrestling, karaoke, horseshoes, and many other outdoor activities.

Eight teams participated in the volleyball tournaments. The teams were as follows: JTPA, Allied Health- LPN, Student Services,

AAA, Chaos, Drama Dawgs, and the McLeansboro Foxes. When it came down to the championship game, Chaos and the McLeansboro Foxes were chosen. Chaos won the tournament. Team members include: Julie Ellis (part-time Biology instructor), Grant Ellis (spouse of Julie Ellis), Shannon Fenton student), and Heath Moffett (alumni).

RLC clubs also had a chance to exhibit their organization and raise money.

Besides the fun and games, many organizations had drawings for a variety of items, including a two hundred dollar RLC scholarship and

a 19' television. Jasolyn Smith won a \$200 scholarship. Melena Howard won a 31" TV from the Art League bean bag throw. Professor Mike Mullen won a free back massage from the Nursing Club. Peggy Morris won a Black and White Print donated by Therese Howard.

There was also a karaoke contest. Michael Blakemore received first place, second place went to Zack Mayhew and third place was given to Charissa Blakemore.

Students look forward to participating in the Fall Semester Funfest, which will include more entertainment and activities.

Big Brothers/Big Sisters help neighborhood children

Rachel L. Gartner
Staff Writer

The Big Brothers/Big Sisters program was started on Rend Lake College campus nearly four years ago. This program was brought to light by Rex Duncan, with help from the Jefferson/Franklin county Big Brothers/Big Sisters representatives. President of RLC, Mark Kern, had a son interested in the program and decided that it would be a good idea for the program to be introduced to athletes on campus. Since then, the program has expanded greatly, now including 15 Big Brothers and Big Sisters that are athletes here on campus. The Volunteer program has grown to nearly 20 young people willing to give their time to children around the neighboring area that are in need of a helping hand.

The Big Brothers/Big Sisters program is a plan to help children around the college area that need guidance in their lives. The children involved in the program have been submitted by their parents, whom have asked for the help of the college in order for their children to have a "big brother" or "big sister" like influence in their lives. The students who volunteer for this task must have a background check and a personal interview with the representatives of the program. Once they are found to be suitable for such a program, the students are required to spend at least a hour with their assigned child.

This program has helped the morale of the children and the students involved.

Lindsey Shurtz of Sesser, Ill. spoke of the experience, "The kids are great. Its such a good feeling to know that you are

helping a child." She also added, "It isn't just the fact that you are it weren't for you."

The students that have volunteered for this program have taken time out of their busy schedules to involve themselves in a child's life. A child that might not have anyone else in the world to look up to but their Big Brother or Big Sister. These students should be commended for their good deed and help to influence other students at RLC to join such a program as well.

Ed Ruffino of Co-op and Job Placement, welcomes all students on campus to be a part of the program. If anyone is interested in joining this group of community improving students, they are encouraged to speak to Rich Campbell, who can be reached at his office in the Athletic Department or phoned at 437-5321, ext. 279, or Ruffino, South Oasis, 437-5321, ext. 354.



Cathy Cross holds a souvenir from her trip to Honduras. (Photo by Doug Daniels)

Local artists receive honors

FYI

Two local artists who were recently rewarded at the state level claimed similar honors in the 18th annual Student/Faculty Art Exhibition at Rend Lake College.

Bob Pina of Zeigler received the RLC Foundation Art Award when his oil painting, entitled "Makanda," was chosen as the top entry from 338 submitted. Pina received the award from Foundation Executive Director Pat Mitchell.

The Claxton Award, the second highest, was given to Jo Ann Mondino (West Frankfort) for her acrylic painting, "Spring on the Guadalupe."

In February, Pina and Mondino won first and second respectively, in the Painting category of the annual Illinois Community College Juried Art Exhibit held at Kankakee Community College.

As if that wasn't enough, guests at the opening reception earlier this month were entertained by Pina and his group of musicians once again, as they have done for several years.

