

**UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN**

STUDENT LEGAL SERVICE

ANNUAL REPORT

July 1, 1998 - June 30, 1999

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I. Attorneys Report

In accordance with the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Student Legal Service Plan the staff attorneys are pleased to submit the 1998-1999 Annual Report to the Student Legal Service Advisory Board, the Board of Trustees and the general University community. The Student Legal Service program is now twenty one years old as a S.O.R.F. funded program. The S.O.R.F. Board approved SLS budget for FY2000 of \$185,1771 with an additional allocation of \$10,000 towards the \$50,000 contingency fund. This budget allows for stability and moderate growth in several budgetary line items, in particular preventative legal education.

Student Legal Service website is located at <http://www.uiuc.edu/unit/SLS>. There students can access information electronically from the comfort of their homes at all hours of the day and night. At this time the website contains general information regarding the office; its location and hours of operation, eligibility to name a few things. It is also linked to the S.O.R.F. web page. There is also included information on court appearances (dress, timeliness, locations and contact numbers); information regarding various important housing issues (security deposits and roommates to name a few); and a substantial collection of links to sources of legal information on the internet (Illinois information, consumer protection, State and Federal laws, and cases). As time progresses our goal is to have all informational brochures accessible on-line. In this reporting period thousands of students and others have accessed SLS website (See Website Statistics page 8).

The commitment to retaining staff on a long term basis has insured the stability of program and the ability of attorneys to provide experienced representation. Thomas Betz is

currently nearing his fourteenth year as a staff attorney with the program. Betz is a 1981 graduate of Wayne State University Law School, a member of the Illinois Bar and an inactive member of the Michigan Bar. Betz serves as a member of Champaign County American Civil Liberties Union Steering Committee and is a member of the Champaign-Urbana Tenant Union Community Advisory Board. Betz is also an elected member of the Champaign County Board. This year he served on the University's Crime Free Multi-Unit Housing Task Force and as a member of the Predatory Lending Task Force of Land of Lincoln Legal Services.

Susan Y. Hesse, a 1982 graduate of the University of Illinois College of Law, is in her eleventh year as a program staff attorney. Hesse is a member of the Illinois and Michigan Bar Associations. She is active with the Champaign County Bar Association, Health Care Consumers and Planned Parenthood.

James P. Biggins is in his first year as an SLS staff attorney. Jim is a 1998 graduate of Southern Illinois University School of Law. He has upgraded computer systems throughout SLS and improved the website as well as contributing three new brochures (domestic battery, spring break and fake ids).

In July of 1998 Thomas E. Betz and Susan Y. Hesse attended the annual conference of the National Legal Aid and Defenders Association, Student Legal Service Division at Toronto, Canada. This annual conference remains the finest source for continuing legal education in the area of law practiced in Student Legal Service offices throughout the country. Betz, Biggins and Hesse also attended the Southeast Regional Conference of NLADA/SLS Division in January of 1999 at New Orleans, Louisiana.

Preventive Legal Education

The Student Legal Service Plan as adopted in 1978 mandates preventive law activities:

[The Students' Attorneys will furnish students with general information concerning management of their personal affairs under the law. The design of this assistance is to educate the student body and to enable individuals to avoid legal difficulties and promote greater concentration on academic pursuits. To this end the Attorneys may provide information to The Daily Illini or other publications in order to educate members of the student body as to their rights and responsibilities; and may speak to groups of students upon request and arrange speakers on practical aspects of the law as the need arises. The Students' Attorneys will make available to students the various informational pamphlets published by the Illinois State Bar Association, other bar associations, and other appropriate items. (SLS Plan at 4).]

During this reporting period the office published one (1) Daily Illini Forum articles. The office published sixteen (16) informational/preventive advertisements in The Daily Illini and the office was mentioned in over thirty one (31) articles in The Daily Illini, and News Gazette.

The office participated in or sponsored eighteen (18) speaking engagements (see pages 15). The office publishes twenty two (22) brochures and four booklets which are in wide circulation on campus.

General Statistical Information

1998 filled out intake forms and had appointments with staff attorneys. 647 cases were opened although not all cases required a court appearance.

450 students were seen on housing related matters. 430 students were interviewed on traffic matters. These two broad topical areas account for forty four (44) percent of the total office intake. (See Statistics pages 5-7.)

Students are well aware of the existence of the program, learning about it in many ways.


(See Statistics page 7.)

It is important when examining the raw statistics that it be kept in mind that for every student seen in the office a minimum of five students use the service through preventative education seminars. Additionally, numerous students use educational materials without direct or indirect use of the office. The web page is widely utilized based upon comments we have received in the office from students.

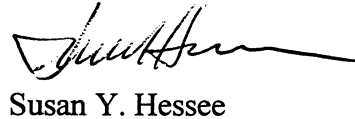
Conclusion

The Student Legal Service Advisory Board and the University community can be proud that the program remains one of the outstanding Student Legal Service programs in the country. The staff looks forward to the 1999-2000 year being exciting and challenging.

Respectfully submitted,


Thomas E. Betz
TEB:JPB:SYH:nd


James P. Biggins


Susan Y. Hessee

II. Statistics
July 1, 1998 - June 30, 1999

Advice Only Matters

Accident	72	Harassment	2
Assault	2	Housing	297
Auto Damage	1	Immigration	8
Bad Checks	1	Insurance	21
Banking	4	Jury Duty	1
Bankruptcy	4	Labor	4
Business	1	Malpractice	1
Certification	6	Miscellaneous	71
City Offense	82	Misdemeanor	21
Civil	2	Name Change	14
Collection	8	Negligence	1
Consumer	155	Parking Tickets	10
Contract	29	Paternity	2
Copyright	1	Personal Injury	15
Crime Victim	5	Power of Attorney	63
Credit Record	6	Small Claims	14
Criminal	73	Student Loan	3
Discipline	28	Tax	3
Discrimination	2	Tort	3
Divorce	18	Towing	7
Domestic Battery	1	Traffic	197
D.U.I.	1	Will	1
Employment	32	Workers Compensation	1
Expungement	8		
False Identification	7		
Family	41		
Felony	1	TOTAL AOs	1351

AO & Open Cases = 1998

Cases Opened

Accident	25
Banking	1
City Offense	54
Collection	5
Consumer	40
Contract	4
Criminal	45
Discipline	4
Domestic Battery	1
D.U.I.	1
Employment	13
Expungement	1
Family	1
Housing	153
Insurance	6
Miscellaneous	12
Misdemeanor	24
Name Change	11
Personal Injury	2
Power of Attorney	2
Small Claims	7
Towing	1
Traffic	233
Workmans Compensation	1
TOTAL	647

Cases Closed

Accident	13
Banking	1
City Offense	43
Collection	2
Consumer	32
Contract	1
Criminal	39
Discipline	2
Discrimination	1
Domestic Battery	1
D.U.I.	1
Employment	6
Expungement	1
Housing	105
Insurance	2
Miscellaneous	9
Misdemeanor	22
Name change	7
Power of Attorney	2
Small Claims	6
Traffic	227
Workman Compensation	1
TOTAL	524

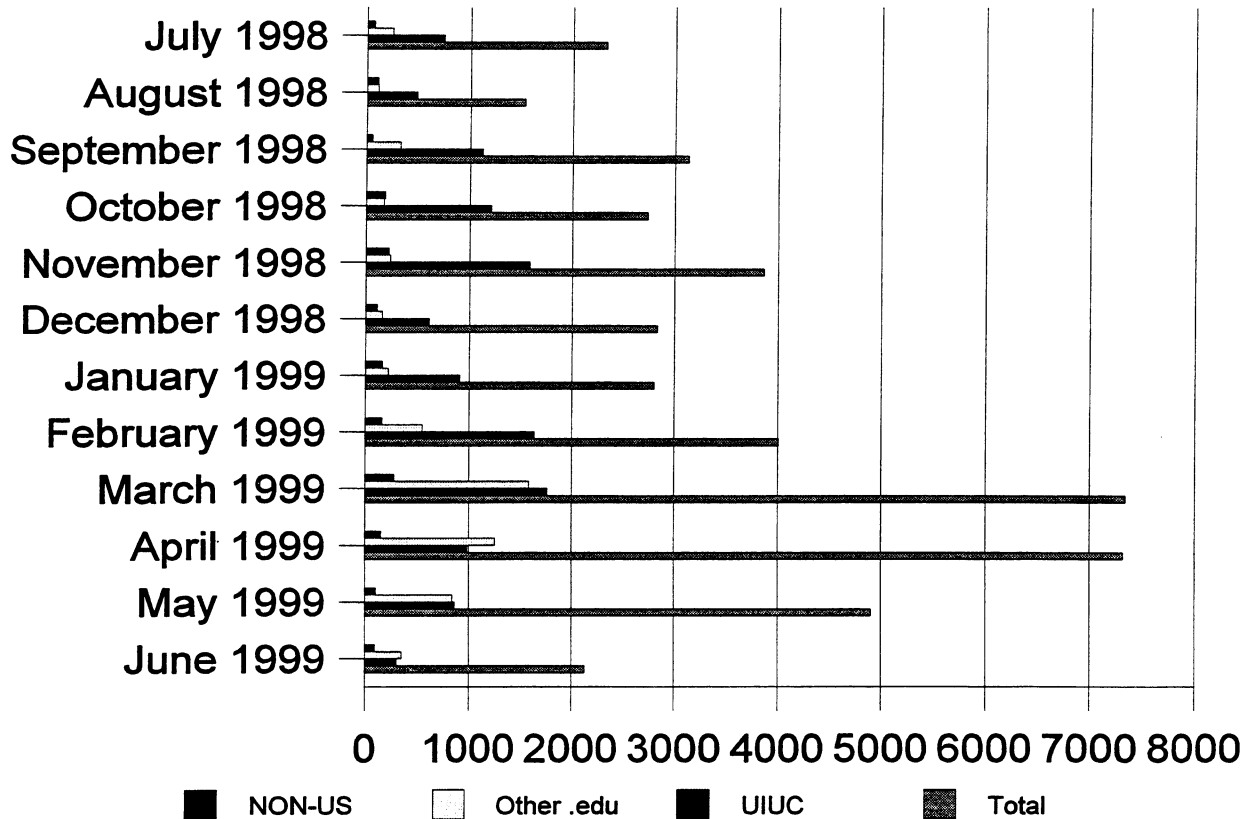
How Students Heard About SLS

Blank	303
Brochure/Flyer	36
Campus Information	123
Court	14
Daily Illini	51
Fees	14
Friends	512
I Book	49
Orientation	29
Parent	2
Police	18
Previous Use	64
Tenant Union	109
Web	27
TOTAL	1351

Class Year

Freshman	77
Sophomore	141
Junior	241
Senior	378
Graduate	407
Non Degree	0
Blank	107
TOTAL	1351

III. Website Statistics



Each month is based on the addition of the weekly statistics kept by Computer and Communications Service Office (CCSO). The months shown do not correspond exactly with the calendar months. Non-US, Other.edu, UIUC, and Total each represent the users who accessed the Student Legal Service web pages, and from where they were accessing the webpage. Non-US means from outside of the United states. Other.edu means from another college or university computer system. UIUC means that the access occurred from a University of Illinois Computer. Keep in mind that many UIUC students use their own computers which would not necessarily be counted as UIUC.

Statistics are calculated on a weekly basis by CCSO, and are posted on www.uiuc.edu/wwwStats/ for general public access. The access reports are only a very rough measure of how many people are actually reading the Web pages. For example, for an HTML page with 5 embedded images, anyone accessing that Web page just one time will generate six accesses to the Web tree, because each image retrieval counts as an "independent" access. The Student Legal Service Homepage and most of the link pages contain seven embedded images. Additionally, anyone with their Web browser set to bring up the UIUC home page as their default home page will generate an access to that web page (and all its embedded images) every time they start up their browser, whether or not they actually read or use that page. The Total line for each organization will, however, reflect ALL accesses to their web pages.

IV. Informational/Preventive Advertisements in Daily Illini

Champaign's Drinking Specials
July 9 and 10, 1998

Student Legal Service Program
Summer 1998 New Student Guide

Student Legal Service Program
August 1998 Move In Edition

Welcome to the University of Illinois
August 24, 1998 Welcome Back Edition

Welcome to the University of Illinois
August 25, 1998 Quad Day Edition

Keggers' Delight
September 22, 1998

Student Legal Service Program
September 23 & 30; October 7 , 14, 21 & 28;
November 11; December 2,

Six Steps Before Signing A Lease
November 6, 9, 13, 16, & 20; and
December 4, 7, 11, 14-19,1998

Happy Birthday Student Legal Service
November 17, 1998

Basic Tenant Rights (Leaflet Insert/16,000)
November 20, 1998

Domestic Battery (Leaflet Insert/16,000)
November 30, 1998

False ID's (Leaflet Insert/16,000)
December 7, 1998

Tips for Winter Break

December 7, 8, 9 10, 11, 14-19, 1998

Spring Break Trip Tips

February 3, 10, 17, 24; and March 3, 10, 1999

Housing Guide (Booklet Insert/16,000)

February 19, 1999

10 Steps To Protect Your Security Deposit

May 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 10, 1998

V. Forum Articles

Fake IDs can get students in trouble
Daily Illini, November 13, 1998

VI. Newspaper Interviews or Articles Mentioning Student Legal Service

Dean position opens in conflict resolution

Daily Illini, July 8, 1998

Students get cheap legal advice

Daily Illini, August 5, 1998

Ruling won't affect student fee, UI says

Daily Illini, September 1, 1998

University services make life easier

Daily Illini Editorial, September 1, 1998

Company lends out fast cash

Daily Illini, September 10, 1998

Demonstration today at loan shop

The News-Gazette, September 11, 1998

Credit cards can be blessing and burden for college students

Daily Illini, September 22, 1998

Racial complaints lodged against complex

The News-Gazette, October 8, 1998

Angry tenants moving on up to different company

Daily Illini, October 12, 1998

Flooded-out tenants say 'no more'

The News-Gazette, October 13, 1998

Tenant Union offers advice to UI lessees

Daily Illini, October 16, 1998

First suspect freed, two others arrested

Daily Illini, October 26, 1998

Shady companies infiltrate campus

Daily Illini, October 28, 1998

Speeders and radar detectors and deer: Law-abiding, honest citizens beware!
Daily Illini, November 17, 1998

Fees students pay each semester split among campus groups
Daily Illini, November 20, 1998

Tenant complaints on campus rampant
Daily Illini, December 8, 1998

Landlord problems a headache for tenants
Daily Illini, December 9, 1998

Reading all of lease pays off for renters
Daily Illini, December 10, 1998

Frozen pipes lead to damaged apartments
Daily Illini, January 19, 1999

If problems persist, students can take it to court
Daily Illini, Housing Guide, January 25, 1999

Harvard owner arranging other housing for 24 ousted tenants
The News-Gazette, January 29, 1999

Workers to shore up Harvard walls
The News-Gazette, January 30, 1999

Harvard crack shored up as tenants weigh options
Daily Illini, February 1, 1999

Students reclaim possessions
The News-Gazette, February 6, 1999

Waiting to sign a lease may be advantageous
Daily Illini, February 8, 1999

Solutions to Spring Break snafus
Daily Illini, February 10, 1999

SORF supports campus groups, events
Daily Illini, February 23, 1999

Students pay for res-hall damages
Daily Illini, February 25, 1999

Last-minute planning hits students' wallets
Daily Illini, March 10, 1999

Party people unite: Scout rocks out spring break
Daily Illini, March 12, 1999

Supreme Court case will have an effect on University groups
Daily Illini, March 31, 1999

VII. Speaking Engagements & Events

August 17, 1998	20 th Annual Campus Resource Fair
August 18, 1998	Orientation for International Students
August 25, 1998	Quad Day
October 25, 1998	Tenant Workshop (FAR)
October 26, 1998	Tenant Workshop (LAR)
October 27, 1998	Tenant Workshop (Snyder)
October 28, 1998	Tenant Workshop (Garner)
November 1, 1998	Tenant Workshop (Saunders)
November 2, 1998	Tenant Workshop (Townsend)
November 3, 1998	Tenant Workshop (Scott)
November 4, 1998	Tenant Workshop (Hopkins)
November 9, 1998	Tenant Workshop (Evans)
November 11, 1998	Tenant Workshop (Allen)
November 16, 1998	Alpha Gamma Sigma RE: Alcohol Laws, Search, Seizure
January 15, 1999	Orientation for International Students
March 1, 1999	Alpha Delta Pi RE: Alcohol, Insurance
March 24, 1999	Lambda Chi Alpha RE: Alcohol
June 11, 1999	Orientation for International Students

VIII. Brochures/Booklets

Brochures

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| Alcohol Laws in Illinois Students | General Legal Advice for International |
| Arrest Card | Guidelines for Throwing a Party |
| Bar--Opoly | Guidelines for Traffic Offenses |
| Campus Cash (Fall 1998) | Information on Copyright |
| Can You Afford A Car | Marijuana Laws |
| Changing Your Name | Sexual Violence |
| City Offenses | Spring Break in Florida (Spring, 1999) |
| Consumer Rights | Student Legal Service Program |
| Court Supervision | Your Court Appearance |
| Domestic Battery (Spring 1999) | Your Personal Invitation |
| False Ids (Spring 1999) | Your Security Deposit |
| | Zero Tolerance |

Booklets

- Housing Guide
- Know Your Legal Rights
- Roommate Survival Guide
- Students and the Law

IX. Special Letters of Acknowledgment

Client Letter

Graduate Housing Graduate Assistant Training

NLADA Summer Conference

Client

Client

Client

Client

Clients

Alpha Delta Pi

Client

Client

Client

Parent

X. Special Requests for Brochure Distribution

Chemistry Department/Graduate Packets
200 Student Legal Service Brochures
July 1, 1998

Office of International Student Affairs
1,000 Student Legal Service Brochures
July 15, 1998

All UIUC Fraternities and Sororities
1500 Zero Tolerance, City Rules and Guide to Throwing a Party Brochures
October 12, 1998

Office of International Student Affairs
200 Student Legal Service Brochures
November 30, 1998

All UIUC Fraternities and Sororities
1500 Spring Break Brochures
February 18, 1999

Residential Life/Housing Division
30 Domestic Violence Brochures
June 21, 1999

XI. Student Legal Service Listings

First Call for Help
1998-1999

Handbook for Graduate Students and Advisers
1999, Graduate College

Illini Book
1998-1999

UIUC Student/Staff Directory
1998-1999

14 • the Daily Illini • Thursday, July 9, 1998

Friday, July 10, 1998 • the Daily Illini • 11

Champaign's Drinking Specials

\$500 Fine - Possession or Consumption of Alcohol under age 19.

\$250 Fine - Possession or Consumption of Alcohol under age 21.

\$1,000 Fine and/or 364 Days in Jail - False ID.

\$320 Fine - Possession of Unlicensed Keg.

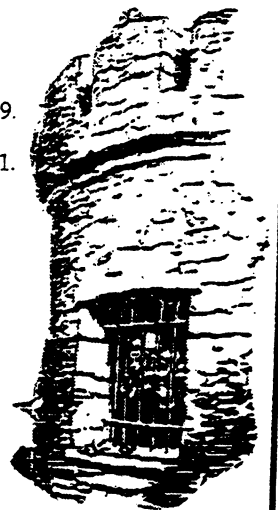
\$1,000 Fine and/or 364 Days in Jail - Driving Under the
Influence of Alcohol.

*If you think you can't get caught - **THINK AGAIN!***

Student Legal Service
324 Illini Union
1401 W. Green Street
Urbana, IL 61801
(217) 333-9053

Open 8:30 - 4:30 Monday - Friday
Closed 12 - 1 for Lunch

Paid for by S.O.R.F.



Harvard crack shored up as tenants weigh options

Workers try to secure building to retrieve property as former tenants look for new homes

by The Daily Illini

Workers began shoring up a cracked wall of The Harvard apartment building this weekend. Residents should be able to enter their apartments to retrieve more of their things today or Tuesday.

Landlord Dave Barr said it was likely that representatives from Barr Real Estate will accompany residents into the building at 806 S. Third St., Champaign, to retrieve most of their belongings. Necessities will be moved out first and then furniture.

We're hoping early next week to get the residents in to get their things. They're working as fast as they possibly can.

— Dave Barr
Harvard landlord

"We're hoping early next week to get the residents in to get their things," Barr said. "They're working as fast as they possibly can."

The residents will be released from their leases. Even after the crack is stabilized, more long-term work will have to be done to make the building habitable, Barr said.

Rebecca Bloch, former tenant

and senior in communications, said although Barr has been taking care of her she is nervous about how the situation will turn out.

"Barr has been really accommodating," Bloch said. "A lot of us are really scared."

For the time being, most of the residents are staying at the Atrium apartment building at 1306 N. Lincoln Ave., Urbana. They are paying \$100 a week for the apartments. Some of the residents have

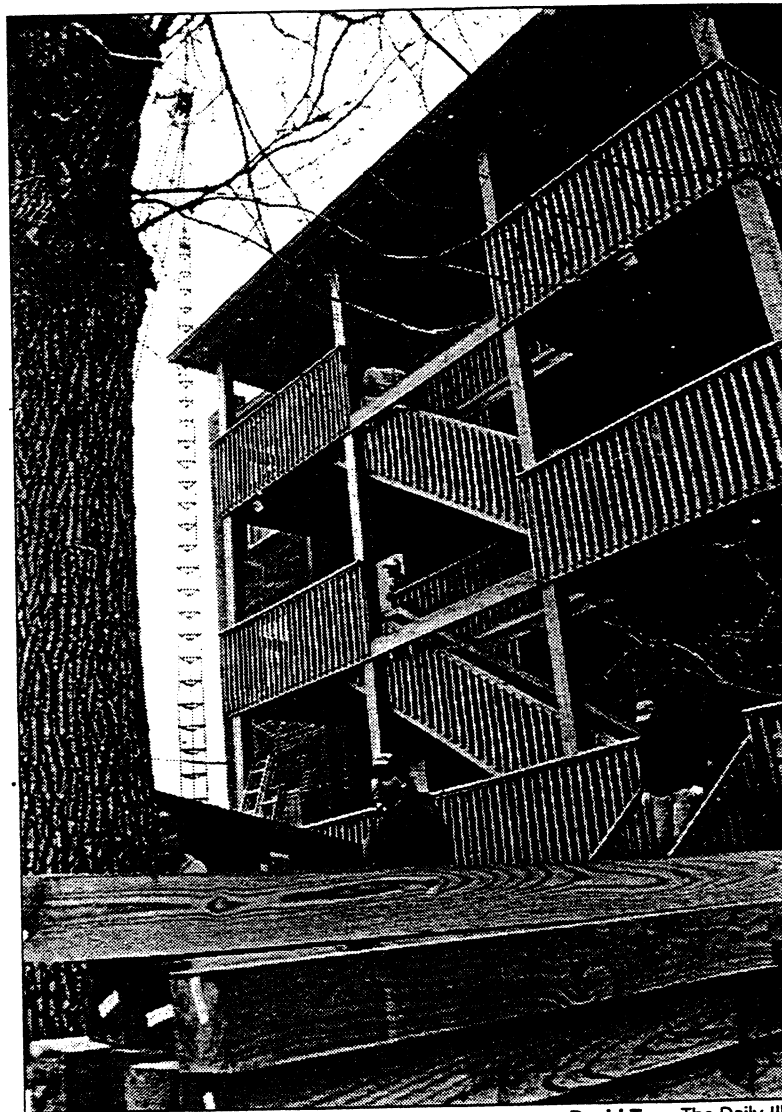
already been moved into other permanent housing. Residents staying at the Atrium can stay in the apartments permanently, Barr said.

