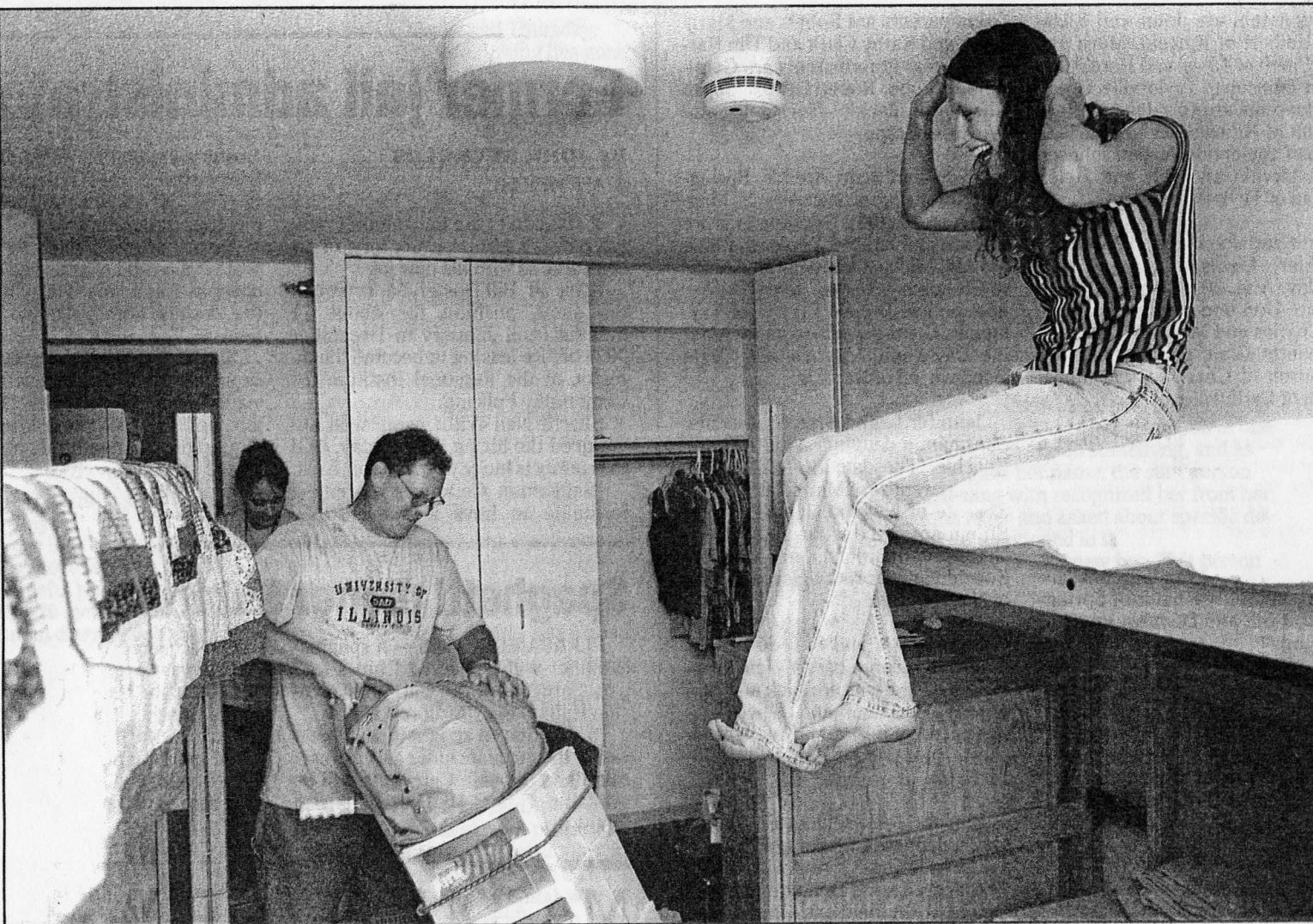


SJR 8/24/01



Shawn Poynter/The State Journal-Register
University of Illinois at Springfield freshman Emily Angel of Jacksonville tries out her new bed as her father, Rick, carries another load of stuff into her third-floor room.

