

## Archaeologist

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when he was detained by military police in Damascus, Syria.

"I was sightseeing and taking photographs," he said. "Unfortunately, some of them were photos of Russian tanks, which didn't exactly thrill the Syrians." He was taken into custody, where the police yelled at him and confiscated the film.

"It scared the hell out of me, because I was

there alone. I went there on a whim, and nobody had any idea where I was," he said.

After a few hours, his passport was verified and he was released. The next morning, he walked out of his hotel and saw a shady looking character following him.

"That's when I realized I'd better get out of town, so I caught the first flight I could find out of the country," he said.

This past summer in Egypt, he helped uncover a section of a 3,000-year-old statue of the famous Egyptian ruler, Ramses the Great.

"I was filled with serendipity," Mitchell

said. "It was certainly the most exciting moment of my archaeological career."

Although he describes himself as the biggest party boy on campus, Mitchell carries a 3.8 GPA while taking 12 to 15 hours of course work a semester. He expects to wrap up his doctorate work within the next year, but said he's not going to stop there.

Mitchell plans to return to Egypt. After that, he's off to new areas in the Middle East.

"I'm going to keep on digging and have fun until I can't do it anymore," he said.

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### LIFE AND ART BRIEFLY



DIANA BUSH, MINNESOTA DAILY, U. OF MINNESOTA

**Beautiful Gophers...** Kevin Costner, Madonna, and...the Norman twins. When *People* magazine chose its favorite faces for this year's "50 Most Beautiful People in the World" issue, they placed U. of Minnesota juniors Kerby and Kelly Norman in some pretty pretty company. But the short-cropped blondes, members of the Gopher softball team, are unswayed by their recent fame. Both plan to finish school — Kerby is majoring in kinesiology, Kelly in journalism — and neither anticipates a career in entertainment. "(Appearing in *People*) makes you feel good," Kerby said. "I think for anybody it'd be nice. But I don't feel any different." The twins' vault to "beautiful people" status began when *People* spotted a *St. Paul Pioneer Press* story about the sisters' softball exploits in early April. And the twins haven't forgotten their roots. "I'm glad we're in *People* for the softball team," Kelly said. "You don't see women's softball teams in national magazines... and to have our pictures in our uniforms, I think that's good for our program." ■ Martin Kuz, *The Minnesota Daily*, U. of Minnesota

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**Alternative Fraternity...** Delta Lambda Phi is going through some tough initiations on campuses this fall. As the only national gay fraternity, Delta Lambda Phi has had to overcome stereotypes in its efforts to make it in the mainstream Greek systems. The fraternity, founded in 1987 by gay college graduates in Washington D.C., has grown to 19 chapters and nearly 500 members nationwide. At Michigan State U., one of the fraternity's newest campuses, chapter president Doug Scheidmantel said he hopes Delta Lambda Phi eventually will be accepted into the mainstream Greek system and included in activities. But Greek members are skeptical. John Beardslee, MSU's Interfraternity Council executive vice president, said the idea of a progressive fraternity is encouraged by most, and criticized by others. "I think most heterosexual males are afraid of the (gay) reputation and don't understand, but the lifestyle has been there forever and there's no reason they shouldn't be able to do it," Beardslee said. "I don't think there will be any violence — that's stupid — I should hope we're above that." ■ Meredith Petran, *The State News*, Michigan State U.