



Dallas & Co. owner still 'living, breathing world of magic'



The Associated Press

Inspectors survey the damage to a five-story section of a parking garage under construction that collapsed at the Tropicana Casino and Resort in Atlantic City, N.J. Thursday.

## Casino garage collapse kills 4

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. (AP) — The top five stories of a parking garage under construction at a casino collapsed Thursday, sending concrete slabs and metal beams crashing down as workers ran for cover. Four people were killed, about 20 were injured and one was missing, officials said.

Two of the victims died inside the building and two died at a hospital, said Michael Schurman, deputy director of emergency

management for Atlantic County.

One of the bodies was still inside the parking garage more than seven hours after the collapse and another person was missing, Schurman said. Authorities, worried about the structure's stability, didn't send rescue crews in right away.

"There is the real potential for a secondary collapse," Gov. James E. McGreevey said.

Robert Levy, the city's director of emergency management, said

search cameras and dogs were sent into the rubble of the 10-story garage to locate missing workers, and trucks carrying lumber were being brought in to try to shore up the building. He called it "one of the worst collapses Atlantic City has ever seen."

Construction workers had been pouring a concrete floor deck when a corner of the top floors collapsed, leaving five layers of concrete and steel sloping down-

ward at a steep angle, said state police Capt. Ed O'Neill.

Harold Simmons, 42, a pipefitter was on the second floor of the garage when he heard rumbling around 10:40 a.m.

"It sounded like an earthquake," Simmons said. "The whole building was shaking."

"You didn't know where to run. I tried to run to a staircase, but the staircase was wiped out. I went to another staircase and that one was wiped out."

## Officials review ACES programs

Agriculture, Conservation Committee meets to assess, learn more about college

BY LAUREN MATTHES  
Staff writer

Legislators from the Illinois House and Senate Agriculture and Conservation Committee met on the University campus yesterday to review state-funded research, explore new facilities and learn more about the programs within the College of ACES.

The purpose of this meeting was to educate the members and help the two committees have a better

understanding of what is happening inside the college, said Robert Easter, Dean of the College of ACES.

"I think the impact for students is on the value that comes from having legislators who understand our university," he said.

Legislators and agricultural leaders were able to discuss the research goals and see where the money is spent, said Illinois State Agriculture Director Chuck Hartke. He said the discussion

See ACES on Page A-8

### ROCKY'S RAGS



ADRIANA D'ONOFRIO The Daily Illini

Larry Calmer (right) of Champaign, has his costume fixed by Kiah Morris (left) of Champaign and Jasmine Patel (center), graduate student, before the Rocky Horror Picture Show at The Canopy Club on Thursday night.



ALI SAJJADI The Daily Illini

Students pass through the Illini Union and pick up a copy of the Spring Timetables from a stack of boxes Thursday.

## Economy makes best recovery in 20 years

WASHINGTON (AP) — Accelerating from a jog to a sprint, the economy surged from July through September at the fastest pace in nearly two decades. Both consumers and businesses helped power the gains — fresh evidence the national rebound is on firmer footing.

The broadest measure of the economy's performance, gross domestic product, grew at a breakneck 7.2 percent annual rate during those three months, more than double the 3.3 percent rate in the previous quarter, the Commerce Department reported Thursday.

"Consumers were buying everything from cars and clothes to homes, and businesses are seemingly coming out of their cocoon," said Mark Zandi, chief economist at Economy.com.

Economists said that near rock-bottom short-term interest rates, along with President Bush's third round of tax cuts, induced consumers and businesses to spend and invest more and helped the economy move at a faster clip during the summer. The next challenge is making sure the rebound is self-sustaining, they said.

See ECONOMY on Page A-8

## Registration may hold difficulties for some

BY ANNIE TAI  
Staff writer

After a few busy weeks of advising, students are ready to begin registering on Monday, but the University has been facing problems with new record-keeping computer programs. Students in LAS might en-

### ONLINE

For Invitations to Register, go to [www.oar.uiuc.edu/current/grades.html](http://www.oar.uiuc.edu/current/grades.html).

counter difficulties with choosing the right classes because the Degree Audit Report System (DARS), which originally intend-

ed to send reports by Oct. 18, didn't have them available until Oct. 23. DARS reports show students what requirements they have met so they can see what sorts of classes they need to take to fulfill unmet requirements.

The delay with DARS was caused by the implementation of a new server audit system, which

was used for the first time this semester, said DARS Specialist Mike Faullin.

Students will see many more changes next semester when registration for Fall 2004 classes begin.

SCT Banner, a system that will integrate student administration, See REGISTRATION on Page A-8

## Students get first glimpse of next tuition hike

BY MARGO O'HARA  
Staff writer

Students got the first hints of next year's tuition and fee increases at two town hall meetings held Thursday in the Union.

While no specific numbers can be discussed, University Provost Richard Herman said the administration will propose a tuition increase of 5 percent to 10 percent.

"The precise number is still being discussed," Herman said.

Patricia Askew, vice chancellor for student affairs, said the administration will propose a \$10

fee increase, most of which will fund recreational facility renovations and a 4 percent increased salary program.

Herman said the revenue generated by the tuition change — which is planned to be presented to the Board of Trustees in November — will be used to restore some of the services the University lost as a result of this year's severe budget cuts.

He said priority retention is a high priority, citing the 44 faculty members that resigned for positions at different institutions, 36 of whom have done so this year. Herman also discussed

restoring the discovery program and library services as possible uses of the revenue from the proposed tuition hike.

Felipe Hillard, tuition policy committee member, said he is disappointed that students have become responsible for the University's funding through tuition increases.

"The state legislature has failed the students (of the University)," he said.

Herman said the state has cut \$70.2 million from University funds over the past two years and the University lost 901 positions in those years.

However, Hillard also said he was disappointed that the Board of Trustees raised tuition only 5 percent after a survey sent to students last spring indicated an acceptance of an 8 percent increase.

He called the Board's decision a "clear example of the student voice not being heard."

A similar survey will be sent to students in the following weeks once the University has made an official tuition proposal, Hillard said.

The survey's questions will focus on what students prioritize as important University services, he said.



ALI SAJJADI The Daily Illini

Pat Askew, vice chancellor for student affairs, talks to students about the allocation of funds and fees at the town meeting Wednesday afternoon in the Illini Union Courtyard Cafe.