



Delbert McCoy blinks for the first time in 30 years when doctors reconstruct eyelids he lost in a fire.

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FREE

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Accord brings tentative peace

Israelis, Palestinians celebrate unofficial 'Geneva accord' with ceremony, music

GENEVA (AP) — Hundreds of Israelis and Palestinians joined Nobel Peace Prize winners Monday for a ceremony filled with song and hope, celebrating an unofficial peace accord intended to guide their peoples out of conflict.

The "Geneva accord," negotiated over almost three years by former Israeli and Palestinian officials, tackles the issues that have torpedoed other peace efforts: the fate of Israeli settlements, the borders of a Palestinian state, the status of Jerusalem and Palestinian refugees.

"The alternative, and the only alternative, to this initiative is sus-

tained and permanent violence," former President Jimmy Carter told the conference. "It is unlikely that we shall ever see a more promising foundation for peace."

Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat sent a message calling the accord "a brave and courageous initiative ... that opens the door to peace." However, he did not explicitly endorse the agreement, which has been opposed by Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and condemned by Palestinian militants.

The agreement envisions a Palestinian state based roughly on the borders before the 1967 Mideast war. Most Israeli settle-

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JIMMY CARTER
former U.S. President

ments in the West Bank and Gaza Strip would be dismantled. It divides sovereignty in Jerusalem, but avoids a large-scale return to Israel by Palestinians who fled or were driven out in the 1948-49 war that followed Israel's creation.

"(It's) a clenched-teeth compro-

mise with painful concessions on both sides," said Israeli author Amos Oz, who was a part of the talks.

Backers of the accord say it is a complement to the U.S.-backed "road map" peace plan, which does not spell out the details of a final agreement, and tries to prove

See ACCORD on Page A-8

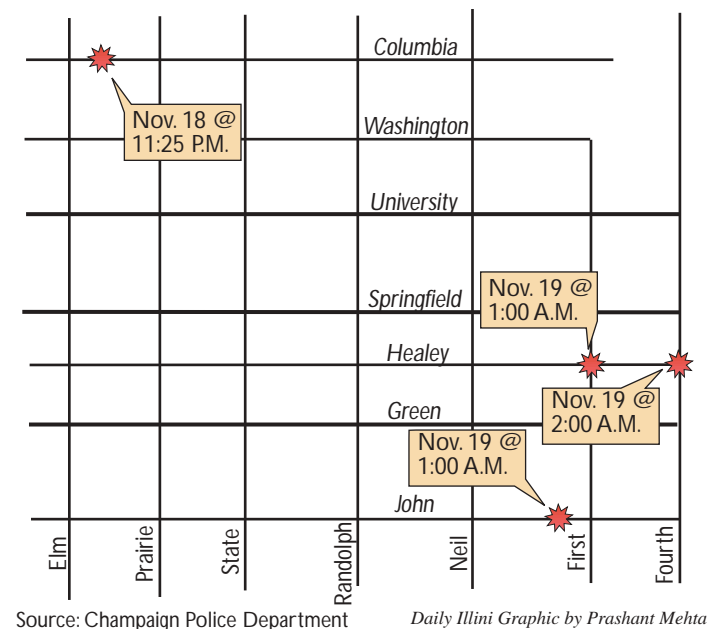


The Associated Press

A Palestinian woman holds a picture of her son, who is being held in an Israeli jail as she chants slogans against the Geneva Accord at a gathering of groups opposed to the agreement in Gaza City on Monday.

Coincidence or crime spree?

A series of armed robberies took place near Campustown within three hours on Nov. 18 and 19. Police are continuing to investigate these crimes.



Officials urge safety in face of robberies

Police continue search for suspects in November 18, 19 on-campus incidents

By Tina Shah
Staff writer

University officials are encouraging students to take safety precautions, as the Champaign Police Department and University police continue to search for the suspects responsible for four armed robberies that took place on Nov. 18 and 19 on campus.

"We have no additional information," said Detective Robert Rey of the Champaign Police Department. "The descriptions of the suspects are pretty common and there may be two or more suspects."

Rey said that he has noticed an increase in robberies when it gets closer to the holiday season, especially on college campuses.

Of the four armed robberies that occurred, one was on Nov. 18 at the 400 block of West Columbia Avenue where a pizza de-

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ROBERT REY
Champaign Police Department detective

livery driver was held at gunpoint and robbed of his money and cell phone. The other three were a series of robberies beginning at 1 a.m. on Nov. 19. Different victims were robbed at the 700 block of South First Street, 100 block of East John Street and the 500 block of South Fourth Street.

Gary Spear, a criminal analyst with the Champaign Police, said See ROBBERIES on Page A-8

ALL THE WORLD'S A STAGE



CLAIRE NAPIER The Daily Illini

Timothy Thompson, junior in FAA, adjusts his puppet of the Greek god Hephestus outside the Armory on Monday afternoon. Thompson is part of a puppeteering class for theatre majors that is offered every three years.

Guerilla tactics escalate in Iraq

Samarra ambush displays increase in attack coordination

SAMARRA, Iraq (AP) — One of the bloodiest engagements since the fall of Saddam Hussein showed a new, deadlier side of the Iraqi insurgency: stepped up, coordinated assaults by groups of guerrillas bent on battle rather than a hit-and-run attack, the U.S. military said Monday.

