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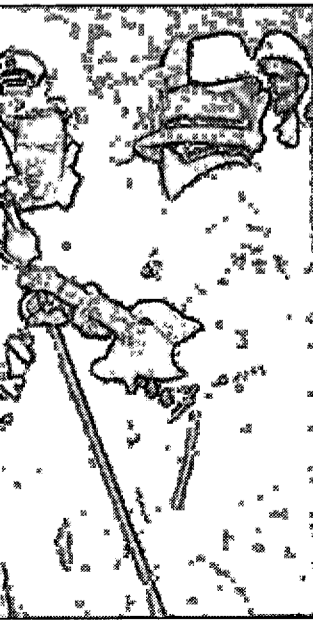
**BANK**  
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 She started talking marriage,  
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 author Thomas Pynchon, the  
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 Pynchon's address, then  
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**DAYS**  
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**LEE HARVEY**  
 h sacred anymore? With

# Education connection

## Colleges recruit, students apply, and new classmates get acquainted

By **ALEXIS MAISLEN**  
*Courant Staff Writer*

**W**hen Morgan Mirvis was ready to apply to Wesleyan University in Middletown, he didn't send away for an application form. Instead, the Doylestown, Pa., high school senior printed out an application from the school's home page.

After he was accepted, but before he decided to attend the school, Mirvis participated in an Internet mailing list, sponsored by the Wesleyan admissions

office. Admitted students got acquainted, e-mailed each other about their fears and hopes for college and asked the dean of admissions questions about the school.

"It was nice to be able to meet some of the students before going to Wesleyan. It's a small school, and you get a hint of what people will be like," Mirvis said.

According to Charlotte Lazor, manager of admission information systems at Wesleyan, the admissions office recorded more than 500 e-mail messages from the mailing list by the end of June. And the messages keep flowing as the summer goes by.

Katie Alt of Evanston, Ill., found that the mailing list made her less anxious about starting college and provided a friendly place to meet students. "You never know if someone you meet might end up being your roommate next year," she said.

Out of 1,842 students accepted to Wesleyan for this fall, 881 never visited the campus or had an interview. These students found a new, efficient and quick way to learn about the college: the wired way.

The Internet allows high school seniors to obtain information without waiting to get a catalog by mail, or shuffling through the giant Peterson's Guide to Colleges. Web sites are becoming like catalogs, packed with course listings, syllabuses, student newspapers and home pages of student

organizations.

"It's given us the opportunity to meet [students] in a manner that's quicker than traditional publications," said Graham Griffith, assistant dean of admissions at Wesleyan.

In the coming years, some college admissions offices are looking to become paper-free to save time — and trees. "We hope to use less paper so there will be a few more trees standing in the forest," said Reggie Kennedy of the admissions office at Trinity College in Hartford.

Web sites also help potential applicants from faraway places connect with schools in Connecticut.

"It's given us a lot more access to college inquiries from students outside of Connecticut and outside of the United States," said Marcia Ball-Davis, dean of admissions at Capital Community-Technical College.

The University of Connecticut had 1,000 e-mail inquiries this year, many of them from foreign students.

"The Internet's greatest strength is the international students it draws in," said Frances Wittles, associate dean of admissions at UConn.

The Internet has also helped cut mailing costs because it is no longer necessary to send as many materials overseas.

