

## EDITORIAL

## Global Campus plan shows new promise

## At issue:

The new Global Campus Partnership aims to further the University's Strategic Plan and create a new source of revenue.

## The Daily Illini Editorial Board:

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At the Jan. 18 meeting of the University Board of Trustees, there was a renewed sense of openness in its approach toward the Global Campus Partnership, the controversial plan calling for online courses to be made available to students of the three university campuses as well as those who are not. The first version of the plan, the Global Campus Initiative, was criticized by students and professors alike. The administration, acting responsibly, addressed the concerns by scrapping, revising or replacing some

of the most contentious points of the plan, garnering broader support from both faculty and students. This is a welcome sign.

Under the new proposal, the courses would be designed by tenure-track faculty and taught by non-tenure-track faculty, providing professional oversight absent in the previous version. It also calls the online curriculum a partnership among the three campuses instead of treating it as a separate entity instead of as another "campus" as originally proposed. Acknowledging lingering doubts

that this is a profit-focused venture, the administration continues to assert that the primary goal of the program is to position the University as a leader in "educational innovation, quality, service and access." It is hoped that these items, along with a "rigorous execution" of the academic and business plan, will give a credibility to the online classes that are similar to the normal courses offered on campus.

Regardless of the form it takes, this plan is a risky move for the University. Under current projec-

tions, 2010 would be the first year the program's budget will show black ink if everything goes well. But success is not guaranteed. New York University and Cornell attempted similar projects in the late 1990s only to see their efforts falter. There is also concern about the value of the degree through the online curriculum, as well as worries that online degrees could devalue degrees from the three campuses.

But if the partnership succeeds, it could provide a much-needed source of revenue for the University.

The University's mission as a source of affordable education could be furthered, and the proceeds would also go far in retaining faculty, a problem in recent years, as well as addressing other pressing issues.

While the proposal has not been officially voted on, these recent developments prove that the University is welcoming diverse opinions in this endeavor. So long as this healthy environment of skepticism, deliberation and compromise continue, this initiative has a great chance for success.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Foie Gras ban should be statewide

Zogby International, the well-known polling and market research firm, just released the findings of a nationwide survey which asked likely voters and members of the general public a range of questions about foie gras.

Chicago area residents who have been subjected to a barrage of misleading rhetoric and incomplete newspaper stories and telecasts about foie gras since the City Council voted 49-1 last year to ban the serving of it in city restaurants, should find the Zogby results refreshing.

Meanwhile, effete political leaders in Chicago, who have openly ridiculed the historic ordinance, and law-breaking Windy City restaurant owners, who continue to serve the so-called delicacy, will find they have been unmasked by the poll's conclusions.

For openers, the notion that Chicago's ban on foie gras somehow is going to deprive legions of well-heeled diners of a wildly sought after, cannot-do-without-appetizer, comes as an unalloyed myth, according to poll findings. So is the claim that the ban is taking a healthy slice out of restaurant profits.

When poll respondents were asked how often they consumed foie gras, 2 percent replied once a month. Three percent said at least once a year. Another 37 percent had never eaten it while the greatest number, 50 percent had never heard of the expensive appetizer.

The greatest piece of misinformation utterly refuted by the poll is the notion—advanced not-so-subtly by opponents of the Chicago ordinance, that those most in favor of the law and most prepared in fiercely fighting any attempts to repeal it, are members of some tiny, fuzzy fringe group.

Wrong!

When Zogby pollsters informed respondents that foie gras, French for fatty liver, was produced by force-feeding ducks and geese with large quantities of food through a pipe shoved down their throats, that the practice caused liver disease and other torments, and that several European countries and California had outlawed the practice, this is how they responded to the central question of whether the practice should be outlawed in the U.S.

An overwhelming majority, a whopping 73 percent, said

they agreed that it should be outlawed. Only 21 percent said they disagreed and six percent said they were uncertain.

Given these poll results, is it not time to take Chicago's enlightened lead to the next level? Is it not time that the General Assembly in Springfield adopt a statewide law banning the production and sale of foie gras?