Even though they have housing, many tenants are still without some necessities. Thursday, the residents gave workers lists of things they wanted retrieved, but in many cases the lists were cut short, Bloch said.

The workers focused on the essentials like clothes, but Bloch said she wanted to get some of the things that cannot be replaced.

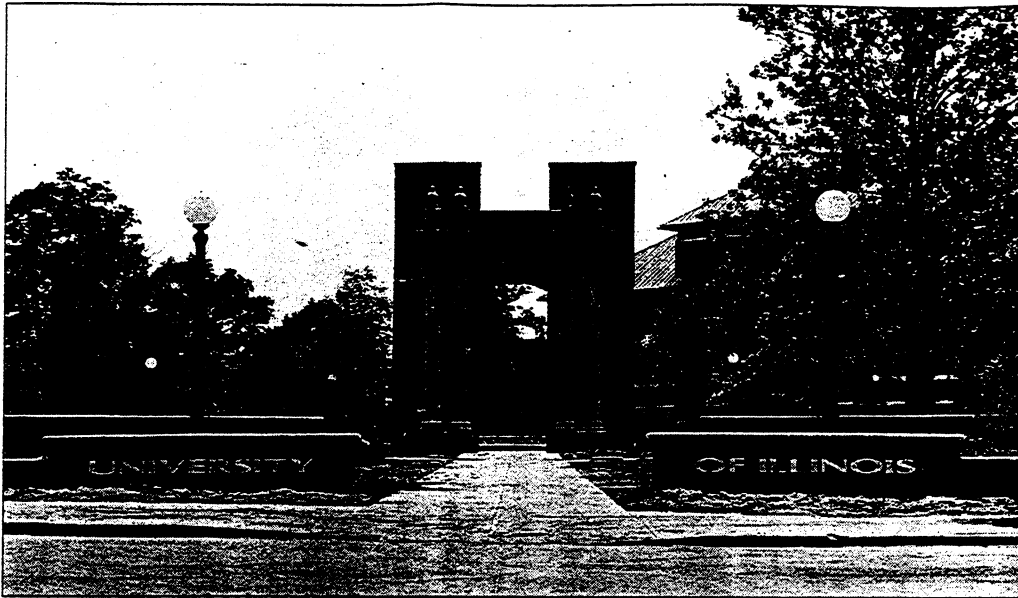
Bloch said Student Legal Services has been helpful, but that she was going to seek outside counsel.

"We're very much in limbo, but not completely in the dark," Bloch said.



David Tran The Daily Illi

The employees of Contractors Plus Corporation prepare to leave The Harvard, 806 S. Third St., after their shift ended Saturday afternoon. The workers secured the floors of the building with wooden posts to prevent the south side wall from collapsing.



New gateway to University

by K. Kal Lwanga
Senior writer

Call it the Mystery of the Unmarked Building in the Not-Quite-Finished Park.

Since fall of last year, a lot of activity has been going on at the University's northeast corner of campus and it's been perplexing students, staff and faculty alike. It is on that corner — Lincoln Avenue and Illinois Street — that the University has been constructing the new "eastern gateway" to the Urbana-Champaign campus. Think of the Alma Mater statue at Wright and Green streets, and go only several blocks to the east.

The story begins almost 125 years ago — sort of.

Back in the University's infancy, the campus' second building opened in 1871. Called — in a fit of creativity — University Hall, the building stood at the sight of the present-day Illini Union. Time was not kind to the imposing structure. The elements and neglect left the building unusable by the 1930s, and it was torn down to make way for the Union in 1940. Only two things survived of the first building constructed specifically for the University: a cupola containing a clock, which now sits on top of the Union, and the stone portal that marked the building's entrance.

While the cupola survived to see sunlight, the portal — consisting of four columns and a stone lintel bearing the legend "Learning and Labor," the motto of the University — was put into storage and promptly forgotten.

It wasn't until a couple of years ago that old University Hall's entryway was rediscovered, covered by plant growth in the middle of a field. The find sparked the series of events that ended with the portal's rebirth as the

focal point of the Hallene Gateway Park.

In addition to the new welcoming arch now in place, Gateway Park will contain a fountain, benches to enjoy the pretty view and the various shrubs and greenery one normally associates with a park. The new office of Admissions and Records building, opened in November, completes this pretty picture.

The project was made possible in part by a donation of more than \$1 million from the Hallene family. Alan and Phyllis Hallene are second-generation University graduates, who also have children who attended Illinois. The Hallenes wanted their funds to help establish a landmark for the campus to enjoy. The unearthing of the portal coincided with the Hallene donation, and the University wasted no time in putting together a perfect match.

The University's plans don't end with the arch and new Admissions building. The board of trustees approved and groundbreaking has already taken place for a new Spurlock Museum of World Cultures. The planned 36,000-square-foot building will go up just across the street from the gateway, near the corner of Gregory Avenue and California Street. It, too, was made possible by a donation, in this case by the Spurlock family of Indiana.

But that was the history. Now back to the mystery.

Despite being open for several months, the Admissions and Records Building is not quite completed. One of the more obvious of the missing finishing touches: lack of signage.

Most University buildings are marked by the familiar brown and white lettered metal signs topped by an orange and blue "University of Illinois" standard. The Admissions building is a glaring exception. You would

be excused if you walked past the structure and didn't even know it was inhabited. This has caused headaches for students, faculty and staff who seek the building to get copies of transcripts or to drop off grades, among the many functions performed there.

Compounding the confusion is the building's address: 901 W. Illinois Street. While the structure does indeed have a side facing Illinois, its two entrances face Lincoln Street to the east and Gregory Avenue to the west. Even worse, the roadway it's nearest to is California Street. You can't actually get into it directly from Illinois Street. Chalk it up to mystery, or more likely, a University bureaucrat whose sense of direction is terribly skewed.

As for the Not-Quite-Finished Park, progress slowly but surely continues toward making it, well, park-like. Though several trees dot the landscape, there's plenty of mud and dirt piled around to still fool unsuspecting passersby into thinking the area is an ongoing construction site.

Workers began rolling out sod in early July. A nearby parking lot is still uncompleted. Including the plans for the Spurlock Museum, campus denizens will have to wait until after the new millennium in 2001, before the plans for the area are fully realized.

By spring, however, Hallene Gateway Park should look presentable enough to rival Alma Mater statue as the most photographed place on campus. And that's exactly what the University had in mind.

"It'll be another place to have a photo opportunity at graduation," Associate Director of Admissions Martha Moore said last year.

And hopefully by that time, graduates will know exactly where to go for their transcripts after getting a picture taken in front of the arch.

STUDENT LEGAL SERVICE

the University of Illinois • Urbana-Champaign



STUDENT LEGAL SERVICE PROGRAM

324 ILLINI UNION
1401 W. GREEN, URBANA

HOURS: M-F 8:30-12:00, 1:00-4:30

PHONE: (217) 333-9053 FAX (217) 333-0474
CHECK OUT OUR WEB PAGE www.uiuc.edu/univ/SLS

Students sometimes experience problems that make their lives at the University more difficult than they need to be....

Problems frequently encountered by students include career indecision, academic difficulty, alcohol and drug-related problems, difficulty in family, dating, and other relationships and feelings of low self-esteem, anxiety, depression, or loneliness. The Counseling Center offers a variety of services to help the student cope with such difficulties. Trained professionals are available to work directly with students who experience these and other problems. The Center also provides a variety of courses including workshops; by the Reading and Study Methods Program; career and personality tests offered by the Testing Office; and self-help resources through the Self-Help Information Center located in the Undergraduate Library. We at the Counseling Center seek to be aware and sensitive to both the regular needs of all including students of color, students with disabilities, women, international students, and gay and lesbian students. For initial appointment, or for more information about any of the Counseling Center's services, call 333-3704. Services have been prepaid through the student health fee. All counseling is completely confidential.

COUNSELING CENTER

Office of Student Affairs / 212 Turner Student Services Building
610 East John Street, Champaign, 333-3704 • 337 Mckinley
Health Center 1109 South Lincoln Avenue, Urbana, 333-8360

STUDENT LEGAL SERVICE

At the University of Illinois • Urbana-Champaign



STUDENT LEGAL SERVICE PROGRAM

324 ILLINI UNION

1401 W. GREEN. URBANA

HOURS. M-F 8:30-12:00, 1:00-4:30

PHONE: (217) 333-9053 FAX (217) 333-0474

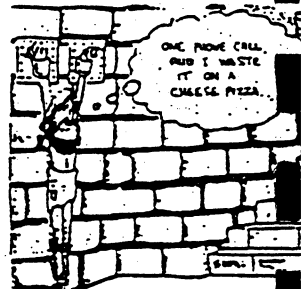
CHECK OUT OUR WEB PAGE www.uiuc.edu/unit/SLS

... never know the difference."

... out, maybe it's time to rethink attending col...

WELCOME TO THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

The Student Legal Service Program at the University of Illinois welcomes you to campus. Each year our office serves nearly 3,000 students regarding various legal problems. The office is staffed by three full-time attorneys. The purpose of the program is to inform students of the practical aspects of the law as applied to their individual problems. Representation in court is available in many cases.



WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

All students who are enrolled at the University of Illinois who have not received a refund of the \$7.00 Student Organization Resource Fee (SORF) are eligible to use the service. The Student Legal Service cannot even give you general advice if you have refunded your SORF fee.

WHAT KIND OF SERVICES ARE AVAILABLE?

The office provides counseling and representation in landlord-tenant, traffic, misdemeanors, name changes, small claims, city ordinance violations, and in many other areas too numerous to list. All questions and concerns are kept completely confidential.

HOW TO USE THE SERVICE

To get help, you must come to the office in person and show your student identification and necessary research done prior to your appointment. Legal advice will not be given over the telephone. This policy is for the protection of your privacy.

STUDENT LEGAL SERVICE

324 ILLINI UNION

333-9053

Hours: 8:30-12:00

and 1:00-4:30

Monday through Friday

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STUDENT LEGAL SERVICE

324 ILLINI UNION



333-9053

Hours: 8:30-12:00

and 1:00-4:30

Monday through Friday

STUDENT LEGAL SERVICE
PRESENTS
in widescreen panavision



KEGGER'S DELIGHT
a Kafkaesque tour de farce
See *Fines so high they hit Jupiter*

★ Starring: Bill DiNyro
Murl Strep

★ Costarring a cast of student back lot extras

Rules Produced by:
Champaign City Council
Assistant Director and Enforcement
Assistance by: Champaign Police
Department
Production Assistance: Champaign
County Circuit Court

The Critics are Raving

"A rollicking romp through the labyrinth of local government...truth is stranger than fiction."
Gene Shallot

"Frightening...Why wouldn't students get a free 'K' license and avoid \$3,600 in fines?"
Jean Ziskol

"Two thumbs down...The plot goes beyond absurdist theater, it is impossible to believe that students would not obtain a free 'K' license to prevent getting hit with thousands of dollars in fines."
Roger Egbert

"A refreshing dose of cinematic emotionalism... The performance of DiNyro feigning ignorance of the 'K' license law makes him an Oscar contender"
Pauline Cool

What Theatergoers Are Saying

"Before I had my keg party, I went to Student Legal Service. I obtained my free 'K' license at City Hall and never saw hide or hare of the cops."
T.B., UIUC undergrad

"I'll go to City Hall for a free 'K' license before my next party - I can't afford a \$310 minimum fine."
S.H., UIUC grad student

"I laughed, I cried, I kissed \$310.00 good-bye; next time I'll go to City Hall for my 'K' license."
J.P., UIUC law student

Rated K - get your keg license

Student Legal Service
324 Illini Union
333-9053

Paid for by SORF

Wednesday, December 2, 1998 • the Daily Illini • 13


Wednesday, November 11, 1998 • the Daily Illini • 7

12 • the Daily Illini • Wednesday, October 7, 1998 14, 21, 28, 1998

Wednesday, September 30, 1998 • the Daily Illini • 11

22 • the Daily Illini • Wednesday, September 23, 1998

**STUDENT
LEGAL SERVICE**
At the University of Illinois • Urbana-Champaign



**STUDENT LEGAL
SERVICE PROGRAM**
324 ILLINI UNION
1401 W. GREEN. URBANA
HOURS. M-F 8:30-12:00, 1:00-4:30
PHONE: (217) 333-9053 FAX (217) 333-0474
CHECK OUT OUR WEB PAGE www.uiuc.edu/unit/SLS

6

Student Legal Service *presents*

Six Steps Before Signing A Lease

1. **Don't Rush** into signing a lease for Fall of 1999 in Fall of 1998. While the early bird gets the worm-keep in mind that you want an apartment, not a worm.

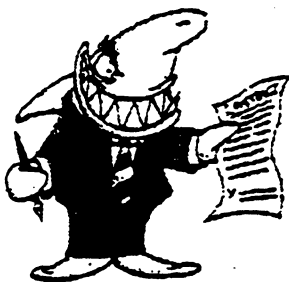
2. Know the **complaint history** of the landlord. Check the history with the Tenant Union at 326 Illini Union. You can easily rent from a landlord with no complaints. Don't settle for a landlord with a bad complaint history.

3. Don't sign a lease for a building that **hasn't been built**. This is unsafe regardless of the promises the landlord makes to induce you to sign.

4. Know your prospective roommate(s)--be sure no semester abroad or weddings are looming.

5. **Read the lease!** Your rights and obligations are governed by the lease. There is very little law that protects you as a tenant, so you must protect yourself!

6. **Get it in writing!** If you want the place painted, want notice before the landlord enters your apartment, etc. you must have this written into the lease. If it's not in writing, you are out of luck.



Student Legal Service
324 Illini Union
1401 W. Green Street
Urbana, IL 61801
333-9053/333-0474 fax
www.uiuc.edu/unit/SLS
Paid for by S.O.R.F

Happy Birthday STUDENT LEGAL SERVICE



20 YEARS OLD AND STILL GOING STRONG!

Student Legal Service proudly celebrates twenty years of:

- protecting the right of U of I students
- fighting landlord abuse of student tenants
- defending civil rights and civil liberties
- making the law work for students

324 Illini Union
1401 W. Green, Urbana
phone 333-9053
fax 333-0474

hours m-f 8:30-12:00 & 1:00-4:30

www.uiuc.edu/unit/SLS

Who is eligible?

All students enrolled at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign who have not received a refund of the \$7.00 Student Organization Resource Fee (SORF) are eligible to use the Student Legal Service.

Purpose of the Student Legal Service

The purpose of the Student Legal Service is to inform students of practical aspects of the law as applied to their individual problems.

In addition, in-court representation is available in many cases. Priority is given to matters for which a student would be financially unable to retain a private attorney. This is determined by income guidelines established by the Student Legal Service Plan. It is believed that a majority of students will qualify for individual representation under these guidelines.

Location and Hours

The Student Legal Service is located at 324 Illini Union (third floor, North Wing). The phone number is (217)333-9053. The office is open from 8:30 AM to 12:00 noon, and from 1:00 PM to 4:30 PM Monday thru Friday throughout the school year, including summer sessions. The office is closed on Saturdays, Sundays, and University holidays.

How to Use the Service

To use the Student Legal Service, you must come to the office in person. You will be required to show your student identification card, and you will be asked to fill out an intake questionnaire providing a brief description of your legal problem or question. This makes it possible for any necessary research to be done prior to your appointment. Normally you will not have to wait longer than three days for your appointment. If you have a legal problem or anticipate one, give it your early attention. Don't wait until the day before you are to appear in court to contact in the Student Legal Service.

The Staff

The Staff of the Student Legal Service consists of three full-time attorneys, one full-time secretary and several part-time law student interns from the University's College of Law who work under the supervision of the attorneys.

Attorneys and their Clients

In discharging their responsibilities at Student Legal Service, the staff attorneys are subject to professional ethics. The following policies are in accordance with those professional ethical responsibilities.

Confidentiality

An attorney is sworn to preserve the confidences of the client. This rule applies equally to those persons who work with the attorney. Information concerning your case or the contents of your file will under no circumstances be released to third parties without your written authorization. There are no exceptions. You should feel free to discuss openly and candidly all aspects of your problem which you feel may have a bearing on the outcome.

Zealous Representation

The attorney assigned to your case is obligated to zealously represent your interests within the bounds of the law.

The attorneys at the Student Legal Service will at all times exercise independent, professional judgment in assessing the merits of a particular matter and in determining whether legal services will be given to an eligible student in that matter.

STUDENT LEGAL SERVICE PRESENTS:

BASIC TENANT RIGHTS

The old saying, "Knowledge is power," is never more true than when you are dealing with an overbearing landlord. If you do not know your legal rights as a tenant, or fail to exercise your rights, you stand a strong chance of being taken advantage of and, quite possibly, losing hundreds or thousands of dollars. The following enumeration of your rights as a tenant under Illinois law and the City of Urbana Municipal Ordinances should help you overcome the knowledge gap between you and your landlord. Note: this list is not exhaustive nor is it intended to substitute for legal advice which you should obtain if you encounter a problem with your current or prospective landlord. **KNOW YOUR RIGHTS!**

1. **YOUR LANDLORD MUST GO TO COURT TO EVICT YOU.** This process, while expedited, takes at minimum a week or two and the judge will almost certainly give you some brief additional time to move even if the landlord has cause to evict you.
2. **BEFORE INITIATING AN EVICTION ACTION,** your landlord must give you written notice of the basis for which he is seeking the eviction--a 5 day notice for failure to pay rent and a 10 day notice for other lease violations. The 5 day rent due violation is a grace period; that is, if you pay the full rent due within the five days, the landlord cannot evict you. The 10 day notice is not a grace period but you may be able to work out the problem with the landlord such that he decides not to take you to court.
3. **YOU HAVE A RIGHT TO CONTEST** the landlord's attempt to evict you in which case the landlord must prove by clear and convincing evidence that he has the right to his premises back.
4. **THE LANDLORD CANNOT ENGAGE IN SELF-HELP** means to evict you such as by cutting off your utilities or changing the lock on your door.
5. **THE LANDLORD CANNOT COME INTO YOUR APARTMENT WITHOUT YOUR PERMISSION EXCEPT IN CIRCUMSTANCE SPECIFIED IN THE "ACCESS" CLAUSE IN YOUR LEASE** or without prior notice if you live in Urbana.
6. **YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO CALL THE POLICE IF THE LANDLORD OR** his agents forcibly come into your apartment to collect rent or harass you. If you tell the landlord or his agents to leave and they refuse to do so, you can file a complaint against them for trespass; although it may be difficult to get local police to accept the formal complaint.
7. **YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO "QUIET ENJOYMENT" OF THE PREMISES.** The landlord cannot initiate major renovations in your apartment or in the complex which interfere with your "quiet enjoyment" of the premises. (Your landlord can, of course, make necessary repairs to the premises.)

8. **YOUR LANDLORD MUST PROVIDE YOU WITH THE SAME APARTMENT** which he rented to you and cannot compel you to accept a different apartment than the one you rented.
9. **IF YOUR APARTMENT IS NOT READY FOR OCCUPANCY** on the date you are to move in, you have the right to terminate your lease and get your prepaid rent and security deposit back plus other damages, if you incur them, such as moving expenses, storage, etc. Be careful not to sign addendums which waive your right to possession.
10. **YOUR LANDLORD MUST PROVIDE YOU WITH AN APARTMENT WHICH IS "HABITABLE"** and must maintain your apartment in liveable condition throughout your tenancy. If your apartment is located within the city limits of Urbana or Champaign which have local building codes, "habitability" is measured by compliance with the building code in question; elsewhere, "habitability" is determined directly by the courts.
11. **YOUR LANDLORD CANNOT CHANGE THE TERMS OF YOUR LEASE** during the lease without your agreement. This agreement must be based on an exchange of benefits known as "consideration."
12. **YOUR LANDLORD CANNOT CHARGE YOU EXORBITANT FINES** or penalties for prohibited conduct on your part. Any fines and/or penalties provided in your lease must be reasonably related to the losses the landlord might actually suffer if you commit the acts which are prohibited.
13. **YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO SUBLEASE YOUR APARTMENT.** Your landlord can object only if he has good commercial reason; for example, if your prospective sublessee is a bad credit risk or a known troublemaker. Avoid leases where sublease fees are charged.
14. **YOUR LANDLORD CANNOT DISCRIMINATE AGAINST YOU** based on your race, sex, ethnic or national origin, marital status, age or sexual preference, your status as a student, or based upon children in the household.

Be Aware! Failure to assert your legal rights promptly may result in a waiver of your ability to do so later. See a lawyer!



**STUDENT LEGAL
SERVICE PROGRAM**

324 Illini Union
1401 W. Green Street
Urbana, IL 61801
(217)333-9053/(217)333-0474 fax

Monday-Friday
8:30 A.M. - 12 Noon
1:00-4:30 P.M.
Web: www.uiuc.edu/unit/SLS

Paid for by S.O.R.F.

Daily Illini insert (16,000)
November 30, 1998

STUDENT LEGAL SERVICE

At the University of Illinois
Urbana-Champaign

What You Need to Know About Domestic Battery



324 Illini Union
1401 W. Green Street
Urbana

Hours: M-F 8:30-12 & 1-4:30

Phone: (217)333-9053

Fax: (217)333-4047

Web Site: www.uiuc.edu/unit/SLS

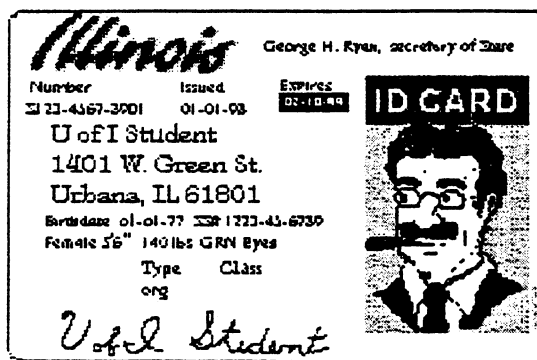
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Insert Daily Illini on 12/7/98

STUDENT LEGAL SERVICE

At the University of Illinois
Urbana-Champaign

FAKE ID'S



324 Illini Union
1401 W. Green street
Urbana, Illinois 61801

Hours: M-F 8:30-12 & 1-4:30

Phone: (217) 333-9053

Fax: (217) 333-0474

Web Site: www.uiuc.edu/unit/SLS

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Finals Guide • December 14-19, 1998 • *the Daily Illini* • A27

B6 • *the Daily Illini* • Friday, December 11, 1998

22 • *the Daily Illini* • Thursday, December 10, 1998

10 • *the Daily Illini* • Wednesday, December 9, 1998

Tuesday, December 8, 1998 • *the Daily Illini* • 21

8 • *the Daily Illini* • Monday, December 7, 1998

TIPS FOR

Winter Break

Before you take off on your hard earned winter break, please:

1. Make sure you have **renter's insurance**. Winter break is a prime time for burglars. If you can't afford insurance, take your valuables with you!
2. A common means of breaking into apartments is the use of the pass key; however, you should still **lock all doors and windows**.
3. **Don't shut off the heat** in your apartment! This will lead to frozen pipes and major destruction. Check with your landlord to see what temperature you should maintain and leave the thermostat at least 2 degrees higher than what the landlord recommends. Tenants in past years have been billed as much as \$14,000 for frozen pipes.
4. **Inventory your personal items** which have a quick sale value. Keep a written list of serial numbers of TV's, stereos, CD player. If a theft takes place this information can help police investigate. Brand your CD's.
5. **Don't leave your car parked** on the street while you're on break. Streets are routinely plowed/cleaned during break. Your car will be towed/ticketed and unavailable when you return to campus. You can expect a minimum charge of \$50 to rescue your vehicle.
6. **Check your lease**. If you are going to return on January 6, 1997, you may accumulate five days of late charges unless you prepay January rent or your lease provides for a free grace period.

