

News-Gazette

ana — October 8, 1991

Daily 35 Cents



News-Gazette photo by Robert K. O'Daniel

t the Assembly Hall on Monday trying out
n Gladiators' television show.

oul Gladiator

rbor said. "This is great. I really didn't
pect this. I just learned they were coming
st week. Now I've got to call my brothers
d sisters — I've got 14."

The show's organizers said 12 contestants
ere to be selected from Monday's tryouts.
our men and four women were to be cho-
n to compete; the other four are alternates.
Most of the hopefuls were college-age, and
out 80 percent were men. At least four out
five were cut after the first test — 55
ngertip push-ups in a minute for the men,
d 35 regular push-ups in a minute for the
omen.

And then came another three tests —
ishes, sprints and Powerball — that contes-
nts had to pass to be considered. First was
e 40-yard-dash, which men had to complete
5.25 seconds, women in 6.25 seconds.
Gil Ballmes, a 37-year-old Champaign mail-

GLADIATORS, A-12

Police link U attacks to gang ritual

Official says attacks similar to 'wilding'

By MICHAEL GRAY
News-Gazette Staff Writer

Two black gangs of Champaign and Urbana high school students are attacking whites in Champaign's Campustown area as part of an initiation ritual, according to Champaign's deputy police chief.

— Donald Carter said the "Dawgs" from Urbana and the "Dehood" gang from Champaign were responsible for nine attacks last month, mostly in the 300 to 500 blocks of East Green Street in Champaign.

He said the attacks also include an area several blocks north and south of Green.

Carter told the Champaign Human Relations Commission on Monday that the attacks between Sept. 13 and 19 were by "fairly large groups of individuals" between the ages of 15 and 23.

No victims have required extended medical care, but at least one person was knocked unconscious, he said.

Carter said the "Dawgs" gang members wear red jackets and red caps. "Dehood" members wear black and yellow clothing, he said.

The gangs' main activity, he ad-

ded, is to search for "a polar bear" — a white person — "and see if they can punch them out" as part of their initiation.

Some "Dawgs" have the gang's name cut into their hair on the back of their heads, Carter said. And some may wear the left leg of their pants shorter than the right.

Some "Dawgs" are required to carry large rocks to prove they can elude police or their victims, even when weighed down, he said.

So far, Carter said, increased patrols by uniformed and plain-clothes police the last three weeks resulted in 15 arrests. Some of them were for curfew violations.

He said police have identified more than 40 people who fit the gangs' profiles. But the problem is only being contained and could mushroom into a larger racial clash in the community, Carter added.

"I feel there's a situation developing for a tremendous backlash to come from the white or black community," he said. "It's only a matter of time before someone brings a weapon to the area and we have a tragedy."

Carter said the attacks are "reminiscent of wilding" — random gang attacks in East Coast cities.

"It's new to (Champaign-Urbana), but the world, I guess, is moving in on us," Urbana Assistant Police Chief Russ Brown said

See GANGS, A-12

EU professor-psychologist pleads guilty to mail fraud

By MELISSA MERLIE
News-Gazette Staff Writer

DANVILLE — A 50-year-old psy-
chologist and Eastern Illinois

submitted by patients treated at
Holt's Coles County Counseling
Center in Charleston and Mat-
toon

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