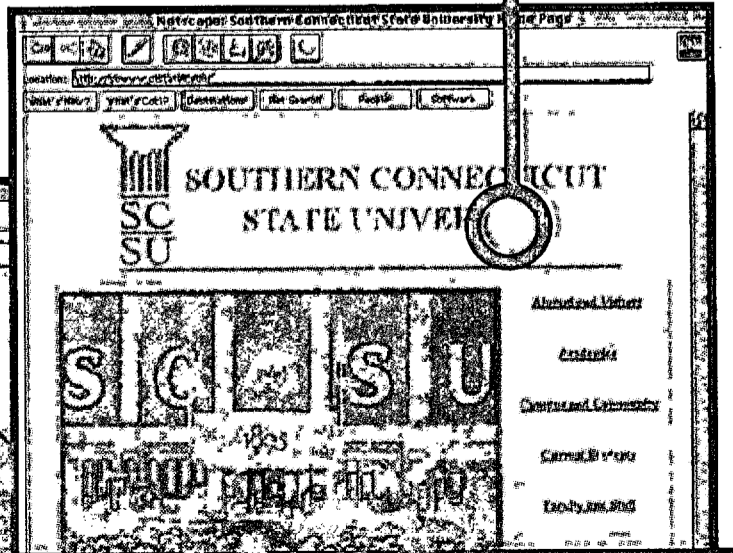
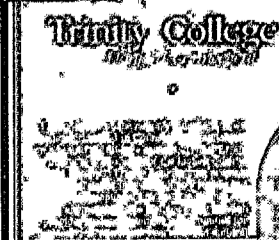
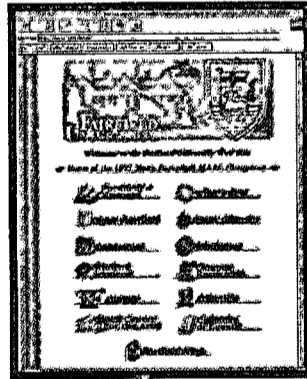
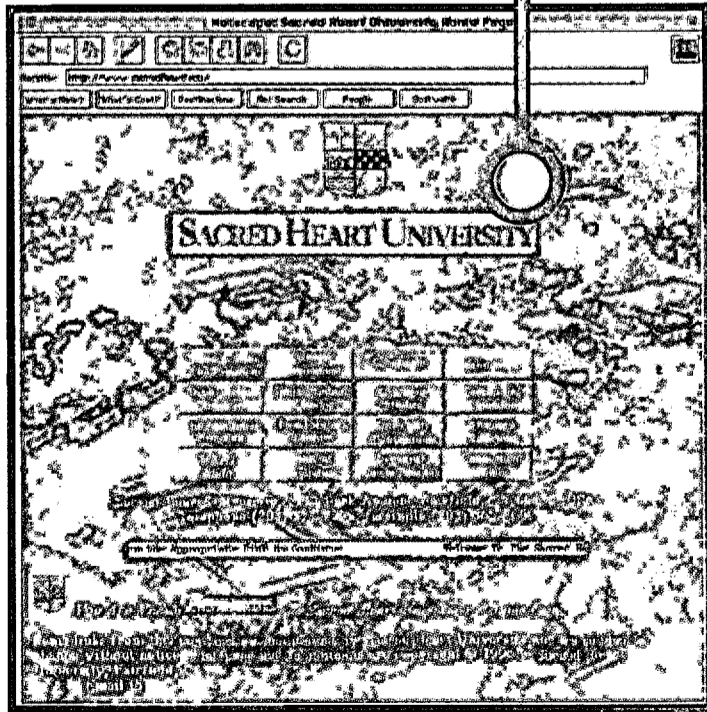
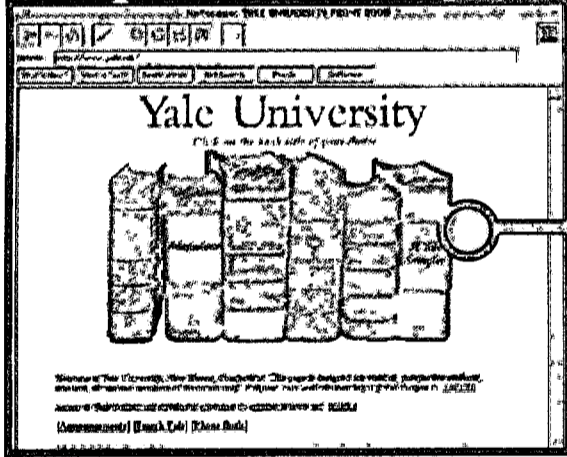
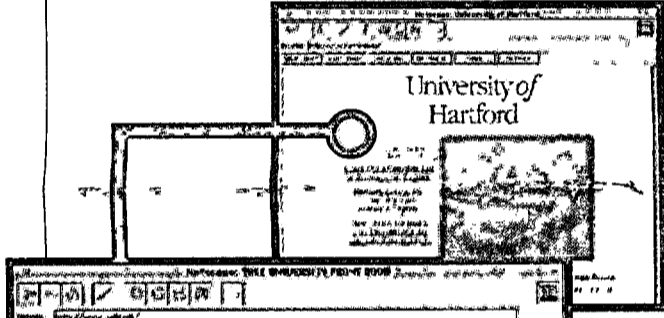
"It's the best way to communicate from abroad," said Richard Shaw, dean of admissions at Yale University.

Another major aspect of college Web sites is their on-line applications. Wesleyan, Trinity, and UConn have application forms on their Web sites available for downloading. They can be printed and mailed or returned on-line.

Electronic application services like College Link, Apply and Expan are being widely used by students. With Expan, high school guidance offices purchase software so that students can fill out applications to colleges that are on the system.

Apply distributes CD-ROMs of applications to high schools, or to anyone who contacts its Web site (<http://www.weapply.com>). Completed applications are printed out for mailing. College Link works the same way, except it uses diskettes. Its Web address is <http://www.CollegeLink.com>.

Please see Colleges, Page E2



**DIRECTORY**