...richburg, near
the southern tip of Illinois — but
he too likes the idea of being part
of the charter class of Capital
Scholars, the honors-college-type
school within-a-school designed
for the new UIS freshmen.
"To be one of the first, and they
only accepted a certain number, but

"I loved how nice everyone was,
the staff. I felt welcome. Here, you
feel like you need a reference. At
Michigan State you're just another
kid."
Doug Poynter can be reached at
785-1538 or doug.poynter@sjr.com

Welcome freshmen

UIS opens doors to first class of Capital Scholars

By **DOUG POKORSKI**
STAFF WRITER

A baseball bat, an institutional-sized box of animal crackers, some pillows and lots of dorm-sized refrigerators, TVs, VCRs, stereos and computer equipment rolled through the doors of Lincoln Residence Hall at the University of Illinois at Springfield Thursday.

Borne by a seemingly endless stream of red dollies propelled by scores of eager teenagers and hopeful parents, the gear belonged to the nearly 120 members of the first-ever UIS freshman class, which moved into the resi-

dence hall Thursday.

"Everything has gone very smoothly, considering we've never done this before," university spokeswoman Cheryl Peck said.

Peck said workers labored late into Wednesday night and were back on the job early Thursday morning to be sure the new building was ready for its occupants.

Even then there were a few glitches. Some lock cores were in the wrong doors, and there were occasional minor plumbing and electrical problems. Carpenters, plumbers and other workers were on standby to deal with the problems that occurred.

Most noticeably, a balky elevator caused some tempers to fray as dolly-loads of stuff had to be carried piece by piece upstairs. Fortunately, Lincoln Hall is only a three-story building, so the elevator problem was not a major one.

Most participants seemed to agree with Dale Manzoello of Riverside, who was helping her daughter, Alisabeth, settle in, and who characterized the moving-in process as "wonderful."

"My older daughter goes to (Northern Illinois University), and (moving in) can be pretty chaotic there," she said.

UIS had a large number of staff on hand to

help with the move-in, with university employees at times seeming to be nearly equal in numbers to the students and moms and dads.

"We wanted to be able to respond to any problems immediately," Peck said of the large number of employees who were on hand.

The new freshmen generally seemed happy with their home-away-from-home for the next four years.

Alisabeth Manzoello said she chose UIS because she likes the idea of being in the "charter class" of freshmen at the university, as well as the personal attention a smaller school like UIS can offer.

Alisabeth said she made several visits to campus and "got to sit down and talk with the heads of the faculty" about her future plans.

Her, mother, Dale, remembered that on the second campus visit, Alisabeth stopped in one of the offices to check on something, and as soon as she gave her name, the staff person she was dealing with recognized her from her application letter and asked about specific details she had mentioned in it.

"This person really knew her. This person

See **WELCOME** on page 14

WELCOME

From page 13

really cared," Dale said.

Alisabeth said she plans on a double major in political studies and communications, and that UIS's location in the state capital was another factor in deciding to come here.

Justin Milligan came up from the other end of the state from Alisabeth — from Harrisburg, near the southern tip of Illinois — but he too likes the idea of being part of the charter class of Capital Scholars, the honors-college-type school-within-a-school designed for the new UIS freshmen.

"To be one of the first, and they only accepted a certain number, that

makes it elite," Milligan said.

Milligan, a chemistry major with hopes of going on to medical school, was accompanied by his uncle, Gene West, who said he was impressed by how well-organized the moving in process was.

"I've never seen so many people dedicated to a single thing," he said.

Liz Moran of Burbank said she picked the small campus of UIS over the only other school she seriously considered, the comparatively gigantic Michigan State, partly because of the warm atmosphere here.

"I loved how nice everyone was," she said. "I felt welcome. Here, you felt like you made a difference. At Michigan State you're just another kid."

Doug Pokorski can be reached at 788-1539 or doug.pokorski@sjr.com.