Student Legal Service

324 Illini Union • Hours: 8:30 a.m. - 12 noon and 1:00 - 4:30 p.m.

Paid for by SORF

STUDENT LEGAL SERVICES

SPRING BREAK

MARCH 13-21



TRIP TIPS

AVOID TRAVEL SCAMS!!!

- DOES THE PRICE SEEM *TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE?*
- HAVE YOU BEEN *SPECIALLY SELECTED* OR ARE YOU A *WINNER* FOR THE PRIZE OF GETTING RIPPED OFF?
- DO YOU HAVE TO *WAIT 60 DAYS* BEFORE YOU CAN USE YOUR PRIZE AND REALIZE THAT THEY STOLE YOUR MONEY? CREDIT CARD CHARGES MUST BE DISPUTED WITHIN 30 DAYS.
- DO NOT GIVE YOUR CREDIT CARD NUMBER OVER THE PHONE, OR MAKE ANY IMMEDIATE DECISIONS.
- DO YOU KNOW WHO YOU ARE DEALING WITH? WHAT IS THE STREET ADDRESS OF THE COMPANY YOU ARE DEALING WITH? WHAT IS THE FULL NAME AND POSITION OF THE PERSON YOU ARE GIVING YOUR MONEY TO? IS THE COMPANY LOCATED IN ANOTHER STATE?
- CHECK OUT THESE WEB SITES BEFORE YOU WRITE YOUR CHECK:

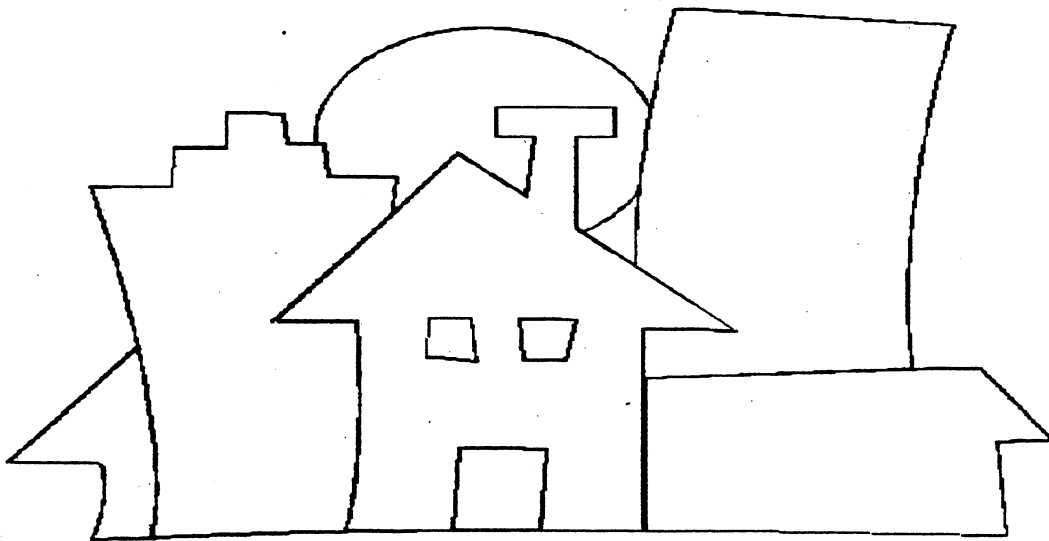
www.dot.gov/airconsumer/flyrights.htm
www.ustoa.com/ustoa/home/smart.html
www.bestfares.com/scam/stories/s56.htm (provided only for scam information)
www.uiuc.edu/unst/SLS

BE SURE TO CHECK OUT OUR SPRING BREAK BROCHURE IN THE OFFICE.

324 ILLINI UNION, 1401 W. Green, Urbana. PHONE 333-9053. FAX 333-0474
HOURS M-F 8:30-12:00 & 1:00-4:30
PAID FOR BY S.O.R.F.

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS - URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

STUDENT LEGAL SERVICE



HOUSING GUIDE

Check out our website www.uiuc.edu/unit/SLS

Paid for by S.O.R.F.

Copyright 1998 Student Legal Service

324 Illini Union

STUDENT LEGAL SERVICE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS, URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

DAMAGE DEPOSIT

10 STEPS TO PROTECT YOUR SECURITY DEPOSIT

STEP 1: Call the owner or manager two weeks before you move out to arrange a joint inspection of the apartment. Be sure to clean your apartment completely and have all of your belongings removed before the time of your appointment.

STEP 2: Before each appointment, prepare a complete written inventory of the condition of the rental unit. Be very detailed and specific for each room. Have two copies of the inventory, and keep one after having the landlord sign it. Forms are available at the Tenant Union.

STEP 3: Get a camera and a witness. A witness can be anyone 18 or older who is NOT a roommate or a family member. Take lots of pictures that show how clean you left the apartment. Walk through your apartment with your witness and have her/him take notice of its condition.

STEP 4: If the landlord appears for the appointment, be sure to have him/her sign and date YOUR COPY of the inventory form. Be sure to still use a witness and a camera.

STEP 5: You will want to take your pictures before you give back the keys. Also, take your pictures in the presence of your witness. Specifically, be sure to get the oven, refrigerator, kitchen area, bathroom, and show that the walls and carpet are clean and undamaged. You and your witness should both sign and date your inventory form in front of a notary.

STEP 6: If you sublet your apartment for the summer, return at the end of the sublease period to follow these procedures with your subtenant. Lack of proof of the condition they leave the place may result in deductions from YOUR deposit.

STEP 7: Be sure that you return ALL keys to the apartment, mailbox, laundry room, etc. Return all keys in person and get a receipt to avoid being charged for lock changes. It is best to have one person in your group responsible for all returned keys.

STEP 8: When you get your deposit returned, contact Student Legal Service if you have any questions or complaints about the amount deducted. If you have a problem, do not cash the check before talking to an attorney. We are in room 324 of the Illini Union. Look for us on the web at <www.uiuc.edu/unit/SLS>

STEP 9: DO NOT TAKE A SORF REFUND. If you want to use Student Legal Service to pursue settlement of a problem, our office cannot help you if you take a SORF refund.

STEP 10: Step into some money. Use your money to treat yourself to a reward for completing another school year.

STUDENT LEGAL SERVICE
324 ILLINI UNION M/C 384
1401 W. GREEN STREET
URBANA, ILLINOIS 61801

HOURS: 8:30 - 12:00, 1:00 - 4:30
Phone 333-9053 Fax 333-0474
www.uiuc.edu/unit/SLS
PAID FOR BY S.O.R.F.

forum

Fake IDs can get students in trouble

Thomas Betz

Director Student Legal Services

To be 21 or not to be 21, that is the question. Whether 'tis nobler to forgo the blessed brew or by lying end the cursed thirst? Fake IDs and underage drinking are hardly the stuff of Shakespearean drama, but the choices and consequences do lead to sad, if not tragic, results.

The bard of Avon would have appreciated the absurdity of allowing 19 year olds into bars but forbidding them to drink. Students should be concerned with three aspects of false identification law: State law, municipal ordinance and the University student conduct code. Students are typically busted under state law while trying to purchase alcohol at Piccadilly's. Presenting an out-of-state driver's license at a liquor store when you look 18 or 19 almost guarantees a careful check of the ID. Your best and only defense is that you are indeed from California and you

were in fact born in 1977, otherwise you are facing at least a class A misdemeanor which carries a fine of \$2,500 and up to 364 days in jail along with suspension of your real driver's license. Expect to be grilled about where you got your ID, as police believe there is some sort of conspiracy a la *X-Files* on how students get fake IDs.

You may even be asked to cooperate and help bust your friends to get a lighter sentence. Frequently, students are threatened with felony charges for simple possession of a false ID. Technically, possession of a false ID can be treated as a Class 4 felony; however, felony charges are properly reserved for manufacturing and distribution of fake IDs.

The most common scenario is where one student loans another student their driver's license. The caught student comes to me and says, "How about if I just say I found it?" to not get the lender in trouble. The position shifts to How about I admit I stole it?

The vast majority of students

who are caught face city ordinance charges. The fake or borrowed license is then sent off to the Secretary of State's office so the real one can be suspended. The city imposes a \$250 fine which does not appear on the student's permanent record. City offenses are very expensive parking tickets that are the price of having a social life on campus.

Whether it is a state or city charge, mom and dad at the University, more commonly known as Student Discipline, is very likely to find out about your false ID indiscretion. The office of Student Conflict Resolution has the power to exact penalties ranging from reprimands to "separation" from the University. Manufacture or distribution of IDs would likely result in a long-term vacation away from Champaign-Urbana. Possession or use of one would certainly warrant a lesser sanction. Repeat offenses suggest you need to find the luggage buried somewhere in your closet.

Dean position opens in conflict resolution

Assistant Dean Don Arnold retires from discipline-related job

by **Matt Wargin**
Managing editor

The Office for Student Conflict Resolution is now hiring.

Following the retirement of Assistant Dean Don Arnold, the office is looking to find someone to work in a disciplinary-related position to assist the director in day-to-day operations.

About three years ago, the Office for Student Conflict was called the Office for Student Judicial Affairs. The name was switched to its current name and the office shifted to a three-focus mission, Director Richard W. Justice said. The three parts of that mission are student judicial affairs, mediation and referrals.

Student judicial affairs deals with students in violation of the student code. The majority of cases the office sees are alcohol-related, Justice said. The office sees a variety of cases, from minor violations to serious offenses, Justice said.

The disciplinary officers with the Office for Student Conflict, a role the new dean will fill, have the authority to take any disciplinary action against a student except for suspension or dismissal. For incidents serious enough that suspension or expulsion is an option, such as selling illegal drugs or unprovoked violence, the case is referred to a fac-

ulty and student committee. The disciplinary officer then prepares a case to present to the committee, Justice said.

Of the some 600 cases the offices sees a year only about 35 to 37 go to committee, Justice said.

For some of the other 570-some odd cases mediation might be a possible solution. Mediation is often an option for students when a conflict arises but there might not be a violation of the student code. Justice said mediation allows students with conflicts to work out their differences without formal actions.

Assistant director Ervin Cox said sometimes the police will refer students for mediation.

The mediation service is provided to students free of charge.

If there is no formal action for the office to take and mediation isn't a viable option, the students can be referred to another office that might be able to offer assistance. Students are referred to Student Legal Services, the Tenant Union, small claims court and even the police.

"If we can't help them, our job is to find a way they can get help," Justice said. "We hope nobody leaves our office without some help."

The search for the new dean started about five weeks ago, Justice said. The formal search ended July 2 and the search committee is now working on files and will propose people who will then be brought to campus, he said.

Students get cheap legal advice

Legal help is available for the \$7 SORF payment

by Michelle Brutlag
Senior writer

Students who have a grievance that can be solved through legal services have a convenient recourse: Student Legal Service.

By simply paying the \$7 Student Organization Resource Fee, students can retain experienced attorneys for a variety of needs, from counseling and advising to actual representation in court.

SLS currently employs two attorneys, Tom Betz and Susan Hesse, and will bring a third person in to the office by the fall semester.

"We do everything," Betz said. "Traffic cases, misdemeanors, landlord-tenant issues and criminal offenses make up about 40 percent of the SLS docket."

Recent graduate Kim Harpel went to legal services when she had both landlord problems and a hefty speeding ticket.

"She said the attorneys were 'sort of' helpful with the tenant case, though she saw better results with her traffic case."

"Susan (Hesse) was very helpful about the speeding ticket. She gave me advice and told me how to plea. She really helped me cut a deal," Harpel said.

The other 60 percent is filled with a wide range of cases.

"We do consumer work," Betz said. "When students are ripped off by telemarketers, merchants, those kinds of things."

Student Legal Services also does limited family work, such as name

changes and basic counseling. The lawyers will not represent in divorce cases, though some counseling is offered.

"We do lots of powers of attorney," Betz said. Students who go abroad for a year or a semester and need someone to keep their domestic affairs in order take advantage of the powers of attorney service the most, he said.

"We are full service," he added. The full service does come with boundaries, though.

"There are limitations," Betz said. "We obviously can't sue the University."

Student Legal Services also cannot be retained in cases of one student against another or in felony cases. The reason for the latter limitation is simple, Betz said. There just isn't enough time or resources to handle felony cases, though the attorneys will do some advising in such cases.

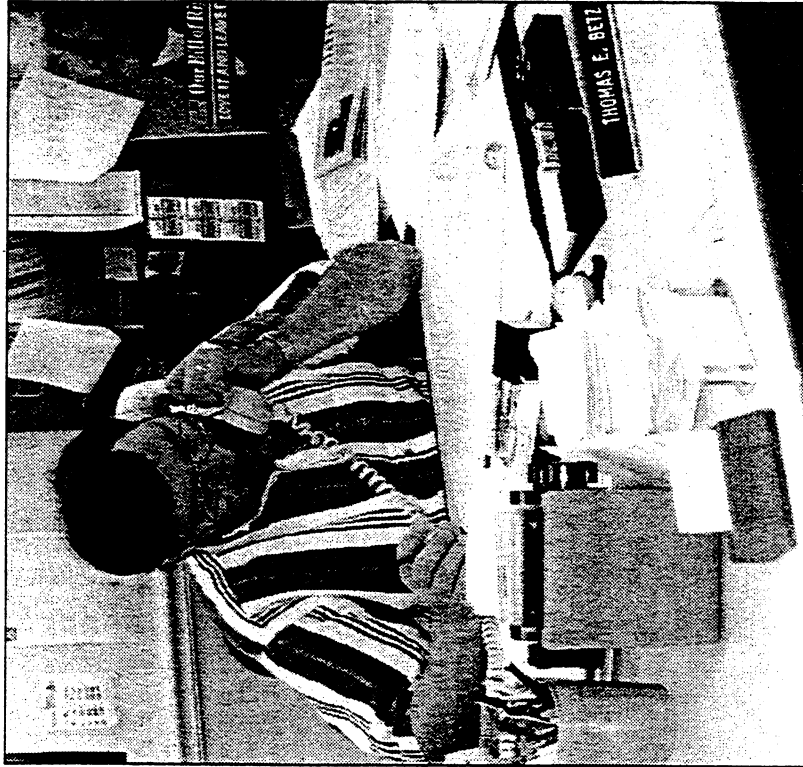
"One felony (case) is equal to about 50 misdemeanors," Betz said. Although it is not a definite rule, SLS generally does not handle cases outside of Champaign County.

"If we were to drive to Kankakee, that's two hours there, two hours back, plus the time spent in court," Betz said. "That's pretty much a whole day. It deprives 10 or 15 other students of service."

September is one of the biggest months for the organization. Betz said this is because when students come back into town, there are always problems with their new dwellings.

"Traditionally, September is a very big month," Betz said.

Student Legal Services was created by and for students 20 years



Matt Wargin The Daily Illini
Tom Betz, Student Legal Services attorney, takes a phone call in his office Friday. By paying the \$7 Student Organization Resource Fee University students have access to attorneys for a wide variety of legal needs.

ago. If students get a refund for SORF, they are not allowed to use either Student Legal Services or the Tenant Union.

Legal services for students are common, especially in Illinois, Betz said. All schools in the Big Ten offer similar services, except for Ohio State University.

Legal services is open daily Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m.

to noon and 1:00 to 4:30 p.m. Students need an appointment, but can generally see an attorney within 24 hours.

"Nowhere in the world will you get a consultation with a licensed attorney with 20 years experience for \$7," Betz said. "I enjoy working with students. I am very satisfied with my job and satisfied with what I am doing."

Ruling won't affect student fee, UI says

By The Associated Press
and The News-Gazette

A student activity fee that helps fund political and advocacy groups complies with a new federal court ruling because it's refundable, a University of Illinois administrator says.

A federal appeals court ruled Monday that a university cannot use a student's mandatory activity fees to finance political groups that the student opposes.

The 7th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Chicago ruled in favor of three Christian students who sued the University of Wisconsin-Madison for using fees to fund 18 groups whose activities they opposed, including women's groups, gay rights groups and environmental groups.

The court, which upheld most of a November 1996 decision by U.S. District Judge John Shabaz, said UW-Madison's practice violates the students'

First Amendment right to "freedom of belief."

"Freedom of speech has a component where you're free not to speak, you're free not to support somebody. And that is what they based their decision on," said Jordan Lorence, a lawyer for the conservative Northstar Legal Center in Fairfax, Va., who represented the students.

The appeals court left it to UW-Madison to find a way to comply with the ruling.

University officials were reviewing the decision and could not immediately comment on it.

UW students are required to pay about \$330 in fees annually, less than 10 percent of which is used to support student groups and services. Any one organization receives from 10 cents to

See STUDENT FEE, A-8

Student fee

Continued from A-1

30 cents per student, university officials have said.

The funding of private groups that engage in political and ideological activities is not germane to a university's educational mission, the three-judge panel ruled. Even if it were, the burden on students' First Amendment rights outweighs any government interests, the court wrote.

Among the groups getting student fee money that raised the plaintiffs' objections: the Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Campus Center; the UW Greens; the Campus Women's Center; the Militant Student Union; and the Madison Treaty Rights Support Group, which pushes for American Indian rights.

At the UI, students pay a \$7-per-semester Student Activity Resource Fee that helps fund activities for the more than 850 registered student organizations on campus. But students can get their money back during a specified period each semester.

"What was unique about Wisconsin's fee was that it didn't have a refundable portion," said Patricia Askew, UI vice chancellor for student affairs.

Less than 5 percent of UI students request a refund, Askew said. "They see the direct benefits," she said.

A student board reviews applications each semester and makes allocations. In 1997-98, the board doled out \$286,000 to student groups, plus \$172,000 to Student Legal Services and

close to \$68,000 for the Campaign-Urbana Tenant Union.

Groups range from College Democrats to the Young Republicans, from Campus for Choice to Illini Collegians for Life, from Students for Chief Illinewek to the anti-Chief People Against Racism.

But it can't be used for electioneering or lobbying efforts.

Askew and board Chairman Robert Scales, a UI senior, said they knew of few complaints about the system, other than occasional gripes from groups that don't get as much as they requested.

Scales said board members consider two main criteria when reviewing an application: the quality of the event and what it will bring to the university, and overall fairness.

News Gazette
8/12/98

editorial



University services make life easier

As many veteran University students know, and as most of the class of 2002 will soon learn, University socialism makes the lives of all students easier.

Students have access to the MTD bus system, McKinley Health Center services, the services of the Tenant Union and Student Legal Services, all covered by student fees.

While most of the rest of the nation debates the merits of managed care and wrestles with the fact that the U.S. spends more of its gross national product on health care than any other industrialized country, University students get the chance to go to McKinley as many times as need-

ed, call the Dial-A-Nurse and pick up free cold packs and condoms.

Students who find themselves with broken legs or gunshot wounds will still have to go to one of Urbana's two hospitals, Carle or Covenant, though. McKinley takes care of run-of-the-mill, everyday injuries and illnesses, the kind that most often trouble students.

Students can go anywhere in the twin cities, too, with the help of the Champaign-Urbana Mass Transit District. The friendly bus drivers will take you to the mall, both downtowns and, of course, class. Students never have to worry about whether they have the money to take the bus to class

in the mornings.

If you get in legal trouble, Student Legal Services and the Tenant Union are both there. Tom Betz of Student Legal Services and Esther Patt of the Tenant Union are out there working hard for students every day. Any students who are ever arrested or have problems with their landlords should see them immediately.

The University can seem cold and impersonal, but it has all the ingredients to make life here easier than on the outside.

It has taken care of basically any problems University students will encounter the best way it knows how, collectively.

Company lends out fast cash

by Angie Green
and Elizabeth Zeman
Daily Illini reporters

CampusCash, a short-term loan company, will celebrate its campus arrival at 502 E. John St., Champaign, with a grand opening celebration Friday afternoon.

While there will be free pizza and massages inside, the Champaign County Predatory Lending Task Force will be holding a counter-demonstration outside.

"We are trying to inform students that CampusCash offers one of the worst possible deals available," said task force member and University graduate student David Schweingruber in a statement.

"We have absolutely nothing to hide. We don't feel the protest is going to have any effect on our festivities. Our clients use our product by choice," said CampusCash President Ronald Hans. "They (the protesters) are welcome to come out and voice their opinion."

CampusCash is an Illinois-based instant loan company that offers two-week loans from \$50 to \$300. Anyone can get a loan by supplying the correct required information and leaving a post-dated check for the loan amount plus interest. An \$18 fee is charged for each \$100 borrowed, but interest is calculated on a daily basis if the customer pays off the loan before the two-week time period expires. The loan can also be extended for another two weeks if the interest is paid.

The 469 percent annual percentage rate, higher than those offered at local banks, is the cause of the controversy. A loan's annual percentage rate, or APR, expresses its price. An APR of 469 percent means it would cost \$469 to borrow \$100 for a year or \$18 for two weeks.

In regards to this statistic, Hans said, "It would be unwise for anyone to borrow money at that rate (469 percent for one year). That's why we limit the period to 28 days. It's well within reach for our customers to pay off a short-term loan."

Hans said more than 50 percent of CampusCash customers pay off the loan by the end of the initial two-week loan period.

"As far as I'm concerned," Schweingruber said. "It's a rip-off no matter how long you borrow it."

Dave Hofberg, senior in commerce, is a CampusCash student manager. Despite the high interest rate, he said that the company is a "needed and worthwhile" service for students. "There are obviously high interests; we're not going to lie about that. But this is a high-risk business ... We're here to help."

The Champaign County Predatory Lending Task Force is not the only agency upset about the arrival of CampusCash. "It can be dangerous for people with good credit records," said attorney Thomas Betz of Student Legal Services. "They think they are getting a regular bank loan, but the high rates and fine print can make them dangerous."

According to Hans, CampusCash is licensed by the state and held to

more Cash on 6

Loan company lends out fast cash

Cash from 1

certain standards. "By law we must obtain a signature from the customer that every word on the contract is explained by a CampusCash consultant. If the customer feels comfortable and understands, he can sign the form. If he feels uncomfortable, he can walk out with no problem," Hans said.

Betz advises students to look into other alternatives to pay off small debts before seeking a loan. Ultimately, legal problems can result if students are unable to pay, he said.

CampusCash is one of at least four loan companies in Champaign-Urbana that offer short-term loans using a post-dated check as collateral.

"Often these high-risk lenders can be predatory. It's the Mae West school of lending: two plus two equals four and four plus four is 10 if you know how to work it," Betz said.

The Champaign County Predatory Lending Task Force advises students to "shop around and choose the best deal available," according to Schweingruber.

One of the other options open to students is the University's Short-Term Loan Program, which provides immediate loans of up to \$400 for undergraduates and \$800 for graduate

students who have unanticipated expenses. Although students are limited to one loan per semester, no interest will accrue if the loan is repaid on time. A \$3 service charge is added.

Victor Martinez, assistant director of financial aid, feels that knowledge of the school's loan is widespread. Over 600 loans were approved for the first three days of classes alone, he said.

A student receiving financial aid may apply for such a loan and have it credited to his or her financial aid account. Even students who are not receiving financial aid are eligible for this loan.

Andree LeRoy, senior in LAS, has gotten a short-term loan every school year. She chose not to use CampusCash because of the higher interest. "That whole place is kind of a hassle. They are profiting from the students. The loan from the University is here to help, not to make money," she said.

