

## CREVASSE TO MAKE LASTING IMPRESSION



**Workers from** Research Casting International paint on layers of latex and add cheesecloth to make molds of this prehistoric cave entrance in the rock cut near the Harrodsburg exit of Ind. 37 south of Bloomington. Peter Prudek, of Research Casting International, stands at what was the mouth of the cave. STAFF PHOTO BY MONTY HOWELL

# Crew making mold of rock cut

**Canadian experts create castings of limestone crevasse to be used in museum display**

**By Kurt Van der Dussen**  
H-T Staff Writer

**HARRODSBURG** — To drivers passing by on Ind. 37, they must look like a crew of house painters with too little to do.

In a shallow rock cut about two miles north of Harrodsburg, three guys in grubby old clothes have been spending the week painting rocks.

Or seeming to, anyway.

Actually, the three men are experts in making rock casts. They are employees of a Canadian company near Toronto that has been hired by the Indiana State Museum in

Indianapolis to develop an exhibit on the Ice Age for the new museum opening next year in White River State Park.

It will feature a replica of a cave deep in southern Indiana in which remains of prehistoric animals tens of thousands of years old were found.

It also will feature replicas of a portion of the Ind. 37 rock cut, a much-weathered slab of limestone a couple hundred million years old, through which an ancient crevasse runs.

Last week, Matt Fair, Brett Crawford and Peter Prudek, employees with a combined 20 years of experience with Research Casting International of Beansville, Ontario, were working inside the cave in Taswell in a remote part of Crawford County.

Working with them was Ron Richards, the curator of paleobiology for Indiana State Museum, who plans an exhibit of a prehis-

toric cave with a peccary — a wild pig with nasty tusks — facing down a hungry wolf.

The three said the Taswell cave was a labyrinth of passages with 180 feet of vertical depth that contained remains of such ancient mammals, which roamed southern Indiana before the last glaciers retreated from the northern two-thirds of the state more than 12,000 years ago.

Tuesday, they relocated to the southern Monroe rock cut — not the towering one just north of the Harrodsburg/Lake Monroe exit of Ind. 37 that bisects several strata of limestone, but a smaller and far less impressive one about half a mile north of it.

What attracted the museum to it was the natural crevasse running through it, parts of which survived the construction of the four-

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BLOOMINGTON CITY COUNCIL

# Council next step for theater funding

**City plan to put \$1.2 million into Buskirk-Chumley to be debated next week**

**By Bethany Swaby**  
H-T Staff Writer

The Bloomington City Council is expected to discuss a proposed ordinance next week that would pour \$1.2 million into the Buskirk-Chumley Theatre over the next three years.

During those years, the theater would most likely be managed by some form of a public-private partnership, but those details are still being worked out.

The partnership would involve the city, the Lotus Education and Arts Foundation, Monroe County Convention and Visitors Bureau and the Bloomington Area Arts Council.

After three years, the theater would probably pass into the possession or management of the city, according to city controller Tom Guevara.

The theater owes about \$764,000 in

outstanding debt. That includes two loans from Monroe County Bank and the city's \$100,000 loan last year, Guevara said.

The ordinance would propose paying off that debt, leaving the theater with about \$115,000 annually for operating expenses and a little extra for capital maintenance projects, he said.

The \$1.2 million would come through a \$600,000 additional appropriation from the city's 2001 budget, with the remainder culled from the downtown Tax Increment Finance district.

In a TIF district, all property taxes from improvements to property after the district has been created go to finance necessary infrastructure such as streets, sidewalks and sewers for that district.

The additional appropriation from the 2001 budget would come from the city's recent \$1.7 million windfall. The state recently found it owed Bloomington that amount from local taxes collected by the state but not distributed to municipalities, Guevara said.

"I think this is an incredibly important

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# IU officials drop idea of buying the Von Lee

**Historic theater would need \$750,000 in renovations**

**By John Meunier**  
H-T Staff Writer

Indiana University won't be taking over the Von Lee movie theater.

Ever since the theater's owners decided last fall to close the downtown movie house, historic preservationists, IU film faculty and others have been lobbying the university to buy the theater.

Although IU did give the building a close look this winter, officials decided not to pursue trying to buy it.

"We are not currently in any discussions with the owners of the Von Lee theater," said Lynn Coyne, IU's director of real estate. "We evaluated the building

and following the evaluation we have not had any discussions."

IU's engineering staff prepared a report on the cost of upgrading the seating, lighting, roof and mechanical equipment in the building to meet legal and university requirements.

IU architect Bob Meadows said the total cost would be about \$750,000.

"Frankly, IU doesn't have the money for these kinds of things unless a donor comes forward," he said.

Even if IU had acquired the site, it would have been converted to classroom lecture space with film viewing capability rather than preserved as a movie house for the general public.

IU got approval from the Indiana General Assembly this year to spend \$10 million on a new classroom building that will

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