GENE BAUR  
president and co-founder  
Farm Sanctuary  
Watkins Glen, NY

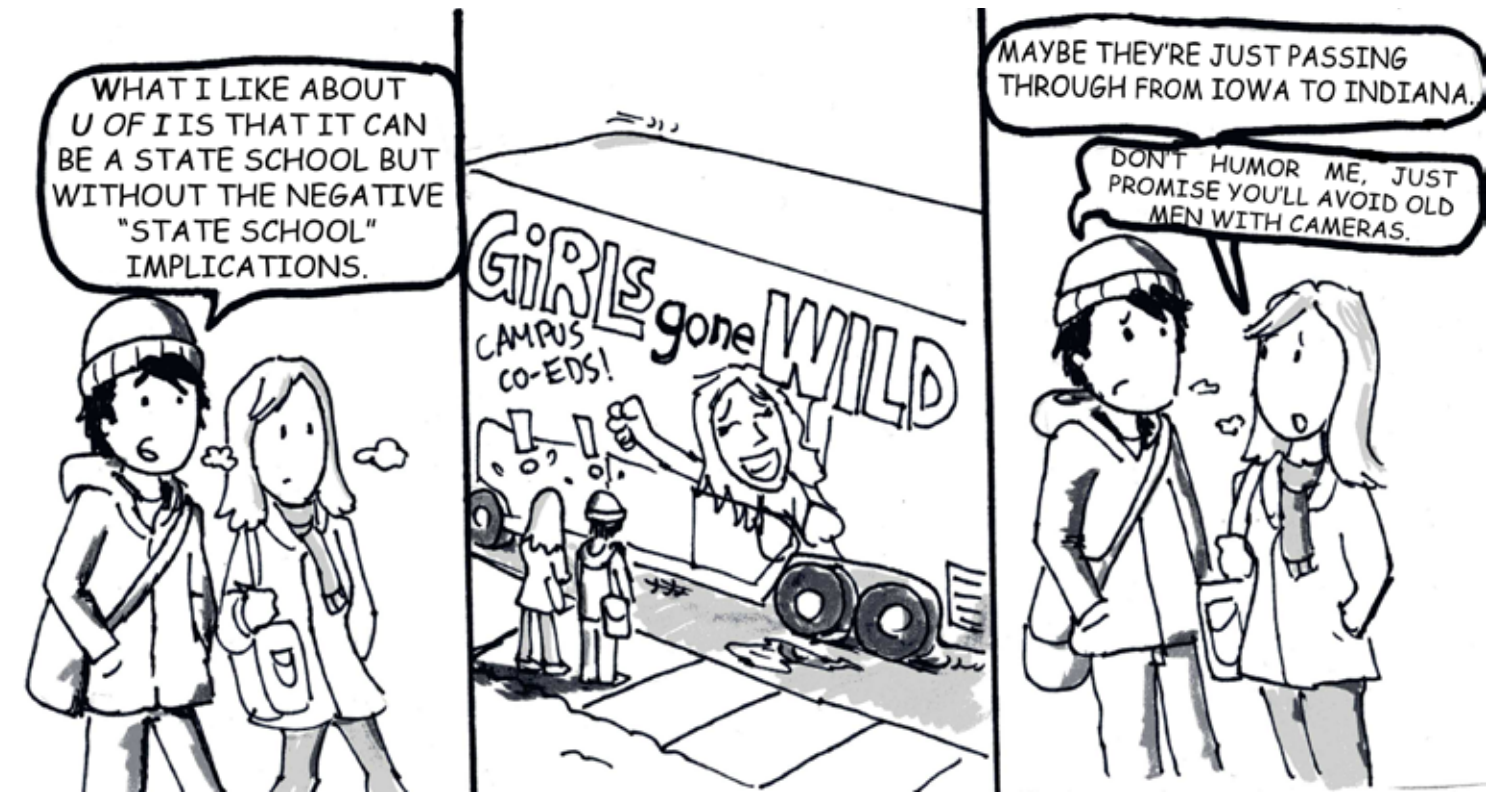
## New law good for school

With all the partisan bickering we see in the daily news coming out of Springfield and Washington, I thought that it might be nice for the people of east central Illinois to hear a little good news for a change. While it's nothing earth-shattering to be sure, among the many new laws that took effect on Jan. 1 is a bill that will help make our environment cleaner - while at the same time saving the taxpayers money. And it passed with the unanimous votes of both republicans and democrats from all regions of our state.