"We understand our product is not for everyone," explained Hans. "Our mission is to educate students on their financial options."

Betz echoes this sentiment. "I respect the rights of students to make their own decisions as long as they are informed decisions. Keep your eyes wide open and read the contract. Bring the magnifying glass."

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September 10, 19
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The News-Gazette

★ ★ Champaign-Urbana - September 11, 1998

Demonstration today at loan shop

■ Group targets grand opening at store on campus

By DEBRA PRESSEY
News-Gazette Staff Writer

CHAMPAIGN — A local group is warning consumers to steer clear of so-called "payday loan" shops that dole out fast cash at comparatively high interest rates.

The Champaign County Predatory Lending Task Force planned to demonstrate this afternoon at CampusCash, a new payday loan shop at 502 E. John St., C.

CampusCash, which charges an annual percentage rate of

469 percent, opened its Champaign office in April and was holding a grand opening today.

Payday loan shops make short-term loans, usually for two weeks, by accepting post-dated checks from borrowers as collateral. Often, credit checks are waived, the applications are brief, and the interest charged on an annual basis runs in excess of 300 percent.

For example, a \$100 loan taken out at CampusCash for two weeks would cost the borrower \$18 in interest.

Valerie McWilliams, a member of the task force and directing attorney at Land of Lincoln Legal Assistance, said most payday loan shops locate in low-income neighborhoods to en-

snare the poor.

But CampusCash was targeted for the demonstration "because they're throwing a party," she said. "They're giving away free pizza, free pop. We expect a steady flow of customers."

The task force said CampusCash is one of at least four payday loan shops in Champaign. Others include Check Into Cash on North Prospect Avenue, Check 'N Go on West Bradley Avenue, and Advance America on East University Avenue.

Elmhurst-based CampusCash has three locations in college communities and is in the process of adding three more. Its founder, Ronald Hans, distinguishes his company from some

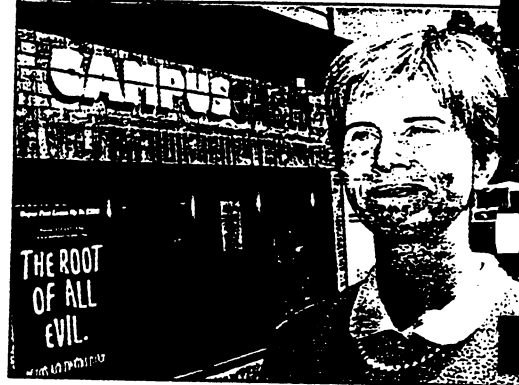
others in the quick-loan industry.

While many such shops locate in low-income neighborhoods, CampusCash likes university campus areas and caters to college students. Hans said CampusCash doesn't lend to the uneducated or heavily debt-ridden, and doesn't allow borrowers to continue rolling over the loan to fall deeper into debt, he said.

Most customers come to CampusCash because they are in a temporary cash bind, Hans said. "Most are in an emergency situation."

Hans also said CampusCash does more checking on the bor-

See LOAN SHOPS, A-8



Valerie McWilliams, a member of the Champaign County Predatory Lending Task Force, says CampusCash on East John Street was picked for a demonstration "because they're throwing a party."

Loan shops

Continued from A-1

rower's financial history than do many payday loan shops, and gives loans only to those who can reasonably repay them.

The loan amount is limited to \$300 because that's what CampusCash considers a reasonable amount for someone to come up with in a month, Hans said. Borrowers are limited to one 14-day loan term and one 14-day extension, and interest is charged only for the number of days the loan is out. Hans said half his customers repay the loan before the original term is up.

Hans contends students can learn about debt management from a short-term loan and can even build up a credit history

by using CampusCash.

But Tom Betz, director of Student Legal Services, calls it and other payday loan shops "legal loan-sharking."

"They really tend to victimize people in very desperate situations," he said.

Betz said he fears international students may be especially vulnerable to the lure of a quick loan. But he also sees lots of other student targets.

Many are already struggling under heavy credit-card debt accumulated in their teens, he said. Already this school year, Betz said he's filed three bankruptcy petitions for students, two of them freshmen.

"I have students who come into my office with traffic tickets who can't come up with the

money," he said.

Betz and McWilliams say there are much better options for UI students in an emergency cash-flow bind.

They may be eligible for short-term, interest-free loans from the UI Office of Financial Aid. They can also become members of and obtain loans through the UI Employees Credit Union.

McWilliams said the task force was organized in an effort to help educate consumers about financial businesses that exploit those with low incomes.

"People come to us under extreme debt stress," she said. "We began approaching it as a preventative action. There's very little you can do after the fact."

Credit cards can be blessing and burden for college students

Students should do homework on credit cards before applying

by Sean Kundu
Daily Illini reporter

Free T-shirts and frisbees are enticing, but when they come after filling out an application, students should be careful not to fall victim to credit card companies.

A survey released by the Illinois Public Interest Group reported that students who are allured by credit card companies on campus carry larger balances than those who do not. The report stated that educating college students and regulating on-campus credit card marketing were important in attacking this problem.

Students can safeguard themselves several ways against credit card companies. According to Gail Parson, consumer staffperson for Illinois PIRG, the first thing is to get information on possible credit cards. This means finding out the Annual Percentage Rate (APR), any annual fees and possible increases in interest.

However, credit cards can be beneficial for those who can afford them. "Credit cards can be useful to college students. When used appro-

priately, they build good credit which is important after college," said Tom Betz, director of Student Legal Services. Good credit allows people to attain mortgages, cars and jobs. Therefore, having bad credit can hurt students in the future, Betz said.

Parson added that in addition to students protecting themselves, colleges and the government should regulate credit card marketing on campuses.

"Colleges should limit the number of credit card tables on campus, and prohibit them from luring students with gifts," said Parson. Colleges should also distribute credit card educational information by inserting brochures in bookstore shopping bags, Parson said.

The government has taken measures to regulate the credit card problem. A bill sponsored by U.S. Rep. Joe Kennedy of Mass., attempts to prohibit unfair credit card marketing practices, according to the Illinois PIRG report.

According to Parson, credit card companies should help students understand their bills.

"When companies send their bills, they should include the number of years it takes to pay off the debt," she said.

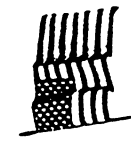
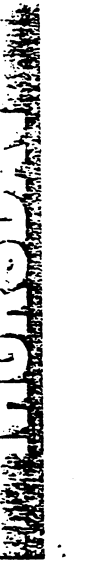
In the end, students need to protect themselves from credit card



Emily Schwartz The Daily Illini
Moses Oketch, graduate student, applies for a Visa credit card on Wright Street Monday at a booth that supports Children's Miracle Network through Sigma Chi social fraternity.

companies. Betz said credit cards provide "immediate gratification," but students must be careful to use credit cards only when needed.

"If you can use cash, use cash," said Betz. The more students put on their cards, the more they will have to pay back when the bill comes.



The News-Gazette



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Weather, A-10

47th Year No. 72

★ Champaign-Urbana - October 8, 1998

Daily 35 Cents

Racial complaints lodged against complex

Apartment site accused of having 'slave mentality'

By GREG KLINE
News-Gazette Staff Writer

URBANA — Already the subject of complaints from students who had to move into unfinished apartments this fall, University Commons is now facing racial discrimination claims.

Urbana City Clerk Phyllis Clark says she and other residents of the neighborhood around the new 240-unit complex on North Lincoln Avenue will press the city for action, and take it themselves if they don't get it.

"They're smack dab in the middle of the black community, and they're operating with a

slave mentality, and we're not gonna have it," Clark said Wednesday.

An official at University Commons referred calls to its parent company, Capstone Development Corp. of Birmingham, Ala.

Capstone President Joan Rasberry declined comment on the allegations this morning. "This really takes me quite by surprise," she said. "We've just

never had any experience or any complaint with anyone."

Clark made her comments at the Urbana Human Relations Commission meeting, where more than a dozen people who live or work at University Commons showed up to lodge complaints.

Jim Biggins, a student legal services attorney, said he's collected approximately 10 complaints, the most significant of

them about treatment of black students.

Jasmine Collins told the commission the top managers at University Commons warned her that blacks she cleared for leases didn't look as if they could afford the apartments and said she needed to screen more closely, even though the company credit checks its tenants.

Collins said she was excluded from two employees luncheons attended only by whites. She said she was fired after taking a long lunch one day and

she was an assistant manager at the apartments, before being fired, also recalled white managers referring to black student employees as lazy and incompetent.

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she was an assistant manager at the apartments, before being fired, also recalled white managers referring to black student employees as lazy and incompetent.

Complaints

Continued from A-3

replaced by a white person who received a higher salary.

Cleveland Jefferson, president of the local NAACP chapter, said the city has a direct responsibility to investigate the claims because it invested taxpayer money in clearing the old Lincoln Mobile Home Park site so University Commons could be built by Capstone.

The nonracial complaints about University Commons started in late August, when some of the tenants arrived to find the apartments about 65 percent complete.

Esther Patt, director of the Champaign-Urbana Tenant Union and an Urbana alderwoman, said she's logged 18 complaints from University Commons tenants, more than any other apartment complex except the problem-plagued 305 E. John St., C.

Patt said the complaints range from amenities advertised but not provided to the parking lot being unfinished.

Maxine Vazquez, a junior from Strentor, said she had no microwave oven when she moved in, the ice maker was broken, and the shower pipes weren't anchored, among other things.

"I had no hot water," Vazquez said. "All the workmanship's shoddy."

workers are slow to respond and sometimes enter her apartment unannounced, once when she was showering.

Patt said Capstone has yet to pay students the rebates on rent that it offered because of conditions at the complex.

Vazquez said the company offered her a \$25 rebate on her

Rasberry also declined to comment on those complaints.

Last month, Capstone Executive Vice President Jeff Jones said the company planned to offer rebates to tenants.

"We've got a lot to make up to some people," he said at the time. "We take a long-term view of these projects."

Collins, who is black and said

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free

MONDAY

October 12, 1998

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Angry tenants moving on up to different company

by Julie Westfall
Daily Illini reporter

The building at 305 E. John St., managed by First National, lost four tenants this weekend when residents of one basement apartment packed up their possessions for the last time and signed with another leasing company, University Group.

"I just called them and told them that we were going to move out and we wanted our money back," said Darcy Schindler, senior in ACES.

Schindler declined to comment on First National's response. Her apartment, as well as three other basement residences, were deemed inoccupable by Champaign officials last week after repeated flooding.

"(Monday) we're going to hand in our keys and we don't really know what to do now. That's for the lawyers to handle," she said.

First National was not available for comment.

Student Legal Services lawyer Tom Betz said that, while cases might vary, the residents are prob-

ably protected and might also be entitled to compensation.

The First National 305 E. John St. leases include a clause which allows either the residents or the landlord to break the lease after 36 days without being able to live in the apartment. The leases began Aug. 25. The students did not move into the newly-renovated apartments until Sept. 25, after the building twice failed city inspections and was finally granted conditional occupancy.

First National offered the residents in the flooded basement apartments temporary housing in either a vacated apartment at 305 E. John St. or the Quality Inn University Centre across the street.

Betz said Student Legal Services will defend any residents of 305 E. John St. and also said he wouldn't be surprised if First National threatened to sue the tenants or refused to give compensation.

"They can sue all they want. ... We're prepared to defend any of the cases against First National," he said.

10-13-14
News-Gazette

Flooded-out tenants say 'no more'

■ One group of students say they will break lease

By JULIE WURTH
News-Gazette Staff Writer

CHAMPAIGN — Tired of building delays and flooding, some residents of a newly renovated apartment building at 305 E. John St. are movin' on.

The city last week ordered four apartments vacated after rains flooded several basement bedrooms, and they may not reopen until next week, a city official said Monday.

Residents of one unit aren't waiting to find out. They packed their bags over the weekend and turned in their apartment keys, said Tom Betz, attorney for the UI Student Legal Service.

The four students sent a letter to the landlord, First National Real Estate, explaining that they would no longer pay rent because they can't get into their apartments, Betz said. Another group of students is considering the same route, he said.

Betz said First National threatened to take the students to court.

"Let them sue," he said. "When you sign a lease, you're entitled to receive the property that you're guaranteed in the lease. When you can't live there, it's a breach of contract."

A provision in the lease preventing students from breaking their leases even if the building wasn't completed after 36 days has expired, Betz said.

Officials at First National referred calls to their attorney, Marc Miller, who said this morning that the company will meet with tenants individually to try to address their concerns.

"We recognize the frustration that our tenants have had. We want to bend over backwards to accommodate any of their requests. Our hope is to keep them in the building, to make the space absolutely perfect, and to make accommodations to them to reward them for their patience," Miller said.

That could include monetary compensation or "any kind of accommodation that would be reasonable," Miller said.

Asked if First National will fight students who want to break their leases, Miller said only, "Our goal is to work with our tenants and not fight with them."

Leases at the apartment building started Aug. 25. The

building didn't pass inspections until Sept. 24, when it received a conditional occupancy permit. Rains first flooded the lower floors on Sept. 30, then again last week.

Miller said last week the problem stemmed from a clogged storm drain and the contractor was trying to fix it as quickly as possible.

First National began flood-proofing basement walls last week, said Garry Bowman, Champaign's building safety supervisor. On Monday, coils of plastic drain pipe hung from gutters, presumably to carry water away from the building.

Crews also have to repair interior walls and carpeting that was soaked in the flooding, Bowman said.

"It's going to probably be the rest of this week, anyway," Bowman said.

"We aren't going to let anybody move back in until we get the problems fixed," he said.

First National once again offered the students rooms at the Quality Hotel across the street, but UI junior Jeanie Mercier said the experience has been one giant pain.

"I just want to settle down and unpack our stuff somewhere," she said.

Betz argued that the city should have taken stronger action against the landlord by declaring the building unfit for habitation, which would have allowed students out of their leases.

"They always want to accommodate. Some things you don't accommodate," Betz said. "Some of these kids have now moved four and five times."

Bowman said the city tried to act quickly once the flooding occurred, vacating the apartments the same day problems were reported. It couldn't declare the entire building unfit because the upper-floor units are livable, he said.

"If I'd have had an inkling of an idea that we'd have flooding, we'd have never let these kids move in in the first place," he said. "This was anything but routine."

Betz said tenants in five of the nine apartments at the 1906-vintage building have contacted him for help. They're still reviewing whether to take legal action, he said.

"They want to simply have this over with," he said. "No one's in a big exciting contest to see how many people can we sue. They just want to move on with their lives."

FRIDAY

October 16, 1998

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the Daily Illini

Independent student newspaper at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Tenant Union offers advice to UI lessees

by Laura Kuhn
Daily Illini reporter

The recent furor over leases and landlords indicates that perhaps the student body has a few things to learn in searching for apartments or houses.

Esther Patt, Tenant Union coordinator, advises students first and foremost to bring any potential leases to the Tenant Union, a service which is covered by the Student Organization Resource Fee. The Tenant Union offers information about the landlord's past complaint history, help with reading and understanding a lease, advocacy with a landlord and information about problems that might arise.

Those problems, according to Patt, range from not having enough beds for all residents to "guaranteed" parking spaces nowhere near the apartment unit.

The root of many problems, said Patt, is the lease. Students often assume that everything coming from a landlord's mouth can also be found on paper and will appear on move-in day. There is no such luck, she said.

"The big problem with leases is that they're often not complete," said Patt. "The lease should be the deal."

An example Patt gave of problematic lease wording can be found in the University Commons lease. Under the heading of security, the lease states that "each apartment may be equipped with a switch which when activated, will sound an alarm indicating an emergency within that particular unit." However, "the installation of such an alert or alarm system shall not be construed as undertaking or representation by Landlord that it will monitor such system or that it will pro-

vide personnel to respond when an alarm has been activated."

Patt pointed out that students will often see what looks good, such as the first excerpt from the lease, and fail to see the disclaimer that follows immediately after.

University Commons was unavailable for comment on their lease.

The Tenant Union's handbook stresses that people signing a lease should "carefully examine the apartment before you sign the lease — be sure you know what you're getting."

Patt also advises early shoppers to be wary. The condition of a unit can change drastically from the time a tenant signs a lease until they move in. A good rule of thumb, she said, is to wait until landlords start advertising their apartments heavily to begin searching for next year's apartment — usually right before winter break.

Patt also advises calling the Tenant Union before beginning an apartment search to become more informed about the process.

Potential tenants should also realize that it's no easy task to break a lease or sue a landlord.

Patt said students often don't realize that verbal promises from their landlords aren't legally binding.

However, students with a case they would like to see settled in the courts have the resources to make that happen. Tom Betz, an attorney with the University's Student Legal Services, reported that roughly 40 percent of the office's caseload is concerning landlord/tenant relations.

However, that number is only a fraction of the number of students who came in by referral from the Tenant Union. While 391 cases were

more **Tenant Union** on 6

Tenant Union advises UI students

Tenant Union from 1

referred to Student Legal Services by the Tenant Union, only 94 of those were taken to court.

"They can't file the suit," said Betz of the Tenant Union's lack of legal authority. "We can."

Betz said the majority of the complaints were resolved without setting foot in a courtroom. Often, a letter is sent to the landlord and most are receptive to working out the problem.

"If they have unhappy tenants, they're going to have to worry about filling the building next year," said Betz.

Several area landlords agreed with Betz. Jeff Johnson of Johnson Rentals said his company, which owns 275 units, strives to be flexible with the tenants when signing a lease.

"We're not immune to problems," said Johnson of the two complaints that were filed with the Tenant Union in 1997. "But if we're honest with our tenants, they have more confidence in us."

Steve Hertel of Larson Company echoed his contemporary's statements.

"We try and be fair," he said. "We've made changes throughout the years."

Fairness appears to be a good policy — Larson Company's estimated 250 units haven't had a complaint in the five years documented by the Tenant Union's release of tenant complaints.

The resources are there to fix problems but students are advised to look before they leap into a bad lease. Patt emphasized that there is no swift and effective remedy for many misunderstandings.

"We're not magicians," said Patt.

free

MONDAY

October 26, 1998

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First suspect freed, two others arrested

After investigation, two different suspects charged with murder

by Julie Westfall
Daily Illini reporter

Champaign Police arrested a third suspect in the shooting death of University student Kevin Moore Monday morning. The suspect, 23-year-old Mario Orlando Buchanan, 1609 Cruising Lane, Champaign, is the half-brother of Lewis M. Neal, the suspect who was arrested Thursday night.

The two suspects were both charged with four counts of first-degree murder, one count of attempted first-degree murder and one count of aggravated assault with a firearm. Buchanan was arraigned in Champaign County Court Friday afternoon. Neal's arraignment was postponed until this afternoon awaiting appearance of counsel. Bonds were set at \$750,000. Both requested a public defense. Buchanan has no previous criminal record. Domestic battery and trespassing charges against Neal were dismissed in 1997.

Police also said they think a single gun was involved in the shootings.

"We believe only one gun was involved, but both Mr. Neal and Mr. Buchanan participated in the shooting," Nearing said.

Police released 17-year-old Thomas McClain Thursday evening who was charged with one count of first-degree murder and one count of attempted first-degree murder last Monday in connection with the Oct. 18 incident at an Omega Delta fraternity party. However, police say they still believe he attended the party. University student Acelya Clay, 19, was also injured in the shooting.

According to Champaign Police, McClain was identified as the shooter from a photo lineup by an eyewitness to the shooting. On that basis, a warrant was issued for his arrest. Champaign police Lt. Holly Nearing said the eyewitness was a

person who said he was familiar with McClain.

"We are comfortable with the arrest of McClain," Nearing said. "He was mistaken when he identified him as the shooter and I believe it was an honest mistake."

Nearing said she began to suspect that the eyewitness was incorrect about two days after McClain's arrest while they were investigating conflicting statements made by McClain.

"We began to get information from more than one source that Mr. Neal may be involved in the shooting while we continued to investigate Mr. McClain," she said. "We continued to the point that we no longer had reason to hold Mr. McClain." Nearing would not comment on the specifics of the sources.

Police picked up both suspects at Neal's Urbana home on the 1400 block of Eads Street shortly after 7 p.m. Thursday. Neal was arrested immediately. Buchanan was brought in for cannabis possession and later arrested while in the custody of police, said Champaign Police Lt. Holly Nearing. Nearing said that while they were questioning Neal, "we began to uncover evidence that Buchanan might be involved."

Based on incriminating statements made by both suspects, Nearing said she is now confident police have the right suspects.

"We believe we have the primary suspects," Nearing said.

However, Nearing said the investigation is still continuing and police are still interviewing witnesses.

"It was Homecoming weekend. There are people we still have to interview who live out-of-town, out-of-state," she said.

State's attorney John Piland said that as soon as police began to suspect that others were involved in the shootings, they worked quickly to release McClain.

"At the point where they determined others were responsible, they began to dismiss charges," Piland said.

more Arrests on 6

First suspect freed, two more arrested

Arrests from 1

land said. "They quickly worked to cut him loose."

Both Piland and Nearing said it is common to issue arrest warrants based on an eyewitness identification in photo lineups.

"It's easy to look at this and say, 'The whole system is screwed up,'" Piland said. "I think the thing to look at is, 'At the time the police made their decision, was it correct based on the information they had at the time?'"

McClain's lawyer, Brian Silverman, said he doesn't know whether or not his client is planning to take action against the city.

"At this point, I don't have anything to say because I haven't discussed all of his options with him," Silverman said.

Community activist John Lee Johnson, a former City Council member, said he feels police acted too soon in arresting McClain.

"I don't think the Champaign Police Department can be held politically liable," Johnson said. However he added, "There was an effort by them to work quickly, to ID a suspect, to show the campus community that they could do this. By doing that, they violated the rights of McClain, even though they had probable cause."

Student Legal Services lawyer Tom Betz said because McClain was positively identified in a photo lineup by a witness at the party, he probably has no legal recourse.

"If you have an eyewitness saying that this is the person, (police) have immunity," he said. "As long as they're relying on good faith ... I think they're in pretty good shape."

Shady companies infiltrate campus

by Chassie Davis
Daily Illini reporter

Students beware — scams are everywhere on campus.

Companies with questionable business tactics are recruiting students by distributing flyers around campus.

Examples of the flyers include those that say "Make \$500 dollars a week," by stuffing envelopes. No experience is usually needed for these jobs and money is usually required to start the work.

These are often scams. According to Thomas Betz, director of student legal services, international students are the biggest target of these companies. This is because international students usually do not need a visa to work for these companies, and the students see this opportunity as a chance to make quick money.

Betz said he has received complaints in the past from students that felt they had been scammed by companies such as this, but he has no complaints so far this semester.

The company Maximum Marketing, whose flyers have been found around campus, advertise that it will send people instructions on how to fulfill the requirements for the job. The company advertises that people with little or no business experience can have a job out of their home. Companies use this instruction manual to make people start their own branches of the company.

Students that are victims of these scams can seek help through Student Legal Services, located at the Illini Union. However, it is usually difficult to prosecute these companies because they frequently change

locations, according to the Champaign Better Business Bureau.

Most companies move every several months, change the name of the company and the name of the product that they are sponsoring. Companies can also change the address to a P.O. Box so that they cannot be traced.

According to the Better Business Bureau, complaints can be filed, but difficulties arise because the companies are often not registered at the bureau.

The bureau stresses that people should not get involved with business scams like these because people can end up paying for something that is not there.

The most that can be made is 25 cents to \$50 for the services that you put into it.

