

# National/World

*'In search of the ultimate'*

## Coaster rider rolling

**United Press International**  
CHICAGO — On weekdays, Allen Ambrosini is a mid-mannered registration supervisor at the University of Illinois. Come weekends and vacations, he travels hundreds of miles for wild rides on America's roller coasters.

Ambrosini says he has spent his life "in search of the ultimate roller coaster."

He has ridden 168 of them in the United States, Canada and Mexico — most of them more than once, some a record-breaking number of times.

For instance, he made it into the Texas Book of World Records in June by riding the Judge Roy Scream at Six Flags over Texas in Arlington for 23½ hours, with only a few short "restroom" breaks.

"When you're on a roller coaster you get so many physical sensations — weightlessness, extreme pressure — it's like you're soaring through the air, flying," Ambrosini said.

"You feel like you're superman. You lose all touch with the ground. You lose touch with the world."

The 32-year-old supervisor at the U of I Chicago Circle campus explained people who ride coasters infrequently are concerned with holding on and don't reach the level of "cosmic heightened awareness" that he attains.

He said he is fortunate to have the capacity for riding coasters repeatedly without experiencing dizziness or upset stomachs. Rather, he thrives on "getting into the rhythm of the motion and becoming one with the machine."

"The most important thing to me is having the feeling you get that you've left your stomach at the top of a hill as you're going down," Ambrosini said. "It's a tingling sensation that starts in your stomach and goes throughout your body."

This sought-after feeling is elusive. So Ambrosini's search goes on.

Typical weekends consist of long drives to amusement parks that happen to have good coasters, usually within 600 miles of Chicago. During a recent 17-day vacation, Ambrosini trekked 5,000 miles around the nation to visit 19 parks and ride 42 roller coasters.

Some have called him a "coaster freak," "coaster nut" and "coaster fiend," but he prefers the label "coaster aficionado."

Ambrosini is editor of Coaster World, the magazine of the American Coaster Enthusiasts. The club began with a handful of members in June 1978 and now claims more than 600 members in North America, Saudi Arabia and South Africa.

He rode more than 60 roller coasters this summer, and the highlight was the marathon aboard the Judge Roy Scream.

Of the coasters he has ridden, Ambrosini ranks as his top five: the Texas Cyclone at Astroworld, Houston; Mr. Twister at Elitch Gardens, Denver; the Cyclone at Coney Island, New York; the Thunderbolt at Kennywood Park, Pittsburgh; and the Wildcat at Idora Park, Youngstown, Ohio.

## McQueen called better

**United Press International**  
SANTA MARIA, Mexico — Actor Steve McQueen, undergoing treatment for incurable lung cancer, has improved since arriving at a Mexican hospital three months ago, contrary to earlier reports, says a doctor.

The Plaza Santa Maria General Hospital physician, who requested he not be identified, said, "when he (McQueen) first came here, he couldn't walk and looked like he was going to die. To me, he looks better than when he first arrived."

The doctor's assessment contra-

dicts earlier reports that the 50-year-old actor was in severe pain and near death at the heavily-guarded medical complex.

The doctor also said McQueen was being treated with laetrile, a controversial drug extracted from apricot pits and used to treat cancer, and was receiving up to two injections of a painkiller.

A spokesman for McQueen who disclosed last week that the actor was suffering from a rare form of cancer said laetrile was not part of the treatment.

The Mexican doctor said McQueen is now able to walk under his own power and is gaining weight.

"He doesn't seem to be in much pain, or at least he doesn't show it," he said. "He gets around fine under his own power and sometimes goes out in a car."

"McQueen looks like a hippie," he said, "like the character he played in 'Papillon' and the hospital absolutely doesn't want any photos taken of him."

The 100-acre medical facility, on the U.S.-Mexican border overlook-

ing the Pacific Ocean, was being patrolled by Mexican police with orders to arrest and jail trespassers.

Reporters and photographers from several countries have converged on the hospital seeking information about the actor and a chance to snap his picture.

McQueen, a highly-paid screen idol whose best known films include "The Great Escape" and "Bullitt," was moved from one trailer to another at the clinic on Friday because of fears his treatment would be disturbed by the news media.



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## War won't cause U.S. oil shortage

**United Press International**  
BEIRUT, Lebanon — Oil industry reports say Iran and Iraq have suffered billions of dollars in damage to their oil facilities, but Saudi Arabia's willingness to pump more crude oil will make up enough of the lost production to avert substantial oil shortages or price hikes in the West.

"Damage to oil installations and equipment, as well as weaponry, will undoubtedly exceed \$20 billion," the authoritative economic weekly An-Nahar Arab Report and Memo says.

"Iraq might be able to draw on its financial reserves to rebuild its military machine, its refineries and petrochemical complexes, but Iran, with its meager holdings, will find this difficult without increasing production."

The report said the war should provide a financial windfall for Western manufacturers: "The industrial countries, including the U.S.S.R., will receive orders for arms and petroleum and petrochemical facilities running as high as \$25 billion."

The West will be spared the worst effects of the war by the decision of Saudi Arabia, and apparently several other members of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, to offset enough lost Iranian-Iraqi production to stabilize the world oil market.

Saudi Arabian Foreign Minister Prince Saud al-Faisal said in an interview with the Washington Post during the weekend that his country will increase its oil production to counteract shortfalls resulting from the gulf war. The size of the increase, he said, will depend on market conditions and the response of other oil producers.

Saudi Arabian Oil Minister Sheikh Ahmed Zaki Yamani visited Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates during the weekend in an effort to coordinate his country's production boost with its gulf neighbors.

The total loss to the world's oil market from the war is roughly 3.5 million barrels per day of Iranian and Iraqi exports. Although Iran insists that some of its oil is still flowing abroad, the amounts are believed to be minimal.

Before the war there was a 2.5 million barrel per day surplus, most of which went into the West's 100-day stockpile. Now, the net market daily demand exceeds the supply by about 1 million barrels.

The Saudis are expected to pump anywhere from 500,000 to 900,000 barrels above their current output of 9.5 million barrels per day. Additional increments are expected from Kuwait, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates and Indonesia. Together, these increases should cover the 1 million barrel per day gap and carry the West through the winter without major reductions in its reserves, oil industry sources said.

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ROOM 201 MSC — 2ND FLOOR MSC

Each participating organization will have a booth on the second floor of the MSC. The morning hours (9:00 - 11:30) are reserved for seniors and graduate students and for those underclassmen with schedule conflicts. The afternoon (1:30 - 5:00) is open to all students.

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- Ford Tractor
- Granada
- Halliburton Service
- International Harvester-Ag Equipment
- Iowa Beef Processors
- MBPXL (Beef Packers)
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