Senate Bill 1827 helps colleges and universities across Illinois to become more energy efficient, thereby reducing fossil fuel consumption and, ultimately, saving the taxpayers money. Many colleges and universities currently use a tool called a Guaranteed Energy Savings Contract to borrow money, which is then used to invest in new energy efficient systems and buildings on campus and then repays the borrowed money from the reduction in their power and gas bills. SB 1827 doubles the period of time, to 20 years, that the institutions have to pay back an investment in new energy efficient systems and buildings. By spreading the cost of an energy-efficiency investment out over 20 years, this legislation effectively doubles the size and scale of an efficiency project that a school could undertake.

Colleges and universities are huge consumers of energy. Simply reducing the energy use in a single dormitory by, say, 5 percent could save plenty of power and tax dollars in the process. Multiply this by classrooms, dorms and administrative offices at campuses all over the state and you can begin to understand the potential impact of this legislation. That's good news for our tax-

## EDITORIAL CARTOON BRIAN MCGOVERN THE DAILY ILLINI



payers and the environment.

Make no mistake, I am not suggesting that this new law is going to single-handedly save the planet or solve our state budget crisis, but it is one small step that will help move us closer to those goals. Most of the new laws that went into effect on Jan. 1 are like SB 1827; that is they were all crafted to have a positive impact on the people of Illinois and were passed with the unanimous, or near unanimous, support of the legislature.

Also, like SB 1827, most of these proposals didn't exactly make headlines last year. However, each proposal does advance our society a little bit farther than it was the year before. In a long journey, every step counts.

CHAPIN ROSE  
Illinois state representative  
(R-10th District)

## Dialogue on Chief helpful

I appreciate the resurgent debate about the Chief and the variety of proposed solutions to the dilemma. Although I believe in the need for long-standing traditions, we squarely have to face the contradiction of continuing to use an image of an Indian to unite our campus. I actually do understand the depth of feeling associated with

the Chief and the desire to represent qualities that we admire. These community needs are not the problem. It's the symbol, yet the symbol is not accidental nor is Illinois unique in projecting physical and spiritual superiority onto Indians. However, the symbol also perpetuates a stereotypical image of "the Indian." It does not do any good for those on whom it is based and it miseducates all of us. In this regard, it does not matter whether Chief Illiniwek is meant to honor or demean. In "honoring the Chief," we are actually honoring certain qualities that we project onto the symbol and believe are reflected back onto us by being a part of this institution. Even though it feels like it, getting rid of the Chief does not mean getting rid of those qualities we need to have represented on a community level. It just means we may be afloat for a little while until another symbol can take root as deeply as this one had. It may feel forced, but this one could be arrived at with much more conscientious and conscious consideration.

LYDIA KHURI  
program coordinator Intersections  
and Global Crossroads Living  
Learning Communities

## Don't smoke 'em

While most Jake Vial's arguments are valid, I have to strongly disagree with his

points regarding if patrons eat fast food and destroy their livers then an hour of smoke is 'the least of their worries.' First of all, I love greasing up myself with trans-fat and destroying my liver. Those are probably two of my top hobbies.

I know the detrimental side effects in the long run, but the difference is that I choose to eat fast food and drink the night away. Individuals that smoke in a closed environment do damage to patrons that choose not to smoke in more ways than one.

When I go into a bar and find it difficult to breathe, have my clothes smell terrible and potentially damage my lungs down the road all because someone cannot walk 15 feet outside to enjoy a death-stick, it is a little frustrating.

I choose to eat my McRib and down a 40 of Steel Reserve because I enjoy those things but why should I suffer for someone else's enjoyment and laziness? Lastly, who made Jake a health official who decides that a little trans-fat and fermented yeast has the same health deterioration as soaking your lungs in a thick smog for four or five hours.

Kudos to Champaign for making the right decision. It is not part of our rights to hurt others for our gain.