— Thomas Betz
director of student legal services

The Maximum Marketing flyers, advertising the mailing association based in Atlanta, Ga., state that the company can solve any-

one's money problems. Employees can receive cash daily for stuffing envelopes and there is no limit on the envelopes that are stuffed, according to the flyer. The salary is a dollar for each envelope.

In order to start immediately, the company requires a fee of \$12, plus a \$3 fee for materials to be rushed to the home. According to the flyer, the fee covers the company's expenses and guarantees that the employee can work for the company as long as they desire.

There is no telephone listing for Maximum Marketing in the Atlanta area or the surrounding area, nor is there a Web page. The Georgia Better Business Bureau also did not have a listing for Maximum Marketing.

In contrast to the flyer, Betz said, "The most that can be made is 25 cents to \$50 for the services that you put into it."



Speeders and radar detectors and deer: Law-abiding, honest citizens beware!



Todd Stull

Miles and miles of cornfields blur past your window, green and yellow blending into the horizon, creating the sense of living in an Impressionistic painting. As you streak down the highway, tires hungrily eating pavement, the steady blare of the car radio penetrates your skull and you relax into a groove on the highway. Life is good. Eager to get to your destination, you crest the next hill smiling, when bam! — you pass a cop, he pulls a slick U-turn, and in your rear view all you see is angry red and blue and the sheriff's snazzy little hat.

Sound familiar? If it does, let me be the first to say, I feel your pain. Just a little more than a month ago, the law caught up with me and gave me a speeding ticket. Being the hardened criminal I am, his appearance did not so much scare me as prompt me to wonder how I could redeem myself in the eyes of the law. Actually, what it really made me think about is why law enforcement officers waste their time on people like me, when violent crime rocks the neighborhoods around us.

I suppose it had something to do with the fact I was traveling through a rural farming county where the biggest criminal element is Joe Bob and Billy, cow-tipper extraordinaires. I can imagine that when I entered the county, an APB was put out to watch for my mug. Maybe I'm being too vain. Maybe it was just my stupid luck to be at the wrong place at the right time.

When Mr. Police Officer pulled me over (we'll protect the culprit's real identity), I can honestly say I didn't know how fast I was going. My exact speed is a mystery to me. I'm sure I was exceeding the posted limit, but we all know that's not a crime — it might as well be an official Rule of the Road that everyone must travel 5 mph above the speed limit or get flicked off. But for the sake of argument, let's say I was going 10 mph above the speed limit. Even then, cops don't usually pull people over, because as I stated before,

law enforcement officers prefer to nail the jaded criminal elements like myself who are traveling 12 mph above the speed limit.

Of course the ticket said I was going 76 in a 55-mph zone. Really? I suppose I should just trust the police officer, because he would never fudge a number for any reason, right? I mean, it's not like he needs to reach a quota of tickets written for the week, is it? No, I'm being silly. The fact that the speed I was cited for is exactly the limit needed to charge me \$95.00 for the ticket rather than \$75.00 should not make me suspicious that the police officer bent the truth at all.

Because I did not ask to see the reading on his radar device, I suppose I'll never know. (UPDATE: Just before press time, I learned a friend of mine got pulled over for speeding this weekend. I'll give you one guess as to how fast over the speed limit she was quoted as going. You guessed it, exactly 21 mph above the posted limit. Coincidence? I think not.)

Now, before I get bashed for whining about how the law shouldn't apply to me, let me state for the record, unequivocally, I don't think anyone should be pulled over for speeding as long as he or she is not putting other drivers at risk. If speeding is an element of otherwise reckless driving, then a ticket might be justified. But on rural roads surrounded by miles of plants, where you pass a car every few miles, whom am I going to harm? Squirrels?

Turns out, according to the officer, the squirrels have no problem with my driving, it's actually the deer that are pissed at me. Yes, his rationale for pulling me over was that I was going so fast I would hit a deer and kill myself. How could I forget the millions and millions of deer that ambush travelers from the corn and soybean fields? Not to laugh at the unfortunate few who hit deer, but it's a risk I'll take.

(Always ready to laugh in the face of danger and poke his beady little eyes out, that's me). Honestly, the law has no business keeping me safe from any of the statistically tiny risks inherent in this crazy circus sideshow I like to call life. Otherwise, the law could start regulating every minute part of existence, in the interest of that vague political term, "the public good."

I hope I'm not weird in wanting law enforcement to leave me alone if I'm not hurting other people. Meanwhile, it's good business for law enforcement

agencies to ticket as many people as possible and pad their budgets. Thus, I bear the irony that not only are my taxes paying for the cops to waste time pulling me over, I bend over for the government a second time to pay the ticket.

Realize that I appreciate law enforcement officers who protect the public from violent crime. It's a tough, often thankless job. On the other hand, limiting the power of "authority" whenever possible is the best way to avoid its abuse. As a taxpayer and voter, I do not believe my money is being used wisely to ticket your average speeder. If I had been recklessly weaving in and out of traffic, tailgating, or going twice as fast as everyone else, maybe then I wouldn't feel used and abused.

Not only that, the legal system used to deal with speeding is just as confusing and obfuscating as you might imagine. To contest my ticket, or even plea for court supervision so the ticket wouldn't be on my record, I would've had to drive for two hours to get to a 9:00 a.m. court session, miss my job and classes, and still have no guarantee anything would be found in my favor. Forget having a jury or judge trial, because the court fees alone cost more than the ticket is worth. Basically, once you get the ticket, unless you have definitive proof you weren't speeding, it's the officer's word against yours. Rest assured the officer will win. Sorry to be cynical, but in this case, you are screwed.

The one bright spot about the whole ordeal was I discovered that the \$7.00 SORF fund University students pay supports Student Legal Services (SLS). On my visit to SLS, I received competent, complete legal advice about my options and obligations in regards to the situation. I can honestly say that for this service alone, I gladly support the SORF fund. Best of all, SLS is open to all students who have not requested a refund of the SORF monies.

After this experience, I would recommend buying a radar detector — that is, as long as it is legal in Illinois, because I would never, ever, ever recommend buying something that is illegal. That would be wrong. On the other hand, if you ever do find yourself in trouble with the law, you would find a warm welcome cast into the same lot as other criminals such as me.

Todd Stull is a sophomore in LAS. He can be reached at di@illinimedia.com

Fees students pay each semester split among campus groups

Krannert, SORF, SEAL, and ISG all benefit from \$400 semesterly student fees

Mike Gunderson
Daily Illini reporter

Students are well aware of the amount of money they spend on tuition, which the University's board of trustees raised by 4 percent on

Thursday.

But students often overlook the more than \$400 they spend each semester on fees. Many students have no idea how their money is spent.

"I really don't care that much," said Mike Tobin, junior in engineering. "They're really not a big deal in my mind. They support things that are nice to have around."

Four hundred and sixty three dollars will be paid by every Universi-

ty student this spring through eight different fees. Although some of the fees are refundable, these account for only \$17, or less than 4 percent.

The four refundable fees are the \$7 Student Organization Resource Fund (SORF), the \$5 Krannert Center for the Performing Arts fee, the \$4 Students for Equal Access to Learning (SEAL) and the \$1 ISG fee.

The remainder of the money is as mandatory as tuition and is billed at

the beginning of each semester.

Roger Pohlmann, director of Student Accounts and Cashiering, said the money collected for each fee is put into an account. He said at some point in time during the semester, the funds collected are distributed to the various organizations.

The three main fees are the general, service and health service fees. Together these fees account for \$421 each semester.

The largest single fee is known as the service fee. This \$144 fee is used by organizations including Assembly Hall, Campus Recreation and the Illini Union for programming, staff salaries and other general expenses.

The Health Service fee serves as the service fee for the McKinley Health Center, which receives

more Fees on 6

Fees divided among many groups

Fees from 1

\$118.27 of the \$141 collected from each student. The remainder of the fee funds the Counseling Center.

The General fee is \$136 and is used for building and maintenance for the University's sports programs, as well as paying off bond debts on these buildings.

"The general fee is a brick-and-mortar fee," said Eugene Barton, associate vice chancellor for student affairs. "Because of the general fee, the buildings you used as a student will still be in the same condition when your children come here."

Tony Clements, director of Campus Recreation, said even though Campus Recreation receives funds from both the service fee and the general fee, there is a strict division in the fees, and one fee cannot be used for another's purposes.

"The separation works really well for students," he said. "This way we don't have to make a decision between fixing a roof and buying a treadmill."

Among the four refundable fees is SORF, which funds the Tenant Union and Student Legal Services, along with the programming of the registered student organizations on campus.

Robert Scales, SORF chair, said any registered student organization can apply to have an event funded. The applications are reviewed by the SORF board, which consists of six undergraduates, two graduate students and three faculty/staff members.

"We don't fund the group — we fund the specific event the group is doing," said Tracy Neff, SORF administrator.

Another refundable fee is the \$5 Krannert fee, which helps to fund the production costs of various Krannert performances, which include theater, opera, dance and professional marquee. The fee has been in place since fall 1993, after being passed by a student referendum in 1992.

After paying the fee, students get a discount of at least five dollars for each performance they attend.

"The first time you go, you've gotten your five dollars back," said Jean Sizer, business manager at Krannert.

"Go once and you've gotten your money back, anytime after that and you're money ahead."

Sizer said the fee is important to the work Krannert does.

"It's not a drop in the bucket but it would not by any means support the whole program," she said.

Another \$4 refundable fee is SEAL, which

1998-99 Student fees

Service Fee	\$144.00
Arcade Building	3.00
Assembly Hall	29.64
Campus Recreation	49.67
Career Center	11.17
Illini Union	45.08
Student Services Building	5.44
Health Service Fee	\$141.00
Counseling Center	22.73
McKinley Health Center	118.27
General Fee	\$136.00
Arcade Building	5.00
Assembly Hall	19.76
Athletic Facilities	34.00
Campus Recreation	31.30
Career Center	.10
Counseling Center	.30
Illini Union	27.10
McKinley Health Center	16.75
Student Services Building	1.69
Campus Transportation Fee	25.00
Krannert Fee*	5.00
SORF/SEAL Fee*	12.00
Student Insurance	
Undergraduate	127.00
Graduate	165.00

*Refundable

helps financially needy students receive aid. Willard Broom, associate dean of students, said the students' fees raised are matched by the state.

Barton said students play an active role in deciding the amount of funding for different campus organizations through their roles on the fee advisory boards.

He said the advisory committees review requests and hear presentations from the various groups seeking budget funding from the fees. The committee's recommendation is then given to the vice chancellor of student affairs, who then presents it to Chancellor Michael Aiken.

Aiken then gives the budget to University President James Stukel, where it is then presented to the board of trustees at the October meeting as an information item. The budget is then voted on by the board during the November meeting, which took place this Wednesday and Thursday in Springfield.

Most students agree the fees are necessary and will need to be paid anyway.

"They've gotta get their fees otherwise they'll just make tuition higher," said Jeff Kinnan, junior in engineering. "I think U of I is so cheap that it's really not that big of a deal."

Daily Illini

Friday, November 20, 1998

IN DEPTH

Tenant complaints on campus rampant

Some landlords receive good reviews, but others leave students unhappy

By Mike Caudron
Daily Illini reporter

Every year thousands of students sign leases for apartments with hopes of spending a relaxing, fun year in their new residence. However, student tenants around campus are discovering these apartments might not meet their expectations.

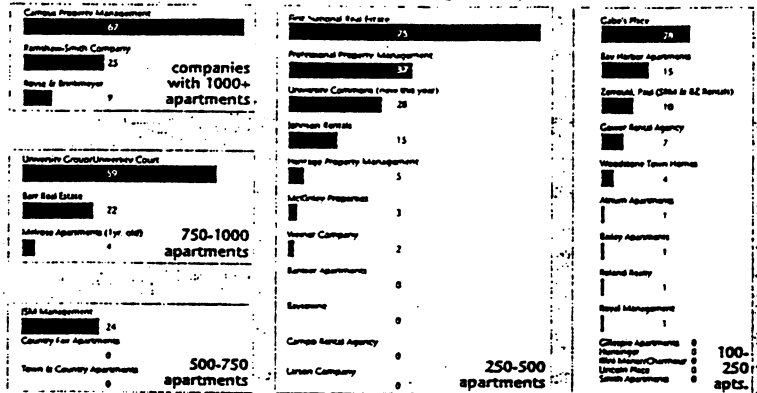
Tenant complaints are common on campus. More than 100 complaints have been filed with the Tenant Union since January against campus landlords for problems ranging from broken window screens to collapsed ceilings. Jaclyn Peterson, junior in applied life studies and tenant of University Group, said she has had a variety of problems this year, including a leaky sink and bedroom window, a hole in her pet's wall, and a loose front-door lock.

"The hole the dead bolt slides through was too big," she said. "It took them at least two months for them to fix it."

"If we're spending the money to live here, they should put in the courtesy in to fix stuff," she added. Although some tenants might feel neglected, landlords say they have to make repairs based on importance.

"The significant thing to us is to give people good, structurally sound places to live," said Dan Hamelberg, a principal owner of University Group. "Safety concerns are No. 1 around here," he said. "With 2,000 tenants, you just have to set your priorities."

Distribution of Tenant Union complaints filed against major landlords since 1994



Hamelberg said that with so many tenants, it is hard to keep everyone happy. "We have 2,000 people, and as much as I would like to have no complaints, I think it's unrealistic to try and please 2,000 people all the time."

Miriam Booth, general manager of Bankier Apartments, said tenants also dictate which repairs Bankier will make first. "Some things are clearly emergencies and some things are important to the tenants, so they're important to us," she said.

Even when there is nothing to fix, landlords keep their maintenance workers busy. Hamelberg said University Group employs 10 full-time maintenance personnel. "If they're not busy doing maintenance, then we have them doing preventative maintenance," he said. But Peterson said she and her roommates have given up complaining about maintenance problems because nothing seems to get done. "We're just like, 'What's the use?' because they're not gonna do anything," she said. "It wouldn't take

that long if they would take the time to do it."

Tom Getz, staff attorney at Student Legal Services, said even though landlords make improvements yearly, tenant problems have remained. "The more things change, the more they stay the same," he said. "There's new problems every year. What we're seeing this year are the same kinds of things I've seen in 14 years here."

more complaints on 6

Tuesday
Common Tenant Problems

Wednesday
Actions tenants can take

Thursday
Advice on avoiding future troubles

Tenant complaints run rampant

Complaints from 1

Hamelberg said he thinks tenants with problems need to talk to the landlords before taking further action. "I would say that tenants should talk to their landlords before going to the Tenant Union or anyone else," he said. "They're the ones you'll have to deal with eventually."

If tenants feel their landlord is not dealing with their problems, they can either notify the Tenant Union or the city inspector, but Champaign and Urbana have different procedures for handling tenant complaints. In Urbana, when a tenant complains, the city sends an inspector to evaluate the property. In Champaign, a city inspector calls the landlord first and tells them about the alleged problem before coming to look at the property.

Hamelberg said he would like the Tenant Union to handle complaints using the same procedure as the city inspectors. However, Tenant Union coordinator Esther Part said some students do not think talking to city inspectors is a good option. "Many feel as though the city inspectors are working for the landlord and not for them," she said. "Urbana city inspectors are more strict (than Champaign inspectors), more tenant-friendly."

The Tenant Union does more than handle complaints against landlords. Some landlords said they feel it is a good student resource. "I think they (the Tenant Union employees) are there for a good reason," said Priscilla Mitchell, tenant manager at Royal Properties. "They help people understand their leases. It's good for the residents to know how to understand their leases since most have never leased an apartment before."

However, Hamelberg recommended that the Tenant Union use a coefficient system, in which the complaint statistics are given as ratio-per-apartment owned. "If the coefficient system would be set up, we (landlords) would be a bit happier," he said.

Part defended the Tenant Union's method of receiving complaints, saying it is fair to landlords. "What we do is group them (landlords) by size of complaints so you can compare them to companies of the same size," she said.

Hamelberg said not all the complaints against landlords are justified. He disputed the stereotype that landlords are the enemy. "On some landlords deserve some of the complaints they get? Probably so. Do they deserve all the complaints they get? Probably not," he said.

"I don't know why the landlord is considered an adversary," he added. "It serves no purpose for us to not serve our tenants. The concept is to treat tenants as you would customers."

Part agreed, saying students should not stereotype landlords. "Landlords should be evaluated based on their individual merits and demerits," Part said.

There are more good landlords on campus than bad ones, Hamelberg said. "In my opinion, a majority of the campus landlords do a very good job," he said. "There are some that don't, but we don't want to be guilty by association."

"You never hear all the

good stories," Hamelberg said. "There's nowhere for them (tenants) to go and file a good report."

While there might not be a system to record positive landlord relations, landlords realize that tenants tell their friends what they think of them, good or bad. "I think it does really help to have a good reputation," Mitchell said.

Booth agreed, adding that landlords strive for a good reputation. "We feel that word of mouth is very important," she said. "It's a certain pride in ownership."

But tenants say a landlord's reputation will suffer if they are slow at fixing problems. Landlords generally work to look after their property, Part said.

"Most landlords are genuinely in business to make a profit," he said. "Common sense says be a good landlord. Not maintaining the property means, in the long run, no profits."

While some tenants might not think their landlords are using common sense, others are happy with the job their landlords are doing.

Kevin Gartley, junior in engineering and tenant with Larson Apartments, had no complaints about his landlord. "The rent's good, there's plenty of parking, and they'll fix anything that's broken as soon as you ask them to," he said.

Jen Cullane, junior in commerce, and tenant with Larson Apartments, also said she likes her landlord. "They're real organized and real nice," she said. "They take care of things when you ask them to take care of them right away. They're real prompt."

Free

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IN DEPTH

Landlord problems a headache for tenants

Tenant Union an option for students with complaints

by Mike Gunderson
Daily Illini reporter

For many students, living in an apartment has one big downside — landlord problems.

Thousands of students will sign leases for campus apartments during the month of November alone. Just as there are many apartment buildings to select from, there are also many campus landlords that prospective tenants must choose from when looking for an apartment.

Unfortunately, some tenants have had problems with their landlords.

"When we moved in, the place looked horrible," said Jaclyn Peterson, junior in applied life sciences and tenant with University Group. "They told us it would take 30 days from the day we moved in (to have the apartment cleaned).

"I called them about three or four times asking them to fix different stuff and they never came out," she added.

Kelly Topf, junior in nursing and tenant with University Group, thinks tenants are powerless when dealing with a landlord.

"I feel as though the landlords can take advantage of us," she said. "Even if they broke the lease none of us would ever have the time to take them to court."

Filing a lawsuit and taking a landlord to court might sound like an appealing option to tenants who feel as though their landlord is taking advantage of them.

Tom Betz, staff attorney at Student Legal Services, said court is a long, slow process.

"The court system is not quick and I don't think it should be," he said. "It should be thorough, but not quick. Litigation is not our first choice."

Esther Patt, coordinator of the Tenant Union, agreed with Betz, saying it is up to the landlord to fix the problem.

"A lawsuit won't get the repairs done," she said. "If a landlord doesn't want to do it, they're just not going to."

Betz said 94 apartments filed suit and went to court against their landlords last year, while another 297

How to handle problems with housing

First talk with the landlord



If problem is not solved; talk with the Tenant Union



If still not solved, talk with Student Legal Services



A final resort is to go to court

Source: Tom Betz, staff attorney at Student Legal Services

apartments had their problems resolved without going to court. He also said about 80 percent of the students taking their complaints to Student Legal Services office had already been to the Tenant Union.

Patt recommends that students bring their problems with their landlord to the Tenant Union, where they can file a complaint listing their problems.

She explained that going to the Tenant Union is one of the only ways a tenant can prompt a landlord to action.

"A lot of times the landlord will do things faster if you go to the Tenant Union," she said. "Give the landlord motive to do the repair. They've already made the sale and you can't withhold rent."

"Once the landlord hears that a complaint has been filed with us, they know that the story will be told and retold," she continued. "They want it to be told that it got taken care of."

Peterson said going to the Tenant Union was the first step in getting her problems fixed.

"If I hadn't done anything with the Tenant Union, I don't think any of this stuff would've been fixed," she said. "I appreciate all the work they (the Tenant Union) have been doing."

Patt said no matter how bad a landlord might be, the lease is always binding.

"You can't break the lease just because you're getting crummy service," she said. "The only way you'll

more Tenant on 6

Landlord problems a headache

Tenant from 1

get out of a lease is if the city declares it (the apartment) unfit for habitation."

Mary Hollis, junior in LAS and tenant with Campus Property Management, said the only way they have gotten things fixed in their apartment is by constantly reminding their landlord of the problems.

"Everything they've done for us is because they've been annoyed with us," she said.

If the landlord is not being receptive to a problem, Betz said the tenant should then contact the Tenant Union.

Jacqui Phillips, junior in com-

merce and tenant at 103 1/2 E. Daniel St., Champaign, said she would call the Tenant Union if her landlord was not responsive to a problem.

"I haven't had to call," she said. "But if I did and they were slow about getting it done, I'd say 'you've got two days and then I'm going to the Tenant Union' and then I think it would get done."

Betz said if there are still problems after talking with the Tenant Union, the student should go to Student Legal Services to try and remedy the problem.

"The office has a reputation among landlords that we mean business," he said. "They take us seriously."



IN DEPTH

Reading all of lease pays off for renters

Reading lease pays off for renters

Investigating landlords for past complaints also a good idea

by Mike Gunderson
Daily Illini reporter

Examining leases and choosing roommates carefully saves student tenants trouble they might not foresee when signing a lease. This is the general advice tenants, landlords and University staff are offering to those now looking for a place to live next fall.

"It's too early," said Tom Betz, staff attorney at Student Legal Services.

"Why in the world should someone sign a lease for Fall '99 when we're only halfway through Fall '98?"

"If people do feel compelled to sign this early, go to the Tenant Union and read the lease," he added.

Esther Patt, coordinator of the Tenant Union, agreed with Betz, saying there is really no reason to sign this early.

"There's more apartments than there are tenants," she said. "In Jan-

uary and February there will still be apartments available."

However, Dan Hamelberg, one of the principal owners of University Group, said if tenants wait too long, the apartment they want might already be leased.

Leases should be written so an eighth grader could understand it. If you don't understand something, that's a good indication they (landlords) are hiding something.

— Tom Betz
Student Legal Services attorney

"I don't fuel this 'early bird gets the worm' idea, but it really is true," he said.

Miriam Booth, general manager of Bankier Apartments, said it is important that students not sign

right away.

"I would urge tenants to see a variety, so they can find an apartment that's for them," she said.

Patt said when students want to sign a lease, it is important to bring it to the Tenant Union for review of both the lease and the landlord.

"You're signing a real estate contract for 10 grand, isn't it worth five minutes to read the complaint record?" she said. "When you sign a lease now, you're making a commitment through August 2000."

Patt also said students should not buy into stereotypes about landlords or buildings.

"A lot of students think a bigger company is better because they're more professional," she said. "There's no truth to that. People just assume that because it's a brand new building it won't have problems, but that's not true."

"New is not necessarily good and big is not necessarily good," she said.

Betz said tenants should realize another stereotype is that leases

more Lease on 6

Lease from 1

are difficult to understand.

"Leases should be written so an eighth grader could understand it," he said. "If you don't understand something, that's a good indication they (landlords) are hiding something."

Betz also advised students to read their leases before signing.

"Eighty-five percent of the problems are problems that could've been avoided if they had read the leases more carefully," he said. "If people will spend that extra hour or two checking, they'll protect themselves."

"I would advise anyone renting to go to the Tenant Union and have Esther Patt look over the lease," said Valerie Heideman, junior in LAS.

