

Enlightened The windows in the foyer between the Undergraduate and Main Libraries make a warm atmosphere to study in for Mona Naqvi, sophomore in commerce, and graduate student Jennifer Lin. (photo by Kyle Smith)

Greyhound pricing illegal, bus service official claims

by Barbara Taylor

Competition between the two campus-to-Chicago bus services that slashed ticket prices to \$14.75 this weekend has gone from "healthy" to "predatory," according to the manager of one of the services.

Dennis Toeppen, secretary-treasurer of Suburban Express and junior in LAS, charged that Greyhound illegally dropped its prices below costs to eliminate competition.

"We ask you—why would Greyhound set a price of \$14.75 round-trip to Northbrook for the Friday-Sunday campus service when the same round-trip transportation on any other day of the week would cost \$43.70?" Toeppen wrote in a prepared statement. "Could it be that someone is trying to run us out of business, only to jack the price back up to \$43.70 at a later date?"

Greyhound officials deny any illegal competition. "We are confident that our fares are fair," said Tom Doherty, Greyhound public relations director.

Doherty declined further comment.

Toeppen's corporation, composed of an Illinois Gulf Railroad worker in Chicago and a graduate student at the University of Wisconsin, has been chartering Mid-

America buses to suburban Chicago since November 1983.

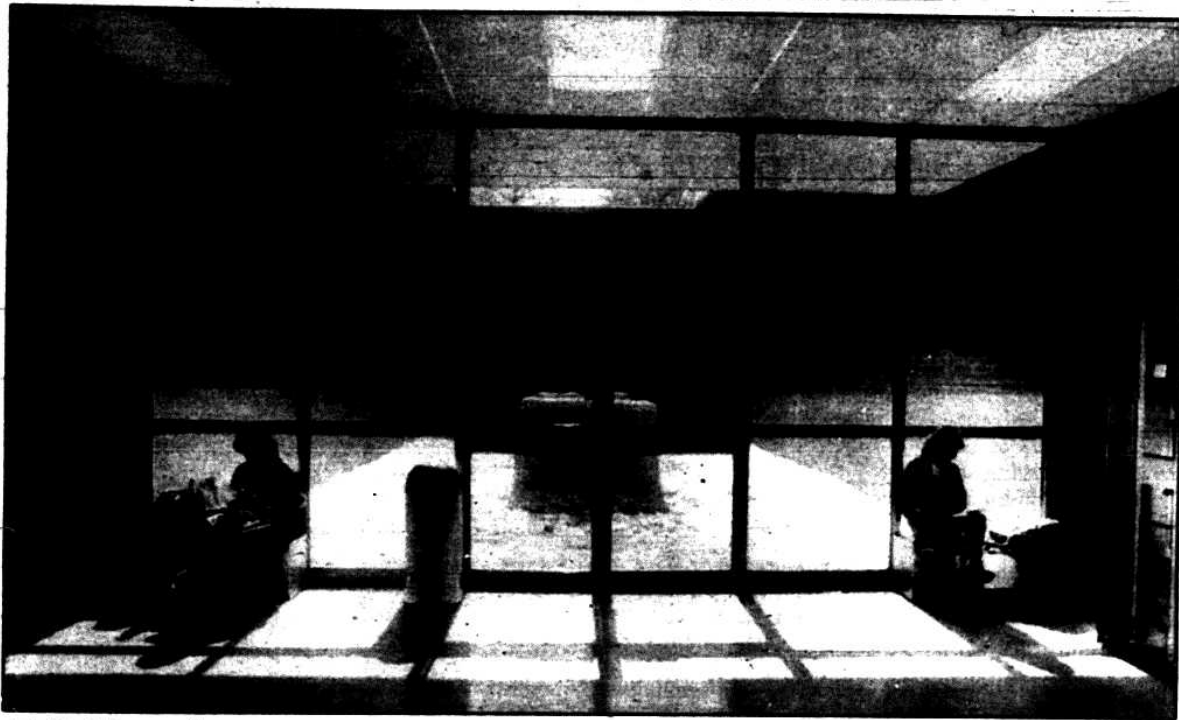
Although Toeppen lowered his prices this week to match Greyhound's, he said he is not meeting "predatory pricing" with "predatory pricing."

"It would be contradictory for us to go below costs since we are charging Greyhound of doing just that," Toeppen said. Because his company charters buses instead of owning them, and employs non-union workers, Toeppen said, its costs are significantly lower.

The Illini Union Travel Center sells tickets for both companies on a commission basis. Despite commission decreases because of the price war, the travel center will continue to sell the tickets, said Jeff Scheets, acting travel center director.

"We are only an agent. There is nothing we can do," he said. "The commission rate doesn't change, but we will continue because we want students to have a choice."

Scheets would only say the travel center, which transfers all commission profits to the Illini Union Board program fund, would lose "a pretty good little chunk" because of the decreased prices.



Vietnam wins major assault on guerrillas

NONG PRU, Thailand (AP)— Vietnamese forces routed the tough Khmer Rouge guerrillas from their mountain strongholds in western Cambodia on Friday in their biggest victory since Vietnam invaded six years ago and toppled the Khmer Rouge government.

Vietnam threw major armor and artillery forces into its month-long drive against the Communist rebels, capping the campaign with a relentless armored pincer movement.

The Vietnamese troops slashed through a complex of hilltop strongholds, civilian camps and logistics

las against an estimated 20,000 Vietnamese soldiers who swept through the jungles behind tanks and withering artillery barrages Friday.

In Washington, State Department spokesman Edward Djerejian said the Vietnamese appeared to have gained control of "a 40-mile border strip previously held by the Khmer Rouge," but said, "there is no reason to believe Vietnam's offensive this year will be any more successful in suppressing the nationalist fight."

Shells landed inside Thailand and the Thais reinforced their units

Enlightened The windows in the foyer between the Undergraduate and Main Libraries make a warm atmosphere to study in for Mona Naqvi, sophomore in commerce, and graduate student Jennifer Lin. (photo by Kyle Smith)