DAN SHAH  
junior in Engineering

## QUOTES OF THE DAY

"This is the first time I've been around to see a horse fight for his life for so long, and have had so many obstacles in his way ... he was a fighter. To see that in a horse, well, actually no one's ever seen that before."

TOM ALBERTINI  
Horse trainer on the death of  
Kentucky Derby winner Barbaro  
during surgery Monday

"The height of irresponsibility would be to cap our troop numbers at an arbitrary figure and to cut off their funding."

WHITE HOUSE SPOKESMAN  
ROB SALITERMAN  
on Hillary Clinton claiming  
it would be the "height of  
irresponsibility" for President  
Bush not to have all American  
troops out of Iraq by the end of  
his term

## Big defeat coming with driving drunk after Super Bowl

With the exception of the Fourth of July, there is no more American day than Super Bowl Sunday. Given the prevalence of Chicagoans on campus and the success with which the Bears have met this year, campus is sure to become one gigantic party this coming Sunday, filled with the revelry befitting college students, football and "home" team fans.

Imagine though, getting a call shortly after the Bears trounce the Colts. The voice coldly says your best friend, your brother or sister, your girlfriend, or your parents were in an accident. It apologetically tells you the car was totaled in the middle of an intersection or on the expressway. The occupants are now wrapped in a coffin of metal and irresponsibility. A significant person who used to be in your

life just became another nameless tally in the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's statistic of victims of drunk driving.

Suddenly, the euphoria of the victory erupts into the crashing depression of loss and grief.

While there are many laws with which I do not agree (substance regulations) or by which I cannot abide (speed limits), drunk driving legislation is one that needs stricter enforcement. Unlike illegal substances, which only harm the user, and speeding, which is only dangerous when enjoyed by the unqualified, drunk driving kills the innocent indiscriminately. People who drive drunk, caught or not, deserve the most severe penalties permitted under the American justice system.

Based purely on anecdotal evidence (the NHTSA apparently



LEE FEDER  
Lee can be  
reached at  
opinions@  
dailyillini.com

does not tally innocent victims vs. at-fault victims), the majority of those who die in traffic accidents are hit by a transgressing driver and are not actually breaking the law themselves. When applied to drunk driving, this means that those who enjoyed themselves by imbibing suffer no serious consequences of their actions while those acting responsibly lose that with the most value -- their life. Really, how does a ticket, some light jail time, or the lifelong guilt of manslaughter compare to being murdered?

Not surprisingly, Super Bowl Sunday consistently ranks among the top days of the year for alcohol-related traffic fatalities. According to Mothers Against Drunk Driving, 2003's Super Bowl Sunday had 62 alcohol-related traffic fatalities, second only to New Year's Day. Holiday weekends in general are dangerous-enough times to travel, both because of the high number of intoxicated drivers and because of the increased number of person/vehicle miles. People make these times even more hazardous by drinking and driving.

To leap off the soapbox for a moment, I admit I have friends who have been convicted of drunk driving. I have not severed ties

to them because of their stupid decisions, but I do condemn their choices and do not lament their punishment. Moreover, I, like most people, have driven home when I probably should not have. I was wrong, as are all people who do so, and would have deserved any given punishment had I been caught.

Disclaimers aside, the fundamental fact remains that a large percentage of people die in drunk-driving accidents. In 1982, there were 43,945 traffic fatalities, of which 26,173 (60%) were alcohol-related. In 2005, those numbers were

43,443 and 16,885 (39%) respectively. Clearly, we as a society continue to act more responsibly, though there are still more than 16,885 ways to improve.

This Sunday, as we gather around our brand new high definition television set (or if you are like me, a 19 inch CRT that simply does the job) to watch the championship of America's sport, to eat and to drink, and to enjoy our friends' company, consider the consequences of driving home. If you cannot convince someone to be a designated driver, call a cab (the University's I-book lists 352-3121 or 355-3553), crash at the party for a couple hours, or burn the alcohol walking home. By far, the worst post-game show is not Peyton Manning hoisting the Lombardi trophy, but the sight of a friend or family member splattered on the street.