Betz said students should understand their leases are completely binding, even for college students.

"I think the biggest problems students have is understanding what a contract is," he said. "As long as you're over 18, not insane and not intoxicated, you're bound."

"Youth is not immunity. If nothing bad can happen to students, I wouldn't have an office."

Betz also said students should not rely on anything

the landlord says unless it is written in the lease.

"If the landlord won't sign, that means the landlord isn't going to do it," he said. "Oral promises are worthless. What governs is the lease, not oral representation."

Betz said students should check out the landlord they are leasing from, because the University community tends to forget about landlord-tenant incidents within a year or two.

"With the turnover of students, there's no collective memory," he said. "The Tenant Union serves as that memory, but not everybody uses the Tenant Union."

Patt said students should look at the overall quality of the landlord rather than single incidents.

"Don't focus on the individual complaints; focus on the landlord," she said. "How they treated people last year is a good indication of how they'll treat you next year."

Betz said too many times a student will find a great apartment and not worry about the landlord.

"Students fall in love with apartments instead of falling in love with landlords," he said. "They need to check that landlord out. There are consequences to signing a bad lease with a bad landlord."

Patt said students also wrongly assume the apartment or landlord will be better when they move in.

"There's no natural reason to think things will get better," she said. "The situation won't improve just because you want it to."

"If the place looks like a dump to begin with, it's not going to get better," Betz said. "Don't expect it's going to change because you moved in."

Hamelberg and Betz said a significant problem students have in apartments is roommate problems.

"Our single biggest problem with multiple-bedroom apartments is roommates who don't get along," Betz said.

"When people go into a lease together, a lot of times they don't bother to check each other out," Betz said. "A real common problem are students who 'fly the coop' with joint leases and stick the remaining tenants with the full rent."

Betz also said students in a bad situation need to assume some of the blame.

"A lot of students think if there's a problem, the law can solve it," he said. "That's just not true. If the law can solve every problem, there where does personal responsibility stand?"

Frozen pipes lead to damaged apartments

Landlords expected to file suits to recover thousands of dollars in damages

by John Zaremba
News director

Students hoping to save money by turning their heat off during winter break have caused headaches for landlords, causing tens of thousands of dollars in damage to frozen pipes.

An estimated 15 units owned by University Group, one of Campustown's biggest landlords, suffered damages from metal pipes expanding and contracting in the sub-freezing temperatures.

"It's sheer stupidity," said University Group owner Dan Hamelberg. "These people are bright enough to get into U of I... none of this damage would have occurred had the heat been left on to a normal setting."

Aside from damage to water pipes, Hamelberg also reported ex-

pensive damage to furniture and stereo equipment. He estimated that repairs and overtime pay for maintenance workers cost the company \$12,000 to \$15,000. Of that total, Hamelberg said he expects his company to lose \$10,000 in unpaid money.

When a tenant leaves the heat off and damages frozen pipes, all the roommates on the lease are legally responsible for repaying damages.

"The only way to avoid roommate liability is (not to) have roommates," Patt said.

Bankier Apartments representative Reva Eggherman said her company's buildings suffered damage but was not able to estimate damage totals.

John Barr, co-owner of Barr Real Estate, reported damage but said that on the whole, tenants remembered to keep their apartments heated.

"We have one or two incidents, but that's out of several hundred apartments," Barr said. "Considering the storm, we got along pretty well."

Barr said his company sent letters to tenants reminding them to keep their apartments heated. University Group — which requires tenants to leave their heat on as a part of the lease — did not, a representative said.

"If you came to the Tenant Union about having a lease reviewed, you were told about (freezing pipes)," said Tenant Union coordinator Esther Patt. "It seems like we need to promote this more."

more Frozen on 6

6 • the Daily Illini • Tuesday, January 19, 1999

Frozen pipes damage apartments on campus

Frozen from 1

Hamelberg said that during his 30 years in real estate, tenants have a history of walking away from their debts without consequences. Landlords can file lawsuits against tenants, but Hamelberg said the process is slow and troublesome.

Student Legal Service attorney Tom Betz, who represents students in such lawsuits, said pipes would break even if the students leave the heat set at the temperature their landlord recommends. He said poor insulation and construction not suited for the Midwestern climate are as much to blame for frozen pipes as tenants who turn off their heat.

Betz added that he has represented students who claimed to have left the heat on. In this case, Patt recommended that students use their power bills to prove they left their apartment heated.

Hamelberg said tenants have dodged paperwork requesting their presence in court; some also fail to show up. Even if a judge rules in the landlord's favor, ten-

ants can still escape Champaign-Urbana without paying, Hamelberg said.

Failure to repay a landlord shows up on the tenant's credit record, but Hamelberg said the penalties seldom reach beyond Champaign County. If a student finishes college and

gets a job elsewhere in the country, the blemish might not appear on the tenant's record.

But Betz disagreed, saying he gets calls from graduates having trouble with their credit

records.

"We have computers these days. Once it goes on the computer, it goes nationwide," Betz said. "This notion that it doesn't follow you is nonsense."

Hamelberg said that collecting payments can be troublesome for landlords.

"We'll get stiffed, we won't get paid and we'll just have to go from there," Hamelberg said.

"Very few of these students will pay this ... and then we will have to file suit," Hamelberg said. "For every horror story ... about bad landlords, I can tell you 10 about (bad) tenants."

These people are bright enough to get into U of I ... none of this damage would have occurred had the heat been left on to a normal setting.

— Dan Hamelberg
University Group owner

If problems persist, students can take it to court

Student Legal Service offers students an option if things go too far

by **Darcy Hendricks**
Daily Illini reporter

A legal case against a landlord does not have to be a huge expense with the Student Legal Service.

The Student Legal Service, located in Room 324 Illini Union, is a University organization which represents University students in legal cases ranging from traffic tickets to housing problems. Created in 1978 and funded solely by the \$7 Student Organization Resource Fee, the Student Legal Service is comprised of three attorneys and a secretary and is free to students.

"There are prepaid fees for the attorney," said Susan Hesse, Student Legal Service attorney, adding that landlords can also use the organization to sue residents. "The resource fee pays for the legal costs." However, she added students have to pay for the court costs, as well as the summons charge.

Hesse said the Student Legal Service means a landlord's negligence to a problem, like a damaged ceiling or a broken water heater, does not have to go unnoticed. She encouraged more students to use the service.

Tom Betz, senior staff attorney at the Student Legal Service, said many housing cases are related to either code violation problems, damage deposit not being returned or a student wanting out of their lease.

"Housing cases usually take up a majority of our time," he said, "although statistically it is not the majority of our cases."

Betz said students who have legal issues are referred to Student Legal Service usually after visiting the Tenant Union.

"We then interview the student and view

basic documents, such as the lease," Betz said. "We cannot sue without a lease."

Once the lease is reviewed, a letter will be sent to the landlord addressing the issue and suggesting a solution to the problem.

"Eighty percent of the time, the letter often works," Betz said, "and we won't have to go to court."

Betz said he and his associates will not take a case they do not think they will win.

"We are very careful about the cases, so we are not going to take a weak case to court," he said. "However, we encourage a way to settle out of court with the letter or with subsequent phone calls."

Aside from their legal role, prevention is also a big part of the Student Legal Service's function on campus.

"Our primary impact and goal is prevent-

ing the problems from happening," Betz said, referring to not only housing cases, but also other legal issues. "We have 23-some pamphlets on the issues, and we have sent out about 30,000 to various events, like freshmen orientation."

Housing seminars and a comprehensive guide to housing are also part of the prevention the Student Legal Service provides.

Tim Madigan, representative for the Student Legal Advisory Board, views the organization's efforts to educate students about their housing rights as beneficial. The Student Legal Advisory Board oversees the Student Legal Service and was established by the board of trustees.

"I think it benefits all students because all the ads we run in the paper," said Madigan, who is also the Deputy University Counsel. "And we run a special piece of how to check out apartments in the spring."

Betz said student concerns are the main focus of the Student Legal Service.

"We are dedicated to students and (we) are a pure service to them," he said. "It is really beneficial."

We are very careful about the cases, so we are not going to take a weak case to court. However, we encourage a way to settle out of court with the letter or with subsequent phone calls.

— **Tom Betz**
Student Legal Service
senior staff attorney



The News-Gazette

★ ★ Champaign-Urbana - January 29, 1999

Harvard owner arranging other housing for 24 ousted tenants

■ Students unlikely to be let back in for a week, or longer

By JULIE WURTH
and J. PHILIP BLOOMER
News-Gazette Staff Writers

CHAMPAIGN — It could be next week, and possibly longer, before students evacuated from a Champaign apartment building are allowed back into their homes.

But the owner of the Harvard apartments, 806 S. Third St., said today he had arranged alternate housing for the 24 tenants at another building.

The students will be able to move into the Atrium Apartments at John and Randolph streets at a reduced rent, David Barr said this morning. He said agreements are being drawn up to terminate the students' leases, if they choose, with a rent rebate and immediate return of their security deposits.

"We would like to stabilize their living situation as soon as possible," Barr said. "If I were in their shoes, I would want to get my life back to normal."

About half the tenants met with an attorney Thursday to ask how they could break their leases.

"I don't think they're going to be able to get back into those apartments any time soon," said attorney Thomas Betz of the University of Illinois Student Legal Service.

UI senior Samantha Fay said Thursday night that students were still exploring their options. Barr planned to meet with the students again today.

The students were ordered out of the building Tuesday after the south wall of the three-story building shifted during construction of a much larger apartment complex next door, owned by Erwin Goldfarb.

Structural engineers spent the last few days assessing the soundness of the Harvard building, said co-owner Jeff Wampler. The first step was to devise a plan to brace the wall, then determine what's needed to ensure the building's long-term safety, he said.

"No tenants will be allowed in the building until we're absolutely 100 percent sure" it's safe, Wam-



News-Gazette photo by Robert K. O'Daniel

Barr Real Estate employee Robert Boles, top, of Champaign hands personal belongings to Brenda Banks at the rear of the Harvard apartments on Thursday.

See HARVARD, A-6

NEWS / EAST CENTRAL ILLINOIS

Workers to shore up Harvard walls

■ Tenants receive help in search for new quarters

By JULIE WURTH
News-Gazette Staff Writers

CHAMPAIGN — Construction crews hope to start repairs today on an unstable campus apartment building as tenants make plans to move into new quarters.

The city on Friday approved an engineering plan to temporarily brace the south wall of the Harvard apartments, 806 S. Third St., C, which shifted Tuesday during construction on a massive new apartment complex next door, officials said.

The plan was drawn up by Wickershelmer Engineers, Champaign, according to Garry

Bowman, the city's building safety supervisor.

"We're OK with it," Bowman said Friday afternoon.

Indiana Insurance Co., which insured the building, plans to bring a construction contractor to the site today, according to co-owner David Barr.

The plan is to shore up the floor to take weight off the wall, which is a bearing wall, Bowman said. Workers will then brace the outside of the wall so it won't move any further, he said.

"Once the building is shored up and a structural engineer has deemed it safe and the city has approved everything, tenants will be able to get their furniture out," Barr said.

Officials aren't sure how long the work will take.

"It's pretty extensive. It could

take two or three days to get it all in place," Bowman said.

Shoring up the wall is only temporary; engineers still have to decide how to fix the building permanently, Bowman said.

In the meantime, Barr said he's been helping the 24 tenants find new apartments.

"Most tenants were released today from their lease," he said Friday. "We refunded their security deposits and pro-rated rents."

Students also received a \$225 check to cover housing, incidentals and moving costs, he said.

Attorney Thomas Betz of Student Legal Services, who worked with some of the students, said the terms looked agreeable.

"It's a stressful situation. No one is going to come out completely happy. They've acted

quickly, and I think that's really in the best interests of all the parties here," Betz said. "The whole situation has worked out better than I thought it would."

Several of the tenants are moving into the John Randolph Atrium Apartments in Champaign. Owner James Bray agreed to rent the furnished apartments for a week at \$100, and \$275 a month after that, Barr said.

"I'm considering it," said UI senior Samantha Fay. "I've been walking around campus, just seeing what else there is."

Tenant Dan Wiesch, a first-year law student, said he's still looking at other options, including a sublet or "university housing, the absolute bottom of the barrel."

Wiesch stayed at a hotel for the first two nights, then at a

friend's house on Thursday and Friday.

One thing is certain: He won't move back into the Harvard, even if it is repaired.

"Never again," he said. "My father's a landlord and has been in construction for 30 some-odd years," he said. "He's just absolutely amazed that anything like this could ever happen."

Workers retrieved some of the students' belongings from their apartments on Thursday and Friday. Wiesch had gotten out when engineers decided around noon that it wasn't safe to be inside. He had his computer hard drive, but not his monitor and keyboard.

"I was almost there," he said wistfully.

Luckily, a law dean offered to find him a temporary monitor and keyboard.

Fay was able to get all of her clothes, a cross-stitch wall hanging made by her mother and her archery bow. Her cat, Blackie, was rescued Tuesday and sent home to her parents.

"My next concern is having a place to stay and trying to get back into school," she said.

Added Wiesch, "I've got so much work piled up in front of me."

Barr said the experience has been trying for everyone. He praised the cooperation from tenants, city officials, Bray and many of the students on Tuesday and Wednesday.

"Things are settling down," he said. "My goal is to get things back to normal for the tenants and that's happening."

Harvard crack shored up as tenants weigh options

Workers try to secure building to retrieve property as former tenants look for new homes

by The Daily Illini

Workers began shoring up a cracked wall of The Harvard apartment building this weekend. Residents should be able to enter their apartments to retrieve more of their things today or Tuesday.

Landlord Dave Barr said it was likely that representatives from Barr Real Estate will accompany residents into the building at 806 S. Third St., Champaign, to retrieve most of their belongings. Necessities will be moved out first and then furniture.

"We're hoping early next week to get the residents in to get their things," Barr said. "They're working as fast as they possibly can."

The residents will be released from their leases. Even after the crack is stabilized, more long-term work will have to be done to make the building habitable, Barr said.

Rebecca Bloch, former tenant

and senior in communications, said although Barr has been taking care of her she is nervous about how the situation will turn out.

"Barr has been really accommodating," Bloch said. "A lot of us are really scared."

For the time being, most of the residents are staying at the Atrium apartment building at 1306 N. Lincoln Ave., Urbana. They are paying \$100 a week for the apartments. Some of the residents have already been moved into other permanent housing. Residents staying at the Atrium can stay in the apartments permanently, Barr said.

Even though they have housing, many tenants are still without some necessities. Thursday, the residents gave workers lists of things they wanted retrieved, but in many cases the lists were cut short, Bloch said. The

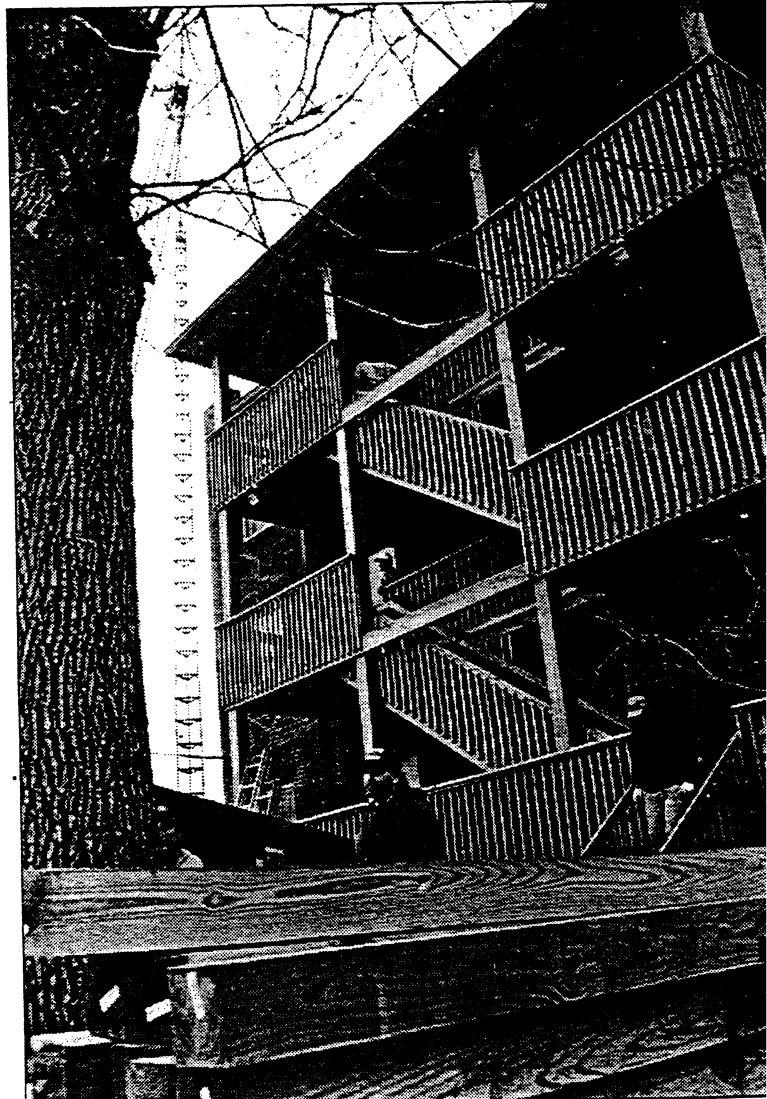
workers focused on the essentials like clothes, but Bloch said she wanted to get some of the things that cannot be replaced.

Bloch said Student Legal Services has been helpful, but that she was going to seek outside counsel.

"We're very much in limbo, but not completely in the dark," Bloch said.

We're hoping early next week to get the residents in to get their things. They're working as fast as they possibly can.

— Dave Barr
Harvard landlord



David Tran The Daily Illini

The employees of Contractors Plus Corporation prepare to leave The Harvard, 806 S. Third St., after their shift ended Saturday afternoon. The workers secured the floors of the building with wooden posts to prevent the south side wall from collapsing.

New 2-6-88

Students reclaim possessions

■ Apartments still closed for repairs; leases released

By J. PHILIP BLOOMER
News-Gazette Staff Writer

CHAMPAIGN — Books, TVs, computers and lava lamps exited the Harvard apartment building Friday in the arms of students eager to get back their possessions, and some clean clothes.

The building at 806 S. Third St. has been sealed off since Jan. 26 when construction on a new complex next door threatened to collapse an exterior wall on the Harvard.

More than a score of students returned from class that day to find they couldn't get back in.

"All things considered, people are pretty happy to be getting their things now," said building co-owner Dave Barr. "I don't think some of them were prepared to get them even this early."

Garry Bowman, Champaign's building safety supervisor, said the temporary stabilization of the Harvard's south wall was completed Thursday afternoon by an Indianapolis crew

brought in for the job.

"My hope is that by end of the weekend, all the kids will have gotten their things," Bowman said. "The stabilization work looks good. That doesn't mean it's ready to move back into. It's where it needed to get to, to be able to go in and do permanent repairs."

Workers had to shore up the foundation and brace the wall so it wouldn't move or crack any more. It was damaged when workers on the new building no more than 10 feet to the south removed the bracing on a basement wall they had built.

Tenants at the Harvard were released from their leases. Barr refunded prorated rents and security deposits and gave each of the tenants \$225 to cover temporary housing, incidentals and moving costs.

Barr and city officials thought the shoring work would take even longer, with wet weather delaying some of the work, but were pleased that it was done by Thursday afternoon.

Officials praised Barr's efforts. He was required only to refund deposits and prorated rent.

"There were people con-

cerned and frustrated about not being able to get into their apartments," said Esther Patt, coordinator of the Student Tenant Union. "Even if there are good reasons, people feel they're being jerked around."

Among those was Suzanne Powaga, a sophomore who had to rent a room with women she didn't know and was without her clothes, books and other necessities.

"I had to buy new everything. I have to wash clothes every two days," she said. "It's not been fun. I think they could have worked with us a little better."

Attorney Tom Betz with Student Legal Services said Barr cooperated beyond legal requirements and beyond expectations.

"Were some angry? Absolutely," Betz said. "They wanted to get in there and get their things. I'd probably be angry too if I was having to camp out someplace. My idea of camping in the wilderness is staying at the Hilton."

Barr said he had no idea how long the permanent repairs would take. The problem has already affected rentals for next August, when leases typically

start for the year.

"I can't very well take people into those apartments to show he said. "It was a stressful situation for everyone involved. Big and large, the tenants were very understanding and nice to work with, given the stress that were under."

free

MONDAY

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Independent student newspaper at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Waiting to sign a lease may be advantageous

by Dave Parro
Daily Illini reporter

Although students might find the perfect apartment early in the year, it can be advantageous for tenants to wait until later to sign the best lease.

"Landlords panic everyone that you won't have a place to live, but it's just not true," said Tom Betz of Student Legal Services. "I have never seen a student that has had to live on the

street...no one will have to live on a sewer grate."

The fall is the worst time for students to sign a lease for many reasons, he said. Students need to start looking at the widest variety of possible selections instead of jumping on the first available place they like, he said.

"People who panic, who are feeling stressed are most likely to make the worst mistakes," he said. "Panic buying is never a good idea. It never makes sense."

Students who shop around and find out every-

thing they can about the landlords and the apartment are the least likely to end up signing a bad lease, he said.

Tenant Union coordinator Esther Patt said it's a great idea to start looking for apartments in the fall. But some students search in a short period of time and feel they have to sign within that period, she said.

"It's foolish to pick an arbitrary date and say

more Apartments on 6

Waiting to sign a lease not always bad

Apartments from 1

"That's the day I have to (sign by)," she said. "The best way to search is to have the largest window of time."

Patt said the best time to sign is when tenants find what they want and are happy with the apartment and landlord. Until then, there should be no rush, she said.

There are apartments throughout campus that remain vacant the entire year. The current vacancy rate is 7 to 10 percent.

"Landlords are worried about having empty places next year," Patt said. "Students shouldn't worry about having a place to live. If you don't have a place to live by the day you move in, then you've got a problem."

While it's wrong to assume the good apartments will be signed by the spring, students who are pickier in where they want to live should sign earlier, Betz said.

"There's always a supply of property in the community at large," he said. "But it depends on how far into the community you want to go. If you have to have a five bedroom within five blocks of campus, you should have signed first semester."

Patt agreed that picky tenants might be disappointed. The upscale, more expensive places usually go on the market first and attract the most students. The nicer places closest to campus are in the most demand, Patt said.

Jay Maddin, sophomore in LAS, is looking for a two-bedroom close to campus. He said he regrets waiting until now to look for a place.

"There's still a wide variety," he said. "But most are further from campus than we'd like."

Campus Property Management shows the most apartments in November and December and then again in February, said Brian Robinson, a company leasing agent. Property less than three years old is signed by November, and older property is still around through March or April, he said.

Apartment size often dictates how early they're signed, Robinson said. Prospective tenants looking for a four-bedroom close to campus should start looking first semester. Four-bedrooms are signed first, followed by three-bedrooms; singles are the last to go, he said.

Unless tenants want a specific apartment, there is not a best time to sign, said Cindy Miller, leasing agent for Ramshaw-Smith Com-

pany. Many students sign early, but it is possible to sign all the way until the end of second semester, she said.

"We're really busy right around Christmas and then right after vacation in January," she said. "But there's still a lot of good ones out there."

Students who wait longer have the best chance of getting a good deal, said Patt. Some landlords lower rent if they're not doing well on the market, she said, and students have a better chance of getting changes made to their lease if they wait.

The later in the year, the more bargaining power you have, although that varies too.

— Esther Patt
Tenant Union coordinator

"The later in the year, the more bargaining power you have, although that varies too," she said.