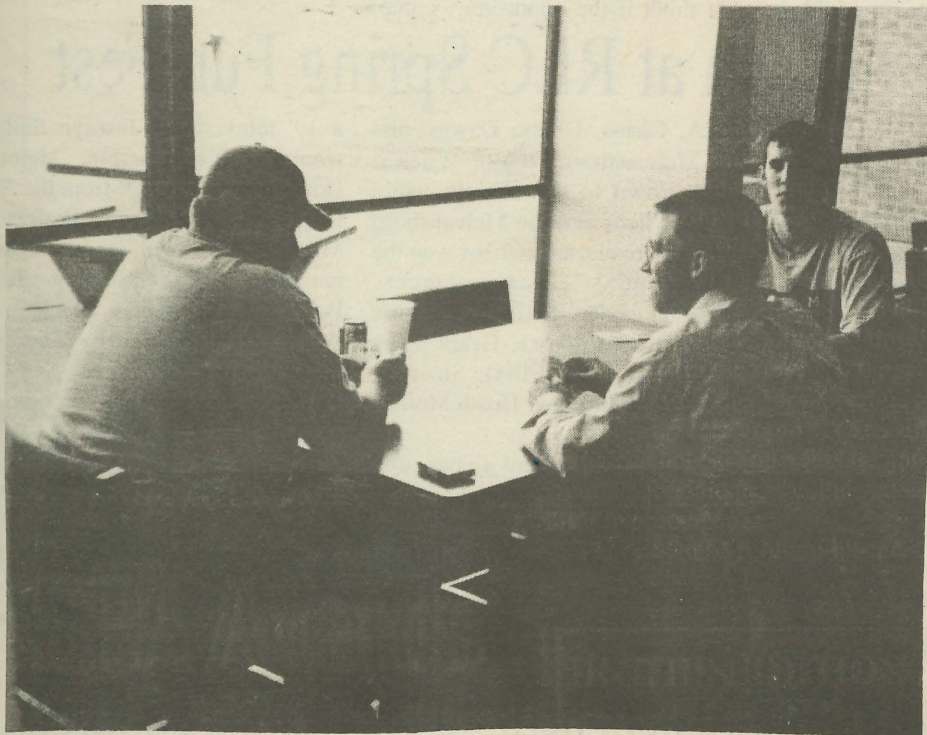
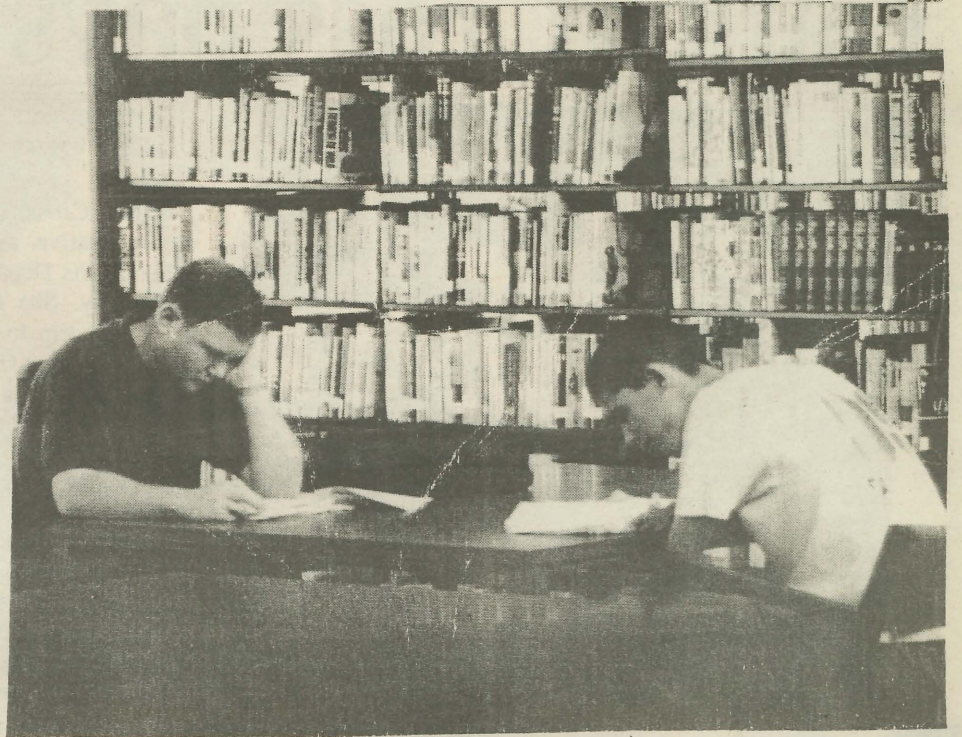
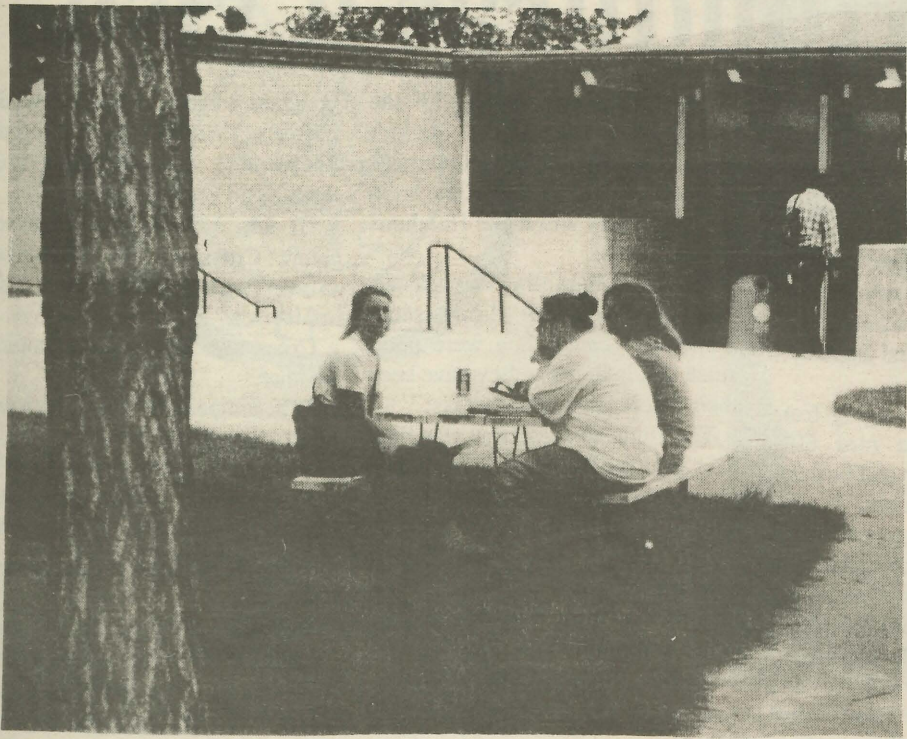
Other winners of various categories included Cortez Hodges (Mt. Vernon), ceramics; Jennifer Betuski (Woodlawn), commercial art; Jodi Karcher (Mt. Vernon), design; Tammy Launay (Mt. Vernon), drawing; Willaim Lamont (Mt. Vernon), illustration; Brandi Bamard (Wayne City), painting; Derrick Martin (Johnsonville), printmaking, and Carilyn Spencer (Mt. Vernon), sculpture.

Serving as juror for the 18th annual Student/Faculty Art Exhibition was Debra Tayes of the Illinois Artisans Shop.

Special guests of the evening were eight scholarship recipients from in-district high schools. Seniors receiving scholarships on the basis of portfolio submissions were: Jennifer Brannon, Benton Consolidated High School; Andrea Bullock, Zach Bean, Suzanne Cockrum, Chad Dudley, Chris McGuire and Holly Tickner, Mt. Vernon Township High School, and Sara Cairns, Sesser-Valier High School.

Receiving the prestigious Mt. Vernon Elks Lodge Scholarship was Amanda Huston (Mt. Vernon).

Students prepare for Finals week (Photos by Doug Daniels)



Memories of Spring Fun Fest 2000 (Photos by Ryan Dodson)