"Here it seems they had the training to stand and fight," said Capt. Andy Deponai, whose tank was hit by a rocket-propelled grenade during the firefight Sunday in Samarra, north of Baghdad. Residents disputed U.S. assertions that dozens of Iraqi fighters died, saying fewer than 10 were killed and that most of those were civilians.

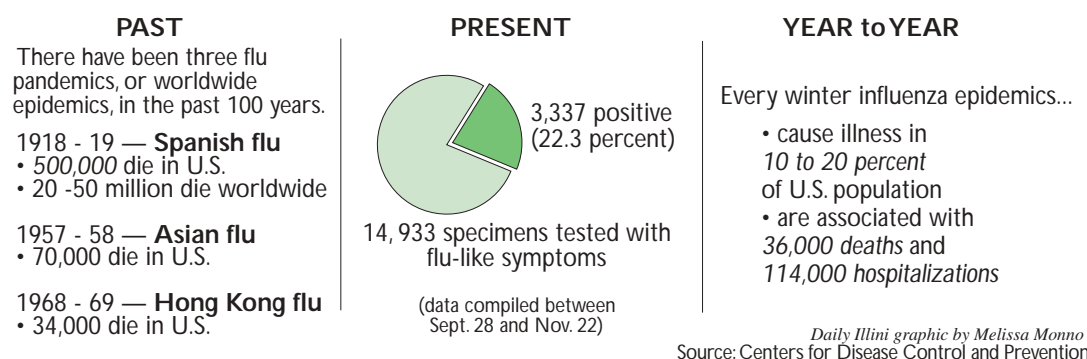
The well-coordinated ambushes signaled an escalation of guerrilla tactics, although the attack in Samarra was unsuccessful. A dozen cars lay gutted and wrecked in the streets Monday, and bullet holes pocked many buildings. A mosque and a kindergarten also were damaged.

Brig. Gen. Mark Kimmitt said that in one of the ambushes, a dozen attackers dashed out of a mosque and opened fire on U.S. military vehicles. They also fired from alleyways and rooftops.

"It was a large group of people," See IRAQ on Page A-8

Another winter season, another strain of the flu

The flu has been the cause of medical concern every winter for more than a hundred years. As influenza activity increases in the U.S., doctors urge people to get the flu shot.



Docs promote shots for flu season

McKinley offers free shots as new influenza strain spreads across U.S.

BY MARGO O'HARA
Staff writer

As a new strain of the influenza virus has started to spread across the country — killing four children in Colorado and infecting many in Texas last week — local medical resources are urging the public to prepare for possible infections.

Robert Palinkas, director of McKinley Health Center, said University students can get a free flu shot from the main clinic at 1109 S. Lincoln St. in Urbana

from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. They can also go to the Health Resource Center in the Union from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. until Dec. 12 for a shot.

He said it is difficult to predict if or when the flu virus will spread to Illinois.

While the flu shot will not guarantee complete protection against the virus, he said it significantly reduces the chance of getting it. Also, it makes the contracted version easier to tolerate.

Bev Knapp, an employee health nurse at Carle Clinic, 602

You can't put yourself in a bubble against it.

BEV KNAPP
Carle Clinic employee health nurse

W. University Ave., said the flu shot is the best way to protect oneself from the virus.

"You can't put yourself in a bubble against it," she said.

Already, Carle has seen an increase in people seeking the shot, administering 300 the day after Thanksgiving, compared to the See FLU SHOT on Page A-8

Renovations enter planning stage

Blagojevich releases \$2 million requested for first part of renovation process

BY ANNE GLEASON
Staff writer

The planning stage of the University's Lincoln Hall renovations can begin now that Gov. Rod Blagojevich has released the requested \$2 million for the initial stages of the project.

Renovating Lincoln Hall has been a high priority at the University for many years. Several rooms in the building are deteriorating, making instruction there difficult at times for students and faculty members.

Earlier in the year, Blagojevich froze all capital projects, but he announced on Nov. 21 that the planning money for Lincoln Hall would be released.

Angie Amores, spokeswoman for Blagojevich, said the Lincoln Hall project was reviewed by a committee and approved because it fit the higher education criteria. Blagojevich said he wanted all capital improvement projects receiving funds to be related to either health care, education or economic development.

The actual renovations to the building are estimated to cost about \$52 million. Associate



CLAIRE NAPIER The Daily Illini

Students sit next to a wall of peeling paint in Lincoln Theater on Monday morning as they wait for class to begin.

Provost Bill Adams said the funding for renovations is included in the University's fiscal year 2005 budget request, but it is up to the state to release funds for the project.

"I think we're hopeful of getting some of (the money)," Adams said. "When you get planning money, it's a pretty shining indication that the state is going to fund the project down the road."

Cliff Carey, director of planning and design, said the building will get a new central heating and air system and an electricity upgrade. While the first floor won't change significantly, Carey said the basement and second, third and fourth floors would look different.

Lincoln Hall was constructed in 1911. There have been no ma- See LINCOLN on Page A-8