Prices for some unsigned Campus Property Management apartments start decreasing at the beginning of spring semester, Robinson said.

"We definitely do reduce our prices for some buildings if they're not rented starting in January," he said. "We're doing it right now."

In addition to bargaining power, some landlords wait until second semester to check if current tenants are renewing their leases, Betz said. This puts apartments on the market in the spring that weren't even being shown in the fall.

"If you're fairly flexible on location there's plenty of stuff on the market now and in the months to come," he said. "I think you could actually theoretically sign a place one week before you come back in the fall."

Plenty of graduate, transfer and international students do just that, he said.

Looking at the classified ads and checking the Tenant Union for available apartments makes it obvious that there are plenty of places to live, Patt said.

"People should change their mindsets," Patt said. "Once people have one or two experiences, they realize they have more time."

Solutions to Spring Break snafus

'Buyer beware' is the theme when making travel plans this March

by **Anne Ornattek**
Daily Illini reporter

In order to spend a relaxing Spring Break under the sun and not in an airport terminal, there are precautions students should take to avoid scams.

"The No. 1 way students get scammed is when a friend of theirs works for a spring break outfit," said lawyer Tom Betz of Student Legal Services. "If the friend can get a certain number of their friends signed up, they end up getting a free trip. It sounds great but the person selling the package usually doesn't know what the package consists of."

The first thing to look at when making reservations for a Spring Break trip are the details from the company offering the trip, Betz said.

"Some of these packages can be too good to be true," he said. "Ask questions. If you're going down with 10 people, you don't want to end up with a small hotel room with five cots."

Another problem travelers can have is having to pay a damage deposit before checking into their rooms.

"If you get to the hotel and have to pay a damage deposit in order to get the room, that might be the money you were planning on spending on food," said Betz. "If you choose not to pay the deposit, often times you won't get a refund."

Betz suggests that students first make sure their hotel exists, and then check to see if there is a damage deposit or additional transportation costs.

"Some places say they are near the beach, but near is a subjective term that might mean one hundred feet or three miles," Betz said.

Lisa Hettinger of L & L Travel in Champaign said most travel agencies won't book with a Spring Break company unless they know it to be reputable.

"If the company students are dealing with does not go through a travel agency, they are likely to get scammed," Hettinger said. "Travel agencies are registered and have an ID number. If these companies don't go through an agency, who's to say they are going to be around tomorrow if you want a refund?"

Three modes of transportation — cars, buses and planes — are the ones students use the most to get to their vacation spots. Betz said these can also cause trouble.

"If you're driving with a carload of people, that's an immediate target for police," he said. "They often get students for speeding and drugs. It's ideal to prove them wrong."

Buses make money by making sure the bus is full, Betz said. Some bus companies go to different college campuses to pick up travelers before going south.

"Make sure you know what the route is ahead of time," said Betz. "It takes about 15 hours to drive to Panama City, maybe 20 by bus. You

don't want it to take 30. That could mean taking up a day and a half of your break."

When it comes to flying, students can avoid being scammed by flying with a guaranteed ticket from a reputable airline.

"Get the ticket in your hand," said Betz. "Don't accept a promise of a ticket."

Once at the destination, there are still many precautions to take.

"Leave your valuables at home, travel light, take traveler's checks and avoid getting off the beaten path," said Hettinger.

If one is traveling out of the country, Hettinger also suggested making copies of identification.

Aside from identification, students should also be aware of laws in other states and countries.

"Mexico has some harsh drug and marijuana laws," said Betz. "There, you may end up doing five years for smoking a joint. If your aim over Spring Break is to smoke pot, get a round trip ticket to Amsterdam. You're totally safe there, but you're not in Florida or Mexico."

Both Betz and Hettinger both said one gets what they pay for. Most packages are safe but scams do exist. It's important for students to know all the details of their trip, not just how many swimming pools are at the hotel.

"Many students at the University have done a lot of traveling and are very knowledgeable when it comes to traveling," said Betz. "But it seems like when spring break rolls around all that knowledge flies out the window. Use the same precautions for Spring Break as you would any other trip."

Free

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SORF supports campus groups, events

Refundable fees support Tenant Union, Student Legal Services and various student organizations

by Lisa Smith
Daily Illini reporter

Each semester, University students give \$7 to the Student Organization Resource Fee, sometimes not knowing for what the money is used.

Though the fee is refundable, the SORF board discourages students from obtaining the refund, because the approximate \$250,000 raised through the fund each semester is used to support the Tenant Union, Student Legal Services and registered student organizations, all of which serve students.

Any of the more than 800 registered student organizations can request SORF funding but must first go through a rigorous application process. SORF can give the organization all, some or none of the funds requested.

An organization begins the process by filling out a five-page application. The application asks for the goals of the organization, a detailed description of each event and cost estimates.

SORF receives about 250 to 300 applications each semester. These organizations often request more funds than SORF can provide. SORF has developed strict guidelines regarding funding to give appropriate amounts to each organization.

"Most organizations get at least partial funding unless there is a problem with the application or they ask for something un-

Most organizations get at least partial funding unless there is a problem with the application or they ask for something un-

— Rob Scales
SORF chair

able," said Rob Scales, SORF chair and senior in LAS.

About half of the money SORF raises is given to fund the Tenant Union and Student Legal Services. The rest of the money can be divided among RSOs that request funding, Scales said.

An interested organization applies to the SORF board, which consists of 13 members, eight of whom are students.

The SORF board can then make a recommendation to Pat Askew, the vice-chancellor of student affairs, to approve the amount. Askew approves about 99 percent of the requests, Scales said.

SORF is very specific on what it will and will not fund. SORF will not give funding to a group for purely social events or for an activity that is not open and free to all University students. SORF will also not approve funding for an activity that raises money for a private or charity organization. SORF also does not fund organizations that receive other student fees, Scales said. For example, SORF will not

more Fees on 6

SORF supports campus groups, events

Fees from 1

give money to the Residence Hall Association because it receives money through students' room and board fees.

A new rule regarding the application deadline was added last academic year. Each organization can now apply for funding up to three times a semester. Scales said only a handful of organizations take advantage of this opportunity.

Once funds are allocated, they must be used for the purpose they were originally intended for on the application, Scales said.

To avoid abuse of SORF funds, SORF usually reimburses the organization rather than giving them money directly, especially if it is a large expenditure, Scales said.

The SORF guidelines also state that an organization is expected to provide a share of the expenses for its organization through its own resources. Scales said that SORF will generally not give an organization 100 percent of the money they need. However, he added that there is no set formula for determining how much money SORF provides compared to how much money the organization should provide.

"It depends how well established the organization is," Scales said. "If it is a new organization, we will be more generous on funds allotted for the communications aspect. But for other older organizations, we expect them to come up with more money."

The minimum amount an organization can ask for is \$100. The maximum is \$1,000. But organizations can submit another application asking SORF to lift this limit.

"If they are requesting more than \$1,000, we need a very detailed budget," Scales said. He added that it was fairly common

for organizations to request more than \$1,000.

Last semester, organizations that received the most money from SORF include sport clubs, such as Illinois lacrosse, Illini Women's Hockey, Illini Bowling Club and the Illinois Men's volleyball team. Other organizations that received a large amount of money from SORF include the Livestock Evaluating Club, NIA (a cultural organization), the College of Law Trial Team, Latino Association for Business Students, Model U.N., Cutting Edge performance group, Concert Choir and Alternative Spring Break.

Scales said these specific groups received SORF funds for different reasons.

"Some of these groups have enormous total budgets, and sometimes what we give them is only a drop in the bucket," Scales said. "Other times, we get an application for a real quality event and it would be a bonus to the University to have the event carried out."

For example, Scales said sports clubs tend to have big budgets. "A few have as much as six-figure budgets," he said.

The bulk of the funds usually go towards helping to fund speakers and fixed costs, like equipment purchases. SORF also grants large amounts of money to fund an organization's conference expenses, which include travel, Scales said.

An example of a group with a worthwhile cause that SORF helped fund is Alternative Spring Break, which receives SORF funds to help reduce the cost of their service trips.

Organizations that receive the most money from SORF vary from year to year, Scales said.

"Sometimes RSOs will have a lot of programs one year and then not so many the next," Scales said. "Others have larger budgets annually."

Students pay for res-hall damages

Charges are often assessed to a group if responsible party is unknown

by **Dave Parro**
Daily Illini reporter

Damages done to campus dorms by a few reckless students often translate into unwanted community charges for an entire floor or hall.

While some innocent students end up picking up the tab, the alternative in University dorms would be to raise the rates for all the dorms to cover damage costs, said Erzin Cox, assistant director of Residential Life, the organization responsible for maintaining the environment of the University dorms.

In order to escape unwanted charges, students are encouraged to confront fellow residents or turn in the responsible party, said Jim Rooney, assistant director of housing for the University.

The Residential Life staff does its best to investigate damages in addition to counting on voluntary information from residents.

"We'd really prefer whenever we can to bill an individual and not a floor or a hall," Rooney said. "We make every effort. We do try to find out."

Damages are reported by either building service or maintenance, said Tricia Anton, area coordinator for Gregory Drive residence halls. The damage reports then go to the Residential Life staff or the resident director of the building who begins investigating, she said.

Damage reports are posted in a designated area, including damages done and the cost, she said. Students then have a week to provide information about the damages. After the week, the charge is applied to the fewest number of students possible, she said.

"Damage is usually the responsibility of only a few people," Anton said. "A few people cause the damage on a floor or building. If we de-

termine the responsible party, then our judicial process kicks in."

In a case where students feel they should not pay for damages, they can appeal to their area coordinator during the investigation, she said. Although students might have a legitimate way out of charges, only one or two students appeal in Anton's area every year, she said.

"Very few students take advantage of that opportunity," she said.

Some students might be exempt from charges, said Eric Arneson, area coordinator for residence halls in the Urbana south area. A student who was gone when the damage occurred or a student that works with staff to find the party responsible might avoid charges, he said.

University dorm contracts state that the students agree to pay for floor damage in common areas, which is outlined in the University Residence Hall's Hallmark Handbook. If the responsible party is not found, students are billed for the costs of damage and labor.

Students know from the start they are responsible, said Sarah Witt, sophomore in LAS and Hopkins Hall resident. However, some of the charges are unreasonable, she said.

"I think since they tell us from the beginning it's fair," she said. "But I think we're way overcharged."

Students in private certified housing have the option of deducting damages from their security deposit, which students in University dorms do not pay at the beginning of the year.

Bromley Hall charges students only for damage that is obvious vandalism, said general manager Geoffrey Eisenacher. In cases where damages occur from wear or tear or where damages are not clearly vandalism, students are not charged and the reports are ignored, he said.

more **Damage** on 6

Students pay for damages

Damage from 1

Students can appeal the damages until the end of the year, although most simply inquire about the damages, he said.

Students become aware that they will be responsible for community damages the day they move in when they receive a room and board agreement and resident handbook, he said.

Because residents in private housing do not sign joint-tenancy contracts and there is no contractual agreement between residents, they should not be responsible for community damages, said Tom Betz of Student Legal Services. A landlord would never get away with charging tenants these charges, he said.

"There's a real problem attributing damage to the collective whole when one resident did the damage," Betz said. "There's a precedent that they're all legally guilty. There's fundamental legal problems for doing that sort of thing."

However, residents might lose any recourse if conditions in a contract specify responsibility for the community, he said.

Dorm staff members said students who come back after drinking often contribute to a lot of the damage.

Most of the community costs in the Gregory Drive area are clean up costs from individuals vomiting in the bathrooms after excessive drinking, Anton said.

"It's a serious concern of ours... that students are getting that drunk that often," she said.

Eisenacher agreed that drinking contributes greatly to the recklessness that often causes damage.

"My guess is it's due to bad judgement caused by intoxication," he said.

While damage charges upset students, Eisenacher said they should be responsible in preventing fellow residents from doing damage.

"I know students get upset when they see a charge for two or three dollars on their statement," he said.

"But it's crazy that students let people do this damage."

Often charges appear on the billing statement with no explanation, said Devin Breen of Bromley Hall, freshman in engineering. It should be made clearer what residents are getting charged for, he said.

"Maybe we could be better aware of where damages are so we could watch those areas," he said.

People usually do the damage at times when they won't be caught, said Heide Schulz, resident advisor at Weston and senior in LAS. While some effort is made to investigate, it's not nearly enough, she said, adding that the individual is rarely found and the damages become community charges.

When people are caught vandalizing, they should be punished severely, she said.

"People would be made an example of," she said. "What people see is no one getting in trouble."

Betz agreed that community charges encourage poor behavior.

"It does not encourage people to behave well," he said, "knowing full well damage can be attributed to other parties."

free

WEDNESDAY

March 10, 1999

Vol. 128 Issue 113

the Daily Illini

Independent student newspaper at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Last-minute planning hits students' wallets

by Jason Orlovich
Daily Illini reporter

Students who began making spring break reservations this week were forced to re-evaluate their financial limits. As packages and flights become less available, students are presented with last minute inflated prices.

In an effort to avoid this, students might try to find cheaper packages from less credible agencies or independent sources.

"If it sounds too good, it is too good," said Tom Betz, staff attorney for student legal services. Betz said that people need to thoroughly check every aspect of a deal before they buy it. He said that the type of scams found this time of year can easily be avoided if students simply ask questions.

Local travel agencies are prepared for a busy week, said Teresa Uden, travel agent at Mid-America travel agency in Champaign.

"They are not having a lot of success," she said referring to students being able to find last minute deals. Uden said most of the better packages have been sold out since the end of December.

As a result, students shopping for spring break deals this week are forced to choose between the more expensive packages that are available.

"The fairs are going to be outrageous," Uden said. "They're going to pay a lot more, but get the same thing." She said that some identical packages are going for twice what they did a month ago.

Uden said that a trip to Acapulco, a new destination offered by the Mid-America travel agency, was approximately \$720 in December. Now, along with other popular locations like Can-

cun and Panama, an Acapulco trip will cost more than \$1,000 per person.

"At the end of January everything just skyrocketed in price," she said.

Uden said students were surprised to find the prices this time of year to be so high. But students cannot expect to find anything cheap last minute, she said.

Uden said students also often call while on their trip and want to extend their stay.

"They'll let you do anything for the right amount of money," she said.

Betz added that this type of pressure and immediacy might not be safe. He said students tend not to know what they're getting into until they reach their location. Betz said that bankrupt airlines and nonexistent transportation services are valid concerns for students each year.

"There's not a whole lot I can do before," he said. Betz also receives calls from students while on vacation asking legal questions and advice.

"The reality is that people have not done their homework," he said referring to these calls. Betz said common inquiries from students included unexpected damage and key deposits and misleading brochure information like hotel locations and bus routes.

Betz said that instead of driving straight through to Florida for example, a charter will make frequent stops without informing students beforehand.

"It could be a very long ride," he said.

Betz added that students should especially be aware of the word "near" on pamphlets and advertisements. He said that a common complaint last year was students who expected to be on the beach were actually miles away.

"Students in general cannot afford a \$25 cab (everyday)," he said.

campusscout

Party people unite: Scout rocks out spring break



Michele Steele

Scout's note: Scout's scandal-free term of office is almost over and it will soon be time to hand over the torch and pass down the reins to the next wacky columnist. If you think you're funny — actually nix that, if your friends think ... on second thought, if even the people who do not like you think you're funny — contact di@illinimedia.com and make a Scout inquiry. The Great Scout Search is officially underway. Scout is psyched.

Scout is psyched.

She's stoked.

She is — as Michael David Smith, editor in chief of the award-winning Daily Illini would say — “geeked.” Scout is excited for a myriad and a plethora of reasons, namely Spring Break '99. Scout has seen probably every really bad '80s college spring break movie there is and has, ever since then, been ready for her own uncontrollably wild adventures in hedonism.

Or something like that. Whoever invented spring break must have got a double serving when they were passing brains out. Whereas winter break is, to some extent, justified by the religious holiday that pervades it, there is absolutely no reason whatsoever for spring break.

And that's what makes it fun. Fun. Fun. Fun. However, just as every cloud's got its silver lining, every column has its requisite “but.”

But, this does not mean that you should not exercise caution while you are getting jiggy wit' it on the dance floor. Remember, you can “get stoopid,” but that doesn't mean you should actually be stupid.

Scout found several spring break tips at the Student Legal Services office that might be worth taking a look at. Watch your back and your wallet if:

- 1. Your spring break package lists a post office box as headquarters for the agency. They might not want to be found afterward.

This seems fairly obvious. Just as you should not buy major electronic appliances out of someone's trunk (Scout only buys her minor electronic appliances that way), you might want to make sure that the travel agency you signed with actually has, you know, an office.

- 2. The price is too good for it to be true. Look for the extra hidden costs.

Don't sign up for anything that ends in 99 cents. Insist to have your bill broken down so you can see exactly what you're paying for. Make sure seatbelts and seats come included in the airfare.

- 3. Lodging is stated as being “near the ocean.” Near is a relative term and might mean miles from.

Compared to Anchorage, Alaska, Champaign-Urbana is “near” Lake Michigan. Hell, we're “near” Cuba, for that matter.

- 4. Very inexpensive housing. The price might not include the “security deposit” you only discover when you checked in and have not brought the extra money for.

See Scout's tip for No. 2. Scout recommends you either bring extra money or make friends with people who have extra money. If neither is possible, make sure to wear leather sandals. Scout heard that in cases of emergency, the vitamins and minerals found in leather will keep the human body alive for at least a week.

- 5. Advertisements that promise you cash or a free vacation as incentive for signing a residential lease.

Scout would very much like to believe in altruism and selfless good deeds. However, Scout tends to question the natural goodness of people when shady free vacations are involved. Mother Teresa didn't start out by giving away free trips to Daytona Beach to pathetic college students.

- 6. Means of transportation — find out how and exactly when you will arrive at your paradise and get this in writing. Truer words were never said. That flight to Panama City might make three stops in North Dakota for all you know.

- 7. Find out the exact number of persons that will be housed in your particular lodging, and get this in writing.

Spring break is fun because there are a crazy ton of people having a good time. Disclaimer: replace the “is fun,” in the previous sentence with “will suck,” if this bunch is staying in your room.

- 8. Beware of the student travel representative working on commission or in exchange for a vacation themselves. Rarely do these people really know anything about the company with which you are going to do business.

Basically, when free vacations are involved, people our age are dumb — watch out.

Let the party begin.



WEDNESDAY

March 31, 1999

Vol. 128 Issue 123

the Daily Illini

Independent student newspaper at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Supreme Court case will have an effect on University groups

by Jason Orlovich
Daily Illini reporter

University officials were not surprised Monday as the Supreme Court agreed to decide whether public universities can use student activities fees to subsidize campus groups that pursue political goals.

"We have kind of been waiting for this," said Tracy Neff, student organization resource fee administrator.

In 1996, a lawsuit was filed by several law students at the University of Wisconsin-Madison which challenged the funneling of student activity money to 18 campus organizations.

The groups named included Students of National Organization for Women; International Socialist Organization; Campus Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual Center and an AIDS support network.

The Wisconsin students filing the lawsuit said they felt their conservative views were being challenged.

"(Wisconsin) has a very different way of funding groups with fee money," Neff said. "Even more different than apples and oranges."

Neff said Wisconsin currently offers a "checkoff system" which allows students to choose the organizations they would support with their initial activity fee.

"We fund programs through an application process," Neff said. She said the University reimburses specific programs.

"We just don't cut a check for \$1000," she said.

Although it is not in compliance with the 7th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruling last year, the University offers a refundable \$7 fee.

"We were working to come into compliance if the Supreme Court decided not to hear this case," said Dave Cocagne, Illinois Student Government president.

"If the Supreme Court upholds the 7th court's decision,

more Court on 6

Supreme Court case will have effect

Court from 1

we would have to continue those discussions."

Unlike Wisconsin, Illinois students have the option of receiving their refund beginning in the sixth or seventh week of classes. Cocagne said the case questions reusable fees versus refundable fees.

Neff added that because Wisconsin and Illinois are both included in the appeal court decision, the Supreme Court's pending decision will affect Illinois.

"We're aware of the decision," said Mary Ellen O'Shaughnessey, assistant dean of students. "(The decision) has the potential for really compromising the funding of our student organizations."

She added that if a student opts for a refund they can no longer use Student Legal

Services or the Tenant Union, which are services covered by the fee.

"Instead of paying and getting back (the fees), we need to give students an option out," Cocagne said. "This is going to impact us in some form or another."

O'Shaughnessey added that every student organization has equal access to SORF money. She said that many student leaders are also concerned.

"We just don't want to be caught off guard," O'Shaughnessey said. "We've been doing our homework."

Neff said ISG voted to postpone the annual SORF referendum vote until next fall.

"It (the pending decision) would guide us in terms of research," she said.

The Supreme Court's decision is expected by next year.

Residential Life
20th ANNUAL CAMPUS RESOURCE FAIR
Response Sheet

Office/Agency Student Legal Service

 NO, we will not be able to attend the Resource Fair this year.

XX YES, we will send a representative to the Residential Life R.A./Student Leader Campus Resource Fair on Monday, August 17, 1998, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the Florida Avenue Residence Halls (FAR) basement rooms.

Number of Staff Members Attending 2

Will your display be interactive or information only? Interactive

If your display will be interactive, please describe briefly what you will be doing:

Attorneys will have a comprehensive display
as well as answer questions.

Tables and chairs will be provided. If you will need any special arrangements or equipment for your display (i.e. extension cords, slide projectors, pegboard dividers, etc.), please specify below.

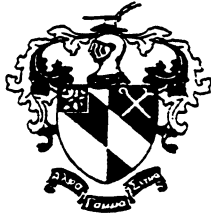
n/a

If we need additional information, who should we contact?

Name Nikki Davis
Address 324 Illini Union
1401 W. Green, Urbana M/C 384
Phone 333-9053

Please complete and return this form by Monday, June 15, 1997 to:

Angela Seguin
138 Allen Hall
1005 West Gregory Drive
Champaign, IL 61820
MC-050
333-1100



Alpha Gamma Sigma

Illini Chapter
University of Illinois

November 2, 1998

303 East Chalmers
Champaign, Illinois 61820

Thomas E. Betz
Attorney at Law
324 Illini Union
1401 West Green Street
Urbana, IL 61801

Dear Thomas E. Betz

I have received information from your office dealing with presentations. I would like to request a presentation on the topics of alcohol laws on campus and also search and seizure rights'. I would like to set the presentation for Monday, November 16, at 6:30 p.m. Our chapter house located at 303 E. Chalmers would work for the presentation. I would estimate that there would be 40 to 45 men in attendance. If you have any questions you may contact me at 384-1484. Thank you for your time and I look forward to meeting with you.

Yours truly,

Joseph Delheimer

James P. Biggins, Speaker

FEB 17 REC'D

Alpha Delta Pi Sorority
1202 W. Nevada Urbana
(Corner of Goodwin Nevada)

Mon March 1st
6pm

(\approx 20 minutes
if possible)

\approx 100 people

Issue: Liability & Insurance

sorority house -

- We have a policy with our insurance
that says we are covered only if alcohol
is not present in the house. (cigarettes are also
not allowed)

- discuss liability - what will happen
if something happens in house and
alcohol is present

contact: Kristen Spinato
344-9858

Susan Hesse

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

Office of the Dean of Students

Orientation Programs
15 Wardall Hall, MC-066
1010 West Illinois Street
Urbana, IL 61801



February 24, 1999

Nikki Davis
Student Legal Services
324 Illini Union
MC-384

Dear Nikki:

The 1999 Summer Orientation Program was reviewed by a committee appointed by the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs and the Provost. The Orientation Review Committee examined all aspects of the summer program and made a series of recommendations. I'm contacting you to make you aware of the recommendation regarding the Information Fair in which your department/organization has been a participant.

The Orientation Review Committee found the Information Fair did not received favorable ratings when evaluated. Based upon these evaluations, the Committee recommended the Information Fair be removed as a session offered during the Summer Orientation Program. Therefore, we will not be offering this session during the 1999 Summer Orientation Program.

I would like to thank you for taking the time and resources to support the Summer Orientation Program in the past. Your assistance with the Summer Orientation Program has been greatly appreciated by our office.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at 333-4057.

Sincerely,

Lisa Moorman
Assistant Dean

Peter Konopacki
Lambda Chi Alpha
209 E. Armory
Champaign, IL. 61820
(217) 344-3224

Dear Mr. Betz:

Hi, my name is Peter Konopacki. I am a student at the U of I. I am currently enrolled in a yearlong class called Health Advocates. We have been given an assignment to select a topic and have a presentation given to our organizations. I am in the fraternity, Lambda Chi Alpha, and am inquiring if you could give a one hour presentation about **"the need for fraternities to be covered by liability insurance"** to approximately 35 men. This topic was chosen because it is one of the requirements of our probation for not having forms sent to Nationals before we held our annual philanthropy.

The date of completion for this assignment is April 6th. Therefore any day during March 22-26, or March 29-April 2 is good for the presentation. I was generally thinking of a 7:00pm or 8:00pm starting time.

If you have any other questions feel free to can me at 344-3224. Thank you for taking the time to read this. I am looking forward to hear from you.

Sincerely,

Peter Konopacki

I would like to
thank you for
helping us resolve
our problem. My
roommates and I
really appreciate it.

THANKS! JUL 27 RECD



Thank you for agreeing to participate in the Scavenger Hunt for the Family and Graduate Housing Graduate Assistant Training on Wednesday, August 12th from 9-11am. Enclosed are the stickers that should be given to the GAs as they come through your office. Please give only one sticker per person and only if they are physically there to receive it.

Since the purpose of the Scavenger Hunt is to familiarize the GAs with the various resources on campus, if you have any brochures or information about your services that would be helpful to them, please feel free to pass them out as well.

If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact me at 332-4808 or e-mail me at sen@uiuc.edu. Your willingness to participate is truly appreciated!

Sincerely,

Rakhi Sen
Graduate Assistant
Family and Graduate Housing

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Twin Cities Campus

University Student Legal Service
Office of the Vice President for
Student Development & Athletics

160 West Bank Skyway
219-19th Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55455
612-624-1001
Fax: 612-624-7351

August 12, 1998

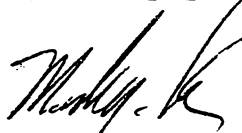
Thomas E. Betz
Attorney at Law
Student Legal Service
324 Illini Union
U of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
1401 West Green Street
Urbana, Illinois 61801

Re: NLADA 1998 Summer Conference

Dear Tom:

On behalf of all attendees at this year's Conference of the Student Legal Services Section of NLADA, I want to thank you for serving as a facilitator. The evaluations we have received from those in attendance indicate that your presentation was interesting, educational, and beneficial to their practice. It was through your efforts and contributions that we were able to make this year's conference a resounding success. I want to personally thank you for your hard work and contributions to our program.

Very truly yours,



Mark J. Karon
Attorney at Law

MJK/lr/11

Hope they found your luggage!

OCT 16 REC'D

Dear Mr. Betz,

Thank you very much for your help in dealing with McLeod USA. The credit for the phone bill showed up today. Once again thank you for the time you spent on the phone and writing letters.

Sincerely,

OCT 21 REC'D

Dear Mr. Betz,

"Thank you"
doesn't say it all,
but at least it starts
to let you know
how very much
your kindness
touched our hearts.

Respectfully,

Re: case

mailbox:/C%7C/Program%20Files/Netscape/Na...A-100000@alecto.physics.uiuc.edu&number=0

Subject: Re: case

Date: Tue, 27 Oct 1998 13:08:22 -0600 (CST)

From: [REDACTED]

To: biggins james p <biggins@staff.uiuc.edu>

Dear Mr Biggins,

I went to the university police office yesterday. I had to sign a form saying that I took the sweaters. They also took a picture of me holding the sweaters, then I could have them.

Thanks very much for your help and time.

Sincerely,
[REDACTED]

Dear Mr. Betts.

Good Will to All!

I want to thank you and the whole staff of Student Legal Services (past and present!) for the help you've given me and many others. You really make a difference!

Wishing you all the best for the holidays and in the coming year.

Sincerely,



A warm note of thanks
to say people like you
Help make the world brighter
by the nice things you do!

We truly appreciate your
help!

3-2-99

Dear Susan Heseley,

On behalf of Alpha Delta Pi,
I would like to thank you for
taking the time to come and
educate us. The information
you shared with us was very
effective. (Exactly what we needed! 😊)
Thanks again!
Sincerely,

Mr. Biggins,

APR 01 1967

I just wanted to thank you for all of your help. I really appreciate the time you spent helping me out. Thanks again for your assistance!

To Jim Higgins

APR 14 REC'D

I wanted to take the time and opportunity to thank you for taking some time out of your schedule to answer my questions. I really appreciate it. I now know that I want to pursue my career as a lawyer. Once again Thank you

Sincerely,

To Thomas E. Betz

I wanted to take the time and opportunity to thank you for taking some time out of your schedule to answer my questions. I really appreciate it. I now know that I want to pursue my career as a lawyer. - Once again Thank You

Sincerely,

"The Lord turn His face
toward you
and give you peace."

NUMBERS 6:26 NIV

Mr. Biggs

Thank you for
representing my son
regarding his traffic
tickets. I really appreciate
the extra effort you put into
this to make it work.

God Bless!

T H A N K Y O U

University of Illinois
at Urbana-Champaign

Student Legal Service

324 Illini Union M/C384
1401 West Green Street
Urbana, IL 61801

217 333-9053
217 333-0474 *fax*

October 12, 1998

RE: Student Legal Service
Speakers Bureau

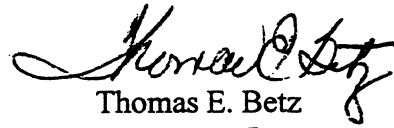
Dear Fraternity/Sorority President:

The Student Legal Service provides staff attorneys for various campus groups and organizations to speak on legal topics. This semester the major issue is the impact of the alcohol laws on campus. Upon your request the Student Legal Service would be pleased to present a discussion on this or other topics of interest. In the past topics have included:

Date Rape -- Without Political Correctness
Champaign Alcohol Rules
Liability for Sexually Transmitted Diseases
Search and Seizure
Consumer Rights
Landlord/Tenant Law.

Please feel free to contact the office to make arrangements for a presentation. I have taken the liberty of enclosing 20 copies of Student Legal Services pieces on zero tolerance, the Champaign bar scene and guidelines to throwing a party, which may be of assistance to your membership. The last two weeks of fall semester (December 1st-14th) are not available for a presentation. Have a great semester.

Very truly yours,



Thomas E. Betz
Attorney at Law

TEB:nd
Enclosures

University of Illinois
at Urbana-Champaign

Student Legal Service

324 Illini Union M/C384
1401 West Green Street
Urbana, IL 61801

217 333-9053
217 333-0474 *fax*

February 18, 1999

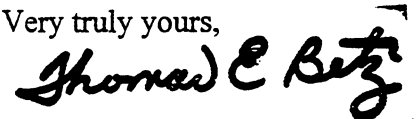
RE: Spring Break

Dear President:

I have enclosed twenty (20) copies of the Student Legal Service Spring Break in Florida pamphlet. We are encouraging campus organizations to distribute the piece at their meetings so many of the problems students encounter during spring break can be avoided. Your help in the preventive effort is appreciated.

As always Student Legal Service attorneys are available with notice to speak on various legal topics which concern your organization.

Very truly yours,



Thomas E. Betz
Attorney at Law

TEB:nd
Enclosures (20)

word processing. Homebound services are provided for shut-ins.
E-mail: smckin@LTNet.ltls.org

298
Stevick Senior Center
359-6500

48 E. Main St.
Champaign, IL 61820

Provides recreational, educational and informational programs, activities and services for senior adults to enhance, promote and encourage their participation and leadership so they may lead happy, useful lives beneficial to themselves and their community. Also sponsors Food-for-Seniors program.

299
Storefront School
352-1749

408 Kenwood Rd.
Champaign, IL 61821

Provides alternative education for students ages 16 to 21 who are no longer enrolled in a public high school program. High school may be completed through high school credit. Students are enrolled through the counseling office of the Urbana Adult Education program (384-3530), follow the public high school curriculum, work at their own pace and may graduate from their home high school.

300
Student Legal Service
333-9053

Illini Union, Room 324
1401 W. Green St.
Urbana, IL 61801
www.uiuc.edu/unit/SLS

For U of I students who have paid \$7 SORF fee, the program provides services for tenant/landlord cases, consumer law, traffic cases, and misdemeanors, but not for felonies. Speakers on selected legal topics for community groups are available.

301
Summer Sports Fitness, University of Illinois Kinesiology Dept.
333-7113

131 Freer Hall
906 S. Goodwin Ave.
Urbana, IL 61801

Department of Kinesiology program provides development of physical and motor fitness through aquatics, individual and group games and lifetime sports. Offered four afternoons a week in the summer for children ages 7 to 12.

302
Sunnycrest Manor
328-6170

1805 S. Cottage Grove Ave.
Urbana, IL 61801

Subsidized housing provides independent living for the elderly and mobility impaired.

303
Swann Special Care Center
356-5164

109 Kenwood Rd.
Champaign, IL 61821

Provides residential care for severely and profoundly developmentally disabled children. Also operates a private school for residents and a developmental day training program.

304
T.I.M.E.S. Center
344-1612

801 S. Fifth St.
Champaign, IL 61820

T.I.M.E.S. (Transitional Initiatives and Men's Emergency Services) Center is the former Men's Emergency and Community Day Shelter. When funding permits, the Day Shelter accepts men, women, and children 8:30am to 1:30pm (except Sundays, on which the Day Shelter opens at noon). The Overnight Emergency Shelter is open to men over 18 years of age 7pm to 7:30am. Women and children may have dinner from 7 to 7:30pm and can stay until 9pm. The overnight shelter is open 12 months a year. Health clinic every Wednesday from 11 am - noon. Provides acute care, dispensing over-the-counter medication, and wound cleaning. Two doctors and one certified nurse practitioner are available for follow-up care, if needed. Health services are available to anyone in need. Mailing address: P.O. Box 2223, Champaign.

305
Tel-Med, Provena Covenant Medical Center
337-2828

1400 W. Park St.
Urbana, IL 61801

Call-in service provided by Provena Covenant Auxiliary and Medical Center is a 24-hour-a-day medical information system of approximately 350 tape recorded health messages ranging from three to ten minutes in length. For complete listing of available tapes call the Marketing Department, 337-2221. Alternate phone: 800-252-7301.

306
Telecare Coffee Group
586-4633

Mahomet, IL

TeleCare-sponsored group for seniors meets the second Wednesday of each month. Call contact person for meeting places. Alternate phones: 586-2022, 586-6731.

307
Toastmasters Clubs in Champaign County

Four clubs assist members to become better speakers and listeners, help them overcome nervousness in speaking before an audience, and organize and present ideas logically and convincingly. Call for meeting times. Contact people and meeting locations are as follows: C-U Club at Urbana Free Library, Corky Kirts, 383-3413; McKinley Club at Springer Center, 301 N. Randolph, Champaign, Tony Audrieth, 355-1406; Research Park Club at CERL, 2803

BEST DEAL IN TOWN!
M-F • 6-11 AM • Choose from 2 Eggs, Ham and 2 Pancakes or Toast; 3 Pancakes, Ham; 2 Eggs, American Fries, Toast; Ham Omelet, American Fries, Toast

BREAKFAST SPECIAL \$2.75

SENIOR CITIZENS 10% DISCOUNT

HAM DINNER \$3.95 **GRILLED PORK CHOPS \$4.25**

TURKEY DINNER \$4.25 **SHRIMP DINNER \$4.25**

Taffes RESTAURANT

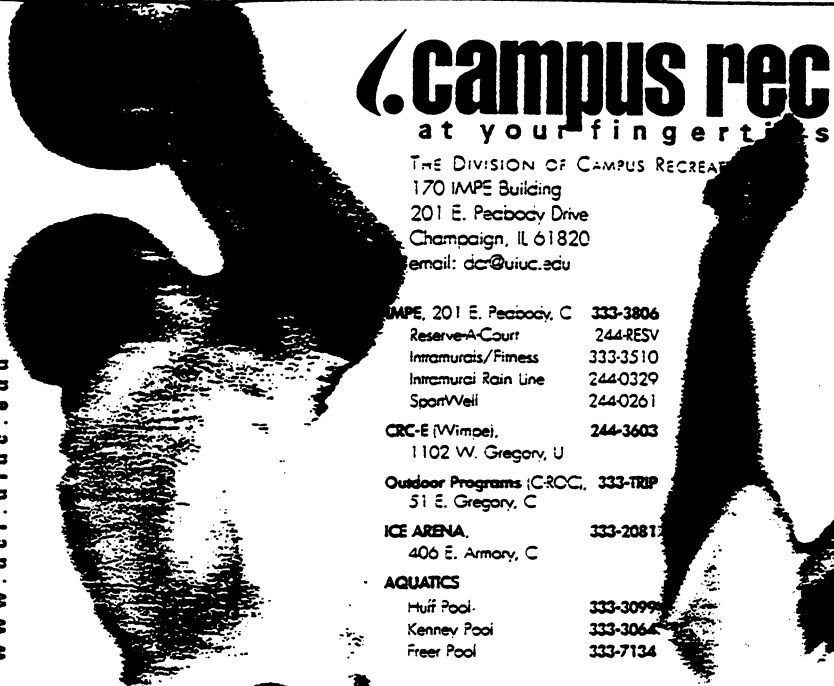
Breakfast Anytime! 359-4201
COUNTRY FAIR • 301 S. Mattis, Champaign

14. Student Legal Service

Students who have paid the \$7 SORF fee and have not requested a refund may obtain assistance from Student Legal Service attorneys. In addition to defending students accused of traffic offenses, they also handle landlord-tenant disputes, misdemeanors, consumer disputes, and a variety of miscellaneous matters. The attorneys will not handle cases involving one student against another, or a student against the University or the state of Illinois, or felony cases. They cannot go outside Champaign County, but will give the accused person counsel.

Students needing an attorney should go to the office, 324 Illini Union, to make an appointment.

The above information appears in the
A Handbook for Graduate Students and Advisers
published by the Associate Dean of the Graduate College



campus rec
at your fingertips

THE DIVISION OF CAMPUS RECREATION
170 IMPE Building
201 E. Peabody Drive
Champaign, IL 61820
email: dc@uiuc.edu

www.dcr.uiuc.edu

IMPE, 201 E. Peabody, C	333-3806
Reserve-A-Court	244-RESV
Intramurals/Fitness	333-3510
Intramural Rain Line	244-0329
SportWell	244-0261
CRC-E (Wimpe), 1102 W. Gregory, U	244-3603
Outdoor Programs (CROC), 51 E. Gregory, C	333-TRIP
ICE ARENA, 406 E. Armory, C	333-2081
AQUATICS	
Huff Pool	333-3099
Kenney Pool	333-3064
Freer Pool	333-7134

STUDENT LEGAL SERVICE
At the University of Illinois • Urbana-Champaign



STUDENT LEGAL SERVICE PROGRAM
324 ILLINI UNION, 1401 W. GREEN, URBANA
HOURS: M - F 8:30 - 12:00, 1:00 - 4:30
PHONE: (217) 333-9053 • FAX: (217) 333-0474
CHECK OUT OUR WEB PAGE • www.uiuc.edu/unit/SLS

General Account Receivable: Donna Fogerson, 100B, Window 7, Henry Admin, MC-367, 244-6022
Outside sponsor billing: Jane Brock, 125 Henry Admin, MC-367, 244-2927
Registration statements: Susan Mahannah, 100B Henry Admin, Window 7, MC-367, 333-5399

Student Affairs, Office of the Vice-Chancellor for:
333-1300

120 Swanlund, 601 E John, C, MC-304
FAX: 244-6623
URL: <http://www.odos.uiuc.edu/sa>
Vice-chancellor: Patricia E. Askew, Swanlund, MC-304, 333-1300
Adm asst: Carol A. Bosley, Swanlund, MC-304, 333-1300
Assoc vice-chancellor: S. Eugene Barton, Swanlund, MC-304, 333-1300
Adm aide: Sandra K. Yarnell, Swanlund, MC-304, 333-1300
Assoc vice-chancellor, dean of students: William L. Riley, 300 Stu Serv, MC-306, 333-2121
Adm aide: Gwenda L. Davis, 300 Stu Serv, MC-306, 333-2121
Assoc vice-chancellor: Clarence Shelley, Swanlund, MC-304, 333-1300
Adm aide: Sandra K. Yarnell, Swanlund, MC-304, 333-1300
Asst to vice-chancellor: Julie A. Jackson, Swanlund, MC-304, 333-1300
Asst vice-chancellor, dir of development: Lyn Jones, 300 Stu Serv, MC-306, 244-8060
Assembly Hall*: 333-2923
Board of Examiners*: 333-1565
Career Center*: 333-0820
Conflict Resolution, Ofc for Student*: 333-3680
Counseling Center*: 333-3704/ 333-8360
Dean of Students, Ofc of the*: 333-0050
Financial Aid, Ofc of Student*: 333-0100
Housing Div*: 333-0610/333-1752
Illini Union*: 333-0170
International Student Affairs, Ofc of*: 333-1303
McKinley Health Center*: 333-2701
Minority Student Affairs, Ofc of*: 333-0054
Recreation, Div of Campus*: 333-3806

Student Employment

See Financial Aid, Office of Student

Student Government Association

See Illinois Student Government

Student Insurance Office

See Benefits Center

Student Judicial Affairs, Office of

See Conflict Resolution, Office for Student

Student Legal Service: 333-9053

324 Illini Union, 1401 W Green, U, MC-384
FAX: 333-0474
URL: <http://www.uiuc.edu/unit/SLS>
Attorneys: Thomas E. Betz, Susan Y. Hessee
Secy: Nicola T. Davis

Student Loans

Loan information: see Financial Aid, Office of Student
Billing information: see Student Accounts & Cashiers under Business Affairs, Office of

Student Organizations Office, Registered

See Illini Union

Student Teaching, Office of

See Education, College of

Student Trustee: 333-3825

298-A Illini Union, 1401 W Green, U, MC-384
FAX: 244-8345
EMAIL: s-gallo@uiuc.edu
Samuel N. Gallo, 298-A Illini Union, MC-384, 333-3825

Study Abroad Office: 333-6322

115 Intl Studies Bldg, 910 S Fifth, C, MC-480
FAX: 244-0249
EMAIL: sao@uiuc.edu
URL: <http://www.uiuc.edu/providers/ips/sao/>
Dir: Joan Solaun, 125 Intl Studies Bldg, MC-480, 333-7741
Assoc. dir: Julie Taylor, 121 Intl Studies Bldg, MC-480, 333-7741
Adm asst: Karen Tempel, 124 Intl Studies Bldg, MC-480, 333-7741
Asst dirs:
Brian Souders, 116 Intl Studies Bldg, MC-480, 333-6322
Karan Foote, 118 Intl Studies Bldg, MC-480, 333-6322

Angela Jolie, 123 Intl Studies Bldg, MC-480, 333-6322
Carne Roig, 122 Intl Studies Bldg, MC-480, 333-6322
Program asst: Sara Frank, 120 Intl Studies Bldg, MC-480, 333-2234
Adm services coord: Maria Rund, 102a Intl Studies Bldg, MC-480, 244-8990
Data base coord: Joyce Beasley, 102 Intl Studies Bldg, MC-480, 244-8990
Receptionist: Krist Williams, 115 Intl Studies Bldg, MC-480, 333-6322

Summer Session

See Continuing Education, Office of

Summer Sports Camps

See Athletics, Division of Intercollegiate

**Supercomputing Applications,
National Center for: 244-0072**

152 Comp Appl Bldg, 605 E. Springfield, C, MC-476
FAX: 244-1987
URL: <http://www.ncsa.uiuc.edu>
Dir: Larry L. Smarr, 244-0078
Ofc Address: 5365 Beckman, 405 N Mathews, U
Mailing address: 152 Comp Appl Bldg, 605 E. Springfield, C, MC-476
Deputy dir, alliance operations: James R. Bottum, 244-6832
Deputy dir, alliance programs: John C. Toole, 244-6400
Public information officer: Karen Green, 265-0748
Finance & admin: Denton Brown, 244-7714
URL: <http://www.ncsa.uiuc.edu/Business/>
Fiscal affairs: Mike Rudzinski, 244-0389
URL: <http://www.ncsa.edu/Business/BusinessOffice.html>
Operations: Mark Washburn, 244-1917
URL: <http://www.ncsa.uiuc.edu/Ops/index.html>
Human resources: Marcia Miller, 244-0634
URL: <http://www.ncsa.uiuc.edu/Business/SRC/ncsasrc.html>
Industrial outreach, corporate officer: John Stevenson, 244-0474
URL: <http://www.ncsa.uiuc.edu/General/IndusProg/IndProg.html>
Scientific computing: John Towns, 244-3228
URL: <http://www.ncsa.uiuc.edu/SCD>
Consulting ofc: 244-1144
Science and technology: senior associate dir, Charlie Catlett, 333-1163
Institutional development: senior associate dir, Melanie Loots, 244-2921
Computing and communications: Gary Jensen, 333-1189
URL: <http://www.ncsa.uiuc.edu/General/CC/CCHome.html>
Computer operations: 244-0710
Alliance information management: Lex Lane, 244-1986

Superconductivity, Science and Technology Center for:
333-1744

1023 MRL, 104 S Goodwin, U, MC-230
FAX: 244-8544
EMAIL: d-lane@uiuc.edu
Dir: Miles V. Klein, 1020 MRL, MC-230, 333-1744
Managing dir: Christopher Le Maistre, 1022 MRL, MC-230, 333-1744
Secy: C. Diane Lane, 1023 MRL, MC-230, 333-1744

Survey Research Laboratory: 333-4273

909 W Oregon, Suite 300, U, MC-036
FAX: 244-4408
EMAIL: info@srl.uiuc.edu
URL: <http://www.srl.uiuc.edu>
Dir: Timothy P. Johnson, 412 S Peoria, Suite 615, Chicago, MC-336, (312) 996-5300
Staff secy: Kris Hertenstein, 909 W Oregon, Suite 300, MC-036, 333-4273
Deputy dir: Seymour Sudman, 909 W Oregon, Suite 300, MC-036, 333-4276
Research programs, coord: Diane O'Rourke, 909 W Oregon, Suite 300, MC-036, 333-7170
Information services, coord: Andrea L. Van Proyen, 909 W Oregon, Suite 300, MC-036, 333-7109
COMMUNICATIONS:
Survey Research, managing ed: Diane O'Rourke, 333-7170; production ed: Andrea L. Van Proyen, 333-7109

Swine Research Farm

See Animal Sciences, Dept of

Teacher Education, Council on

See Education, College of

Technology Commercialization Laboratory

See Research, Office of, under Agricultural, Consumer & Environmental Sciences, College of

Telecommunications, Office of

See Computing & Communications Services Office

